



Holywell News



Issue No: 162

June 2022

Headlines from Mr Simpson:

I hope that everyone has had a restful half-term and that you enjoyed celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Queen is such an inspiration and totally embodies our value of the month for June: CARE. The way in which Her Majesty has cared for her country over the last 70 years is remarkable and if we could just mirror some of her boundless sense of duty, respect and unwavering faith in God and the British people, we would all be living life in all its fullness and caring for each other.

This is the challenge for us all as we go through the month of June – to really think about how we care for others, how we care for our community and how we care for ourselves.



The Queen's playful sense of humour was demonstrated in the wonderful mini-film which opened the Jubilee Concert where she shared secret marmalade sandwiches with Paddington Bear and, again, we would all do well to never lose sight of the child within us ... and be ready to share a cup of tea with anyone!



Before half-term, we had our own Platinum Jubilee celebrations which included a wonderful recording session with each year group singing the National Anthem. We looked at the Queen's accomplishments and the history of her reign ... and finished the day with an amazing 'bunting challenge'. It was a joy to have the whole school take part in this.



Many thanks to the Heads of Year and Heads of House who organised the students on the day and particular thanks to Mrs Purves and Miss Warren who organised the activities.

It has also been a joy to see students' wonderful work during the term – a couple of particular highlights include the always-impressive pewter pendants students have been making in DT and the great Year 7 celebrity artwork:



Our students often surprise me with their generosity and care for each other – even in the midst of some students not demonstrating our values! Just before half-term, one of our Year 7 students surprised me with his care and appreciation of staff. Tom asked if he could do an award for teachers – he wanted to add to our usual values awards but he also wanted to design a trophy using his computer design skills and a 3D printer! He said he was trying out some ideas and, one day, he arrived in school with this amazing award ----->

He and some friends decided on the member of staff to whom they would like to give the award and, on the last day of the half-term, we presented the award to Miss Mayles:



This certainly made Miss Mayles smile – as did some of the messages staff received on 'Thank-a-teacher day – it is great to be appreciated. We look forward to presenting the award to other members of staff.

We are also reviewing our rewards system for students and we are looking forward to recognising more great achievements across the school. In the meantime, we have another group of students who will be rewarded for achieving 100 Housepoints at the ever-popular 100 Club.

Another highlight before half term was the wonderful music concert showcasing the work done by a group of students who have been working with Pippa D Collins. Pippa works as a singer and conductor both in the WestEnd and with a local Rock Choir. She has been coaching a group of students across all year groups and we were treated to a sample of the songs they have working on. It was wonderful to have the Macfarlan Room resonate with the sound of such wonderful singing.



We look forward to many more events during the final half-term of the year – so watch out for details of our first Sports Day in two years, some more music concerts, some more trips and curriculum-linked events.

Best wishes
MG Simpson
Headteacher

Hydration Guidelines

At Holywell we encourage students to keep hydrated and we recognise the importance of drinking water regularly through the day.

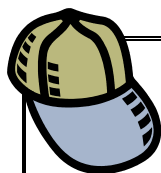


Why is water important?

Water makes up approximately 80% of the brain and is an essential element in neurological transmissions. Poor hydration adversely affects a child's mental performance and learning ability. Dehydration is simply not having enough water in your body. Mild dehydration may include tiredness, headaches, reduced alertness and ability to concentrate. Mental performance including memory, attention and concentration can decrease by about 10 per cent, once thirst is felt and continues to decrease as dehydration increases. Thirst is usually felt when dehydration results in 0.8 - 2 per cent loss of body weight lost due to water loss. As children don't always recognise the early stages of thirst, they are at risk of becoming dehydrated. Even mild dehydration can make children irritable, and can cause tiredness, headaches, lack of concentration, reduced mental performance and dry skin. Water consumption also has an immediate alerting and revitalising effect. The key to boosting the capacity to learn is to keep well-hydrated throughout each day (ideally from a personal water bottle within arm's reach).

Organisation in school

- All students should have a water bottle (labelled) and they are encouraged to take regular sips during the day.
- Bottles must be anti-spill bottles - NOT GLASS - with sports tops.
- Water bottles should be carried separately from school books and library books.
- Water bottles are not allowed near electrical equipment.
- Water bottles and drinks must be for personal use only.
- Teachers have the final word in lessons as to when and if they can be used.
- Bottles must contain still WATER! Flavoured still water or sugar-free squash is also an acceptable alternative, however, water is best! (Fizzy drinks – including sparkling water drinks or power drinks – are not allowed in school.)



