



Holywell News



Issue No: 179

April 2025

Mr Simpson's Headlines

As we come to the end of the Spring Term, the sun is shining and Spring seems to have finally 'sprung' in Cranfield! The flowers have started blooming and everyone is grateful for the bright, light nights.

Our Value of the Month is 'Humility' and our focus this year is very much on recognising the strengths and talents of others. Our Values ambassadors - Arlo, Jacob, Joseph, Maya, and Molly - have challenged us all to put this into action:

Celebrate and share your successes and differences

Don't brag about your successes, be proud and celebrate others

It's not all about you, it's not all about them ... it's about US!!

"All those who make themselves great will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be made great" Luke 14:11

At our Spring Concert, we got to celebrate the many talents of our students. It was wonderful to have such a huge range of different musical performances - from Noah W's beautiful piano playing to Mason B's creative poetry, from Amelia D's enthusiastic drum solo to Zuzanna S's soulful singing; from a charming Wallace and Gromit clarinet solo from Lydia B to some superb dance moves from Caitlin W and Grace P and from the great rendition of Taylor Swift's 'Betty' by Lizzie, Sophie and Maya to the moving BSL/vocal of Both Sides Now by Elizabeth L. We are constantly surprised by our students and it is indeed great to celebrate all of their successes and talents – we knew that Tom H was a champion swimmer, but he also has a delightful singing voice! Blake B is an excellent Science student who recently met a NASA astronaut ... he is also an award-winning Irish dancer! We are all humbled to have these brilliant young people in our Holywell community.



Our sporting teams have also had lots to celebrate. Mr Eames shared the following update: the Y6 Boys football team are through to the county final after winning their semi-final 6-1 against Brickhill Primary. The Y7/8 Girls football team were Partnership league runners-up after narrowly losing the final. The Y8 Boys rugby team have had a storming season and won their last match by over 100 points to nil! We are waiting to see where they come in the league! ... and, 'hot off the press', the Y8 boys football team were crowned Partnership league winners and are now through to the County semi-finals!! More details are in the PE section of the newsletter. We also thank and celebrate the staff members who coach all the teams.



Our Year 6 students are busily preparing for their SATs assessments – many have made excellent progress with their Reading, Grammar, Spellings, Writing and Maths and all are trying their best to be the best they can be. They have been designing Mood Monsters in Art – either to create monsters who will help and guide them through the SATS or monsters who represent their feelings. We are encouraging all of our Year 6 students to keep the assessments in perspective – the assessments represent a moment in time and do not define them; we want all of our students to do as well as they can, but we also want students to be resilient and stress-free.



In our recent assemblies, we considered how we can have the courage to see things through. We asked all of our students to think about their challenges; to think about what they need to do to see these challenges through to the end. They were encouraged to identify any barriers to their success and to find a way through, thinking about who could help them to see things through. We took inspiration from two very different people. The first was Radio 1 presenter Jamie Lang who recently completed 5 Ultramarathons in aid of Comic Relief. He raised

over 2 million pounds ... however, he nearly gave up during the last marathon, needing the help and encouragement of friends and passers-by to help him finish. Our second inspiration was Jesus: Jesus' mission on earth was to fulfil God's plan "to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). He was also challenged to die on the cross as a sacrifice for the world's sins, and then to rise from the dead, thus offering a path to eternal life and forgiveness. Another mission for Jesus was to try to give people an understanding of God's teachings and way of life and to let people know about the eternal hope that they have through Him: "to preach good news to the poor....to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour....." (Luke 4:18-19). His final challenge was to start a movement of believers and disciples. After the Last Supper, Jesus took himself off to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane where he prayed to his Father not to have to go through with this: "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me." In spite of his doubts, Jesus decided to go through with God's plan: "Nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." Whatever our challenges are, if we have faith, support and courage, we can achieve anything.

