



Oldbury Wells Journal

December 2020



Looking to the future

Welcome to our Christmas Journal at the end of what has been an extraordinary term. As we navigate through the COVID pandemic, our main purpose has been to re-engage and re-boot education for all those in our community, ensuring as much 'normality' as possible while everything develops in the world around us. As stated many times; our students and staff alongside parents/carers have been magnificent in pulling together during the most challenging of times promoting a sense of togetherness throughout.

I am extremely grateful for the hard work and commitment shown by everyone and am very proud to be Headteacher within such a positive school community. When joining the school, the sense of community and togetherness was something which was continually referenced; it has been a privilege to experience this first-hand, where despite the challenges faced - amazing things have been achieved.

Nationally, with a vaccine program now being rolled out, mass testing in schools being outlined, with serial testing being promoted as an alternative to self-isolation, we should remain optimistic that a sense of normality will resume. In the meantime, we will continue to be focused, support each other, and work hard to ensure that everyone's experience remains positive throughout.

The Festive Period

We wish all families a relaxing festive period, with Christmas being a little different for everyone this year. One thing which remains the same is the opportunity for students to reflect on what has happened over recent times and set themselves targets as we move into a new calendar year. We look forward to supporting all students into the year ahead, wishing all those involved with formal examinations the very best throughout their preparation, knowing that everyone will be aiming to achieve their very best.

Student Transition

Mr Smith has been working incredibly hard with our year 7 students who have fully settled into school life. It has been fantastic for many to be involved with several primary projects which have been managed successfully through communication via Microsoft Teams. The work of the TrustEd School council continues with further updates in the new year; they have many plans and are already looking ahead to those joining us next year, considering what can be done to ensure their transition will be a huge success. We are very proud of their ongoing commitment.

This year will be a significant year for our year 8 students who would traditionally take their GCSE options. We have some discussions taking place at the beginning of January looking at exactly how and when this process will occur and will update parents at the earliest opportunity.

Bridgnorth 6th Form

Our 6th form students continue to be fantastic ambassadors for all our school. Their commitment to make a difference to others, alongside their hard work, demonstrates the importance of always looking ahead. We have enjoyed the coffee mornings they have organised and have been grateful for all their efforts to support each other. It has been fantastic to hear of future ambitions from our Y11 students, with many planning to remain with us next year choosing one of the range of options available to them. No doubt, the positivity they see with our current 6th form is a driving factor.

Staff moving on

We say goodbye to Mrs Crampton who will be leaving us at the end of the year having been a valued member of our Student Support team, she will be missed by both students and staff. All the very best to Miss Edwards who will be leaving her role supporting the PE department to take a sports scholarship in America, as an ex-student of Oldbury Wells and Bridgnorth 6th Form we are extremely proud of her achievements.

Happy Retirement to Mrs Ballinger

Finally, I would like to wish Mrs Ballinger all the very best in her retirement. Having spent 20 years at the school, she has worked with so many colleagues to ensure the very best support and provision for all our students. Mrs Ballinger worked extremely closely with Mrs Thomas until the end of the last year and does so much work to ensure that school processes, such as student timetable, options, parents' evenings, communications home, transition, and so much more have been successfully implemented. We wish her all the very best and know that for many families who have been supported directly by her, you will share our good wishes.

Finally, Merry Christmas to everyone, here's hoping for a year ahead which will bring about positive change and a further sense of hope. We look forward to seeing you at the start of the new term when all staff and students will be returning to school. Stay safe and see you in the new year!

NEWS

EVENTS

Remembrance Day

For Remembrance this year, Dr Perfect's Year 9 class placed poppies around our centenary tree, and were part of a service led by Mr Grainger to commemorate Remembrance Day. Mr Grainger read the poem 'In Flanders Fields' as the group paused in a moment of quiet reflection and respect.

We held a two-minute silence at 11am, to remember those who fought and died in the wars.

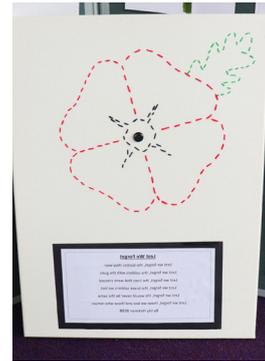
The History department also led a project across school to research the 75th anniversary of World War II and create a poppy to mark this important year. As well as our beautiful poppy display it was wonderful to uncover local stories of wartime courage and to be able to share them with others.



Mr Tristham, Mr Grainger, and Mr Perfect standing with Year 9, behind our centenary tree.



Laying poppies by the centenary tree. Lest we Forget.



Lest we forget.

