



Holywell News



Issue No: 163
July 2022

From Mr Simpson:

Our final Value of the Month is 'Thankfulness' and there are so many things for which we are thankful at Holywell at the end of such a busy and challenging year. I think our Values Ambassadors summed it up neatly when they reflected on how we could show 'thankfulness' in practice:

**ALL STUDENTS
RETURN TO SCHOOL ON
5TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

THANKFULNESS July 2022

"...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." I Thessalonians 5:18 -

Be thankful for what you have because it will not be there forever.

Thank your teachers, family and friends for helping you on your journey.

Find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in your lives. (John F Kennedy)



I have been blessed to be supported by these wonderful students who have so thoughtfully and impressively translated our sometimes-abstract values into real practical actions. They leave behind a wonderful legacy and I wish them all continued success as they move onto the next chapter of their story. So, thank you SO much to Gurleen, Florence, Summer, Zac, Bertie and Lucas.

I have to say another huge 'thank you' to all of our Year 8 students. They have been a brilliant year group and have left us with many great memories. At the last Year 8 assembly, Mr Hillard and some of the prefects did an A-Z of their time here at school with hilarious moments from trips and visits (everything from getting stuck while caving to squirrels in tents), stories from lessons and sporting activities, the infamous Badger/Not Badger challenge in Assembly, a disgusting cat-related incident in Room 28 and many successes and achievements. It was a pleasure to celebrate some of these achievements at the recent Year 8 Awards Evening. Thank you also to all Year 8 parents/carers for supporting your children through the last four years at Holywell. We hope that it has been a good experience and we wish all families every happiness going forward.

THEN



NOW



The Year 8 Awards Evening was just one of the many events which we have finally been able to hold for the first time in two years and since the start of the pandemic. Recently we have enjoyed Sports Day:



... swiftly followed by our Summer Music Concert:



... and a HUGE thank you to Mrs Purves who is stepping down from her Subject Leader of Music role to focus on pastoral work and supporting the leadership team.

This week saw the return of our annual Charity Fayre. Students worked in House groups to devise and create stalls and on Wednesday afternoon, we all had a chance to raise some money for two wonderful charities:

- 'Making Me' (the charity which has supported us this year with workshops on self-esteem, resilience and transition) <https://www.makingme.org.uk/>
- 'Young Lives v Cancer' (our values ambassadors suggested we raise money for a children's cancer research charity: <https://www.younglivesvscancer.org.uk/>).

We had everything from bake sales to face painting, from football challenges to naming bears, from a piratical lucky dip (including having to walk the plank beforehand) to smoothies, sausages, pizza, crafts, nail-painting ... and many other inventive activities. The final total raised was: £1,576.15





In May, our Year 6 students faced their SATs by creating SATs monsters. We have just had their provisional results and they have all done really well. As ever, we have a wide range of abilities in the year group and everyone has made progress since the start of the year in spite of the disruption to their normal teaching during the pandemic. Some had extra support through school-led tuition and most just worked exceptionally hard with their class teachers to 'be the best they could be'. The overall provisional results were as follows:

	Number of students achieving national standard out of a cohort of 180	% Students achieving national standard	Number of students achieving above national standard out of a cohort of 180	% Students achieving above national standard or a greater depth
Reading Test	135	75% (NA 74%)	41	23%
Writing Teacher Assessment	130	72% (NA 69%)	20	11%
Grammar Punctuation and Spelling Test	132	73% (NA 72%)	41	23%
Maths Test	129	72% (NA 71%)	47	26%
Reading Writing Maths Combined	104	58% (NA 59%)	4	2.22%
Science Teacher Assessment	149	83% (NA 79%)	n/a	n/a

There were many individual successes, however, we are proud of every single student's achievement. They all tried their best and that's all we ever ask of them. We are very thankful for the courage and determination of our students to do well. As a school, we continue to have high aspirations and will be looking at how we can support students to make even further progress as they move into Year 7 and start on their KS3 curriculum.



It was also very heartening to be able to welcome our new intake students to Holywell for our first full 'in person' induction in two years and we are very hopeful that the next generation of Holywell students will be as dynamic, surprising, talented, unique and just as wonderful as our current students – they certainly impressed us during their 2-day induction.

So, as the year draws to a close, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a restful Summer break. Good luck to all the Holywell students moving on to different schools – be this in Year 8 or in any other year group – may you always take the Holywell spirit with you – living the Holywell values, being the best you can be and doing so as part of whatever new community you find yourselves in. One of the students moving on to a new school has presented school with a wonderful legacy gift – there is now a Holywell star → Many thanks to Lauren who added the following message: "Thank you for helping me shine and for all your support through the last year".



