

# HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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*A Church of England School  
providing a Values Based Education*

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

It has been a wonderful week here at Holywell. We have been delighted to welcome our new Year 5 students and



they have all settled in really well. It has also been

amazing to have the whole-school back on site: classrooms are buzzing with activity; playgrounds are full of friends; new books have been given out and we are all focussed on 'living life in all its fullness'.



We had our first Key Stage assemblies on Tuesday and

Wednesday and, whilst it was quite daunting to have our first 'mass gatherings' for over 18 months, both were joyous occasions in which we were able to meet together 'in community'. The theme of

the assemblies was 'We find a way' inspired by my trip to the Yorkshire Dales at the start of the Summer break and the way in which water finds its way through any block, obstacle or boulder. We talked to students about being open to new possibilities, new learning and new challenges. Where things look difficult or where there are barriers to overcome, together, we will find a way to be the best we can be. The assemblies also referenced the Olympic Games and the even-more-inspiring Paralympic Games. The Opening ceremony of the Paralympics transported us to the ParaAirport. There we met the Little One-Winged Plane, convinced she cannot fly because she has only one wing. Gradually,

she has a change of heart, inspired by the displays of resilience around her, all transported by the ParaBus – these include a violinist with a prosthetic arm, a dancer with a prosthetic foot, and a wheelchair dancer who pivots on his wheel. The Little One-Winged Plane grows enough in confidence to take off on her own journey. We hope that every single student at Holywell will have the confidence to pursue their own dreams and to go on their own learning journeys – we are all here to support everyone on those journeys – and find a way through any barrier. In terms of the actual Paralympic Games and the amazing athletes, we were really inspired by swimmer Ellie Robinson. Ellie won a Paralympic gold and bronze medal in Rio (2016), aged 15. This year, she competed in the women's S6 butterfly final on her 20th birthday. Ellie started strongly but missed out on a bronze by a quarter of a second. She celebrated her fifth-place finish at the Tokyo Paralympics as a "story of triumph not defeat" in a powerful post-race interview:




<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhmM8V9Y5Ok>. If we can all approach every challenge with this 'grit' and determination, we will all certainly 'live life in all its fullness' and 'be the best we can be'.

## We find a way


We find a way  
Like water Through spaces  
Between gaps Over blocks  
We find a way

We find a way  
Together like water We power through  
We flow between We move over  
We find a way

We find a way  
Like water Through hope  
With faith We are filled with the spirit  
And we find a way



We find a way  
To live life in all its fullness  
Living our values  
Being the best we can be  
In community  
Like holy water  
We find a way



**Holywell School**  
A Church of England School providing a values-based education  
*Enjoy ... Achieve ... Excel ... Care*



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss A Stewart  
Assistant Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead / SENDCo: Mrs J Davies – Senior Leader: Mr James Ulph

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Part of our revised vision statement is to 'be the best we can be in community' One of our Year 6 students – Caleb – has certainly demonstrated his commitment to community. He has been growing his hair for the past 4 years and, on Wednesday, took the brave step to have his hair cut. He decided to donate his long blonde hair to the Little Princess Trust, who provide free real hair wigs to children and young people, up to 24 years, who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. A lovely gesture and a great example of Holywell students supporting the wider community.



We have also been exploring how 'living our values' would look and sound like in reality around school and outside of school. Suggestions so far have included:

- Thanking people for their actions
- Treating others like you wish to be treated
- Holding the door open for someone to be kind, and showing them the way if they need help
- Listening to the teacher, showing respect, and saying 'Thank-you' when needed.
- Greeting people in the morning with a happy smile and a 'Hello'!
- Lending people stuff if they have forgotten it.
- Taking roles of responsibility and doing our best in them
- Don't litter (a practical action we can do every day)
- Be more like a snow-globe (to help with our own wellbeing when we experience negative emotions)
- Be kind and have courage (in everything we say and do – 5TMP's two favourite chosen values)

It might be interesting to explore what students might be doing at home to show our values in action!

Thank you to Key Stage 3 for your continued support with testing. Our on-site testing did find an asymptomatic positive case (the student is doing well and continues not to have any serious symptoms), so it was worth doing and it emphasises that it is still really important to do twice-weekly home testing. All Year 7 and Year 8 students were provided with test kits today. Please continue to be vigilant and let us know of any positive cases. We have updated our risk assessment and guidance information on the school website – links to the various documents are also below:

- Guidance notes and School Plan for Return of all students w/c 6th September 2021 are available [here](#).
- Scenarios - Covid-19 A Quick Reference Guide For Parents - Holywell School - September 2021 - available [here](#)
- Mr Simpson's Guide to Home-Testing can be found [here](#).
- Our school risk assessment is available [here](#).

Thank you to Miss Watson and the in-school testing team for all their hard work this week too.

Have a great and safe weekend.

Mr Simpson