NEWS



DRAMA Stage Make-Up

Year 10 have had great fun in their drama lessons with Mrs Morgan, practicing stage make-up and effects. Their work shows a real creative side, as they followed a design brief creating wounds and effects.



TEXTILES

Year 8 Bags Project

Year 8 have had a successful term designing drawstring bags that promote an environmental message. Their brief: to design a bag that appeals to secondary school students, that has appropriate storage areas for individual needs and be made from recycled materials. It also had to resemble the De Stijl style - derived from Dutch abstract artists whose work consisted of horizontal and vertical geometric patterns. Here are a sample of what our students came up with:



NEWS

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK Odd Socks Day

On Friday 20th November, we held an odd socks day in school which marked the end of anti-bullying week and celebrated difference and individuality. We asked students to come to school wearing odd socks with their school uniform. It was really great to see so many colourful combinations arounds school, and wonderful to see so many students carrying around such an important message. Well done to everyone who got involved.



The winner Ella Quinton, with the two runners up Lydia Walker and Rex Mavir, pictured with headteacher Mr Tristham.

ART COMPETITION OWS Christmas Card

This year, the art department launched a Christmas Card competition in school, inviting students to design and create the Oldbury Wells christmas card for 2020. We had some fantastic cards submitted, of which entrants recieved commendations for their hard work. The winner of the competition was Ella Quinton in Year 7 - her design has been turned into an e-card. Our two runners up were Lydia Walker from Year 8, and Rex Mavir from Year 9. Each recieved prizes for their entries. Their designs are pictured below.



Ella Quinton
Winner



Lydia Walker
Runner Up



Rex Mavir
Runner Up

CHARITY

NON-UNIFORM DAY Children in Need

We would like to thank everyone for their support and donations for our Children in Need non-uniform day. We are pleased to announce that we raised a total of £956.50! It was great to see all pupils and staff getting involved. Thank you to Adrian and the catering team who were selling Pudsey topped cupcakes at lunchtime in the canteen.



FOOD BANK COLLECTION Bridgnorth Food Bank

This term we held a collection for Bridgnorth Food Bank. The co-op kindly collected all donations on Wednesday 16th December. We would like to thank everybody who donated during these current difficult times. We were delighted to be able to showcase the generosity of our pupils and parents, with the many boxes and bags that we were able to fill. It was heartwarming to see such a wide range of items, from canned goods and toiletries, to Christmas items such as crackers and mince pies. Year 7 form EJW made their own Christmas themed box filled with many Christmas goodies, so well done to those involved.



STAFF FUNDRAISING Soroptimist International The Wrekin

Staff and Sixth Formers donated items and gift bags for a fantastic cause this year: Soroptimist International The Wrekin, who distribute toiletries to women and girls who need it most. A big thank you to Mrs Laurie who introduced the charity to us and co-ordinated the donations.

ART

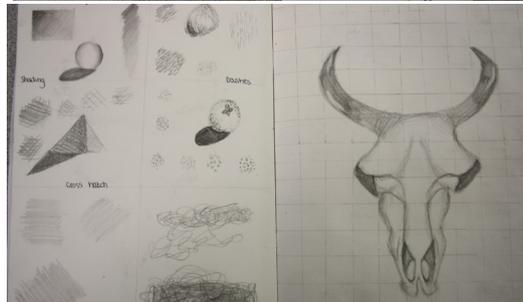
YEAR 7 ARTWORK

Artwork Showcase

Year 7 have been working on building up observation skills with techniques and media, developing Architectural studies and learning about colour theory. They have developed some fantastic sketchbook work. Here are some of our students showcasing their work:



Harry Stafford with his sketchbook.



Ava Phillips with her sketchbook.



COMPETITION LAUNCH

Pop Art Competition

The Art Department will be launching a competition for all year 8s in January linked to our Pop Art Project. The years 8s are creating some amazing Artwork inspired by Pop Art so we thought we would set them a fun and challenging optional task as part of a competition. Pictured here are Megan Farrington-Hyrons, Amelia Crossland and Leila Green with their Pop Art research work.

BRIEF:

To decorate, pattern and customise an **object** with Pop Art patterns, images and shapes based on any theme:

- A cereal box, package or small cardboard box.
- A found object Eg. Old shoe, cricket bat, vinyl record, etc
- Buy an object online or from craft shop Eg blank box or object.
- You could make the object from Papier Mache.

We look forward to your competition entries when we launch the competition in January through Satchel.