One of our major challenges over the next few years will be to transition into a secondary school. At the end of February, Central Bedfordshire Council approved the budget for the next year ... and that budget includes the funding for the Cranfield 3-2 Tier programme. We will be working with the council to plan this for a September 2026 start. In September 2026, our Year 8 students could stay with us and continue into Year 9. WE would not have a new Year 5 intake that year as students from Year 4 would stay in their 'primary' schools (at Cranfield and Marston Moreteyne. There is a lot of work to do and we are all very excited to plan for this change. There will be more information on this when details have been agreed and finalised with CBC.

In the meantime, we have all earned a restful Easter break. Recharge, refresh and rest.

With all best wishes

MG Simpson

Mike Simpson
Headteacher

Staff News

The following staff are leaving us at the end of this term:

- Miss Hayle
- Mrs Vincent
- Mrs Latham

Miss Hayle has been a fantastic member of the Science Team and a wonderful form tutor. We wish her every success in her new teaching role.

Mrs Vincent joined the school in 2008 as a midday supervisor. She then took on the role of Learning Support Assistant and, in 2012, she became one of our cover supervisors – a role which she has done brilliantly ever since. She has covered every type of lesson from English to DT, from French to PE and everything else in between. She has also been a form tutor and has supported many students and staff during her time at Holywell. We will miss her hugely and wish her every success in her new venture.

Mrs Latham is one of our office assistants and has almost completed 25 years of service to Holywell. She has a wonderful attention to detail and tackles every task with a calm, organised and thorough approach. One of Mrs Latham's jobs has been to co-ordinate this Newsletter and we are all very grateful for her organisation, type-setting and regular reminders – especially to staff for their updates! We wish Mrs Latham every happiness in her retirement.



Summer Uniform

During the summer term (after Easter) 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 now an option all throughout the year ... however, we know that they are more popular in the Summer Term ... so just a reminder about style and length: The length should be just above the knee to just below the knee. The shorts must be plain grey tailored shorts (ie. 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).

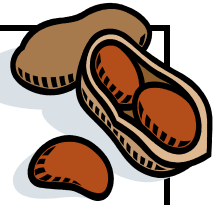


- As with school shorts, skirts must be pleated and just above the knee to just below the knee in length.
- Socks must be plain grey, black or white.
- Shoes are required as part of our school uniform.
- PE Kit to be worn on days when PE lessons are scheduled.
- No necklaces or bracelets are permitted unless they are part of your religious faith. One plain ring is allowed. Earrings - plain studs, only one in each earlobe – NB. these must be removed for PE/Games lessons. Nose studs are not permitted, except for religious purposes. These must be discussed directly with the headteacher. **Make-up is not allowed. Imitation, false or acrylic nails and nail polish are not allowed.**

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** – If you are refreshing uniform, please make sure that the correct uniform is purchased. Make sure that shoes are shoes (no trainers)! Trousers and skirts should be grey and not black; skirts should be the correct length.
- **Chewing Gum** – Chewing gum is **not** allowed and should not be brought into school.
- **Mobile Phone Policy** – Please remember that we are a non-smart-phone school. Smart phones are not to be brought on-site. We also do not give permission to leave smartphones in the office. The only students with permission for smartphones in school are those with medical conditions (eg. diabetics whose insulin levels need monitoring) or serious safeguarding issues. On a practical level, we simply do not have the space to store smart phones. We are aware that some students need to be able to contact parents on their way to and from school (especially if travelling on school transport). Non-smart phones are allowed and students take responsibility for these. They are relatively inexpensive and easy to use. Some parents also like to track students – there are a range of tracking devices which can be used - everything from bespoke GPS trackers - eg. <https://www.ubeequeue.com/juniors-tracker/> to a more expensive Garmin watch or a FitBit). If smart-phones are found on-site, they will be confiscated and will need to be collected by a parent. Our full policy can be found 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.

ABSOLUTELY NO NUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS IN SCHOOL



Could everyone please be aware that we have several children and members of staff with **severe nut allergies**. If your child comes to school with a packed lunch, or just brings in snacks for break time, **please ensure that nuts are not included** in any shape or form (**including Nutella or Peanut Butter**). Your co-operation in keeping everyone safe at Holywell is greatly appreciated.



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.



