



Holywell News



Issue No: 181
July 2025

Headlines from Mr Simpson:

It is the last day of the academic year and time to reflect back on another busy year at Holywell.

REMEMBER STUDENTS
ARE BACK TO SCHOOL ON
WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPT
HAVE A GOOD SUMMER!



TAKE A STEP



Take a step
Make a move
Follow the path
Live a best life
And if no-one takes too much
There will always be enough



Take a step
Make a mark
Open the door
Risk on purpose
And if the rain falls down hard
Put on your boots and dance

Take a step
Be the difference
Walk humbly
Be kind, respectful and responsible
And, when the way is unclear
Find the Holywell path ...
...and take a step

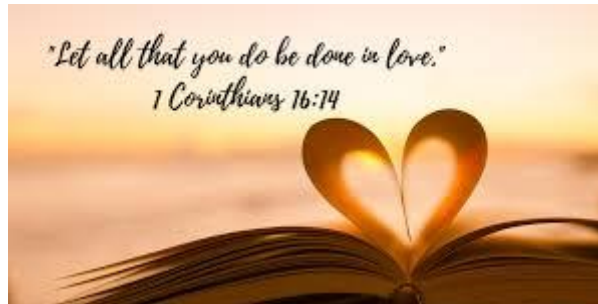
Holywell School - September 2024

At the start of the year, my reflection was all about 'taking a step', about doing something different and being brave enough to 'make a mark' and to 'be the difference'. So many of our students have taken up this challenge through the year and we have had a fantastic year full of surprises and new achievements. Students have delighted us with marvellous musical performances, sporting successes, delightful dramas, passionate poetry, carefully crafted curriculum-based creations, superb scientific studies, linguistic triumphs, spiritual reflections, amazing artwork, historic discoveries, geographical studies, values vignettes ... all wrapped up in our core values of kindness, respect and responsibility.



I am very proud of everything our students have achieved this year. They have certainly risen to every challenge we have set for them.

We have continued our values work and our focus on our three core values of kindness, respect and responsibility has been key to securing some good outcomes – especially where things have not always gone ‘according to plan’. Our Values Ambassadors – Arlo, Jacob, Joseph, Maya and Molly – have been fantastic at interpreting the abstract values concepts into understandable and actionable challenges. Our final ‘spotlight’ value of the year is ‘Love’ – we chose this simple verse from 1 Corinthians to underpin our challenge:



This is what Maya and Molly suggested when asked to think about how we can show ‘love’ in our everyday interactions:

- Help without hesitation
- Look out for each other
- Be honest and use tough love when needed
- Be unconditionally kind

... wise words indeed and certainly something to take into the Summer.

Thinking ahead to the new academic year, we are entering an historic year for Holywell: in September, we welcome our last ever Year 5 cohort of students. This will be our last year as Middle School. Next September, we will start the transition to becoming a Secondary School and we are looking forward to stepping into the next chapter of Holywell’s history. More details will emerge during the year and we will keep you updated as soon as we have specific details.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in Holywell – we value every member of our Holywell community and, may I take this opportunity, to wish you all a safe Summer break – recharge, refresh and reconnect with family and friends ... all ready to return on Wednesday, 3rd September.

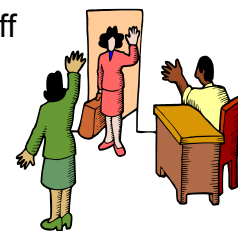
All best wishes always
MG Simpson
Mike Simpson
Headteacher



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:

- Mrs Shirvington – our French teacher – is retiring from teaching and is looking forward to travelling - we wish her safe journeying.
- Miss Kirkup – Drama / English – is taking up an opportunity to do some professional acting work in Malaysia. She leaves a wonderful legacy of performances and budding actors in school and we wish her every success for the future.
- Mr Demetrius – Computing – is taking some time out of teaching, having made a brilliant start here at Holywell. His enthusiasm for all things 'Computing' has inspired many students and we wish him every success for the future.
- Miss Hanna – Maths – is moving to a secondary school closer to home. She has been an excellent Maths teacher and form tutor; we will miss her kindness and care – we wish her every success in her new school.
- Mrs Hyman – English / Intervention – has taken on lots of roles at Holywell – from being a full-time English teacher to her current role as a part-time Intervention teacher. She has supported many students and will be missed.
- Mrs Knight – Science – has done a great job stepping into the Science team this term and, although always planned as a 1-term stay, she has been a great asset to the team and we wish her every success.