ART

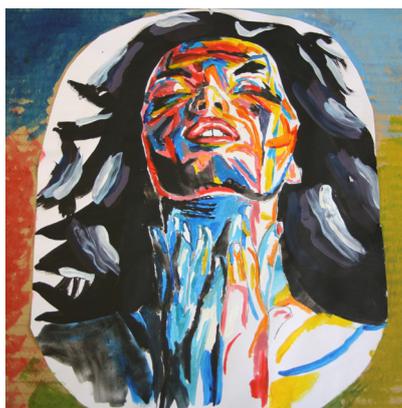
ARTISTS OF THE MONTH

November and December

The Art and Design Department are pleased to announce the re-launch of Artist of the Month. This is to celebrate the outstanding and exemplary work of individual students at OWS. Students from any year group are nominated by the Arts staff and there can be winners from each year group every month. Their full pieces can be viewed on our Facebook page: Oldbury Wells School



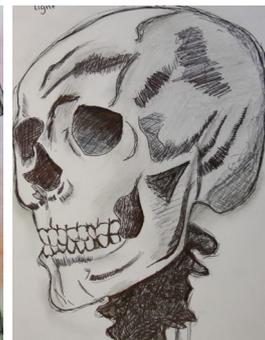
For his GCSE art project work.



For his great Fine Art project, media and artist studies inspired by fruit. He has an excellent attitude to work and has made great progress with his Art studies.



For her amazing commitment to her Art and Design Studies, superb progress from Year 9 and an excellent understanding of GCSE coursework skills and techniques.



In the new Year there will be further Artists of the month picked from across the school.

SIXTH FORM

Sixth formers at Bridgnorth Sixth Form have had a busy half term. Year 13 have been working hard towards their Mock Exams which take place first week back in January. Many UCAS University applications have also been sent off, showing that our students are still aiming high despite the uncertainty at the moment.

Four Year 13 Business students have staged a Charity Event which raised £94 for Alzheimers Society. Ethon, Matt, Dhesan and Ethan sold coffee and Christmas treats to staff and sixth formers in order to raise money for a charity close to their hearts.

Year 12 also continue to impress staff with their hard work and high attendance. They have been very active in supporting whole school charity events, sporting odd socks and Christmas jumpers.

We are pleased to be still accepting applications to Bridgnorth Sixth Form via our website, Bridgnorthsixthform.com. Please do get in touch if you would prefer a hard copy or would like to discuss an application. You can reach us on 01746 760505. Merry Christmas from all at Bridgnorth Sixth form!

ART & DESIGN

Year 13 Budding Artists

YR 13 have been busy working on their personal Investigation project in Art and Design and also putting together their applications for further Education. It is great to see how many are planning to continue with their Art and Design studies and as you can see their pathways are wide and varied. Jess Robbins is looking at a Graphic Design apprenticeship in Wolves or Birmingham working with website designers. Rosie Banks is applying for an Art and Design Foundation course in Dundee studying Digital Applications, 3D, fine Art and jewellery making. Molly Painting in planning to study body piercing and is interested also in tattooing. Martha Jones is applying to follow an Architecture Degree with a first choice of Cardiff where she can do a year's placement and Joseph Royce is planning a gap year and then hoping to study Product design at Wolverhampton. We wish them well this year and for their future studies.



Pictured here working in the sixth form Art studio are Rosie Banks and Joseph Royce.



SIXTH FORM CHARITY WORK

Bridgnorth Food Bank

As part of Oldbury Well's Bridgnorth Food Bank Collection, our Sixth Formers were committed and generous with their donations. A big thank you to all who contributed towards making a big difference this Christmas.



PSYCHOLOGY Virtual Event

Year 13 psychology students had the chance to participate in an event which allowed them to listen to 5 different speakers who were experts in their field. They coped brilliantly with the nature of the day and the fact that this year it had to be done virtually.

They listened firstly to Claudia Hammond who discussed the importance of rest in a society that feels they have to be busy all the time. Dany Nobus then delivered a speech on 'Is it normal to be mad?' where he explored the concept of mental health, how it should be considered and the overlap of conditions. Jonathan Smith explored the way Olympic athletes cope with a high-pressure environment and how they train their brain. He also covered ways they have coped with the delayed Tokyo games and how this can affect their mind-set. Gemma Witcomb discussed the implications of gender on development and how stereotypes have a big influence on us even if we don't realise. Finally Peter Lovatt shared his observations of the link between dancing and mental health and wellbeing. As well as sharing his knowledge he got student's up and moving and explained how different types of movement are linked to different types of thinking and can improve our problem-solving abilities.

The year 13 students responded very positively to this event and had some inspiring conversations amongst themselves. They all got involved, even asking questions of the speakers and voting on polls which made up part of the day. The students involved showed great maturity and hopefully took a lot away from the day - so a big well done to them!



