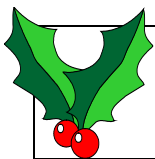




Holywell News

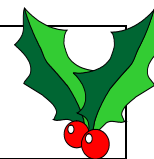


Issue No: 171
December 2023



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL - THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY 2024



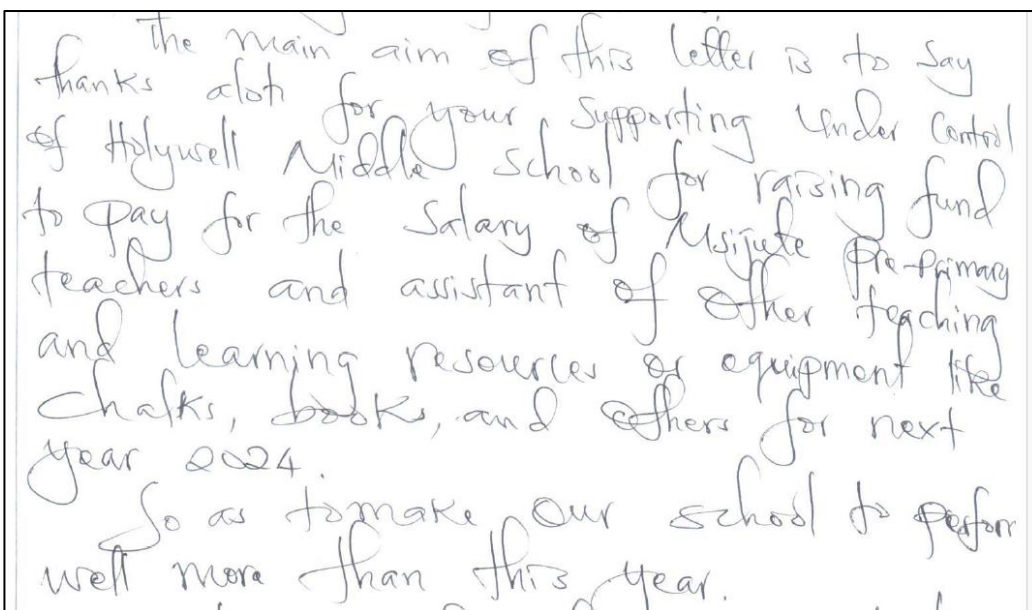
Mr Simpson's Headlines



As we reach the end of the Autumn Term, it is good to reflect back and to look forward with hope.

We started the year with confirmation from Ofsted that Holywell remains a 'good' school "with values rooted in its Christian ethos". Students were described as "welcoming and friendly. They take on responsibilities that make their environment and community richer and more rewarding". We have certainly continued to see this through the term with students supporting local events such as the Remembrance Day Parade and the Christmas Tree Festival:

We have continued our support for the Msijute Primary School in Tanzania and it was very humbling to receive correspondence from the students and staff at the school – including a letter from the Headteacher – Mr Nambunga:



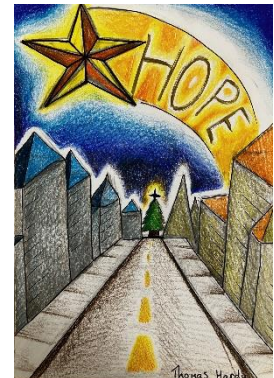
When recently reflecting on our value of the month – HOPE – our Values ambassadors came up with the following:

Be hopeful when life gets tough;
Look around you - a bit of perspective helps;
Seek support - use your network - you are not alone;
Remember, there is always something at the end of the road.

That sense of perspective is crucial – too often, we take for granted what we have and, if we could just take a moment to reflect and appreciate friends, family, teachers, staff, people in our local community, then there would indeed be more hope in the world. Hope is not some abstract concept, but a mindset and a way of being. For Christians, hope is central to the Christian faith. In the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth he names hope alongside love and faith as one of three key Christian virtues. Rev Isaac reflects on this:

