



Oldbury Wells Journal

October 2021



Welcome to the latest edition of our OWS journal. As we approach half term, we can look back on the seven weeks since our return in September with a great deal of satisfaction; encouraged by the work of everyone across our school community to Reset and Re-establish many activities which have been on hold throughout the COVID pandemic. On a day-to-day basis we continue to promote safe COVID working practices, alongside being able to reintroduce school clubs, visits and sporting fixtures, as well as many activities within lessons which can be more effectively managed under current requirements. Staff and students have been tremendously positive regarding what has resulted in a more 'typical' school day. Well done to everyone for the resilience shown.

Following the success of students in their summer examination results, our Year 11 & 13 students have returned more focused than ever to progress through their final year, showing a real sense of determination and commitment in all they do. This has been reflected across all year groups, no more than within our Year 7 where students have settled quickly and soon adjusted to secondary school life.

We were delighted to invite groups of Year 5 & 6 children from a number of our partner primary schools to take part in a Health and Wellbeing morning; children were involved in some physical activities, science-based research looking at food-based products and had the chance to reflect on how we can support each other to have a positive impact on our day to day lives. It was great to welcome back groups into school, which for some marked their first external school visit since the start of the pandemic; it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm within the activities. Thanks goes to the team that ran the event, alongside primary colleagues who gave

their support.

Our Open Events have been a huge success. You will be aware that because of COVID, all schools were asked not to run their traditional type of Open Evening, so instead we were able to organise small group tours outside of the school day. We had over 180 families visit and spend time looking around the school and meeting key staff; the opportunity to share the achievements of all our students was extremely rewarding for all.

I hope that all families, students, and staff can take a break over the half term period, and as always reflect on the successes of recent times while setting goals for the months ahead. We know that it is a busy period ahead with many students involved in mock examinations, alongside the need for all students to continue working hard and approaching their learning with a positive mindset.

As always, I would remind students of the importance of being responsible as we approach the Halloween period, remembering that it is important that consideration is given to everyone across our community to ensure that everyone is well supported.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back into school on Monday, 1st November and continuing through the term with the same positive mindset demonstrated since the start of the year.

Have a great half term.

Mr Tristham

UPDATES

Chromebook Scheme

Re-Launch for 2021

Following on from parental requests we are pleased to announce the launch of our Chromebook Programme. This will enable our students to use the device to support homework and be prepared for any future period of distance learning. As a school we are committed to improving our student's digital literacy whilst supporting the high-quality teaching and learning that takes place in lessons.

Acer Spin 511 Chromebook



We have selected Chromebooks as they are extremely secure, easy to use and can operate both Google apps and allow access to the

school's Office 365 software. The [flyer on our school website](#) provides full details of the scheme, the costings, what's included, and a list of FAQs.

You do not have to buy one and we would not recommend buying one if you have a working laptop or desktop computer at home that your child can use whenever they need already. However, if your child doesn't have access to their own device, we do believe that in the current climate having one will support their learning at home and we do encourage you to give this consideration. Even if they are not needed for online lessons, it will still be very helpful to have a suitable device to help with homework over the next few years.

If you wish to order a device the order window opens on the 14th October and closes on the 10th November.

National Online Safety

Now a National Online Safety Certified

We are delighted to announce that this week we completed a comprehensive online safety training programme, and have been awarded a National Online Safety Certified School Accreditation to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the school community towards protecting children in the online world.

Mr Wycherley expressed his pride and delight in achieving the accreditation. Our regular assemblies and IT lessons in online safety help to prepare our learners for the dangers and risks posed online.

Mr Tristham remarked on the vast range of resources now available to our staff and parents. The online safety hub gives parents access to a wide range of information, posters and videos about the most recent online trends, threats, and safety features. There are also

short courses that parents can opt into if they wish.

Every Wednesday we'll alert you via our socials about uploading new content from National Online Safety, who put together handy parent guides on a multitude of online platforms, sites, games, and apps.