New staff joining us in September include:

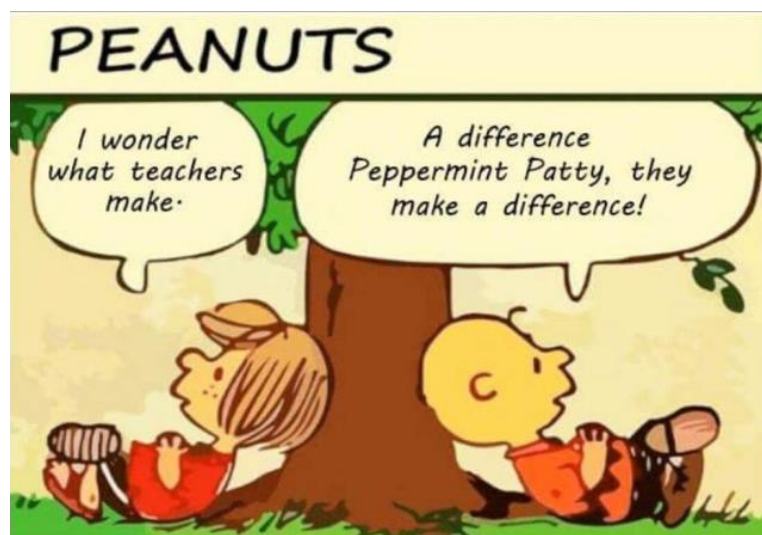
- Mrs Gittens – Subject Leader for Drama (and English teacher)
- Miss Novak-Boccard -French
- Mrs Shepherd – Science teacher
- Ms Wall – English

Mr Massiah will be covering Computing teaching for us in the Autumn Term and our new Subject Lead for Computing – Mrs Hayle – will be joining us in January.

Mrs Patterson (our SENDCo) will be leaving us at the end of the Autumn Term for personal reasons. We have a new SENDCo – Mrs Davidson - joining us part-time in September and Mrs Davidson will take over the role full-time in January. This will ensure a comprehensive handover period and Mrs Davidson is looking forward to building on Mrs Patterson's great first year with us.

Our Heads of Year next year will be:

- Year 5 – Mrs McCann
- Year 6 – Mr Ulph
- Year 7 – Ms Stephens
- Year 8 – Mrs Bassett



Term Dates for Next Academic Year 2025 - 2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Closure Days: Monday 1st September and Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Term Starts for all students: Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Half term: Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October 2025

Closure Day: Friday 28th November 2025

Term Ends: Friday 19th December 2025

SPRING TERM 2026

Term Starts for all students: Monday 5th January 2026

Half term: Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February 2026

Term Ends: Friday 27th March 2026

SUMMER TERM 2026

Closure Day: Monday 13th April 2026

Term Starts for all students: Tuesday 14th April 2026

May Day: Monday 4th May 2026

Half term: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026

Term Ends: Friday 17th July 2026

Closure Day: Monday 20th July 2026

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

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**

WEDUC Communications from School



Please note that we use WEDUC to communicate with families.

We STRONGLY RECOMMEND 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.

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 of the planned absence and before making any travel arrangements (available from the school office and to download from the school website). We always take a reasonable, supportive approach to requests (especially with regard to fines) however, taking 'the odd day' here and there can have a HUGE impact on learning.

Emergency Contact Details

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

Our MFL Monthly Celebrities

Let's start with congratulations and a huge WELL DONE to our July 2025 MFL celebrities.



Exploring Sustainable Transport

An Eco-Friendly French Exchange



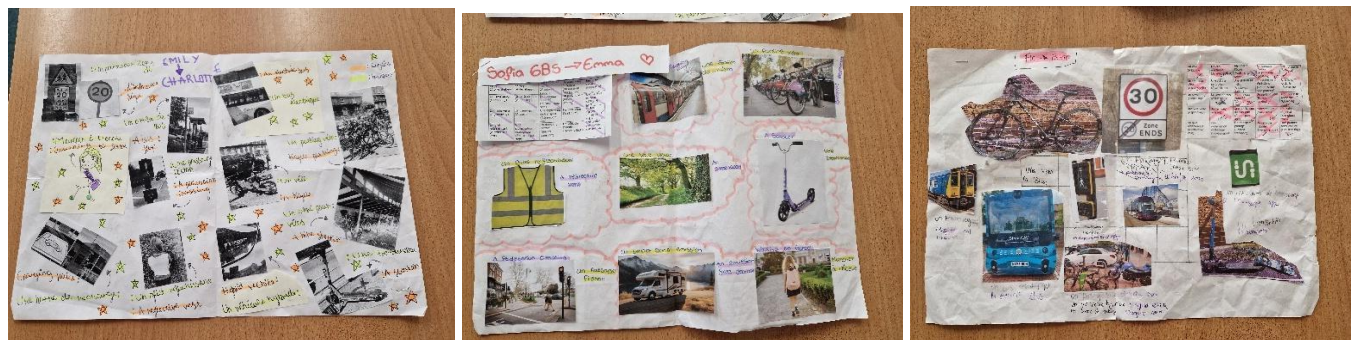
Our students have been on a mission to explore sustainable transport in their local area as part of an exciting and educational French exchange project.