If your child is away from School

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

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 at least 4 weeks 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, there are an increasing number of families taking 'the odd day' here and there ... this is having a HUGE impact on learning.

Payment for Uniform, Trips and Sundries

Please note that we are now a **cash-free school** and request that **payments are made online whenever possible**, with the link on our website.

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

- Ordering School ties / blazer badges / personal organisers
- Trips
- 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.

Parent Pay (Payment for tuck/school dinners)

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

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>.

World Book Day 2025



Students and staff enjoyed celebrating all things bookish during World Book Day. The annual door/window challenge returned as did the ever-popular book-swap. A wonderful day of reading was had by all.

Year 5 DT Lessons

Year 5 students have been practicing their knife skills, preparing fruit salad in their cooking lessons. They have been learning about the claw and bridge holds when using a knife safely to prepare a variety of ingredients.



History News

It has been a super busy term in History with **Year 5** immersing themselves in Greek culture, while our **Year 6** have been learning about the Vikings and they were lucky enough to have a special Viking visitor last week who arrived at school, in full Viking costume to show the students weaponry and armour. The students got to make a shield wall and scare the enemy with their battle cries before burying a dead warrior at the end of the session!



Year 7 have embarked on their study of Tudor England and have enjoyed acting out imaginary scenes about the break with Rome. **Year 8** are currently learning about the horrors of the Transatlantic slave trade.

RE News

Year 5 students have been learning about the life of Jesus this term ending, appropriately, with his death and crucifixion as we move into Easter week.

Our **Year 6** have been studying the religion of Sikhism, finding out about the 5K's, their belief in selfless service and how they worship at a gurdwara.

Year 7 students have been exploring the Christian concept of salvation and have ended their unit with a fun mock trial based around the disappearance of Jesus' body. They have been really engaged and there have been some heated testimonies from the witness box!

Finally, our **Year 8** students have been learning about Hindu rites of passage and the interesting, flamboyant ways they celebrate coming of age and show commitment during wedding ceremonies.



We have finished the term with our annual RE Day. The day explores some of the themes in the Easter story:

- Prejudice
- Humility
- Christianity as a global faith: Easter across the world

Students also had the chance to explore the way in which the Easter Story is presented in Stained Glass Windows and have explored the art of stained glass.

The Junior Worship Team and the Key Stage 2 Choir led our annual church services. 'Good News' told the Easter Story as if it were a live news event with reports of all the events through a series of 'on location' reporters. Some of the interviews were done through song (superbly performed by the KS2 Choir) – we even had the donkey's perspective! It was all left on a reflective note and the question 'Is this the end ..?' As we know, it was only the beginning ... the beginning of a wonderful Christian movement and a peaceful way of living through Christian values of peace, love, forgiveness, humility and service. Thanks to Miss Brumsden and Mr Tabert for co-ordinating this and preparing the service with the students.



MFL News

The MFL department had a bustling half-term, packed with a diverse range of career-focused and extra-curricular opportunities for all our students to explore and engage in.

Our MFL Monthly Celebrities

Let's start with congratulations and a huge WELL DONE to our March MFL celebrities.



Where Will Languages Take Me?

| Departures | | Where will languages take you? | |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 09:00 | Study Abroad | BOARDING | 17:30 Teacher |
| 09:30 | Lawyer | FINAL CALL | 18:00 Cabin Crew |
| 10:00 | Media | BOARDING | 18:30 Pilot |
| 10:30 | Engineer | BOARDING | 19:00 Sales Rep |
| 11:00 | Tutor | GO TO GATE | 19:30 Footballer |
| 11:30 | Resilience | BOARDING | 20:00 Interpreter |
| 12:00 | Confidence | BOARDING | 20:30 Journalist |
| 12:30 | Analytical Skills | BOARDING | 21:00 Marketing |
| 13:00 | Communication | FINAL CALL | 21:30 Translator |
| 13:30 | Problem Solving | GATE G11 | 22:00 Actor |
| 14:00 | See The World | GO TO GATE | 22:30 Lecturer |
| 14:30 | Delay Dementia | DELAYED | 23:00 Tour Guide |
| 15:00 | Reduce Racism | GATE G6 | 23:30 YouTuber |
| 15:30 | Listening Skills | BOARDING | 24:00 Politician |
| 16:00 | Work Abroad | GATE OPEN | 00:30 Retail |
| 16:30 | Meet Friends | BOARDING | 01:00 Doctor |
| 17:00 | Improve Memory | BOARDING | 01:30 University |