But how do we distinguish hope from wishful thinking? After all, as an Arsenal fan I am ever hopefully that this season might be different – but then come the end of every season my hopes are dashed and revealed to be nothing more than wishful thinking! But Christian hope is far more than wishful thinking. The Bible speaks of hope as being a virtue that doesn't float out there in the sky somewhere, but that is grounded in, and rests upon the reality of history. In fact, the writers of the bible are happy to be pretty stark about what hope is, and what it isn't. A little bit later in that same letter to the Corinthian Church the Apostle Paul writes about the resurrection of Jesus: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied." Paul rests all his hope on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. His hope stands or falls on this. For him there is no back-up – he doesn't hedge his bets. But consider what a difference this hope makes. This was a man who once devoted his life to persecuting Christians, and then through this hope became the most influential Christian of all time. This kind of resurrection hope is so powerful because it refuses to believe that the darkest or the hardest moments we face have to be the end of the story."

Indeed, as we prepare for Christmas, which celebrates the beginning of the Christian story of Hope with the birth of Jesus, we can all hope for a new beginning in January and be hopeful for a wonderful new year. We can aspire to be peaceful problem-solvers, we can treat others with kindness and respect, we can care for our environment and we can really try hard to be the best we can be, together in community.



For examples of our Holywell community being the best that we can be, I recommend that you sign up to our social media feeds on Facebook (Holywell School Bedfordshire) and on X (@HolywellCoE). There are regular posts and recent posts have included



personal successes (Jessica in Year 6 winning gymnastics medals and Caitlin writing a wonderful poem on kindness and respect), group successes (Year 8 girls having an amazing day of engineering at Cosworth), whole school challenges (MFL Christmas Card competition) and team support (Year 8 Reading mentors working with Year 5 students).



Have a restful Christmas and here's to a hopeful New Year.

Mike Simpson
Headteacher

WEDUC Communications from School



WEDUC is the web-based messaging app we use to communicate with home, including emergency notifications, school messaging, student attendance and payments for some school trips. 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.

Preparing for Snow

Please remember a few key points of how the school handles this.

We work extremely hard to stay open – including having our own snow blower! However, if the weather does overwhelm us and it is decided to close the school before the start of the school day (eg. in the event of severe weather conditions), we will notify you in the following ways:

- by message on WEDUC
- on the school's website (www.holywellschool.co.uk)
- on the Central Bedfordshire Council website using their 'State of Schools' (SOS) system: <https://apps.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/SOS/>
- Via the local radio station (BBC Three Counties (95.5 or 103.8 FM / www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties))

It is usually when Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Transport departments deem the roads too dangerous for buses to run and cancel transport that we decide to close the school. In the event of *us* deciding to close, we contact the bus companies to ensure that they do not bring students into school.



School Caterers

Please note the School Caterers operate a cashless system, so no money is taken at the kitchen. Please can parents regularly check the balance on their child's Parent Pay account via the ParentPay website: <https://www.parentpay.com/>. If there are any difficulties with loading money onto the account, please contact the school office.



If your child is away from School

A telephone call or WEDUC notification
is required on the
first day of absence, before 8.30 am.

The Office Staff prepare the official registers and need to know the reason for **all** absences. It is therefore important that they are made aware of absences and they will inform your child's Form Teacher.

Please could parents remind students to report to the office if they arrive at school after registration. Students leaving school during the day, for whatever reason, must also use the front entrance to the school and sign out.

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).



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. **Please note that requests for leave of absence should be sent into school at least 4 weeks in advance of the proposed absence.**

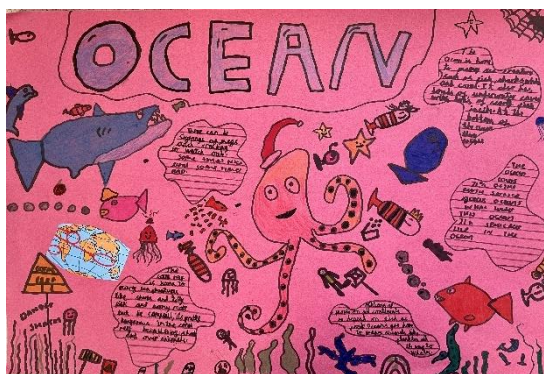
There may, however, be events that a student takes part in out of school which require him / her to miss a school day – we will continue to consider that sort of request. However, it is clear that the government and external authorities will want a very persuasive argument for us to be allowed to record 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.**

Science Department News

As we end the first term in the Science department, it gives us an opportunity to reflect on the wonderful learning in which our students have engaged.