From walking and cycling to electric vehicles, buses, and trains, they have investigated and illustrated the many eco-friendly ways we can travel. We then shared the findings with our French pen pals.

Even more exciting... We received replies from our French pen pals! There was great excitement as our students opened their letters and discovered how their friends across the Channel are exploring greener ways to get around in their own towns and cities.

This exchange has been a brilliant way to connect classroom learning with real-world issues, helping students not only practise their French but also reflect on the importance of sustainable travel, both at home and abroad.

A huge MERCI to everyone involved, both here and in France. What a fantastic way to learn, connect, and make a difference!



Outstanding Success at the Oxford German Olympiad!

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible achievements of four of our talented students in this year's Oxford German Olympiad, one of the UK's most prestigious national competitions for young language learners.



Ben, Year 6 and Eddie, Year 5 were both crowned Winners in their respective categories and have been invited to a special prize-giving ceremony at Oxford University on 26th June — an amazing achievement!

Isabelle G-W in Year 5 was named Runner-Up, and

Eva in Year 6 received a Highly Commended award.

Each of these students demonstrated remarkable independence, creativity, and commitment in their projects, and we are absolutely delighted to see their efforts recognised on a national stage.

A massive thank you to everyone who took part — your passion for languages and dedication to your learning have made us all incredibly proud. DANKE!

You can view the full results here: <https://www.ogn.ox.ac.uk/content/results-oxford-german-olympiad-2025>

Year 7 Inspired by "The Benefits of Languages"

A group of our Year 7 students took part in the inspiring online session "The Benefits of Languages", held as part of the Routes into Languages Festival of Languages.



The event was a fantastic opportunity for our students to discover just how far language learning can take them, from gaining a competitive edge in the workplace to forming meaningful cultural connections around the world.

Through real-life examples and engaging discussions, the session highlighted the many personal and professional doors that learning another language can open. Our students left feeling motivated, inspired, and excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

It was a brilliant reminder that languages are not just classroom subjects. They are powerful tools for shaping global citizens and building future opportunities.

Languages Festival

A group of our Year 7 students had the opportunity to take part in a Languages Festival at Luton Sixth Form College. They participated in a variety of language taster sessions, including Latin, Portuguese, Japanese, British Sign Language, and Italian.

Huge congratulations to *Flo* for receiving a certificate as the top student in the Italian class, to *Thomas* for his outstanding performance in the BSL class and to *Oscar* for being the best at solving Languages puzzles.

Students had the opportunity to hear from A-Level language students about their experiences with learning a foreign language and the importance of knowing a foreign language.



Don't Get Bored This Summer – Get Creative!

Use your imagination, language skills, and passion for culture.

Check out these two exciting European Day of Languages competitions you can enter this summer!



COMPETITION 1



INTERNATIONAL POSTER COMPETITION

to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the
European Day of Languages 2025
“Languages open hearts and minds!”

DEADLINE

 Friday 3rd October 2025.

 Submit to Mrs Morey.

YOUR CHALLENGE

Create a handmade poster illustrating the 25th anniversary motto of the European Day of Languages:

“Languages open hearts and minds!”

This motto means that learning new languages helps you feel more connected to others and understand different cultures. It makes it easier to share ideas, feelings, and experiences with people from around the world and helps build empathy and respect for different ways of life.


PRIZES AND PERKS

- All entries will be rewarded with:
 - 5 House Points.
 - An ice lolly.
 - Your poster displayed in school.
 - Your poster shown on school socials.
- Best entries will be entered into an international competition.
- If you win, your poster will be displayed at the European Centre for Modern Languages in Austria.

WHAT TO INCLUDE

- ✓ Creative design based on the theme: *“Languages open hearts and minds!”*
- ✓ Strong message (words, phrases, images).
- ✓ Your full name.
- ✓ Your tutor group.