Follow **Oldbury Wells School** on Facebook and **@oldburywells** on Twitter to get notified. As a parent, you can register online, and **download the app** from the Google Play Store and the Apple Store. Please visit our school website for full details: [https://www.oldburywells.com/parent-information/online-safety/](https://www.oldburywells.com/parent-information/online-safety/national-online-safety)

[national-online-safety](https://www.oldburywells.com/parent-information/online-safety/national-online-safety)

School Attendance & Covid Guidance

Reminders, Contacts and Policy

Household Positive Cases

*Someone in your household had a positive PCR?
Get a PCR test for everyone in your household and stay away from school to wait for the result. If the result is negative come back to school.*

The Three Main Symptoms

*Got one of the three main symptoms – a persistent cough, high temperature or loss of taste / smell?
Get a test and stay away from school while you wait for the result.*

Close Contacts

*Had close contact with someone who has had a positive PCR but you don't live with them?
Get a PCR test for yourself but keep coming to school while you wait for the result.*

LATERAL FLOW TESTING

We ask students to complete a lateral flow test every Thursday and Sunday evening.

If you receive a POSITIVE result, you must inform the school using the details below, stay at home, and book a PCR test.

Only return to school if the PCR result is negative.

When phoning the school with a POSITIVE result, please inform us of the date of the PCR test and **not** the date of the result.

KEY COVID CONTACTS:

To report a positive Covid result **during school hours:**

Email: karen.sawyer@oldburywells.com

Phone: 01746 765454

To report a positive Covid result **outside of school hours:**

Email: covid.support@oldburywells.com

Phone: 01746 765454 and leave a message on Option 1 Absence Line daily



GENERAL ATTENDANCE

For safeguarding reasons, can we please remind parents that if your child is absent from school due to illness, we would ask that you **phone in each day** your child is absent. You must ring the absence line before 8:45am daily.

You can view our attendance policy on the policies section of the school website.



Year 11 Prom

Class of 2021 Sign off in style

OWS were delighted to finally hold their end of year prom for the class of 2021, held at Haughton Hall in Shifnal on Saturday 4th September.

After a challenging year, with GCSE results collected and destination guaranteed, students were able to celebrate in style with friends and staff throughout the evening. Everyone arrived in style in a real party mood to be together for one last time as all begin the next stage in their educational journey.

Mr Tristham said "Everyone looked amazing and had made such an effort. It was great to see the excitement of all concerned and with everyone enjoy themselves throughout the night. A big thank you to Ms Barlow and other key staff for making the event happen, it was so well received by everyone".



Many students arrived together in small groups, there were vintage cars, lorries, motorbikes and many other means of transport to the venue, it was great to see everyone arrive in style. Many parents joined us in the external grounds at the start of the evening to see everyone together; all will be tremendously proud of everything the group as a whole has achieved.

Max McCartney achieves 2nd in national writing comp.

A fantastic achievement



Whilst at Corbett Primary School, Max McCartney entered the Young Writers' competition with Kinver Rotary Club, themed 'My Best Day'. His entry won the district, the regional, and then came second in the national entries, which is a fantastic achievement.

His entry was about a young boy (himself) having his late Grandad back for the day. His piece is cleverly written, and very moving.

The competition was against 22 other districts across Great Britain and Ireland.



First solo flight! Kieran Wellings' flying start!

Kieran Wellings in Year 11 completed his first solo flight from Halfpenny Green Airport on the 25th September, after just turning 16.

At this age, a solo flight is a fantastic achievement, taking off on his own, climbing to 600 feet and then landing again on his own. Leading up to his flight, he has passed exams over the space of two years.

In the future, Kieran hopes to be a commercial pilot. The full story was covered by the local press - you can read the story here: <https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/bridgnorth/2021/09/29/16-year-old-makes-first-solo-flight/>

Primary Wellbeing Mornings Science and Sports fun

For the past couple of weeks, we've invited local Year 5s and 6s into school to take part in Health and Wellbeing mornings. The sessions have included a science session, where pupils learnt about food groups and did experiments to see the different elements foods contained such as fats, sugars, and starch.

They also took part in sports sessions, rotating activities to learn how different sports and activities had a positive impact on their emotional, social and physical health. At break time, they enjoyed healthy snacks and learnt facts about different foods as part of a quiz!

It was wonderful to welcome pupils into school, to see their enthusiasm, and to enjoy a morning which for some was their first external school trip since the start of the pandemic.