We welcomed our new **Year Five** students in September, and they quickly settled into life at Holywell. Our first topic allowed the children to develop their ideas around working scientifically. It was wonderful to see new friendships develop as we worked collaboratively to predict, estimate, measure, record data and make conclusions. During our second topic on 'Forces', students investigated friction and its effects, predicted the effect of upthrust on objects, discovered the best streamlined plasticine shape, measured air resistance, and learned how the ancient Egyptians used pulleys, levers, and gears to help build the pyramids. Bravo! Year Five.

Year Six started the year by reviewing and developing their scientific skills. This culminated in the students working towards earning their 'Bunsen Burner Licence'. To achieve this important milestone, students had to demonstrate a secure understanding of safety in the lab, set up a Bunsen burner correctly, light it safely and use it to investigate the burning time of various materials. An anxious time for some transformed into confidence and we were thrilled with the effort shown by all students. Later in the term, students engaged brilliantly during our topic 'Habitats and classification'. There were some fantastic presentations about various habitats and the organisms that live there. The students' work will form a display in the Macfarlan room in the new year.



In **Year Seven**, we began the year studying cells and life processes. Students made cell models and developed their knowledge and understanding of cell structure and function. Using the department microscopes inspired many students as we zoomed into the magical microscopic world! Later in the term, we studied particles and their behaviour and considered the properties of solids, liquids, and gases. Investigating the melting and boiling points of substances gave the students an opportunity to use the Bunsen burner skills they learned in Year Six. Towards the end of term, Year Seven focussed on the structure and function of body systems. An in depth look at the skeletal, circulatory, and breathing systems allowed us to carry out some interesting dissections of organs including the heart, lungs, and kidneys. Not for the faint hearted, but an inspirational learning experience.



Year Eight thoroughly enjoyed the three topics they studied in the first term. 'Electricity and magnetism' were hair-raising as the students learned all about static electricity before extending their knowledge of electrical circuits and magnetism. During our chemistry topic 'Acid and alkalis',

students tested various substances with different indicators to produce a rainbow of colours and appreciate the acidity and alkalinity of everyday items. Our 'Health and lifestyle' topic enabled students to learn about diet and nutrition, food testing, and the digestive system.



As we end our first term, we look forward to the exciting learning opportunities in the new year. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas! **Mr Colbourne & The Science Department**

PE Department News

It's been an extremely busy half-term, with lots of fixtures and clubs taking place. We have seen students represent the school in KS2 and 3 Cross country, table tennis county finals, Y6 and 7 girls netball, Y6 and Y7 boys football friendlies, KS3 girls' futsal and KS3 boys' and girls' basketball – phew! A massive 'thank you' to all of the students who have taken part and attended clubs...and to the staff who have run them!

After Christmas, we have our first Y5 boys football fixtures followed by KS2 and KS3 girls' football. Rugby season starts as well so there will be lots of fixtures for our KS2, Y7 and Y8 boys' team and also our KS3 girls. We will also have some KS2 and KS3 badminton fixtures so plenty of opportunities for students to get involved.

George – Year 5

Massive congratulations go to George: while competing for Flitwick Dolphins in the Putteridge Open, he won 3 gold medals, 2 silver (a medal in every event) and got two club records in 100m back stroke and 100m freestyle (which has stood for 17 years) – Well done indeed!!



Lessons

It is still cold outside so please can you continue to ensure that students bring the correct kit for their lessons - please see the PE kit section in the student organiser and on the website. For lessons on the field, such as rugby, football and health and fitness, students will need football boots (shin pads for football, gumshields for rugby) and long, black socks. Students should also ideally bring a spare top and bottoms to lessons, in case they get muddy. Students will be told which lessons they have after Christmas in their PE lessons, before they break up.

Clubs

If attending a PE club, students should wear their normal school uniform to school and then change into PE kit before the club. If they have PE on the day of the club they are attending, students should wear their PE kit to school BUT bring spare kit to change into if there's a chance they could get muddy!