Sunhats and Sun Protection Cream

Please ensure that your children are equipped for any hot weather with a sunhat (baseball cap style) and sun protection cream. Students can bring sun cream into school, but must be able to apply it themselves – staff are unable to apply it for them.

Students are encouraged to have water bottles and sun hats with them during P.E. lessons.



If your child is away from school

A telephone call, email or WEDUC notification is required on the first day of absence, before 10.00 am

WEDUC Communications from School



Please note that we use WEDUC to communicate with families. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that at least one parent / carer downloads the WEDUC app.

If parents/carers need an enrolment code, please email Miss Watson on awatson@holywellschool.co.uk who will be able to supply one. Thank you.



Hairstyles, Make-up and Jewellery



Please remember that **extreme haircuts and colours** are not part of our school uniform!

- **HAIRCUTS MUST NOT BE SHORTER THAN A NUMBER 2**
- **'CUT IN' DESIGNS (INCLUDING LINES) ARE NOT PERMITTED**
- **DYED HAIR IS ALSO NOT PERMITTED**

If you are in any doubt about the acceptability of a hairstyle, please contact the school beforehand.

Make-up (including **nail varnish**) is not allowed.

To avoid loss and any dangers or accident to the wearer or another pupil, expensive items of jewellery must not be worn.



Summer Uniform



During the summer term students have the following two options re: uniform:

- a) **Either continue to wear blazers, white shirts and ties.**
- b) **Wear a white polo shirt (without a tie) and a blazer**

Shorts: School shorts are included as an option for summer uniform. The length should be just above the knee to just below the knee. The shorts must be plain grey tailored shorts. No combat style shorts, skinny / cycling shorts, or shorts with pockets further down the leg. No designs / appliqué or stripes. No denims, cord, linen, combats or cropped trousers allowed.



- **As with school shorts, skirts must be just above the knee to just below the knee in length.**
- **Socks must be plain grey, black or white.**
- **Shoes are required as part of our school uniform.**
- **PE Kit to be worn on days when PE lessons are scheduled.**

Essential Equipment

We are now stocking essential stationery items in the School Office.

Pupils may purchase a **pencil case** which contains the following items: **Handwriting pen, pencil, green, red and blue pens, dry-wipe pen and a 15cm ruler** for **£2.50** (see photo).

Stationery items are also available to buy individually. (Empty pencil case £1, other items 10p – 50p each).



Attendance and Holidays in Term Time



Parents / Carers should be aware that under current government guidelines **we can NOT give permission for any holiday in term time.** Holidays will be classed as **unauthorised absence** for your child. There may, however, be events that a student takes part in out of school which require him / her to miss a school day – we will continue to consider that sort of request. However, it is clear that the government and external authorities will want a very persuasive argument for us to be allowed to record any absence as a permitted time out of school. **No leave will be authorised during the first two weeks of the school year or during exam periods.**

Parents/carers wishing to apply for leave of absence are required to fill in a **Leave of Absence Application Form** in advance and before making any travel arrangements (available from the school office and to download from the school website). We always take a reasonable, supportive approach to requests (especially with regard to fines) however, taking 'the odd day' here and there can have a HUGE impact on learning.



Emergency Contact Details



Please remember to inform the school office of any changes to your contact details. This includes **change of your home address, telephone numbers** (even temporary changes) **and doctors' details.** This is very important, as it enables us to reach you in case of emergency. Thank you.

No Aerosols Please



Please remember that aerosols / sprays (deodorants, hairsprays, etc.) are **NOT ALLOWED TO BE USED IN SCHOOL.**

We have students and staff with allergies to the gases and spraying such aerosols can cause severe allergic / medical reactions. Please be considerate.

PE Department News

We are now in the middle of the summer fixtures, with school teams competing on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays of most weeks. Rounders and cricket teams have started playing matches in their respective leagues, showing much progress in each time they step on to the pitch.

KS3 League athletics has now finished with both the boys' and girls' teams narrowly missing out on qualification for the league final. However, it was excellent to see so many students representing the school. On Friday 20th May, students from Years 7 and 8 competed in the District Athletics Championships, at Bedford Athletics Stadium. There were some excellent performances including Abbey (Y7 Javelin), Noki (Y7 100m) and Emmy (Y8 100m) who all became **District Champions – an amazing achievement!** Well done to all who took part.