At the start of the year, my reflection was all about 'finding a way' especially in times of change and new beginnings. Indeed, we have had to find our way through a number of challenges but it is through us all working together that we have come safely to a time when we can rest and recuperate.

This was also the theme of our Summer message from David Morton – the Director Education for the Diocese of St Albans:

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

In writing to the Ephesians, Paul reminds them of some Christian truths about

- Who we are ('We are his workmanship')
- Why we are here ('for good works')
- How we are to act ('that we would walk in them')

Together, they provide a very simple framework to personally reflect on flourishing through change. The reminder that we are created by God, equipped to serve and to do good works, enabled to walk in those good works through a simple rule of life based on love, compassion, forgiveness, healing and wholeness, is deeply powerful. In the light of this, change need not be feared but can be embraced, understanding that God knows us intimately, has shaped our lives for such a time as this and has equipped us to walk through change and still grow. As we move into a time of rest, reflection and recuperation may we, under the shadow of God's wing, start to see the first fruits of flourishing emerging, even if born out of the challenges and pain of the last 12-24 months, and may that be to the benefit of our whole school communities and, yes, even ourselves.



"Is your glass half empty or half full?"
asked the mole.
"I think I'm grateful to have a glass,"
said the boy

Let us be thankful for everything that we have and let us count our many blessings as we pause and for the Summer. Stay safe, rest and always be kind.

Have a great Summer break.

Thoughts and prayers always

from Mike Simpson
Headteacher

Staff News

A huge 'Thank You' to all of our wonderful staff team ... and best wishes to staff who are moving on to new and exciting challenges:



- Miss Fossey is moving on to a new Maths post in Milton Keynes
- Mr Hillard is joining Year 8 students with a move to Wootton Upper and a new role with the SEND Team
- Miss Muskett is moving to Spain to continue her EAL work
- Mr Upex is returning to his Music studies

We also wish Miss Stewart 'good luck and good health' as she starts her maternity leave.

New staff joining us in September include:

- Mr Inskip (PE)
- Miss Kirkup (Drama and English)
- Miss Kelly (English)
- Miss Stepney (SENDCo)
- Mr Tabert (Music Technician)

We are also delighted to be welcoming back Miss Norman and Miss Lau.

Uniform

We are very proud of our students at Holywell and, in turn, this pride is shown by our students in the way they wear their uniform. Here is an updated list of uniform expectations ahead of September – please make sure that students have everything they need ahead of the start of term.



Please note, there are some slight changes to our uniform expectations – notably, there are the same uniform expectations for all students. Skirts must be pleated, trousers (including short trousers worn in the Summer) must be tailored ... and shoes must be shoes!

UNIFORM

Blazer	Black
House Badge*	For blazer
Trousers	Plain grey tailored trousers, not cords or denims
Skirt	Plain grey, pleated
Jumper/Cardigan	Plain grey, 'V' necked
Shirt	White
School Tie*	Black and gold clip-on
White Polo Shirt (optional)	Summer term only
Tailored Shorts (optional)	Plain grey (Summer term only)
Socks	White, grey or black (No trainer socks)
Shoes	Black; no boots, trainers or heels higher than 4cm
Coat	Any plain style

PE KIT	
Holywell Rugby Shirt	Black/Gold reversible with school logo
Shorts / Joggers	Black
Games Skirt / Skort	Black
Holywell Sports Shirt	With school logo
Socks	Knee length black and short white
Trainers	Appropriate for sport. Not basketball boots
Football Boots	
Zippered Fleece / Mid Layer / Base Layer	Optional – black with school logo
Shin Pads	
Gum Shield	

*Items marked with * are available from school*

**PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL TROUSERS AND SKIRTS MUST BE GREY
SKIRTS SHOULD BE PLEATED
'SKINNY' FIT TROUSERS, JOGGING BOTTOMS, JEANS OR TROUSERS WITH STYLISED
BUTTONS ON THE FRONT ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE**

SHOES

Acceptable shoe styles



Unacceptable shoe styles



NB> Nike Air-Force Ones are not acceptable footwear

Hairstyles

It should be noted that the school does not accept extreme haircuts or colours. Patterns and track-lines should not be cut into hair. Hair should not be cut shorter than a no 2. If you are in any doubt about the validity of a hairstyle, please contact the school before getting the hair-cut.

