



Oldbury Wells Journal July 2022



Welcome to our Summer Journal at the end of what has increded been an extremely hot week following a year which has given so many challenges that as a population we have had to respond to. I wanted to express my gratitude GCSE

to students, staff, families, governors and all our school partners for your continued support and commitment throughout the year; your dedication, resilience and positive mindset at every level has ensured the very best provision and support for all those within our community.

I am particularly proud that over recent months as we have navigated through the COVID pandemic, so many opportunities have been re-introduced in school. The trips, visits and opportunities to take learning outside of the classroom have such a positive impact, some of these are celebrated later in our journal. Staff are working hard to reschedule the trips which were postponed earlier this week for the start of the new academic year; thanks to all who have supported these events and well done to all students who have been wonderful ambassadors for our school, the feedback from trips which have taken place has been extremely positive. Well done to all!

We have recently held our school Student Awards afternoons, alongside being part of the first 'TrustEd CSAT Awards Programme'. Well done to all our nominees and winners, and congratulations to all students on all you have achieved! We look forward to building further on the success of students in school as we look towards September and the new academic year. We will be celebrating GCSE and A'level results in the Summer; this will mark the first published externally examined results since Summer 2019. Our students have worked

incredibly hard and I know will be looking forward to receiving their final outcomes. Good luck to all!

GCSE results week occurs on the same week as our Year 6 Summer School, it will be great to wish our leavers all the best for the future while welcoming our new starters back into school following their previous induction days.

At this time of year we have some staff who are moving onto new roles; some as a result of location, others due to moving into promoted positions or career development opportunities. Our thanks and best wishes go to those within our Learning Support Team - Mrs Madden, Miss Watkiss, Mrs Northcott, Miss Greenland and Mrs Saunders. In addition, Mrs Kendrick (Food Tech), Mrs Forward (MFL), Mrs Dunning (ICT) and Mrs Morgan (Science), we wish you all the very best within your new roles. In September we will be introducing those staff who will be joining us and look forward to welcoming them into the team.

Can I take this final opportunity to wish you all a restful summer, no matter if it is time at home with family or the opportunity to take a holiday away, you all deserve a chance to take a break and revitalise before preparing for the new academic year. We are very much looking forward to further developing opportunities in September and are excited to welcome all students back following a great summer holiday.

Enjoy the sunshine, stay safe and see you all in September!

UPDATES

Year 11 Prom

A night to remember



The 23rd and 24th July saw the last big events of the year and of their school career for Year 11, and what a time they have had over the past 5 years. It has been a pleasure to relive some of the memories with them in their leavers assembly and to then share their final big event together at prom on the 24th July.

Prom is always a special occasion. Students, staff and parents alike love to come and watch the arrival in the cars and transport the Year 11s have been organising for the last 3 months. There was some weird and wonderful cars this year, from sports cars and vintage cars to lorry cabs and Trotters Independent Traders.

The spectacle is quite something to behold. The arrival this year was more eventful for some as their cars broke down on the way, but this didn't take away from their arrival.

Prom itself was a brilliant occasion and to share this moment with the Year 11s was priceless. They were brilliant throughout, thanking the staff who had come to be with them and sharing those lasting memories with friends. But WOW, what an eclectic taste in music they have. The amount of ABBA and other "classic" music (their words) was brilliant.

As always with this group, I have had the pleasure of sharing their last year in school, and I wish them all the luck for their next steps.

Mr Cowburn

Photos are now available on the school website.

Photo credits to Glynis and Jono Photography.

Student awarded The High Sheriff Cadet of Shropshire

Larissa Startin

Larissa Startin, a Year 11 leaver, has been appointed the High Sheriff Cadet of Shropshire which is a fantastic achievement. You can read more about her appointment on their website:

https://highsheriffofshropshire.co.uk/the-high-sheriffs-cadets/

The newly created role assists the High Sheriff and helps with both confidence and academia.

Larissa wants to be a cadet leader by the time she's 18 and also wants to be a police officer and detective later on!

After leaving Oldbury, she is going on to Kidderminster College in September to study Public Service.