There are still plenty of fixtures for all Year groups in the second half of the Summer term so please can students keep on attending extra-curricular clubs! We also have a few special events coming up, including the return of Sports Day – more details to follow. If any students would like to join sports clubs outside of school then they can look at the display board outside of the gym, or ask any member of the PE department.

We would once again like to thank all students, parents and carers for their support and dedication so far this year; it is much appreciated.

Mr Eames



The poster is for the 'Amphill Girls Rugby ROAR, FREE Introduction to Rugby Summer Camps'. It features a maroon and gold color scheme. At the top left is the 'ROAR' logo with 'AMPHILL GIRLS' above it and 'SUMMER CAMP' below it. At the top right is the 'AMPHILL' logo with a lion crest and 'A DISTRICT COMMUNITY RUGBY' below it. The main title 'Amphill Girls Rugby ROAR, FREE Introduction to Rugby Summer Camps' is in bold. Below this is a photo of hands holding a rugby ball. To the right of the photo, it says 'First 50 participants to register get a free Oneills' T-Shirt'. Below the photo, it says 'Its Free, its Fun, its Non-Contact & No Experience required'. At the bottom left, it says 'Any questions please contact the organiser, Andy Hill' with email 'ROAR@amphillrffc.com' and website 'tinyurl.com/AmphillROAR'. A QR code is also present. At the bottom right, it lists the dates: 'Open to current Year 6's – Year 12's', 'Saturday 25th June', 'Saturday 9th July', 'Saturday 13th August', 'Saturday 27th August', and '10.30am – 12.30pm followed by a BBQ'. At the very bottom, it says 'All participants will receive free entry to a 1st Team Friendly at Dillingham Park' and 'At Amphill Rugby Club, Dillingham Park, Woburn Street, Amphill MK45 2HX'.

AMPHILL GIRLS
ROAR
SUMMER CAMP

AMPHILL
A DISTRICT COMMUNITY RUGBY

Amphill Girls Rugby
ROAR, FREE Introduction
to Rugby Summer Camps

First 50 participants to register get a free Oneills' T-Shirt

Its Free, its Fun,
its Non-Contact &
No Experience required

Any questions please
contact the organiser,
Andy Hill
✉ ROAR@amphillrffc.com
🌐 tinyurl.com/AmphillROAR

Open to current Year 6's – Year 12's
Saturday 25th June
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10.30am – 12.30pm followed by a BBQ

All participants will receive
free entry to a 1st Team Friendly
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At Amphill Rugby Club, Dillingham Park, Woburn Street, Amphill MK45 2HX

Art Department News

Year 5 – Our Ocean

Year 5 have begun their project creating mix media sketches of shells and exploring with relief printing. They have also painted beautiful seascapes that will create the background for a clay sculpture next half term.



Year 5 – Our Ocean



Year 6 – Mind Monsters



Year 7 – Celebrity Portraits

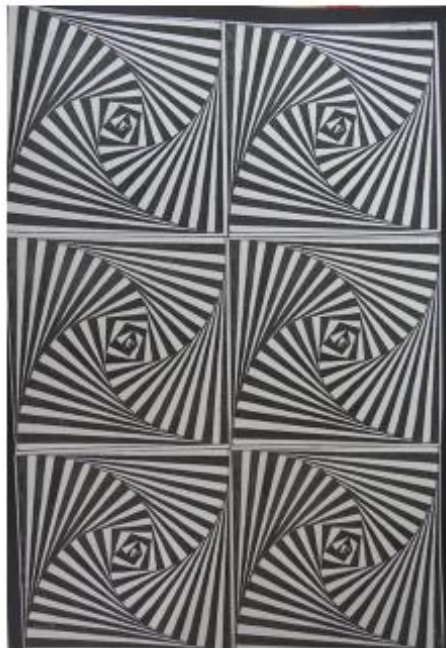
Pupils have completed their tonal portraits. Here are some incredible examples!



Year 8 – Op Art



Pupils have begun creating some Op Art inspired by the artist Bridget Riley. Concentration levels are at an all time high!



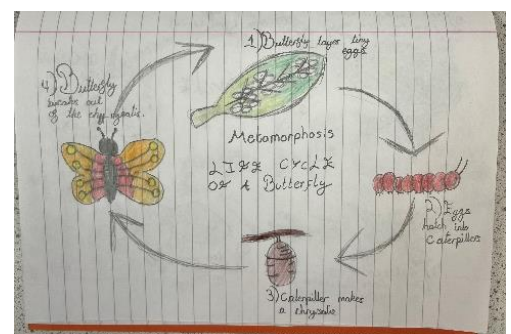
Science Department News

The first half of the summer term has appeared to pass by at the speed of light! It has been a joy to see our students engaged in their learning and making progress.