FORMAT

 Handmade on A4 or A3 paper.

 Make it neat, colourful, & easy to read.

 Be bold and creative.

 Celebrate languages.

 Let your poster open hearts and minds.

COMPETITION 2

European Day of Languages

T-Shirt Contest 2025

DEADLINE

 Friday 3rd October 2025.

 Submit to Mrs Morey.



Love Languages? Got Creative Vibes?

Design a T-shirt that could be worn all across Europe!

More details on this website:

<https://edl.ecml.at/Activities/EDL-T-Shirt-Contest>

If you do decide to take part in this competition,
please let Mrs Morey know.

How Can Parents/Carers support language learning at home?

Enhance Language Learning at Home with *Oak National Academy*.

To support your child's language development in line with our Schemes of Work, we are incorporating Oak National Academy videos: a fantastic resource that brings classroom-quality lessons into your home.

Here are some easy ways to get started:

☒ Watch Oak National Academy language videos together regularly.

☒ Talk about what they learned after each video.

☒ Encourage your child to teach you what they have learned.


Check out the **KS3 French** units here:

 <https://www.thenational.academy/teachers/programmes/french-secondary-ks3/units>

Check out the **KS3 German** units here:


 <https://www.thenational.academy/teachers/programmes/german-secondary-ks3/units>


Other Ideas

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

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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.

MFL Department

A Busy and Brilliant Year in English!

It's been an exciting and jam-packed year in English across the school! From adventure stories and historical fiction to Shakespeare and ballads, students from Year 5 to Year 8 have truly thrown themselves into every challenge, showing creativity, curiosity, and incredible progress in their reading and writing.

Year 5 have had a fantastic term exploring the thrilling adventure story *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo. They've loved getting to know the characters, imagining themselves stranded on a desert island, and writing their own wonderful pieces full of description, emotion and tension. It's been a joy to read their work and see their enthusiasm shine through.

Year 6 have been busy wrapping up the year with a range of writing challenges, building on all the skills they've developed. One of the highlights has been studying *Once* by Morris Gleitzman, a powerful novel that links beautifully with their work on World War 2. The students have been exploring key themes and even writing their own 'next chapters', showcasing empathy and insight through powerful storytelling.

In **Year 7**, students began the term learning about narrative and ballad writing. They created heartfelt, emotional ballads that told moving stories and showcased some fantastic poetic technique. They then took on the challenge of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, learning about love, conflict, and fate, while getting to grips with Shakespearean language. It's been amazing to see their confidence and understanding grow.

Year 8 have been finishing their time at Holywell in style! They've been studying *The Tempest*, exploring themes of magic, betrayal, and forgiveness. As a final flourish, they've been immersed in poetry—writing and analysing poems as they prepare for their transition to Year 9. It's been a perfect way to reflect on their journey and look ahead to the future.

As the year ends, we want to say a huge well done to all our students for their hard work, creativity, and enthusiasm. You've made us proud every step of the way. Here's to another exciting year ahead—and wishing you all a wonderful, restful Summer!

Miss Mayles & The English Department   

Summer Reading Recommendations!

Year 5 Summer Reading List (Ages 9–10)

1. **The Explorer** – *Katherine Rundell*
A thrilling Amazon jungle adventure with teamwork and resilience.
2. **The Wild Robot** – *Peter Brown*
A beautiful mix of nature and technology with a heartfelt journey.
3. **Charlie Changes into a Chicken** – *Sam Copeland*
Hilarious and heartfelt—perfect for fans of David Walliams and Tom Gates.
4. **The Boy Who Grew Dragons** – *Andy Shepherd*
Fun, fast-paced, and full of dragon-sized surprises.

Year 6 Summer Reading List (Ages 10–11)

1. **Then** – *Morris Gleitzman*
A powerful story set during WW2 through the eyes of a child. It is the exciting sequel to 'Once' which we've just read in class.
2. **Wonder** – *R.J. Palacio*
A heartwarming novel about kindness, courage and acceptance.
3. **Sky Song** – *Abi Elphinstone*
A magical adventure in a frozen world with unforgettable characters.


4. **The Nowhere Emporium** – *Ross MacKenzie*
A magical shop that appears anywhere and everywhere.
5. **The Secret Garden** – *Frances Hodgson Burnett*
A classic tale of friendship, growth, and the healing power of nature.