NEWS

Careers Visit

Bridgnorth Aluminium

This month a small group of Year 10s and 12s visited Bridgnorth Aluminium, one of Bridgnorth's largest employers, at their site on Stourbridge Road.

We were able to see many of Bridgnorth Aluminium Ltd's assets which include a casthouse, rolling mill, two Litho Centres, a multi-slitting line and finishing lines. We were shown around by employees from a range of departments, some of whom were recruited as graduates and others as apprentices.

As well as seeing the different stages of production we also visited the R&D centre and witnessed the labs that are involved in analysing the product in order to maintain the high level of quality required.

We were really made to feel welcome by staff and all students really enjoyed the day and the goody bags that we were given to take home. Thank you Bridgnorth Aluminium!



Cosford Trip

Science

On 8th July, 7 girls from Year 9 attended an engineering challenge run by the Royal Academy of Engineering at RAF Cosford.

In the morning, they were taught how to write a computer code to instruct electric motors to work on command. In the afternoon, they were paired with a small group of invited primary students and given 2 tasks: task 1 was to help the primary students to build and code a robotic rover out of scrap items that could navigate a maze; task 2 was to see if the rover could drive up a ramp and deposit a tennis ball at the top. The Oldbury Wells / primary team were joint 1st in the maze challenge and were the only group to successfully deposit the tennis ball, winning the school some coding hardware for the science department.

Well done to Terramai Phillips, Lily Clement, Lily Hickman, Harriet Preston, Polly Freeman, Lydia Walker and Maisie Rollings.







The Harry Johnson Trust

Charity cake sale



On Friday 15th July, we hosted a Charity cake sale in aid of The Harry Johnson Trust, a local charity that offers support and help to children and teenagers who receive care from the Oncology Team at the Princess Royal Hospital in Shropshire.

Overall, we raised a generous £608!

Thank you to all those who donated towards this very worthy cause.

You can read more about the charity on their website: https://www.theharryjohnsontrust.co.uk/







Harry Stafford

Lola-Jo Bennett-Moses and Sophie Rafferty

Student saves the day!

Lucy Courtman Year 7

Congratulations to Lucy Courtman in Year 7 who has signed on with Wolves Academy during this term along with another 3 offers from clubs all trying to sign her up.

Lucy is football mad and has been fully involved in all forms of the game at Oldbury Wells this year, shining in the girls team and Year 7 boys team as well as attending the fiercely competitive indoor 5-a-side clubs every week.

Lucy has played in a number of positions this year including right wing where she scored her first goal in the Shropshire County Cup, but her stand out performances have come in goal where she has commanded the area.

We are really proud to see that Lucy's hard work and enjoyment of the game have taken her to new levels this year and will continue to support and nourish her dreams of one day playing for England.

Well done Lucy!

Mr Smith



History Trip

London Visit Diary!

Day One

After a bright and early start, History students have enjoyed a full day in the capital. The focus of our investigation was the heart of London and how History is represented today. After a trip down the Thames, students analysed Parliament square and what it says today about our Parliamentary democracy. Downing Street was all of a buzz waiting for an appearance from London Mayor Sadiq Khan. We ended the day looking at the 'bones and stones' of London today at the Museum of London with students competing to take the most interesting historical selfie. We are all looking forward to the dark side of London's past on our second day.









Day Two - London's Darkest Days

Today students enjoyed a very full day exploring some of the most fascinating but deadly moments in history. The day began with a visit to the Imperial War Museum. Students toured in small groups the First and Second World War galleries whilst being introduced to a range of artefacts that demonstrated the impact of war on men, women and children. Everyone found it thought provoking and were sad to be moving on from such an incredible museum. In the afternoon, we journeyed back in time to St Thomas's Old Operating Theatre and experienced a 19th Century operation in all its blood and gore. After a quick stop off at Buckingham Palace, it was time for history in the theatre. "Six" the musical is both a retelling of the story of the wives of Henry VIII and a chance to hear their side of the story! A great way to let off steam after such an action packed History day!









Day Three

Our final day in London was spent exploring a survivor from the 11th Century! The Tower of London was a Medieval palace, mint, zoo, prison and execution site. Students saw the Jewel House, walked in the footsteps of the victims of Henry VIII and marvelled at William the Conqueror's White Tower. A Wonderful way to end our History visit. Well done to all staff and students!