Geography

Forest of Promises

In Geography lessons this month students at OWS have been learning about COP26 - the very important meeting happening in Glasgow during November - where world leaders will come together to discuss the urgent threat of climate change.

In Geography lessons students have also participated in a worldwide event for young people called the Forest of Promises. On one side of their leaf students have written their own Promise To The Planet for a change they will make to take action and make a difference- ideas have included walking when they can rather than getting a lift and making food and snack choices that are kinder to the planet. On the other side students have written what they would like World Leaders to do so that our planet is better looked after and we have a more sustainable future.



Mrs Farrington is uploading the leaves and WWF will be bringing a tree from the Forest of Promises right into the heart of COP26 meeting – and our OWS leaves could be on it!

Here are some photos of OWS students holding their leaves for the Forest of Promises.

Languages - Spanish

Outstanding book covers created...



A massive BRAVO to students in 7DCO and 7SF who produced fantastic front covers for their Spanish books, representing the culture of Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries in very colourful ways!

They have made a brilliant start to their year and have been really enthusiastic about their languages lessons.

Music

Spotlight on...Instrumental Exam Successes

It has been a great start to the school year in the Music Department for students who have gained success in vocal and instrumental examinations. These students all receive their tuition at OWS during the school week. Congratulations to them and we look forward to adding to this 'hall of fame' next term.

Singing Exams (Tutor Bev Wightman)

Georgia Pratley - Grade 6 ABRSM performance - Distinction
Evie Jean Bartley - Grade 3 LCM Music Theatre - Distinction
Jodie Boughey - Grade 2 - LCM Music Theatre - Distinction
Paige Pratley - Grade 1 ABRSM performance – Pass

Guitar Exams (Tutor Andrew Jones)

Morgan Rodgers -Grade 2 -Distinction
Toby Steadman -Grade 4 -Distinction

Recruitment for instrumental tuition since September has been great, with lots of interest in particular from Year 7, many of whom have now started to learn to play an instrument. There are spaces still available to learn a range of instruments and it is never too late for this to happen.

If anyone would like to start learning to play an instrument, please speak to Miss Dangerfield and we can organise this for you.



'Live Music Week'

On Tuesday 2nd November our Year 7 and Year 8 students will enjoy a live music presentation delivered by tutors from the Shropshire Music Service who will be demonstrating and performing on a range of Brass and Wind instruments. This is a much anticipated return of the Live Music Week since the start of the pandemic so we are looking forward to welcoming our guests.

We hope the event will also serve as inspiration to our students to want to learn to play a brass or wind instrument which of course can be arranged with parental permission. We look forward to sharing photos of the event with you in our next newsletter.

'Encore' OWS Vocal Group

I cannot emphasise enough, the power of live music and singing together for good mental health and making us feel great.

We meet every Thursday after school from September, 3.15-4pm and the opportunity to join Encore is extended to anyone at all with an enjoyment of singing from across all year groups. There is no audition and no pressure to sing solo. Just come and enjoy singing pop, musical theatre and gospel, as a group.

Miss Dangerfield
Head of Music

Art

Year 7

Well done to all the year 7 groups on their great start to their Art projects this year. Pictured here are Justin Maneclang and Grace Plant from 7DCO with their amazing Architecture title pages and skyline collage. Outstanding work!!



Year 8

Year 8 students are enjoying their Pop Art project. Watch this space year 8 students for the 3D Pop Art competition coming up next half term!! Well done to Ava Phillips, Sophie Rafferty and Lola Bennett-Moses who have already completed their wonderful Pop Art History Presentation not due until after half term. Pictured here are Sophie and Lola.

Year 13

It is assessment time for YR 13 who have worked amazingly hard on their personal study Portfolio, developing contextual studies and experimental work with mixed media, free hand embroidery and drawing techniques. Pictured here are Sarah Horton with her work based on the celebration of animal life, conservation and endangerment. Also Holly Rogan with her work on Fears and Phobias, and Georgie working on the presentation of her sketchbook.





History

Bridgnorth Castle Visits

In Bridgnorth we are very lucky to have so much history around us. Over the last few weeks Year 7 History students have enjoyed visiting the castle ruins to find out more about our Medieval past.

Well done to all our young historians!