Year 7 Summer Reading List (Ages 11–12)

1. **The Boy at the Back of the Class** – *Onjali Q. Raúf*
A moving, funny story about a refugee's journey and new beginnings.
2. **Orphans of the Tide** – *Struan Murray*
A dark and exciting fantasy for brave readers.
3. **Ghost** – *Jason Reynolds*
A fast-paced story about running, competition, and finding your path.
4. **The Graveyard Book** – *Neil Gaiman*
A beautifully written gothic adventure for older readers.

Year 8 Summer Reading List (Ages 12–13)

1. **The Tempest (Graphic Novel adaptation)** – *William Shakespeare / adapted versions*
A more accessible way to explore Shakespeare's magical play.
2. **Noughts and Crosses** – *Malorie Blackman*
A powerful, gripping story that flips the script on race and society.
3. **The Book Thief** – *Markus Zusak*
A poetic and moving WW2 story narrated by Death.
4. **The Giver** – *Lois Lowry*
A thought-provoking dystopian novel about memory and freedom.
5. **Long Way Down** – *Jason Reynolds*
A powerful novel-in-verse tackling choices, grief, and consequences.

 Encourage students to try a mix of genres and talk about what they read with friends or family. Reading just **20 minutes a day** can make a huge difference!

Happy Summer Reading! The English Dept  

Maths

UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge (JMC) 2025

On Thursday, 1st May, sixty of our most confident maths students from Year 8 were invited to take part in the Junior Maths Challenge. The JMC is a 60-minute, multiple-choice Challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the JMC are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience.

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

To recognize the highest performers in the Challenge, the top-scoring 50% of participants are awarded Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1. So, I am really pleased to say that well over half (72%) of our students who participated managed to obtain these higher levels, which is an outstanding achievement.

This year, Holywell students received 7 Gold, 14 Silver and 22 Bronze awards between them, with Thomas G achieving 'Best in School'. In addition, over 10,000 of the very highest performers were invited to take part in the Junior Kangaroo, on June 10th.

So, I would like to give a special mention to Jacob B, Sienna S, and Georgina M, as well as Thomas, for making it through to this next round, with Jacob and Thomas going on to achieve a silver and bronze respectively.

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

Ms Mollis

Careers News

This year we have continued to expand our careers education provision in preparation for our transition to becoming a secondary school.

Throughout the year Key Stage 3 students have had the opportunity to attend talks, workshops and assemblies from a wide range of sectors including: the police, an entrepreneur and business owner, automotive engineering, civil engineering, operational skills manager for the police, global director of safety, health and environment, a pilot, IT for an Investment bank, a NASA astronaut and Red Bull Racing.

Many of the volunteers are parents of Holywell students and if you would be willing to give up 30 minutes of your time to come and give a presentation to our students next year please email: pgough@holywellschool.co.uk

July 3rd was the second Holywell 'Take Your Child To Work Day' and we had had an incredible response with 106 of our Year 8 students going to work for the day with a member of their family or a close family friend. The feedback I have had from students and parents is that it is a valuable experience and helps to prepare students for the work experience they will attend in Year 10.

The following quote was written by Ruhani N who spent the day at a pharmacy. 'I learnt about the complicated processes that are required to run a pharmacy. I never imagined it would be such hard work making sure that every medication is sorted properly and all the correct information is given to patients. It was really enjoyable and interesting to see such amazing things.'

We will definitely be repeating the event next year so our current Year 7 can benefit from the experience.

Mrs Gough



History

It has been a really busy half term for all the students with some great learning going on. It has been lovely to see everyone grow in resilience and make really meaningful progress with their learning.

Our Year 5 have been finishing looking at the Roman Empire and examining reasons for its collapse as well as the legacy it left for future generations.

Year 6 students have been learning about the mysterious and fascinating Maya tribe from their pagan beliefs, invention of chocolate to the gruesome practices of human sacrifice!

Year 7 have completed a swift tour of the Stuarts, concentrating on the English Civil War and the execution of Charles I.

While our Year 8 students have been looking at the suffragette movement and how women campaigned for the vote and equality with men. We have had lots of fun but we are all ready for a long and restful Summer break!

RE

As students have been finishing up their units of study, many have been able to engage in some really thoughtful and provoking debates and it has been lovely to see them formulate and justify their own opinions!

Year 5 have been looking at how Christians worship by looking at features and functions of a religious building as well as what life is like as a monk or a nun.

Year 6 have been finishing their 'Island' unit with a wedding! On Wednesday the whole of Year 6 went to St Peter and St Paul's church for a mock wedding between two of our islanders! On our return to school we all assembled in the gym for the wedding breakfast where we heard lots of fabulous speeches and toasted the happy couple!