Arthog!

Adventures in wonderful Wales

Well... what a year this has been! I think we have all just about recovered from an exhausting and exciting Arthog residential trip. 2022 will go down in the Arthog / Oldbury Wells history books as one of the most challenging and fun weeks that there has been.

The students were in great spirits as they waved goodbye to family and friends (and social media) on the Saturday morning, singing all the classics as we made our way across the Shropshire border into the Welsh hills and towards the coast. By 9:30 the first bags of Haribo were being devoured, Pringles tubes popping and Maoams being munched.

On arrival at the centre students were shown to their living quarters for the next 7 days, then straight off to their groups where everyone took part in team games. For some this was the first test, having to work with people they were not 'besties' with, or in some cases did not even know. As the hours and days went on it was apparent that these groups moulded into very strong teams that could handle any challenge the Arthog instructors could throw at them.

From climbing the painful peaks of Cadair Idris in the heat (in record time) to navigating the slippy rocks of the gorge walking, each group made its own memories that will stay with them for years to come.

We certainly were blessed with exceptional weather throughout the week, which I have no doubt contributed to the smiles that went hand in hand with ice creams and time spent at the beach.

Of course, a huge thank you has to go to the staff who gave up their own time, families and energy levels to ensure that the trip went ahead and ran so smoothly.

With all the amazing activities that we took part in, the highlight for me, having spent a decade attending this trip, were the comments from the instructors, office, kitchen and night staff. Every day to be told how polite, engaged, enthusiastic, motivated and resilient this group of young people are made me extremely proud. Each one can be proud that in the face of a new challenge each day, they stood up, faced it and pushed themselves as far as they could in order to achieve new levels.

Well done to all involved, you were truly fantastic ambassadors to yourselves and the school.

Mr Smith



Arthog!Gallery 2022



Music

Spotlight On...Instrumental Exam Success

Our students have continued to gain fantastic success in their instrumental and vocal examinations. These are students of instrumental tutors who teach here at OWS during the school week. Congratulations to them all and we look forward to continuing to add to this 'hall of fame' next year.

Singing (Tutor Bev Wightman)

Polly Freeman - Grade 8 - Distinction - WHAT AN OUTSTANDING ACHIVEMENT AT THE AGE OF 14!

Neave Beddow - Grade 5 - Distinction Evie-Jean Bartley - Grade 5 - Distinction Jodie Boughey - Grade 5 - Merit Niamh Oliver-Walton - Grade 3 - Merit Ambar Sarpal - Grade 1 - Pass





Cello (Tutor Jane Magee)

Abi Drinkwater - Grade 5 - Merit Katie Fairclough - Grade 3 - Pass





Guitar (Tutor Andrew Jones)

Morgan Rodgers - Grade 2 Rock Guitar - Distinction Dylan Williams - Grade 2 Rock Guitar - Distinction



Recruitment for instrumental tuition this year has been great, with lots of interest in particular from Year 7, many of whom have started to learn to play an instrument.

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO START LEARNING TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT PLEASE TELL MISS DANGERFIELD AT ANY POINT DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR AND WE CAN BEGIN THIS PROCESS WITH YOU

'Encore' OWS Vocal Group

Our school vocal group Encore continue to meet, sing and have great fun on Thursday's after school until 4pm. We would love to build upon the current numbers in Encore and September will now be the perfect time for anyone new to come along and enjoy having an opportunity to sing.

We meet on Thursdays after school, 3.15 - 4pm. Encore is for anyone at all with an enjoyment of singing from across all year groups. There is no audition and no pressure to sing solo. We mostly sing pop and musical theatre and we explore simple harmonies in our songs.

Live music and singing together is so good for our mental health and making us feel great - please try to find this time in your week to come and sing.

OWS Orchestra is back!

Following our fabulous 'post covid bounce back' orchestra workshop earlier this year, our instrumentalists have continued to meet fortnightly after school on Fridays to rehearse together and learn new repertoire. They are showing great commitment and are really making good progress.

Thank you to all of our students who continue to enrich the Music Department with their involvement and commitment. You are all valuable ambassadors to our school and should be rightly proud of yourselves.