Jewellery and Make-up

To avoid any dangers or loss or accident to the wearer or other student, expensive items must not be worn. No necklaces or bracelets are permitted unless they are part of your religious faith. One plain ring is allowed. Earrings - plain studs, only one in each earlobe, these must be removed for PE/Games lessons. Make-up is not allowed.

PE Kit for PE Days

After consultation with students, parents and staff we have decided to keep our Covid-19 policy of requiring students to come to school in PE kit on their timetabled PE days. To help try and make sure that everyone has the correct and most appropriate kit for PE lessons in September, please see the list above of kit that is required throughout the school year.

Students might also wish to bring spare kit in with them, in case they get wet/muddy during their lesson.



WEDUC Communications from School

WEDUC is the web-based messaging app we use to communicate with home. Designed with parents in mind, Weduc is a flexible and user-friendly mobile app that is perfect for keeping the whole-school community, up to date.

From emergency notifications and school messaging, to student attendance and payments for schools trips, Weduc brings all the tools needed to communicate with parents/carers into one single platform. If you haven't signed up or need help downloading the app, please contact us at school for further information (school@holywellschool.co.uk ... and put 'WEDUC' in the title line).

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.

Building works in the Summer break and contacting school

During the Summer, we have some extensive building works in the Administration Area along with some work upgrading our fire alarm system across the site. School is closed to all staff and visitors during this time. The school email account and vice mail will be checked from time to time – please be patient if you need to contact us.



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**

Thank you

PE Department News

Sports Day:

Thank you to all students, staff and parents/carers and family members who came to support our annual sports day...we were delighted that so many of you were able to attend our first 'live' one in 3 years. There were many top-quality performances from students, with **St David** triumphing overall. A massive well done to all of those who took part or cheered from the side of the track.

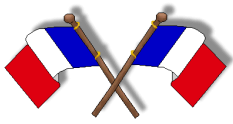


Rounders:

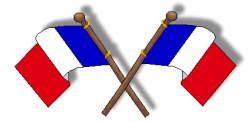
Both our mixed Year 6 team and Year 7 girls team qualified for district finals but unfortunately these have both been postponed due to the high temperatures. Hopefully they will be played in early September.

As the school year comes to an end, it is time to reiterate our thanks to all the students who have come to clubs and represented the school throughout the course of the last 10 months. We are especially grateful considering this the first full year of fixtures we have had in a while! As a department, we really do appreciate the time and effort that the students give to PE and, of course, to all of the parents/carers and supporters who continue to cheer on our teams.....long may it continue!

The PE Dept



Year 8 Trip to France



Year 8 spent a long weekend in France at the beginning of July, leaving early on Thursday morning and returning late on Saturday night.

After crossing under the channel on Le Shuttle, they visited Vimy Ridge and the Somme 1916 Museum, before arriving at their hotels in the cathedral city of Amiens.

On the second day of the trip, which coincided with the anniversary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme, visits were paid to monuments at Thiepval, Lochnager Crater and Newfoundland Memorial Park. Finally, the students went on a city tour in Amiens.

The final day was the highlight for most, with a chocolate factory and a bakery tour on the itinerary! The return journey was by ferry, with beautiful views of the White Cliffs of Dover greeting everyone as they arrived back on English soil.

Mr Johnson



Essential Equipment

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

Students 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).





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.

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.

DT Work

During their last unit of work in Technology, Year 8 students have been designing speakers – they have been really creative with their designs and have been inspired by everything from football teams and science fiction programmes to food!



Race for Life 2022

Since the start of September Couch 2 5k Club has been running once a week. At the start many of the girls had never run 5k before, but a core group of 15 students attended every week and due to their hard work and dedication they improved each week. We entered the Race for Life in Bedford, a 5k race to celebrate and test how far the girls had come. Unfortunately, due to weekend commitments only 3 of the original girls were able to take part alongside myself. Congratulations go to Bea, Izzy and Abigail who completed the race and all did extremely well. We had lots of support from family members, Miss Fossey and Mr Eames, who I would like to thank.

I am extremely proud of all that the girls have achieved and a special mention must go to Izzy who has raised over £750 for cancer research.

Mrs McEwen

Race for life was a fun event raising awareness and money for cancer research. We trained at lunchtimes building up to the race which was on the 3rd of July. It was a 5k run that was challenging but very enjoyable to run and we would like to see other people from the school getting involved. We raised a lot of money and as we all finished the race, we felt accomplished and proud of what we did!

By Izzy and Abigail



Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs from **8.00am** to **8.45am** in term time, for just **£2.00 per day** from September.



If your child would like to attend on a regular basis, please ask the office for a letter.

We serve limited food, which can be purchased via your child's ParentPay account.

email: school@holywellschool.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you there.