Year 7 have been looking at sacred teachings that relate to racism and discrimination. They have also researched what key individuals and charities actually do to reduce this problem. The topic ended with a lively debate on who was most to blame for racism still existing in the modern world!

Year 8 have conducted a short unit examining the history of the Christians church culminating in a personal research project into denominational differences that exist. This is to prepare them for their learning at Wootton Upper in September and we wish them every success in their new schools!

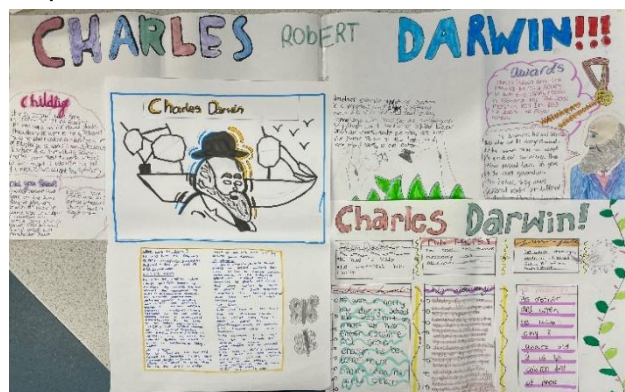
Mrs French

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. We thank Mrs Knight for joining us for the Summer term and wish her well in her next adventure. In September, we look forward to expanding our amazing team of Science teachers as we welcome Mrs Shepherd into the department.

In the final term, Year Five students engaged brilliantly with our topic on 'life cycles' learning about the life cycles of plants and animals. The students found out about seed dispersal methods, pollination, germination, fruit formation and produced some wonderful flower dissections.

Year Six continued their work on 'Living things and their habitats'. They delved into the world of evolution and inheritance. Students looked at the work of Mary Anning – the great fossil hunter and discovered how fossils were made. They found out about the story of the Peppered moths during the industrial revolution and how natural selection leads to evolution. The students researched, collaborated and produced superb presentations about Charles Darwin. Amazing work, Year Six!



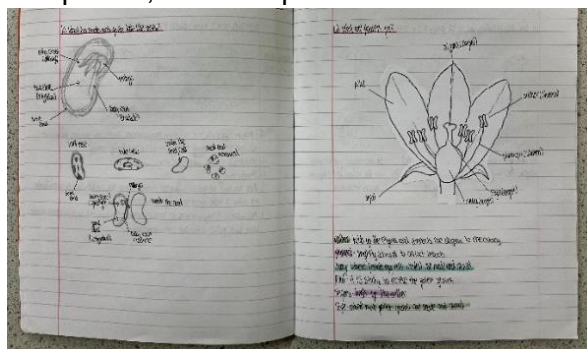
We congratulate Year Six for reaching the end of Key Stage Two and give our best wishes to those students moving to a new school. For those who are continuing their education at Holywell, we look forward to developing our scientific knowledge and understanding together in Key Stage Three and beyond!



Year Seven students studied 'Chemical Reactions'; building on the work they did in Year Five and Six. An intense focus on practical skills enabled the students to develop their approach to working scientifically. Investigations into evidence of a reaction, fizzy metals, carbonates, and burning helped to reinforce the importance of working collaboratively.

In their final half term at Holywell, Year Eight students focussed on 'Green plants', and 'Adaptation and inheritance'.

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 adaptation and inheritance, the students looked at variation and how it occurs, how we inherit our characteristics, natural selection and survival of the fittest, and extinction of species.



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 2025!
Have a wonderful summer!

Mr. Colbourne & The Science Department

Trips & Excursions!

On Friday 17th June, we took 124 children to watch Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Part 1 and Part 2, with dinner at McDonalds. We haven't taken such a large number before, usually a maximum of 62 children. We bit the bullet and trialled it. Children were amazing and had such a lovely time. They proved themselves to be courteous, responsible and appreciative of the time and effort it takes to put trips like this together.

Here are some student views and we hope we get some interest in the current Year 5's for the trip next year! Thank you to all the staff who supported and parents/carers for the late pick up!
Let magic continue to inspire

Mrs McCann

Tomas B & Harry D-R

"At the end of June, we went to London to watch Harry Potter and the Cursed Child in the theatre. It was a very fun trip. The best part of the show was when the dementors showed up for the first time. I feel that the best part was when the characters went into the lake and there was real water on the stage! I would recommend this trip to the Year 5's, next year, as the McDonalds with my friends was amazing!!