Follow us on Facebook: @bridgnorthsixth

SPORTS

SPORTS PROFILES

Celebrating sports achievements

The sports department at Oldbury Wells believe it is important to recognise the achievements and talents of our students both in and outside of school. This is why this year we have launched OWS Sports Profiles. Each week on our Facebook and Twitter, we celebrate one student and showcase their achievements in sporting teams and accolades outside of school. On our social media, you can view their full profiles. Well done to all.

Sophie Kinnersley

Sport: Handball

Achievements: Regional u17 Academy Performance Team & Shropshire u16 Performance team

Freddie Guest

Sport: Rugby

Achievement: Worcester Warriors u16s Academy

If you have a sports achievement that you would like to be recognised, please contact Mr Cowburn: terry.cowburn@oldburywells.com

To view the full sports profiles follow us on Facebook: Oldbury Wells School

Freya Cates

Sport: Netball

Achievement: Severn Stars Academy

Georgia Coe

Sport: Showjumping

Achievement: 1st in the West Midlands and 2nd in the UK on the Bronze leaderboards

SPORTS AWARDS

Oldbury Wells Sports Colours

Our students are awarded sports colours for representing us in the highest percentage of available sports teams over the previous academic year. Our ceremony usually takes place in July, however due to this unusual year, our awards took place on the 17th December, in year group bubbles to avoid our students from missing out. Congratulations to all who were awarded their colours, wear them with pride!

Year 8

1st Colours

Judd Aspin
Rio Bill
Callum Blower
Harrison Dexter
Elliot Pabla
Harrison Penn
Olly Smith
Denise Appiatu
Francesca Bowen
Anna Cole
Eleanor Fryman
Mayah Hill
Freya Jones
Molly Preece
Nell Walsh
Rebecca Whitehead

Year 9

1st Colours

Leila Brookes
Leila Harvey
Darcey Humphries

2nd Colours

Max Parker
Marley Woodcock
Elliot Fellows
Charlie Ward
Jake Fretwell
Millie Carr
Tess Walsh
Lily Goulden
Angharad Morgan
Rhona Ferrans

Year 10

2nd Colours

James Bailey
Owen Tanswell
Martha Glover

3rd Colours

Henry Dwane
Luke Daly
Eve Connelly
Jade Courtman
Beth Morris
Ellie Warner

Year 11

2nd Colours

Kirsty Tildesley

4th Colours

Daniel Galloway
Harry Burrows
Charlie Davies
Rhys Blower
Charlie Callaghan
Jack Cole
Summer Evans
Sophie Kinnersley
Holly McHale
Freya Cates
Nat Rooney
Poppy Taylor Mason
Grace Goldsmith

SPORTS



Year 8 Girls receiving their sports colours badges.



Year 8 Boys receiving their sports colours badges.



Year 10 Boys receiving their sports colours badges.



Year 10 Girls receiving their sports colours badges.



Year 11 girls receiving their sports colours ties.



Year 11 boys receiving their sports colours ties.

Well done to all who were awarded their sports colours this year, we are very proud of your achievements and involvement in our sports teams.

NOTICEBOARD

E-Safety

With distance learning occurring in circumstances such as self-isolation and the increased use of the internet, e-safety is increasingly important. Please see our school website for full advice, helpful website links and guides to using all of our softwares. There is information on cyber-bullying, online safety and social media usage. There is advice on reducing screen time and combatting addiction to smartphones and apps. There are help guides on keeping your children safe on social media, as well a a helpful list of all of the current apps that your children may be using to communicate with others online.

Term Dates

Spring Term 2021

Starts: Mon 4th January

Half-Term: Mon 15th - Fri 19th February 2021

Ends: Thurs 1st April 2021

Summer Term 2021

Starts: Mon 19th April 2021

Half-Term: Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June 2021

Ends: Fri 16th July 2021

Stocking Filler Ideas

- Water soluble pencil crayons
- Tin of watercolours and brush
- Set of drawing pencils or fine liners
- Stationary



Winning Christmas Card design by: Ella Quinton

From everybody at
Oldbury Wells

*Merry Christmas
& Happy New
Year*

Wishing you a safe and restful holiday season, we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Covid Reminder: Please see the Covid Updates section of our school website for full details.

Should you need to confirm a positive case of Covid-19 over the Christmas period, please contact covid.support@oldburywells.com.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 they should remain at home for 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Any other household members must stay at home for 10 days.

Follow us on social media for the latest updates, news and photos from around school.



Oldbury Wells School



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