PE Clubs Timetable – Spring 1 - 2024

	13:05-13:35	13:35 – 14:00	15:45-16:45
Mon	Y5/6 Mixed Gymnastics (SM) Y7 Girls Badminton (MK)	Y8 Boys Badminton (ME) Y5/6 Mixed Capture the Flag (MK)	Y7/8 Mixed Badminton (MK)
Tues	Y5/6 Mixed Rugby (JU/ME) - Field Y8 Girls Badminton (ES)	Y8 Boys Rugby (ZI)	
Wed	Y6 Mixed Badminton (ES) Y7 Boys Rugby (ME)	Y7/8 Mixed Gymnastics (CSI)	
Thur	Y5 Boys Football (ZI) Y7/8 Girls Football (MK)	Y5/6 Girls Football (MK)	Y7/8 Mixed Dodgeball (MK) Y5/6 Mixed Basketball (EL)
Fri	Y7/8 Girls Rugby (CSI/MK) Y7 Boys Badminton (ZI)	Y5 Mixed Netball (MK/EM) - Sports Hall	Y5/6 Mixed Badminton (MK)

**Thank you from the PE Team for all of your support this year;
we hope you all have a great Christmas!!**



Music Department News

A round up of the Music Department's Autumn Term

Year 5 Steel Pan Workshop



Back in November the whole of year 5 were fortunate enough to take part in a Steel pan workshop led by 'Inspire Works', who are experts in World Music.

Students had the opportunity to play all of the different instruments available and performed a Calypso song. This was a truly wonderful day enjoyed by students and staff alike.

We were so impressed that we have invited 'Inspire Works' back run a Gamelan Music workshop with our year 7 students in the Summer Term.

Christmas Carol Service



KS2 & KS3 CHOIRS AT ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, CRANFIELD

It has been a busy two weeks for both the KS2 and KS3 choirs. On Saturday 9th December we were fortunate enough to be invited to perform at St Peter and St Paul's Christmas Tree Festival. This was a lovely event with a warm atmosphere and plenty of beautiful Christmas trees on display, including our very own Holywell School tree. Both choirs put on a brilliant performance!

On the evening of the 14th December, we held our annual Christmas service. This was a wonderfully festive and well-attended event which featured songs and carols performed by both choirs. Our varied programme accompanied the telling of the Nativity story by the Junior Worship Team.

We are looking forward to performing again at the carol services for students, on the last day of term.

Programme

A Day of Glory
Jesus Child
Child in a Manger Born
There were Shepherds
Angels from the Realms of Glory
Ragtime Carol
What can we give him?
After Christmas
Hark the Herald



UPCOMING EVENTS:

29th January 2024 – MEMBERS OF THE KS2 CHOIR WILL BE TAKING PART IN 'YOUNG VOICES' AT THE O2, LONDON

15th February 2024 – KS3 ROCK BAND AT THE BEDS BAND FACTORY COMPETITION

26th March 2024 – HOLYWELL SPRING CONCERT (MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW)

Payment for Uniform, Trips and Sundries

Please pay online whenever possible, with the link on our website.



Tucasi (Scopay.com) For payment of the following:

- **Ordering School ties / blazer badges**
- **Trips**
- **Early risers/breakfast club** (booking form must also be completed on Weduc)
- **Lost or damaged library books**

If you have not previously logged in to Tucasi you will need an access code from the school. Please email finance@holywellschool.co.uk for this code.

If you are unable to pay online we have the facility to pay by credit/debit card in person at the school office or via telephone.

If you are unable to pay online or by card please contact the school office.

Parent Pay (Payment for tuck/school dinners)

Please remember to check your child's Parent Pay account balance regularly.

You can set up to receive a reminder email when the account credit goes below a certain level. To do this log in to your parent pay account>communication>alert settings>balance alerts> under threshold set an amount and tick email alert. Once the credit goes below this level you will receive an email reminder to top up the balance.

For queries with regards to Parent Pay please email:
school@holywellschool.co.uk



For web pages for the above please go to
[https://holywellschool.co.uk/ Parents>online payments](https://holywellschool.co.uk/Parents>online payments).

Charity News

Children in Need: As the result of a Mufti Day on 17th November 2023, the amount we raised for Children in Need was **£544.83**.