And we really enjoyed the trip together. Thank you to Mrs McCann for organising. She is the best Head of Year ever!"

Zayn A

"The Harry Potter trip was really good. I really enjoyed the dementors too. It was very enjoyable to sit and experience this with my friends. My jaw kept dropping at all the amazing acting on the stage. The McDonalds was fabulous and I liked walking through London."

Charlie L

"I thought I wasn't going to enjoy it before left school, and it turned out to be really good. I liked the dementors part, it was spooky and fun. Someone from our school screamed but I didn't find it that scary. I would recommend it to the Year 5's."

Chloe M & Millie W

"The trip was really good. I liked the ghost parts. We all had McDonald's for dinner and it was lovely to sit with friends. Mrs McCann showed us what to expect on the trip so we were not nervous. I bought a Hedwig Owl from the gift shop. It was nice to walk through London to get to McDonalds."

Evan & Harvie

"I loved the Harry Potter Trip. We sat near Mrs McCann and she always tapped us when it was going to be a little noisy or jumpy. My favourite parts of the trip, are the magic parts that look really realistic. I really loved the grave yard scene and the train scene. I would recommend this trip to Year 5. McDonald's was amazing!!!!"

Victoria H & Grace K-M

"In June, we went on a school trip to watch Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. Our favourite parts were when the dementors took a character away after they sacrificed themselves and in between part 1 and part 2, we got to walk to McDonalds for dinner. We did come home pretty late (11:30pm) but actually it was okay because we had no school the next day. The coach journeys were really fun. Thank you for organising!"

Katie M

"I liked the words (you will understand if you go watch it - without spoiling it). I also liked the flying actors in the air. I would recommend the trip!"

Jacob V

"Harry Potter was so good. We got to watch the play. There were some really good parts where the whole place just glowed up. My favourite part was when there was a jump scare at the grave yard scene. My second favourite was when the dementors took 3 people's souls. I would recommend the trip to Year 5, but be aware - you may scream!"

Leah D

"I found this trip really fascinating and good. My favourite part was the flying dementors. I feel like another favourite part was the swimming scene and real water on the stage. I would say, the Year 5's would love this trip because I feel like Harry Potter lovers NEED to see this. The effects on the stage are really cool. Being in a theatre is really good - I had never been to a theatre before this trip. I want to go on more theatre trips now. "



Transition Day

We try and work with the Lower Schools every year to help with building connections and particularly to help transition for new students become a smooth process. This year, whilst some children were on the PGL trip, we had some wonderful role models speak in front of the Year 4's and answer any burning questions they had. We had lots of questions about playtime, tuck and whether our teachers were as good as theirs. They are super lucky to have their Year 4 teachers and adults at Cranfield Academy and we cannot wait to officially greet them into our school in September.



Year 6 Update

We have made it to the end of Year 6 and I have enjoyed seeing so many children flourish! I have loved being back at work and I will miss being their Head of Year! But I will still be around, maybe I'll teach some of you in the future!

Elsie B

"I really enjoyed relaxing after the tests. The breakfast bits were really good. Thank you for organising Mrs McCann!"

Austin B

"On the SATS week, we got given breakfast every day. We had 3 English tests and 3 Maths tests over Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday we had some celebrations to mark the end of SATS week. In English we got given sweets and had some free time on the field. In Maths we got given ice lollies and time on the field/electronic devices. We also spent time with our form tutors out on the field. It was a great end to the week!"

Kevani B

"At the end of the SATS week, we played a big game of football, girls and boys, 40 of us. We started off with Wootton Vs Cranfield (any other children from other lower schools joined in a team too). We think, Wootton won 2-1. After that, in the other sessions, we did a tournament. It was fun to relax with friends. "

Alfie G

"I enjoyed the football and spending time with friends. It was nice to get some sweets and an ice lolly from our teachers. I loved getting breakfast, there were some pancakes, waffles, fruits, drinks and pastries."

Mrs McCann



PE Department News

Year 5 & 6 Mixed Rounders Tournament

A few weeks ago, we took 16 year 5 & 6's to Robert Bloomfield to compete against other schools in a rounders tournament. The students performed really well, especially as for some of them this was their first fixture representing Holywell.

A special mention to Issabella G and Robyn J for their great performance as our year 5 backstop and bowler duo. Joshua W also had a brilliant performance throughout the tournament making some phenomenal catches. The students all played exceptionally well and made us proud, representing the school so well.

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. There were many top-quality performances from students, with **St George** triumphing for the 3rd year in a row! A massive well done to all of those who took part or cheered from the side of the track.