Black History Month

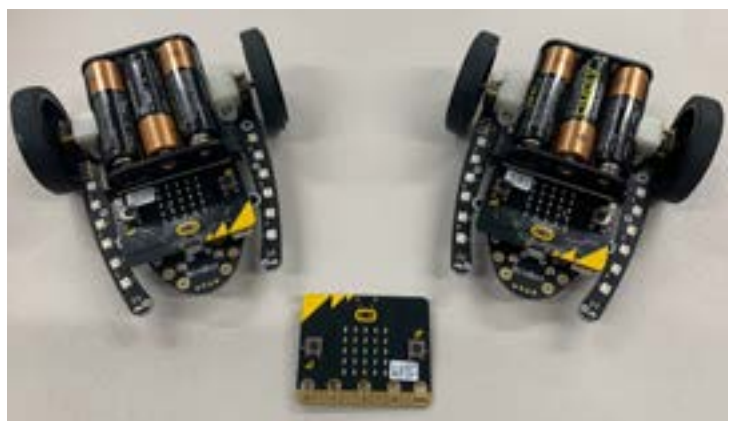
Over the last month KS3 students have been conducting their own independent enquiry into the remarkable life of James Ukawsaw Gronniosaw. This African Prince, enslaved man and free British soldier wrote one of the first accounts of transatlantic slavery when living in Kidderminster. This book was instrumental in helping to shape British public opinion against the trade in enslaved people. We look forward to sharing students' work soon but if you would like to find out more check out the link to our website: <http://oldburywells.com/media/33175/bhm2021.pptx>

Extra-Curricular Code Club

With extra-curricular clubs now being given the thumbs up, Code Club made a great start this half term. Students so far have successfully programmed the Micro:Bits and became so confident in their work they moved on to program a Micro:Bit to control the Bit:Bot. A Bit:Bot is a feature-packed little robot with two micro-metal gear motors, 12 mini neopixels, buzzer and a variety of sensors. Students have focused their attention so far on programming the neopixels to change colour, brightness and flash, sound the buzzer and move the robot and enable it to spin. Next half term we plan on utilising the capabilities of the line following sensors and light sensors.

If you are in year 7 and 8, are interested in joining in the fun we have in Code Club, come along on a Friday after school to W60.

Mrs Dunning



SPORTS

Tug of War

Our annual event is back!

Sadly, last year, our tug of war event was held off due to Covid. We were very excited to restart the event this year, and introduce it to our new Year 7s, and Year 8 students. Year 7 competed as form groups, whilst the rest of the school competed in houses to try to win the most points. At lunchtime, the staff had a go at beating the Sixth Form students!



House Points Awarded:

1st

2nd

3rd

4th



160 points

130 points

120 points

90 points

Year 8

1st - Friary - 40
2nd - Northgate - 30
3rd - Westgate - 20
4th - Castle - 10

Year 9

1st - Castle - 40
2nd - Northgate - 30
3rd - Westgate - 20
4th - Friary - 10

Year 10

1st - Westgate - 40
2nd - Friary - 30
3rd - Castle - 20
4th - Northgate - 10

Year 11 Boys

1st - Friary - 40
2nd - Westgate - 30
3rd - Castle - 20
4th - Northgate - 10

Year 11 Girls

1st - Friary - 40
2nd - Castle - 30
3rd - Westgate - 20
4th - Northgate - 10

House Point Totals

Sept-Oct 2021



3101



2675



2520



2446

The first place house points winner for this half term was George Kertland, in second place was Emily Gilmour, and in 4th Place was Milly Burt. Congratulations for achieving so many house points!

ROAD SAFETY

As we get closer to the Winter months, and the mornings and nights are getting darker, it's really important to think carefully about road safety and visibility. Walking to and from school, school children should be aware of the potential dangers, and be more aware when walking out and about.

Key things to think about:

Don't walk distracted!

Don't focus on your phone whilst you're walking, or have headphones in with loud music. This prevents you from being aware of the traffic around you, and makes crossing roads more dangerous.



Always stop at roads and look both ways before crossing

Don't step off the pavement before first checking both ways for traffic. In the dark, it is more difficult for drivers to see pedestrians.