Breakfast Club Team

News from the History and R.E. Departments

The **History** department has been busy this term with **Year 5** learning about the Ancient Romans. Our main assessment looked at causation as we analysed reasons why the Romans were so successful. The students enjoyed this topic, particularly finding out all the gruesome details of gladiator games and chariot racing!

Year 6 are coming to the end of their topic on the Ancient Maya and have found many of their customs and aspects of culture fascinating. In particular, we have been considering how and why this civilization that evolved totally separately from the western world could have similarities with it.

Year 7 have moved on to look at the Stuart dynasty this half term, finding out why the English Civil War broke out that culminated in the execution of Charles I.

In **Year 8** we have been asking how and why women gained the vote and analysing the importance of the suffrage movement compared to the amazing contribution played by women in the war effort. Many students have made exceptional progress this year and we wish them continuing success as they continue their journey in their new schools in September.

In **RE** lessons **Year 5** have been looking at aspects of worship across many different faiths. We have looked at pilgrimage in more detail and learnt about different pilgrimage sites around the world.



Year 6 have immersed themselves into the 'island' unit, learning about important rites of passage along the way. Their learning has centred mostly on identifying symbolism within religious ceremonies and considering how and why these ceremonies differ across religions and denominations. They were very much looking forward to the

'mock wedding' that we were due to hold on Tuesday at St Peter and St Paul's church – unfortunately, due to the extreme weather, we had to bring the church to Holywell. Rev. Isaac officiated the service in the Macfarlan Room!



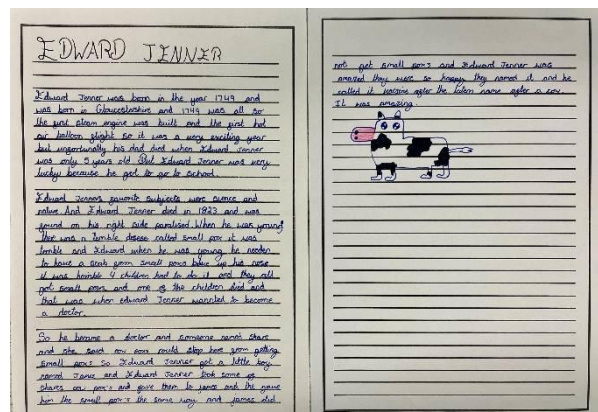
Year 7 have been looking at racism and discrimination and recognising that all world religions not only promote equality but also work actively to eradicate racism and prejudice from our society.

Finally, our **Year 8**'s have ended their studies in religious education with an extended personal research project on a religion or denomination of their choice. We wish them all the best as they move onto their Upper Schools next term.

Science Department News

As we come to the end of the academic year, we reflect and look forward to the future with ambition and a determination to achieve personal success.

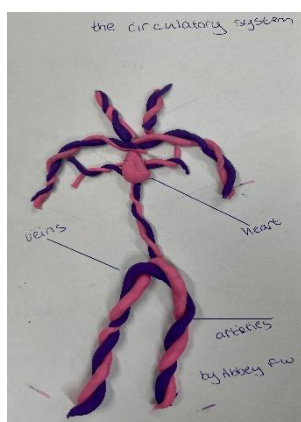
In the final half term, Year Five students engaged brilliantly with our topic on microbes. We began with a glimpse of the microscopic world. Students learned about how our



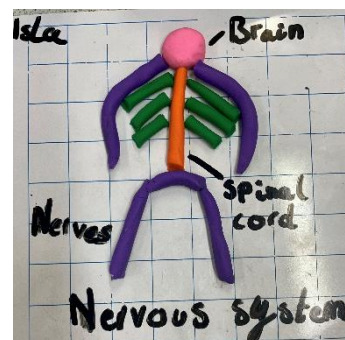
ideas change over time and the importance of theories and evidence when working scientifically. We learned about the plague doctors of the 17th century, through to modern day microscopes and microorganisms. Students were fascinated (if a little 'grossed out') by the diverse types of diseases and symptoms caused by microbes. They produced some wonderful pieces of writing about Edward Jenner and his work on smallpox. Many made the link between Jenner's work on vaccinations

and our efforts to develop vaccines during the COVID pandemic. Students investigated the conditions needed to keep yeast alive and how microorganisms are used to make food. Finally, we had a closer look at the process of decay and how it can be harmful but also useful.