Christmas Jumper Day: Our Christmas Jumper Day on 15th December this year was to raise funds for Holywell School PTFA. Thank you very much for your support.



Non-uniform days are a simple way to raise money and to make a HUGE difference. Wonderful generosity Holywell!

PRACTICAL REMINDERS



- **Hydration Guidance:** 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.)

- **Uniform** – In order to represent our community appropriately it is important that our students wear the correct school uniform with pride and look well presented at all times. Below is a reminder of our school uniform and expectations. PE Kit should only be worn into school on days where students have PE. If you are refreshing uniform over Christmas, please make sure that the correct uniform is purchased ready to be smart in January. Make sure that shoes are shoes (no trainers)! Trousers and skirts should be grey and not black; skirts should be the correct length

UNIFORM	
Blazer	Black
House Badge*	For blazer
Trousers / Tailored Short Trousers	Plain grey tailored trousers, not cords or denims
Skirt	Plain grey, pleated skirt, knee-length
Jumper/Cardigan	Plain grey, 'V; necked
Shirt	White
School Tie*	Black and gold clip-on
White polo shirt	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
SPORTS UNIFORM	
Rugby Shirt	Black/Gold reversible* with school logo
Shorts/jogging bottoms/sports leggings	Black
Skirt / skort	Black
Sports shirt	With school logo
Socks	Long black* and short white
Trainers	NB. not basketball boots
Football boots	
Mid layer (optional)	Black with school logo
Base layer (optional)	Black
Shin pads	
Gum shield	

Items marked with * are available from school

Items marked with * are available from school

- **Chewing Gum** – Chewing gum is **not** allowed and should not be brought into school.
- **Mobile Phone Policy** – Reminder that we are a non-smart-phone school. Smart phones are not to be brought on-site. Non-smart phones for communicating with parents out of school hours are allowed with a permission slip and are the responsibility of the child. If smart-phones are found on-site, they will be confiscated and will need to be collected by a parent. Full policy on the website.
- **Behaviour – To / From school and on the buses** – we expect the same high standards of student behaviour on the bus and walking to and from school. Students should also make sure they are behaving safely at all times – eg. seat belts on, walking a safe distance away from the pavement, not crossing in front of vehicles, etc.
- **Haircuts** – Keep it professional! No fashion cuts, no lines or patterns, no colours, nothing shorter than Grade #2.
- **Essential Equipment** - Having the right equipment in school is essential to students demonstrating that they are ready to learn and taking their lessons seriously. Whilst we understand that everyone forgets things from time to time, we're seeing an increasing number of occasions where students are not bringing any, or consistently missing key pieces of equipment into school. We'd like to therefore take this opportunity to remind students that it is their responsibility to ensure that they have the correct equipment in lessons and that they come into school ready to learn. We've updated the list of what is essential below and would appreciate your support in ensuring that students come to school with the correct equipment.

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

- School Organiser
- Handwriting pen
- Green pen
- Red pen
- Blue pen
- Black pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Mini white board
- White board pen
- Pencil Case
- Reading book
- Water bottle (labelled with name!)
- Bag (rucksack)

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Coloured pens or pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Calculator
- Protractor
- Dictionary



READING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS



KS2: “Where Björn Belongs” by Samuel Langley-Swain

When Arthur loses his precious polar bear toy he wishes Father Christmas would bring him a new one. But the huge and very real bear that appears in the garden is not exactly what Arthur had imagined. Can he help the bear get back home? A charming and thought-provoking Christmas story to discuss. The illustrations are outstanding.



KS3: “The Miracle on Ebenezer Street” by Catherine Doyle

George's life has felt dull and grey; his dad has thrown himself into his work and has no time for family, and definitely no time for Christmas. Then, George stumbles across Marley's Curiosity Shop. There he finds a mysterious snow globe, which - though George can't quite understand how - appears to show a scene from George's past. A Christmas in which he and his family were together, and happy... That night, George and his dad are swept on an adventure to three Christmases - past, present, and future. With help from new friends, and just a touch of magic, can they begin living life in full colour again?