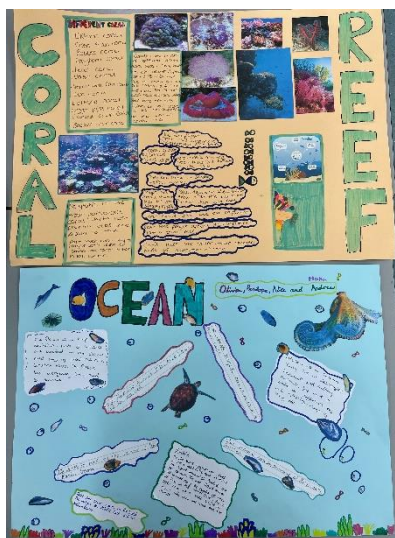


Year Five have been busy focussing on Life cycles. It is the perfect time of year to reflect on the miracle of life and marvel at the wonder of nature and the natural world. Our students have investigated the conditions needed for seeds to germinate and discovered the interesting ways seeds are dispersed. A flower dissection helped them to see the parts of a flower that are involved in pollination and fertilisation.

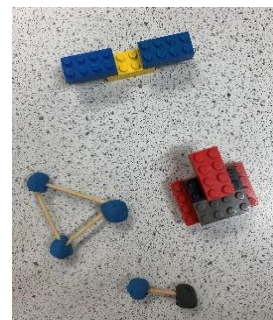
We also spent time looking at the life cycles of insects, amphibians, birds and mammals. The students produced fantastic work showing the various stages in the life cycle of a butterfly and frog.



Year Six have been working on our topic 'Living things and their habitats'. They have enjoyed finding out about various habitats and the adaptations that living organisms have to enable them to survive there. Who knew the gerenuk (a type of African antelope) can stand completely upright on its back legs to reach the tasty leaves of the spiky acacia plant? Or that the snub-nosed monkey from South-west China, can withstand colder temperatures than any other monkey; their nose is snubbed to protect it from frostbite in the freezing conditions!



Year Seven have thoroughly enjoyed our back-to-back chemistry topics 'Atoms, elements and compounds' and 'Reactions'. It was great to see them getting to grips with the periodic table and modelling atoms, elements and compounds using various craft materials from plasticine to Lego and pipe cleaners to pompoms! There was joy all round when students carried out several investigations looking for evidence that chemical reactions had occurred.

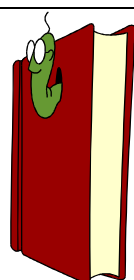


Year Eight have also been focussing on chemistry this half term. An in-depth look at the periodic table of elements gave us the chance to see some reactive elements in action. The shriek of delight when a lump of potassium reacts with water never fails to put a smile on a science teacher's face! The students then set about discovering the reactivity of metals with acid, water, and oxygen. A brief encounter with polymers allowed us to create some slime (always a winner!) and to delve into the world of plastic. This was an emotive part of the topic that gave our students the chance to research the problems faced due to plastic pollution.

Whilst some of our Year Eight students were camping, those who remained got the opportunity to develop their STEM skills by constructing a 'marble run'. The challenge was set...which team could design a run that took their marble 30 seconds to complete? Our winning design took 29.97s – a superb effort! It was great to see them problem solving, using trial and error, working collaboratively, and developing their spatial thinking.



Students in Year 5 and 6, watch out for an announcement about our **Marble Run lunchtime club** coming soon! Happy Half Term! **Mr Colbourne & Science Department**



Book Fair

We will be holding a **Travelling Book Fair** at Holywell
from **8 – 15 June**

There will be a wide range of books suitable for all students with an opportunity to view them during the week. The Book Fair will also be open to all children at lunchtimes. The usual reservation and order arrangements will apply.

Year 5 Maths – ‘Racing to School’ Trip

On 5th May, 40 Year 5 pupils and 10 Year 8 pupils went to Huntingdon Racecourse on a Maths trip.