Essential Earphones reminder

Please ensure you all have a working pair of mini jack earphones for September for all of your Music lessons. This is an essential item of school kit. Cheap to buy online (approx. £3).

And finally...

WE ARE PROUD AND EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE SET TO STAGE A SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTION IN MARCH 2023 of...



Yes, after the enforced covid break from live theatre we are so pleased to announce that in September 2022 we will be launching our comeback whole school production of 'Legally Blonde The Musical Jr.'

Many of you will know that pre-covid we staged a musical theatre production every year and we have always received fantastic praise for our shows.

We very much hope that students from across our school community from all year groups will choose to get involved in this most brilliant of opportunities. We promise you it will be an experience you will remember fondly for many years to come.

Watch out for audition dates which will be announced in September 2022.

Miss Dangerfield - Head of Music

History

Home Learning Competitions



This term History has seen the final twohouse competitions. Over the year students have been encouraged to broaden their understanding and knowledge of History through additional study of Black History Month, Remembrance Day,

Holocaust Memorial Day and Women's History month. This term students have also been able to contribute to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Well done to Eleanor Drinkwater in 8ZMG for her beautiful and fun royal designs. June was also a month where students investigated the hidden histories of LGBTQ+ people and those with disabilities. Well done to Nyrah Khalil for winning this competition and some lovely work from the runners up Alex Foster and Charlie Graveling.



Photography Competition

Well done and thank you to all those who have taken part this year.

There were 3 categories that students could enter into, and the winners for each are:





The Micro World







Reflections





Art

Year 8 Portraits

This term students have learnt about facial proportion and how Leonardo Da Vinci discovered how to create accurate proportion in a face. Students in Yr 8 worked hard to create their final portraits and were asked to work creatively and split their image in half and imagine themselves half human and half someone they admire, their favourite character or an animal, with some fantastic results.

Here are just a few amazing examples from Coco Moorcroft, Anya Sarpal, Ambar Sarpal, Morgan Rogers, Sophie Rafferty, Imogen Painter, Harry Stafford, Ava Phillips and Ella



















Spanish

Year 8

Year 8 have been having a fantastic time learning about Spanish food, and practising ordering some authentic Spanish food.

They had a great time dressing up in costumes whilst learning some key vocabulary and phrases.

Well done Year 8!

Mrs Forward



English

Oldbury Wells Recommends

Have you ever been stuck for what to read? Or ever wondered what your friends might be reading? Miss Robert's room now has all the answers! All year long, our students have been busy gathering their favourite books and writing reviews to create this wonderful wall of recommended reading. There are such a range of texts on there (something for every age to enjoy) and from next year we'll be featuring a different student with their recommended reading in each journal!



The Globe Theatre Trip

Why should Caesar get to stomp around like a giant while the rest of us try not to get smushed under his big feet?!

On Thursday 14th March, thirty Year 10 students attended a performance of 'Julius Caesar' at London's Globe Theatre.

The production, of Shakespeare's epic tragedy 'Julius Caesar', encourages the viewer to confront their political landscape. There is a conspiracy to kill, public broadcasts of cunning rhetoric and a divisive and petty fight for greatness and power at all costs. Ancient Rome has never felt closer to home. When two of the main characters, Cassius and Brutus, decide Rome's leader Julius Caesar poses a political threat to their beloved country, there is only one solution. This leads to chaos and 'havoc'! As Shakespeare writes: 'Th' abuse of greatness is when it disjoins/Remorse from power'.



The opportunity to take the students to the Globe Theatre could not be missed. The building is stunning and drew some admiring noises from us as we walked into the main area. A replica of the original building from 1599, where 'Julius Caesar' was one of the first plays performed there, can still create a sense of awe from its audience over four hundred years later. This production was also very interactive with the audience: allowing us to be part of the mob; the actors situating themselves in the audience and often speaking directly to us. It gave a clear sense of how the contemporary audience would have reacted to the play. In this respect, the play was fantastic.

Taking the Year 10s to the Globe Theatre was a brilliant experience and they were exceptional. Mr Cook, Mrs Taylor and I were extremely proud of their conduct, behaviour and enthusiasm throughout this long day. We're now looking forward to even more opportunities to take our students to these amazing events!