This half-term, some of our year 7 students took part in an exciting online webinar organised by the British Council: "Where Will Languages Take Me?". Students were given the opportunity to hear from three incredible guest speakers who use languages in their careers, including one who works for GCHQ and another who works for the Food Standards Agency. The speakers shared how

studying languages at school gave them a huge advantage, leading to amazing career opportunities and life-changing experiences. From working in national security to ensuring food safety across borders, their stories showed the real-world power of language learning. A huge thank you to the British Council and the fantastic speakers for inspiring our students and opening their eyes to the endless possibilities that come with learning languages.

Cool Beats & Simple German Lyrics Workshop



Some of our Year 5 and 6 students had an absolute blast this half-term at the Cool Beats & Simple German Lyrics workshop. Hosted by the Goethe-Institut London, they had the unique opportunity to connect live via Zoom with the fantastic and highly engaging *Munich Supercrew*, whom they recognise from their lessons.

This interactive session brought German learning to life through music, rhythm, and movement. From catchy songs to fun choreography, our students were singing, dancing, and engaging with the musicians—all while picking up German in the most exciting way.

Languages and Football



Some students took part in an inspiring Languages & Football webinar. From heart-warming stories to real-life experiences from football professionals around the world, students discovered how speaking different languages can open doors in the football industry. Whether it's coaching, commentary, player management, or international scouting, mastering languages

can lead to exciting careers in the sport they love.

This event was a fantastic opportunity for students to see how languages connect cultures and create opportunities beyond the classroom. Who knows? Maybe we have inspired the next multilingual football star or sports journalist.

Francophonie Day



On Thursday 20th March we celebrated the *International Francophonie Day = La Journée de la Francophonie*. This special day is observed to celebrate the French language and the cultural diversity of French-speaking countries around the world. It is observed on March 20th each year to promote the

values of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), which supports cooperation between French-speaking nations in areas like education, culture and human rights. French is spoken by over 300 million people across more than 80 countries.

A number of our students put together amazing and informative posters showcasing different Francophone countries, their traditions, history and contributions. It was a fantastic way to learn more about the global French-speaking community and appreciate the diversity it represents. Bravo and MERCI to all the students who participated.

French Exchange



Our French pen pal exchange continues to thrive. We have received some absolutely beautiful and very thoughtful letters from our pen pals at the French school in Chaumont. Some of our students have built such strong friendships with their French pen pals that they have even received

thoughtful gifts, including birthday presents. We have replied with Easter cards. Holywell students have excelled in their letters, showcasing a wonderful array of highly creative designs filled with fascinating facts about how Easter is celebrated in England. Joyeuse Pâques!



How Can Parents/Carers support language learning at home?

By incorporating these simple habits listed below, parents/carers can make language learning more interactive, enjoyable, and effective at home! 🚀

✓ **Make Vocabulary Stick** – Encourage your child to use flashcards, apps like Quizlet, or sticky notes around the house to reinforce new words.

🎧 **Immerse in Listening** – Suggest listening to podcasts, music, or watching TV shows in French/German to improve comprehension and pronunciation.

🗣️ **Practice Speaking** – Engage in simple conversations using basic phrases, even if you are not fluent. Consistent practice builds confidence!

🌐 **Use Online Resources** – Support learning with platforms like Duolingo, BBC Bitesize, or other language-learning websites.

📖 **Encourage Reading** – Borrow or buy books, magazines, or graded readers in French/German to make reading enjoyable and accessible.

📅 **Create a Study Routine** – Set aside regular time for French/German homework and revision to maintain consistency.