A message from Miss Mayles:

I hope some of you manage to read lots of good books over the Festive period! Do let me know if you read any of the recommendations and what you think. Have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year! See you all in January!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



Holywell School

**Are you friendly, approachable
and passionate about working with children?**

Holywell School are seeking volunteers to help develop language skills for some of our students who speak English as an Additional Language. This is an opportunity to gain skills whilst helping your local community

Requirements

- Team player but also able to work independently
- Flexible and willing to help with a variety of tasks
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills – experience of working with children / schools is an advantage
- Ability to work to a deadline
- Administrative and organisational skills

Benefits

- Evidence and reference to support your experience in working within the education sector
- Support in developing your own language skills
- Developing strategies and techniques to support others.
- Other training opportunities including safeguarding children in Education available
- Working with pupils, teachers and schools
- Development and evaluation of learning resources
- Opportunity to give back to the community

Role

- Supporting EAL students' personalised Learning
- Meeting students additional needs
- Providing Pastoral support
- Engaging in other duties i.e; educational visits, out of school activities
- Attending Training that is necessary to help support pupils



**“Live life in all it's
fullness**

We choose...

... to live our values

...being the best we can be

....in community

**For futher information please send an email to Miss Busuman on
sbusuman@holywellschool.co.uk**

Supporting Reading Taster Session



HOLYWELL SCHOOL

Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary

-Jim Rohn-

Date: 16th January 2024

Time: 13:30 -15:30

Venue: Holywell Middle School
Red Lion Close, MK43 OJA

General enquiries:

sbusuman@holywellschool.co.uk

Online registration:

Use the QR code below



Reading is an essential part of learning a language. It is proven that it is a great way to learn new words, enhance speech skills by improving the ability to construct and structure sentences.

Come and join us for one of our our reading sessions, to experience how we use reading in supporting language progression.



Supporting Reading Taster Session



HOLYWELL SCHOOL

Introduction

Our reading sessions are based from Twinkl, an online teacher resource that produces teaching and educational materials. A Programme Guidance will be provided which will be used alongside a 60 Second Reading Intervention Checklist of reading material and an Analysis grid to record reading progress.

Programme

13:30 - 13:45 Arrival

13:45 - 14:00 Introductions

14:00 - 14:30 Reading and how it supports learning. Discuss how the programme works

14:30 - 15:00 Taster Session

15:00 - 15:15 Q&A

15:15 - 15:30 Holywell School Tour

15:30 - END of Session

Suitable for:

For individuals who are interested in working with children between the age of 9-13 years old.

Date:

Tuesday 16th February 2024

Location:

Holywell Middle School, Red Lion Close, MK43, OJA, Library

Information:

The programme is free of charge and we limited to 8 spaces. More sessions will be available subject to numbers of interest

How to apply:

The online application form for individuals interested open until Friday 12th January 2024.

Online registration

Use the QR code below



General Enquiries contact: sbusuman@holywellschool.co.uk

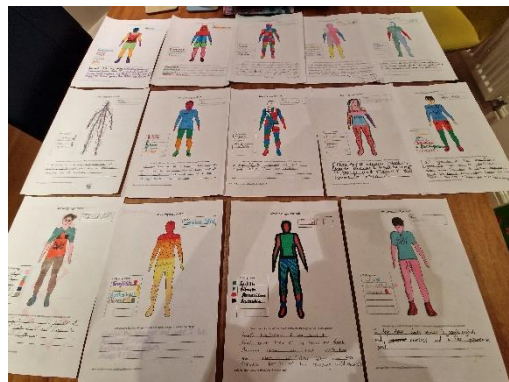


MFL News

This half-term was packed with various MFL activities and competitions to take part in.

International Day of Tolerance

In November we celebrated the International Day for Tolerance. The day is observed annually on 16th November with the primary aim of promoting mutual understanding and respect among all the diverse cultures and communities across the globe. Our students were encouraged to create their personal Language Portrait. This was to show which languages are either part of our students' identity or simply for students to express why languages are important to them. All language portraits looked great and it was impossible to choose the best one because each portrait is perfect for the person who made it!



Language Nut competition

Throughout the month of November, some of our Year 7 and 8 students took part in a global online French and German LanguageNut competition. Ruhani in Year 7 was the overall winner at Holywell and she finished in 173rd place globally out of 1444 schools.