Avoid dark clothing

Wearing all dark clothing, especially when it's dark walking home makes it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians. Try wearing a fluorescent band or something reflective.



Keep away from the curb and walk with caution when it's icy

Colder days and nights brings the risk of frost and ice which can make pavements slippery. Walk away from the curb to avoid falling into roads.

Cross the road in safe places

Only cross roads when you can clearly see both sides of traffic. Avoid crossing on bends as you cannot see both ways, and oncoming traffic may not have time to react. Pay attention to traffic lights at crossings. Always wait until the light is red before crossing, and wait to check that cars have actually stopped before crossing.

Good Websites:

1. THINK! Road Safety - <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>
2. Brake - The Road Safety Charity - <https://www.brake.org.uk/get-involved/take-action/schools-and-families>

Always use the **GREEN CROSS CODE.**
STOP, LOOK, LISTEN

SIXTH FORM

An Update from Bridgnorth Sixth Form

Sixth Form students have made a really positive start to their studies this term, whilst at the same time showing a community spirit and willingness to get involved in charity events. Collectively, as a sixth form we raised over £400 for The Teenage Cancer Trust by taking part in the town steps walk, and have also hosted a coffee morning for Macmillan.

Looking ahead key dates for the diary are our upcoming Year 11 taster day, where pupils can gain a first-hand sixth form experience which will help them make informed decisions when considering their next steps. We also look forward to inviting Year 11 and their parents/guardians to our Open Event on the 9th November 6-8 in the OWS Sports hall which will showcase what Bridgnorth Sixth Form has to offer prospective students. As always, full information can be found on our website www.bridgnorthsixthform.com. Alternatively, students can always pop into the Sixth Form study centre on the East side for a chat with Mrs Bishell or Mrs Fyfe.

Psychology

In psychology, year 13 have been working hard on the biopsychology topic. They have been learning about things such as: neurons, brain regions, brain damage and sleep stages.

For revision they made neurons and synaptic transmission out of sweets and labelled the pictures. They showed great creativity and worked well as groups - great work year 13.



Bridgnorth 'Up the Steps' for Teenage Cancer Trust



On Sunday 3rd October, a mixture of Year 12's and 13's came together to take part in the 'Up the Steps' walk with Bridgnorth Rotary Club, to raise money for their chosen charity: Teenage Cancer Trust. Accompanying them were Head of Sixth Form Mrs Bishell, Mrs Lawson, and Miss Williams.

They all thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the walk, climbing around 800 steps in total across Bridgnorth. Between them, they raised £440 for Teenage Cancer Trust. Well done to all involved.

NOTICEBOARD

Come to our Open Evening

BRIDGNORTH SIXTH FORM

The only Bridgnorth Sixth Form Provider

Tuesday 9th November 6:00-8:00pm

Bridgnorth Sixth Form
Oldbury Wells
Bridgnorth
Shropshire
WV16 5JD
Tel: 01746 760505



Do I look like I care?



Many young carers go unnoticed, don't struggle in silence!

If you are or you know somebody under 18 who helps look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled, has mental health issues or misuses drugs or alcohol, you are classed as being a young carer.

How can Crossroads Together help a young carer?

- Give them chance to meet other young carers
- Teach them new skills
- Make sure someone is there to talk to about their problems
- Take them out on day trips
- Organise group activities
- Give advice on funding
- Provide key information about being a young carer

Get in touch with our Shropshire young carers team today to find out how we can support you in more detail:

☎ 07801 57632 or 07990 045045

✉ shropyc@crossroadstogether.org.uk

www.crossroadstogether.org.uk

Term Dates:

Autumn Term 2021

Half-term: Monday, 25 – Friday, 29 October 2021 inclusive

Return to School - Monday 1st November (Week 2)

Ends: Friday, 17 December 2021

PD Days: Monday, 6 September 2021, Friday, 22 October 2021

Spring Term 2021

Starts: Wednesday, 5 January 2022

Half-term: Monday, 21 – Friday 25 February 2022 inclusive

Ends: Friday, 8 April 2022

Summer Term 2021

Starts: Monday, 25 April 2022 (Bank Holiday Monday, 2 May 2022)

Half-term: Monday, 30 May - Friday, 3 June 2022 inclusive

Ends: Friday, 22 July 2022

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