🎬 **Explore Culture** – Watch films, documentaries, or YouTube channels like *Easy French* / *Easy German* to connect language with real-world contexts.

❓ **Be a Quizmaster** – Help your child review vocabulary, grammar rules, or key phrases by quizzing them in a fun and engaging way.

Duolingo



All French and German students have access to Duolingo. Their username and password details are recorded at the front of planners. We encourage students to access the app regularly to further develop their foreign language skills. Duolingo is an app and website that uses a gamified approach to language learning, with lessons that incorporate translating, interactive exercises, quizzes, and stories.

Watching Movies & Shows



Netflix, Amazon Prime or any other streaming service offer a variety of French and German films and shows with subtitles, helping language learners absorb the language naturally. Start watching your favourite films or shows with English subtitles, then switch to French/German subtitles, and gradually move to watching without them.

Ramadan and Eid 2025 — A Celebration of Community

Every year, some of our students take part in fasting during Ramadan, and we at Holywell School were delighted to celebrate the end of this special season with them. We had the privilege of welcoming **Mr and Mrs Alqahtani**, who kindly helped decorate our seasonal events display board and organized a wonderful **Eid celebration party** for the students.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to them for sharing this experience with our school and for uplifting the identities of our students in such a meaningful way. It is truly special when parents join us in supporting our students, and we hope to involve even more families in the future.

This celebration reflects our school's vision to "**Live life in its fullness**"—embracing our values and striving to be the best we can be as a **community**.

Happy Eid 🌙✨

Miss S Busuman

Charity News

The grand total of **£1,278.00** was raised from the Sponsored Walk, which was held during Wellbeing Day, on 5th February 2025.

This year the money raised will be used to support wellbeing initiatives in school and also to support a local charity to the school, Al's Pals. Al's Pals is a charity who supports both cancer patients and their families to ensure they never feel

alone when going through the hardest of times. To find out more about what the charity offers, please visit their website, <https://alspals.org.uk/about-us>

Thank you very much for your generosity.

Year 5 Racing to School Maths Trip

We had a great time at Huntingdon. My favourite part was the weighing room and watching the horses race at the end. We also enjoyed measuring the perimeter around the parade ring and looking at the different ways to measure the items to do with horses.

George P - Year 5



Music Department News

Tuesday 1st April was the Music Department's Spring Showcase. Students auditioned to take part and there was a vast array of talent to select from. Acts included vocal numbers, drum solos, piano, clarinet, cello, dancers and one poet! I was so impressed with the composure and confidence of the students as they took it in turns to perform to a wonderful audience of over 100 friends and family.



I would like to thank and congratulate the

students who took part. I was not alone in having a big smile on my face all evening. It really was evidence of Holywell students 'Living Life in all its Fullness'. Preparations for the summer concert will be starting straight after Easter.

This will be an opportunity for our school ensemble bands and choirs to perform to the school and to parents.

Mrs Gough



Young Voices at Wembley

On the 10th February, just before half term, sixteen of our Year 5, 6 and 7 singers had the pleasure of singing at the Wembley Arena as part of the Young Voices choir. We bopped to Bob Marley, we belted out a Hairspray medley and rapped with MC Grammar. We had the best day together and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the lead singer of McFly and author, Tom Fletcher, in the audience. Huge thanks to all the parents who came to watch us. We hope you enjoyed the show as much as we did.

The Young Voices Choir



PE Department News

Y6 Boys Football – County Semi-finalists!

Following the boys winning the Redborne Partnership league, they are now waiting to play their semi-final match against Bedford Borough opponents!



Hot off the press...the Year 6 boys are through to the County Final after a resounding 6-1 victory!! Congratulations!!

Coach Inskip

Y8 Boys Football – Also County Semi-finalists!

The Year 8 Boys are just waiting to find out if they have won the league or if they qualify for the County finals in 2nd place!!

Coach Jones

KS2 Girls Football

The KS2 girls have also had a great season, succumbing to just one loss to a strong Etonbury side, but winning all of their other games. Excellent efforts from all: Sofia, Ivy-Mae, Rosie, Mara, Emilia, Isabelle, Sofia, Grace, Lily and Lois! It was great to see so many others at football club too.