Oxford German Olympiad



During our weekly lunchtime MFL Club students have been preparing their entries for the Oxford German Olympiad. This year's competition is all about animals. Our Year 5 and Year 6 students have been drawing 15 non-human creatures and labelling them in German. We will be finishing our entries in January ready to be submitted for judging. More details about the competition can be found in this link: <https://www.ogn.ox.ac.uk/content/oxford-german-olympiad-2024>.

Sustainable Food and German



Some of our students from all year groups attended a webinar organised by the Goethe Institute London. Students had the opportunity to meet Maya Leinenbach. Maya is one of Germany's best-known and most successful vegan food bloggers. The 19-year-old has more than 3 million followers on Instagram, who she inspires with everyday vegan recipes. In a live online conversation Maya spoke to the

Goethe-Institute London about her passion for vegan cooking, answered our students' questions and kicked off an exciting new competition for our students to take part in! Check below for details of the competition. We hope that some of our students will take part.

Christmas card competition

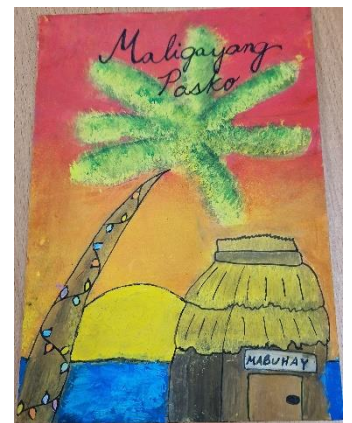


All students were encouraged to enter our Christmas card competition. The task was to design a card which shows the Christmas traditions of any country except the UK. We had fantastic entries from the following students: Ruhani, Aadhya, Chloe, Avaleigh, Ema, Zoe, Katie, Flo, Ben, Kaydin, Charlie, Eleanor, Izabella, Antonia, Holly, Maria, Ella, Arwen, Mandy, Alisha, Edward, Eleanor and Joey.

Teachers at Holywell had to make the difficult decision to choose their favourite card.



The winning entry from Ruhani, year 7, very imaginatively, informatively and creatively talks about Christmas in Ethiopia. Second place has been awarded to Alisha, year 8, who researched Christmas in Norway. Third place



has been claimed by Avaleigh, year 6, who showed us Christmas in the Philippines. Winners won some very exciting prizes and all students who took part were rewarded with a chocolate lollipops, candy canes and traditional German Christmas Lebkuchen. Huge CONGRATULATIONS to the winners and super well done to everyone who contributed to the life of Holywell and took part.

French and German Pen Pal Exchange



We have partnered with schools in Chaumont, France and Hanover, Germany. Our students wrote a Christmas card to our exchange partners and we are looking forward to receiving a reply. Soon, we should also meet our pen pals online.



Sustainable Food & German Competition

Deadline: 19th February 2024

TAKE PART

in the exciting competition with an incredible prize:



The winning school gets a cooking workshop with *Maya Leinenbach*, one of Germany's most successful vegan food bloggers! The 19-year-old has more than 3 million followers on Instagram, who she inspires with everyday vegan recipes. Other prizes include Maya's cookbook, Fairtrade spices, and other prizes for second and third places.

Details of the competition:

How does it work and who can participate?

The competition starts on the 6th December 2023 and runs until the 19th February 2024. You can participate as a group or as an individual. Your native language cannot be German.

What do we have to do to enter in the competition?

1. Find a recipe you have always liked and make it vegan! You can use Maya's channel as an inspiration and alternatively also try out one of her recipes, or you can invent your own recipe!

Maya's Channel:

[Maya // vegan recipes \(@fitgreenmind\) • Instagram-Fotos und -Videos](#)

2. Then, record a short video of your cooking journey – a bit like Mayas videos – and try to use the German words for the ingredients you are using!

3. Please also tell us why you chose this recipe, where you sourced your products and what your motivation for trying a vegan dish was*.

**There are many different reasons for why we might be interested in eating more plant-based dishes, e. g. animal welfare or climate change. It can also be interesting to think about where our produce comes from, e. g. is it from our local region or has it travelled from a far-away-country, which makes it less climate-friendly? We can also think about fairness and ask ourselves what the production conditions for certain products are like and if they are fair for the people producing them.*

4. Finally, ask Mrs Morey in room 3 to send your video alongside the recipe (in German) to Maya.
5. Maya will publish all German recipes in a virtual recipe book created by students from all over the UK.
6. With your consent, Maya can also publish your video, but this is of course up to you!