Miss Roberts

TrustEd CSAT Alliance



Trust Awards

The Results are in...

On Thursday 14th July, the TrustEd CSAT Alliance hosted their first Trust Awards in celebration of the new merger. Staff within each school were asked to nominate pupils for prizes along with Headteachers selecting an overall winner for each school.

We are proud to announce that the following were nominated on behalf of Oldbury Wells School:



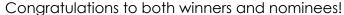
Thomas Wenham - Academic Achievement
Holly Turner - Academic Achievement
Emily Gilmour - Academic Achievement
Rebecca Peters - Outstanding Drama/Music
Harry Stafford - Courteous and Polite
Dylan Jarzebowski - Courteous and Polite
Max Parker - Courteous and Polite
Imogen Leith - Charity Work
Issy Hobday - Championing Equality
Aimee Jones - Kindness and Compassion
Ava Thomas - Kindness and Compassion
James Lea - Perseverance and Resilience
Anna Cole - Sporting Endeavours



And our overall winners...

Rebecca Peters
(Outstanding Drama/Music)

Anna Cole (Sporting Endeavours)





SPORTS

Sports Day

On Wednesday 6th July after a 4 year hiatus, we held our annual sports day. The weather was excellent, the field in a good condition and we were ready for a fun day of athletics. The buzz of excitement from the students was amazing in what has been our first big organised whole school event since COVID. The students were excellent throughout and gave 100% in everything.



The first event was the hurdles, which is always a spectacle to watch, with the added jeopardy of someone hitting a hurdle. The students however were excellent, and it produced some really even races. The highlight of which was the Year 9 boys who all put in some brilliant times and the race came right down to the wire. Well done all, a great start to the day.

Throughout the day the students performed brilliantly putting in some excellent performances, with many students producing some amazing throws and brilliant jumps: for example, Tom Tildesley in Year 8 throwing the shot put and winning by a sizeable distance. The Tear 9 boys javelin was excellent with some brilliant PBs and George Kertland really



showing his ability. The high jump competition was exciting to watch and some really great jumps were performed. Again some of the boys competitions were incredibly even throughout and we had to resort to count back to separate a winner. The way in which the students worked through all the events and the determination to succeed was excellent. The feeling and the discussion with students afterwards showed just how much they enjoyed their races.

Back on the track everyone was excited to watch the blue ribbon event of the 100m. There were some close races and the whole school really got behind each of their houses. The Year 7s races were hotly contested and were run right down to the wire; Year 8 produced some excellent times, while again Year 9 were pushing each other harder and harder throughout. I know Miss Joiner and Mr Farish would like to thank all the students for the way they performed and made their jobs easier at the start and end of each race.



Throughout all of this the students who were spectating and supporting their houses were brilliant and made sure that the athletes in their houses felt the support to produce the results they did.

The day ultimately was brilliant and produced fantastic results throughout the day.

I want to finish off by saying a massive thank you to all the students involved in the day and the way they approached this having not done anything like it for over 4 years. A massive thank you to every member of staff for their hard work and supporting the event. Then a special thank you to Mr Farish, Miss Joiner, Miss Andrews, Mr Preece and Mr Smith for their help and support to make the day happen.

Mr Cowburn



The Winners Are...







Year 8 Girls – Westgate

Year 8 Overall – Westgate 🜗



Year 9 Girls – Friary











Year 7 and 8 Track and Field Championships

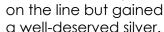
8 students from Year 7 and 8 took part in the County athletics competition at Oakengates on Monday 4th July. We were one of 13 schools competing in the event which saw Oldbury students return with 6 trophies for top 3 finishes in a variety of events. Eleanor Drinkwater finished 3rd in the Year 8 girls 800m, Esther Smith and Tamsin Cawthorn from Year 7 did extremely well, competing in the mixed age category finishing 5th and 6th respectively. Bridie Hendon was also 3rd in the Year 8 300m final, where Evie Evans finished in 6th place.