Coach McEwen/Coach Stephens/Coach Kotur

Y7/8 Girls Football – Partnership Final!

Since half term, the girls have been involved in a series of fixtures against many other Redborne Partnership schools. After some resounding victories, they are waiting to play their League final – fingers crossed!! A massive well done to all of the girls and their efforts - Cherry, Lara, Georgina, Heloise, Krissy, Lottie, Arwen, Daisy, Cameron and Lucy!

Coach Kotur/Coach Simpson

Y7 Boys Rugby

The Y7 team were experiencing their first season playing 12-a-side rugby and they did not disappoint. After losing a close game v Alameda, they struck back to beat Pix Brook and then Parkfields! Their final games of the season are being played this week against RBA and Henlow. Some great performances from a variety of players have been seen, especially from leading try scorer Tom Marshall!

Coach Eames

Y8 Boys Rugby – League Winners?!

The Year 8 Rugby team has had an outstanding season so far, winning their first match against Parkfields in an incredible 60-0 victory. We then played our first home match against Arnold where the boys put in an excellent performance both in defence and attack, winning the match 70-0. Still yet to concede a try, we faced 3rd place Pixbrook, unfortunately with some great ball movement and attacking play Pixbrook scored 2 tries. However, Holywell's relentless work rate and teamwork managed to score a staggering 70 points again, winning our third game in a row.

Our next match was the one we had been waiting for all season, last year's champions RBA, who beat us in the final. This match would more than likely decide who would be league champions this year. The boys had trained extremely hard and were ready to leave everything on the pitch to come out on top.

RBA started the game very quickly capitalizing on a few of our mistakes and scored 3 tries in quick succession taking an early 15-0 lead. Holywell started to get back into the match, putting in hard, well-timed tackles and excellent rucking to win the ball back. Going into halftime, Holywell had narrowed the score down to 25-15. Holywell came out in the second half strong and full of energy, quickly stringing together numerous tries and equalizing the game 30-30. The boys continued to dig deep showing excellent Holywell spirit and taking the lead 40-35 within the final minute and holding on, making some crucial tackles to hold out and win the match.

The Rugby Team should be super proud of themselves and have come together forming a great sense of community, encouraging numerous students that have never attended rugby club to come along and develop their skills. Also, a massive thank you to Ciaran and Liam for their leadership and pivotal role in the team this season and all the parents and staff that have supported the team over the last few weeks.

Coach Inskip

Our KS2 rugby team put on a fantastic display at this year's Rugby Tournament hosted by Alameda. Competing against strong opposition, our squad of inexperienced players showed incredible teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship throughout the afternoon against more experienced and well drilled opposition.

Following an initial defeat to the hosts in a closely contested match (3-2), the team learned quickly to register back to back victories against Parkfields (4 - 1) and Arnold (4 - 3) which saw the team qualify for the Semi-finals. There we came up against a well drilled and more experienced team in Robert Bloomfield Academy, but the team again showed a great deal of resilience and skill before losing 4-2. Whilst finely balanced, the third/fourth place match with Etonbury was unfortunately abandoned after two of our players clashed heads whilst going to make the same tackle.

Special mention goes to Junior's direct ball carrying and Mason's mazy running - the work rate and tackling of Stevie and Nivain and the enthusiasm of Josh and Zac from Year 5. Well done to the whole squad who can be rightly proud of the achievement and how they performed.

Coach Ulph

MK Lightning Ice Hockey visit -

Our Year 8 Sports Leadership Option group were lucky enough to be visited by Tim and Jordan from MK Lightning for a talk on what it takes to be an Elite sportsperson!

They spoke about how they got into ice hockey and what a normal day for them consists of. One student was lucky enough to try on some of the kit!



Please do make us aware of any sporting success your child has outside of school – they could feature in the next newsletter!!

As always, we would like to thank all those students who have attended clubs and represented the school this half-term. We would also like to show our appreciation to all the parents, carers and spectators for your continued support of the department!

