



Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Newsletter

December 2017

## Dear Parents and Carers

I have been fascinated by Blue Planet II, the BBC's chronicling of the oceans, narrated by the reassuring genius Sir David Attenborough. This programme took four years and 6,000 hours of material gathered from 39 countries. This dedicated pursuit of excellence shows in an exceptional programme, with the alarming message to the human race being that the world is disappearing and action needs to occur. Attenborough was once voted Britain's most trusted human and when he succinctly describes a fern's survival from underwater predators as "they need to learn quickly to survive", he could be providing an allegory for our school children who need to learn quickly and learn a lot to survive the rigour of an exam system that means in all subjects they will be tested on memory, and tested on their ability to read fluently under pressure. In the recent employers' report, unsurprisingly the advice was that future employers will require more than simple academic success, with character and resilience being characteristics that are regularly looked at and can be found in:

### • Sporting success

- Sixth form **netball** county tournament against Hereford sixth forms, 4<sup>th</sup> out of 8, winning 4 games out of 7.
- **Netball** – Y10 v Tudor Grange won 25-7, Y8 won 15-3, Y7 lost 17-2. Against Blessed Edward Y10 won 43-4, Y9 won 18-9.
- **Rugby** – Y8 v Dyson Perrins lost 50-20, v Bishop Perowne lost 30-20.
- Angel Reeves and Tia Francis 1st dan black belts in shushikai karate.
- County School's

### **Trampoline Competition**, 52 competitors.

### **Elite Competition**

- team winners (Gina Smith, Phoebe Lines, Molly and Euan Bryan).



**Inter 1 Competition** - Runners up in team competition (Amelie Adcock, Lauren Walkeden, Millie Arnold). **Beginners** – team winners (Daisy Allen, Fay Owen, Abby Stones).

- The **new age kurling** team won their qualifying round and are now through to the Winter Games final in this event.
- The **KS3 boys' badminton** team won the city round and are now through to the county championship.
- Our successful **Certificate Evening**, Year of 2017, was the best attended ever. 82% of leavers returned, celebrating outstanding sport, art and dance excellence as well as fabulous results.
- Our **Remembrance Day** was memorable for the exemplary reflection, with the whole school in attendance. 1,340 students and 140 staff were photographed from the top of the sixth form building. This is an important event for our students and many wore cadet and scout or guide uniforms to school. Russell French represented the British Legion and the



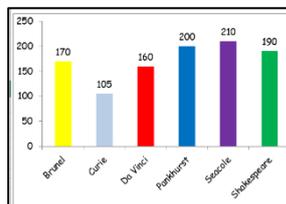
Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph was read by Adam Lawless Year 9. £195 was raised by this year's poppy sales.

- Successful **curriculum offer**, which includes GCSE computing at a time when 54% of secondary schools do not offer this crucial subject advocated as an essential GCSE by Google and Microsoft.
- Max Hodgetts won an **art competition** and won £250 for a local charity, Cystic Fibrosis. Four students were highly commended – Sam Hill, George Small, Sacha Willis, Tom Atkinson.

**House Competitions** – There have been a number of house competitions with the fabulous pumpkin carving setting the Halloween mood. 1<sup>st</sup> place Shakespeare – Ronnie-Mae Morgan, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Curie – Karolina Bronisz and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Seacole – Maja Wyrwa.



Rank	House	Points
4	Brunel	170
6	Curie	105
5	Da Vinci	160
2	Pankhurst	200
1	Seacole	210
3	Shakespeare	190



Next Competition - The Great Christopher Whitehead Christmas Bake Off.

### Enrichment Activities

17 hair and beauty students spent two days in London as part of course enrichment. They watched Matilda in the West End which for many was their first experience of a West End musical, followed by a visit to the Salon International Hair Show, Europe's largest hair show. The students were able to watch up and coming new hairdressers and barbers demonstrating the latest trends, along with established stylists such as: Charles Cameron, Errol Douglas and Simon Shaw.

**Careers Advice** Mrs Watmore, our careers advisor organised 1:1 interviews for year 11 students and an invaluable 'Careers Fair' with over 30 businesses, potential employers in attendance.

### Sixth Form

Visiting speakers have talked with our students. Dr Marta Guerriero talked about 'Global Sustainable Development' and how the actions of individuals across the globe collectively created problems on a larger scale for whole communities and the earth's population. Dr Marc Lewis, a GP, discussed a career in medicine.

### Inter Faith Week

12th November - 19th November. This week is dedicated to interfaith cooperation and understanding. We hosted a religious



artefacts and festival food exhibition and discussed what is meant by 'interfaith'; 'everyone should respect other people's beliefs'.



**Mr Flanders' blog** and incredible pictures are on the website. Follow his adventures through China, Laos and Vietnam with Cambodia and Thailand to follow.

### Christmas Plea

We are having a number of difficulties with student bikes and scooters. Some are left unlocked, are not road safe and are attracting unsavoury visitors who have stolen them. Please can we start the New Year with bikes being locked, helmets being worn and sensible behaviour. No scooters.

### 'Worth Less?'

The school has united with Worcestershire's other 33 secondary schools to join the 'Worth Less?' campaign. 30 local authorities' headteachers are demanding that the continued educational budget cuts are making running a school impossible. We receive £800 per student less than a comparable Birmingham school. This equates to £30 million less over 27 years and is continued underfunding of your children's education. We still have to teach music in a portacabin. Please make your views known to our local MP.

**Current Whole School Attendance is 96%**

### Dates for your Diary

Mon	4 Dec	Sixth Form Reading Week
Thu	7 Dec	Y13 Parents' Evening
Tue	12 Dec	Cathedral Carol Concert Y7 - Y9
Mon	18 Dec	Sixth Form Alumni Certificate, Mince Pie & Wine Evening
Thu - Tue	21 Dec – 2 Jan	Christmas Holiday
Wed	3 Jan	Spring Term Starts