In the field events Millie Fretwell and Phoebe Duffy-Lashley were on the podium together for their results in the long jump event for Year 7 girls. Millie finishing 2nd and Phoebe 3rd. Back on the track Jack Stockton had a really closely fought battle in the Year 8 1500m final against a training partner and rival from Idsall. The lead went back and forth between them, but Jack just narrowly missed out on 1st place





To finish off the trophy tally, Eleanor Drinkwater earned her 2nd trophy for the competition and took gold when she won the Year 8 300m. Well done to all the students who took part.

Sports Team Photos



We were delighted to be able to celebrate sports fixtures being re-instated this academic year by taking team photos for all students who have represented Oldbury Wells this year in a sporting team or event. It was brilliant to see so many students involved, there were approx. 180 across all teams throughout the day, in sports ranging from football and netball, to dodgeball, badminton and athletics.

We had perfect conditions for the photos to be taken on the day and it has culminated in 50 final photos being displayed in the sports hall corridor. These photos can be viewed by students and purchased up until September if they would like a copy of the teams that they have represented.



Photos are 7"x5" and are £2 each. The money raised from the sale of the pictures will be put back into purchasing more sports kit for the following season.

If you would like a copy of any of the photos please ask your child to collect an order slip from PE and return it with the money to the PE office.

SIXTH FORM



Just Like Us

School's Diversity Week

School's Diversity Week was the 20th to the 24th June, and the Sixth Form continued their annual celebrations, spreading



the message that everyone at Oldbury Wells should be themselves.

They raised £45 for the charity 'Just Like Us', by running a ribbon and cake sale at break time. A special mention to Esme and Mrs Fyfe who brought in 'GB Bake Off' standard cakes! Also a big thankyou to 7SDI form group who provided bunting for the event, and even sent along a helper!

Schools Diversity Week celebrates LGBT+ equality and inclusivity in primary and secondary schools across the UK.

History

Birmingham University Trip

This week our Year 12 A Level Historians got a taste for academia and visited Birmingham University.

There they began their own independent research into themes ranging from the causes of World War I, the development of the Holocaust, Stalin's foreign policy and the role of Gorbachev in the end of the Cold War.

This research will form the basis of coursework as the year progresses. A flying start was made by all!



Art

Year 13 Exhibition

Yr 13 Art and Design students have worked hard this year to develop their personal study practical work on their own personal themes. Students experimented with a wide range of media and processes such as acrylic painting, mixed media, Photoshop, free hand embroidery and pyrography to create final pieces including an Art installation based on Corruption, A distorted portrait painting, A fantasy Diorama and mobile inspired by flight.

You can watch the virtual exhibition here: https://voutu.be/YKX_RSsRObs

















NOTICEBOARD



Second Hand Uniform Shop

At Oldbury Wells School, we believe that school uniform promotes a sense of pride for pupils and develops a sense of community and belonging towards the school.

The school endeavours to ensure parents are receiving the best value for money and work with suppliers to drive down cost where possible. However, we also appreciate that, especially in the current financial climate, the cost of school uniform can be worrying for some parents.

To support parents with this, the school has set up a second hand uniform 'shop' which will offer donated uniform items for pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium scheme. This shop will be available from September 2022 and will stock a range of items. These items will be available in return for a small donation. These donations will help ensure that we can replenish uniform where necessary and continue to support parents.

Please be aware that the shop will be stocked solely from donations, so availability of items and sizes may vary.

If you would like more information on this or you would like to enquire about obtaining second hand uniform items, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our School Reception on 01746 765454.

School Shop

If your child needs to purchase equipment for use in class, you can use this order form to order supplies from the school: <u>Access Form</u>

Once you have completed the order form, your order will be processed and any monies will be added to your ParentPay account. When payment is recieved any items will be passed on to form tutors to hand out.



Equipment Reminder

- Black pens
- Green Pens
- Red Pens
- HB Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Scientific calculator
- Spanish/French Dictionary
- Highlighter pens
- Pritt Stick
- Colouring Pencils
- Compass
- Protractor
- Earphones

Can we remind all students to bring a refillable water bottle to school.

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2022

(Monday 5th September PD Day)

Tuesday, 6th September: Year 7 & Year 12 only

Wednesday,7th September: All Students

Follow us on social media:

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