A massive 'thank you' also goes to the staff members in the department who give up their time to lead the various teams/clubs at Holywell! Roll on the summer sports!

The PE Department

PE Clubs Timetable - Summer Term (First Half)

| | 13:05-13:35 | 13:35 - 14:05 | 15:45-16:45 |
|--------------|---|---|--|
| Mon | Y5/6 Mixed Athletics (SM/ES/MK/ME) – Field | Multi Skills – Y5/6 Mixed (MK)* *Invite Only | Y5/6 Mixed Dodgeball (MK) - Sports Hall |
| Tues | Y7/8 Boys Flag Football (ZI) – Field | Y7/8 Girls Sport & Wellbeing (ES) - Sports Hall | <i>Athletics Fixtures</i> |
| Weds | | | <i>Rounders Fixtures</i> <i>Cricket Fixtures</i> |
| Thurs | Y7/8 Mixed Athletics (ME/CSI/ZI) – Field Y5/6 Mixed Badminton (MK) – Sports hall | Y5/6 Mixed Rounders (MK) - Field | <i>Rounders Fixtures</i> <i>Cricket Fixtures</i> |
| Fri | Y7/8 Girls Rounders (CSI/MK) - Field Y7/8 Mixed Cricket (ME/ZI) – Sports Hall | Y5/6 Mixed Cricket (MK) – Field | All Years Mixed Badminton (MK) - Sports Hall |



Holywell Safeguarding Newsletter

MEET THE TEAM

April 2025
Issue 5



Mrs Stewart-McAlpine
Deputy Head & DSL



Mrs Johnson
Family Support / Deputy DSL



Miss Collins
Student Support / Assistant DSL

Welcome to our Safeguarding Newsletter.

We are hopeful you will find it useful.

The Safety and Wellbeing of our students are a priority to us!

We hope that we can connect you

to local and national support, if you need it for you and your families.

Our focus this edition of our newsletter is looking at support for our Yr6 students about to embark on their SATS, we have detailed information on a number of websites that we hope will prove useful!

If you have a topic you would like us to cover, or you are in need of support, information or advice, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of the team!

http://



Useful Websites

To support our students feel confident for the upcoming SATs, we have put on additional sessions during registration to support revision in addition to revision sessions in classes.

There are a number of websites that have relaxation and calming activities to support children who are struggling with pre-SATS worries. Here are a couple listed below:

<https://www.gonoodle.com/tags/PXodv2/flow-and-steady>

<https://www.bbe.co.uk/obeebies/joinin/seven-techniques-for-helping-kids-keep-calm>

Useful support websites specific to SATs:

<https://www.explorelearning.co.uk/free-resources/supporting-your-child-who-struggled-in-their-sats-exams/>

<https://www.laughology.co.uk/blog/supporting-your-child-with-sats-a-parent-s-guide>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/ks2-sats-support/>

Monday May 12th

English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2

Tuesday May 13th

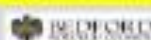
Reading

Wednesday May 14th

Mathematics paper 1 (arithmetic) and paper 2 (reasoning)

Thursday May 15th

Mathematics paper 3 (reasoning)



HOW YOU FEEL MATTERS



Getting help in Bedford Borough IT IS IMPORTANT TO TALK

Talk to your school/college mental/health support, a counsellor, doctor, friend, family or a trusted adult.
IF SOMEONE TALKS TO YOU: Help them get help and get support yourself if you need it.