Year Six continued their work on 'Living things and their habitats.' They delved into the world of classification, discovered the tree of life, and considered our need to give a sense of order to the world around us. The students enjoyed finding out about food chains and food webs and how organisms are interdependent on each other in their fragile ecosystems. More recently, Year Six have been learning about light. They investigated the properties of light, mirrors, shadows, and reflection. We congratulate Year Six for reaching the end of Key Stage Two and give our best wishes to those students moving to a new school. For those who are continuing their education at Holywell, we look forward to developing our scientific knowledge and understanding together in Key Stage Three!

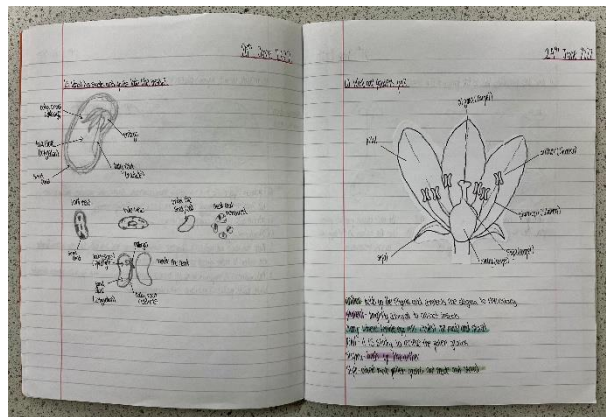


Year Seven students have been studying forces and their effects; building on the work they did in Year Five. An intense focus on practical skills enabled the students to develop their approach to working scientifically. Investigations into Hooke's law, drag and friction, magnetism, and balanced and unbalanced forces helped to reinforce the importance of working collaboratively. In the second half of the term, students switched to look at the structure and function of body systems. Here, they



learned about the levels of organisation of living things (cells, tissues, organs, and systems.) The students particularly enjoyed their work on modelling various body systems.

In their final half term at Holywell, Year Eight students have focussed on Green plants, and Separation techniques. Both topics involved lots of practical work. In the Green plants' topic, students investigated seed germination, conducted a bean dissection, tested leaves for starch and fruits for glucose, and learned about seed dispersal methods. In their work on separation techniques, the students looked at mixtures and solubility and used filtration, evaporation, distillation, and chromatography to separate various substances.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish all Year Eight students the very best for the next stage of their learning journey. As we say goodbye, we are safe in the knowledge that they are well-prepared for the challenges of upper school. We hope that every student aims high, works hard, and seizes every opportunity. Good luck Year Eight...The Class of 2022!

Have a wonderful summer!

Mr Colbourne & The Science Department

PSHE News

Year 5 Charity Enterprise Events

As part of their financial wellbeing lessons all the Year 5 classes were given the task of planning, preparing and running a charity fundraising event. The events tied in well with our value of the month for June which was care and they raised a grand total of £494 for charity. The year 5 PSHE teachers were impressed with Year 5's dedication and organisational abilities and the results are as follows ...

Class	Activity	Charity	Amount Raised
5TMP	Bric a brac stall	Wood Green Animal Shelter	£16
5MFIN	Karaoke fun	Cancer Research UK	£61
5EM	Bake sale	WWF – adopted a polar bear for 28 months	£87
5AJS	Bake sale	Team Seas	£90
5HSH	Fun sports afternoon	Ukraine crisis	£115
5DS	Bake Sale	Cancer Research UK	£125

Congratulations to everyone who took part, but 5DS were truly amazing to raise £125 from their bake sale. Well done 5DS and can I have your secret recipes?!

Mrs Gough

ART DEPARTMENT

End of Year Galleries

Yr 5 Art Gallery 2021-2022



Yr 6 Art Gallery 2021-2022



Yr 7 Art Gallery 2021-2022



Yr 8 Art Gallery 2021-2022



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Please also check the Online Calendar on the School Website which will be updated with new events

22 nd July 2021	End of Summer Term
SUMMER HOLIDAY	
1 st and 2 nd September 2022	Staff Training Days
5th September 2022	All students return to school
24 th – 28 th October 2022	Half Term
25 th November 2022	Staff Training Day
16 th December 2022	Last day of Autumn Term
4 th January 2023	Students return to school
13 th – 17 th February 2023	Spring Term half-term
31 st March 2023	Last day of Spring Term for students
18 th April 2023	Students return for summer term NO YEAR 6 HOLIDAY OR OTHER ABSENCE AT THIS STAGE OF THE YEAR
1 st May 2023	May Day Bank Holiday
29 th May – 2 nd June 2023	Half Term
21 st July 2023	Last Day of Summer Term

**The Staff and Governors of
Holywell School would like to wish you a
very happy, safe and well-deserved
summer holiday!**