“I really liked the Huntingdon Racecourse, because we watched the races and also had a peek behind the scenes. We did a lot of Maths and learning about horses and what they need. Another thing that I also liked is that after we did two activities we had a drink and a biscuit where special jockeys stay before having a race and we were very lucky to stay there for a bit. We also got to wear jockeys’ jackets”. By **Gino, 5SMA**

“I enjoyed the trip as it was a really fun and interesting experience. The best bit for me was being behind the scenes and watching how they film it and put it on the news. We also got to see three races, which was intense and exciting, as you wanted your horse to win.” By **Jessica, 5SMA**

“We enjoyed seeing the track activity. What was even better was watching the horses race. It was fascinating to see how far behind the last place horses were. Skye enjoyed it when we had to weigh ourselves. All the activities were fun either way. We would love to see more like this!” by **Bethany and Skye, 5SMA**.

“At the Huntingdon Trip I enjoyed watching the horse races and cheering for my selected jockey. I learnt some things like how heavy you have to be, or how much a lb is! I found out how much I weigh and I also learnt that horses have weights on to slow them down and I liked the jockey silks. I found it was a privilege to come to Huntingdon.”
By **Harrison, 5SMA**

UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge (JMC) 2022

On Wednesday, April 27th, sixty of our most confident maths students from Years 7 and 8 were invited to take part in the Junior Maths Challenge. After a couple of disruptive years due to Covid-19, it was lovely to have them all able to sit this again in person in school. This was the first time that these students would have sat a challenge of this nature and some were a little nervous to say the least! So, I would like to congratulate all the students who volunteered or agreed to take part for facing their fears and giving up their time.



The JMC is a 60-minute, multiple-choice Challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the JMC are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience.

The Challenge is aimed at students in Year 8 or below (England and Wales). It is the UK's most popular mathematics competition with over 300 000 students usually taking part each year.

To recognise the highest performers in the Challenge, the top-scoring 50% of participants are awarded Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1. So I am really pleased

to say that two thirds (nearly 67%) of our students who participated managed to obtain these higher levels, which is a fantastic achievement. This year, Holywell students received 6 Gold, 14 Silver and 20 Bronze awards between them.

In addition, over 10,000 of the very highest performers are invited to take part in the Junior Kangaroo and around 1,200 to take part in the Junior Olympiad. So, I would like to give a special mention to the following students: **Ahmed Abushalla**, **Aarav Mehmi** and **Joseph Hardy**, for making it through to the Junior Kangaroo. Joseph also achieved 'Best in Year' for Year 7. **Harry Lawley**, Year 8, achieved 'Best in School' and scored so highly that he made it through to the Junior Olympiad. This is, indeed, an amazing, rare, and extremely well-deserved achievement.

Well done again, and thank you to everybody who took part, and to those who helped with organizing the Challenge.

Ms Mollis

Charity News

On Friday 1 April, we had a non-uniform day as the last of our Lenten challenges. We raised the sum of **£609.01**.

In collaboration with St Peter and St Paul's Church in Cranfield, our chosen charity was the charity **UCM (Ukraine Christian Ministry)** <https://www.ucm.org.uk/>. This is a Christian charity that works with churches in Ukraine, and through their emergency appeal they are helping churches that are supporting, and housing those in need. We continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and we are thinking of all those affected by the conflict.





HOLYWELL SCHOOL

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL CRANFIELD

Value of the Month

June 2022

Care



I think the greatest thing
that we can do is take care
of each other

Sophia Drah



Take care of each other

Remember to take care of YOU.

Today is going to be a good day,
because today, at least you're YOU
and that's enough.



Let us think of ways to motivate one another to
acts of love and good works. Hebrews 10:24

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



6 June	Return to School
7 June	RE Day: Pentecost
23 June	Values Day - based on value of Care
5 & 6 July	Year 4 transition students in Holywell Year 8 students to Wootton Upper School
12 & 13 July	Summer Concerts
14 July	Year 8 Awards Evening
22 July	End of Summer Term

Term Dates for Next Academic Year 2022 - 2023

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Closure Day – Thursday, 1st September
Closure Day – Friday, 2nd September
Term Begins – **Monday, 5th September**
Half Term – Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October
Closure Day – Friday 25th November
End of Term – Friday 16th December

SPRING TERM 2023

Closure Day – Tuesday, 3rd January
Term Begins – **Wednesday, 4th January**
Half Term – Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February
End of Term – Friday 31st March

SUMMER TERM 2023

Closure Day – Monday 17th April
Term Begins – **Tuesday 18th April**
May Day – Monday 1st May
Half Term – Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June
End of Term – Friday 21st July

Dates are correct at the time of printing. Please note that dates may differ from other schools.