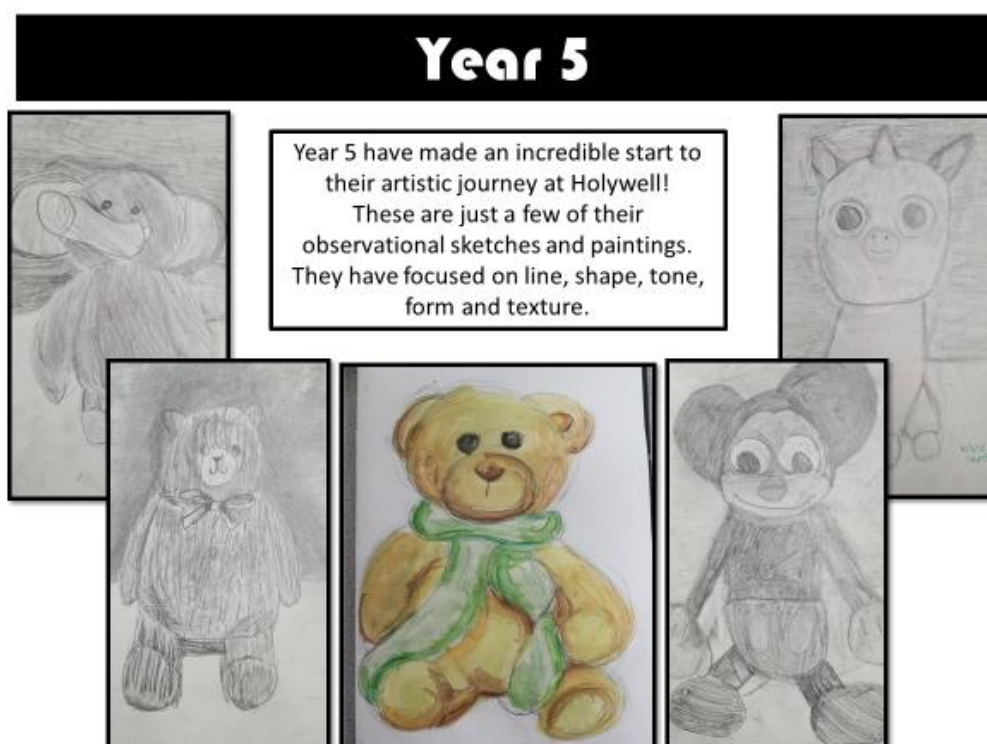
What happens after we have submitted our contribution?

The winners will be contacted in the week commencing 4th March 2024.

The winner will have the workshop with Maya on the 25th March 2024 at school. Second and third prizes will be sent to the school directly.

Inspiration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MskvJZDgls0>

From the Art Department



Year 6

Year 6 have ended the term creating beautiful paintings of autumnal leaves. They have also had a go at 'resist' painting using oil pastels and have created some stunning work.



Year 6



Year 7



Year 8



Students have been creating mixed media fashion illustrations this term. They are inspired by contemporary artists and independent research.



Staff



Some of our wonderful staff showed off their creativity during a Christmas Ceramic Workshop. I think you will agree they did an incredible job!



Staff



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



AUTUMN TERM 2023

End of Term – Wednesday 20th December

SPRING TERM 2024

Term Begins – Thursday 4th January

Half Term – Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February

End of Term – Thursday 28th March

SUMMER TERM 2024

Closure Day – Monday 15th April

Term Begins – Tuesday 16th April

May Day – Monday 6th May

Half Term – Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May

End of Term – Friday 19th July

Please note that dates may differ from other schools

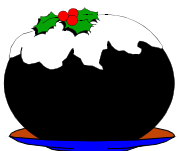
SUMMER TERM TEST DATES 2024



Year 6 Students
Key Stage 2 SATs

Monday 13th May - Thursday 17th May 2024

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS AT THIS TIME



A REMINDER THAT STUDENTS
RETURN TO SCHOOL ON:
THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY 2024