Child And Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) (NHS) ONE PLACE TO GET HELP

A trained NHS mental health professional will respond to enquiries relating to getting help from the NHS child and young people mental health service and emotional wellbeing service. They can also provide self-help resources on how to understand and self help your own mental health. Enquiries, please call 01234 893362



1: INFORMATION

Young Minds

Mental health charity with a wide range of resources and information

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

CHAT HEALTH

Service for young people to confidentially ask for help on a range of issues. Talk to a school nurse <https://chathealth.nhs.uk/>
TEXT: 07507 331050

SCHOOL NURSING SERVICE

Providing support on a range of issues, 1-1 virtually or in school
<https://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/Bedfordshire/services/school-nursing>
TEL: 0300 555 0606

EARLY HELP (BEDFORD BOROUGH)

The Local Offer holds a wide range of information regarding services and support available, including early help support.
<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/mentalhealthhub>
TEL: 01234 718 700

SEXUAL HEALTH

ICASH Provides all aspects of sexual and reproductive health including STIs and HIV testing & treatment, contraception.
www.icash.nhs.uk

DRUG & ALCOHOL SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Aquarius offer specialist services for children & young people who use substances or gamble and those who are affected by a parent or carers substance misuse www.aquarius.org.uk
TEL: 0330 008 3925

2: GETTING HELP

SHOUT

Free, confidential, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope. <https://www.shout.org/>
TEXT: SHOUT to 85258

BEDFORD OPEN DOOR

Free, confidential counselling for young people aged 13 to 25.
www.bedfordopendoor.org.uk
TEL: 01234 360388

SORTED

Free, confidential counselling for children and young people aged 5 to 25. www.sortedbedfordshire.org.uk
TEL: 01582 891435

SAMARITANS

If you want someone to talk to, they listen, do not judge and do not tell you what to do
www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/contact-samaritans/
TEL: 116123

CHUMS

Bereavement mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children and young people. <https://chums.uk.com/>
TEL: 01525 863924

HEALTHY WEIGHT

MoreLife provides weight management programmes for all ages.
www.more-life.co.uk TEL: 0800 200 2340

BEAT

National eating disorder charity with lots of resources and support. <https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/>

3: NEED MORE HELP

CAMHS - Emotional & Behavioural Team

Provide assessments, support and treatment for children and young people up to the age of 18 for moderate to severe mental health problems.

For further information, please visit:

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE CAMHS

<https://www.nth.nhs.uk/services/north-bedfordshire-camhs>
TEL: 01234 893301

SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE / LUTON CAMHS

<https://www.nth.nhs.uk/camhs/where-we-work/south-bedfordshire-luton-camhs>
TEL: 01525 648613

PCAS: You can also ask your GP to refer you to the Primary Care Access Service for mental health support.

4: URGENT SUPPORT

Call 111 Option 2 - 24/7

A free helpline for people of all ages who need urgent mental health support. Young people can talk to a CAMHS professional directly who can arrange additional support.

IN ANY EMERGENCY, DIAL 999

Updated FFR 2025

Holywell Support this Half Term

At Holywell we have been fortunate in accessing some wellbeing support for our students from outside agencies both one-to-one and in small groups.

Holywell have been able to welcome back the Northampton Saints Foundation - who have been working with a group of our Year 7 students this half-term, supporting students with their wellbeing and resilience through sport.

Holywell have also been able to secure organization Link2Change to a group of our Year 8 students starting this half-term, and due to continue next half-term. This intervention had a focus on healthy relationships and staying safe on social media.

Holywell have also been running a 'Wild For Life' group, a nature-led wellbeing intervention with a small number of our Year 5 students this half-term. Thank you to the staff who have given their time to facilitate this.

Holywell School is now LIVE across Social Media Pages



@HolywellCoE



Holywell School
Bedfordshire

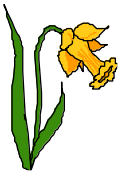


@HolywellCoE

Please like/follow to receive updates



www.holywellschool.co.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



SPRING TERM 2025

End of Term – Friday 4th April

SUMMER TERM 2025

Closure Day – Tuesday 22nd April

Term Begins – Wednesday 23rd April

May Day – Monday 5th May

Half Term – Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May

End of Term – Tuesday 22nd July

Please note that dates may differ from other schools

SUMMER TERM TEST DATES 2025



Year 6 Students

Key Stage 2 SATs

Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May 2025

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS AT THIS TIME

***Term Dates for the next academic year (2025 – 2026)
are listed on our school website***



**A REMINDER THAT STUDENTS
RETURN TO SCHOOL ON:
WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL 2025**