New School Athletics Records

Joshua M – Year 7 - 200 m – 27.3 seconds

St Andrew Y8 Boys (Jamie L, Alfie S, Louie I, Will S) – 4 X 100m relay – 51.47 seconds

Congratulations!!!

Y7 Boys cricket

Following 3 victories in their group games, Holywell faced Arnold at Hexton CC, in the Partnership final. On a baking hot day, Holywell batted first and managed to get to a competitive 53 off 10 overs. Following some tight bowling at the back end of Arnold's innings and despite the scores being tied, Arnold progressed through to the County final by virtue of losing fewer wickets. An admirable effort from the boys and extremely unfortunate to lose by the barest of margins.

KS2 Cricket Tournament



Our boys and girls played at the Partnership tournament at Redborne.

The girls had some very convincing wins throughout their pool matches, winning the first game 61-40 and the second 83-35. They narrowly missed out on a place in the final but managed to claim 3rd place overall in an outstanding game winning 96-12.

Well done to all of the girls: Kayla, Eve, Robyn, Issabella, Mara, Sofia, Alena & Izzy.

The KS2 boys had a challenging set of pool matches and for the majority of the team, this was their first experience/fixture playing cricket. Standout players were Callan & Oscar; it was great to see them using their experience and knowledge to take leadership and support their team. Well done to: Joshua, Harry, Nivain, Oscar, Callan, Louie, Harrison & Joshua.

Cranfield Lower Sports day

Students from the year 8 option group were chosen to help at Cranfield Lower School's Sports day. On the Tuesday we were helping the reception students. The leaders ran a carousel of activities for the students and then encouraged them in their running races which included the egg and spoon race and relay.



On the Wednesday, a different group of leaders helped at the year 1 and 2 sports day and helped with activities to include speed bounce, javelin throw, relay races and throwing the beanbag into a hoop.

Thursday's leaders helped with the year 3 and 4 which was a more traditional sports day with events linked more closely with athletics. Again, the leaders were a great help in organising teams and encouraging the students.

We are so proud of all of the leaders who took part in these events which are a great link between the two Schools. We had some fantastic feedback from staff at the Lower School and hope to take some more leaders down next year.

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 year. 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



Young Carers 2024-25

A big shout out and well done to our Young Carers for a brilliant year!

Our Thursday drop in has been a great success this year with on average 20 Young People attending each week.

To celebrate last week, we held a Pizza Party and games ending up on the field in the sunshine. 29 Young Carers joined and it was to celebrate the funds and awareness they raised in March for "Young Carers Action Day" this year's theme was "give us a break!" and we did exactly that. Watch this space for future opportunities for our Holywell Young Carers!

The Thursday lunchtime drop ins will be continuing next year and is an open offer to anyone impacted at home, even if they are not providing necessary care it is a safe space to have a break and connect with other's in a similar situation to them.

Contact jjohnson@holywellschool.co.uk

If you have any questions about this or you want to highlight a young person who may benefit from some additional support. We are continuing to try and promote in school.

There is support in the community too, we highly recommend if you feel your child is undertaking additional responsibilities at home to reach out for more info/advice:

<https://youngcarersbedford.com/> (Bedford Borough)

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/182/young_carers (central beds)

Holywell Safeguarding Newsletter

MEET THE TEAM

July 2025
Issue: 7



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 keeping safe over the summer holidays, whether that be near water, road safety or knowing there are agencies to support you and your family over the summer.

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!



Holywell Support this Half Term

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



Holywell has been lucky enough to continue our relationship with a qualified boxing and wellbeing coach and with the Boxing Saves Lives organisation. We have been able to offer group sessions with both a Year 6 and a Year 8 group this half term.



Holywell has also been able to access some group support via CHUMS, who ended a football-based wellbeing intervention called TACTICS with our Year 5 students this half-term, the final in a number this academic year.



We have been able to access some support from the Education Mental Health Team at CAMHS – they have completed some transition support with a group of our Year 8's and we are hopeful for continuing support in the next academic year.

Holywell School is now LIVE across Social Media Pages



@HolywellCoE



Holywell School
Bedfordshire



@Holywellcoe



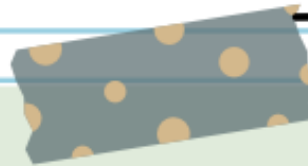
Please like/follow to receive updates



www.holywellschool.co.uk



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council



Both adults and children need to consider safety around rivers, ponds or any deep water over the summer break!

NFCC's Water Safety and Drowning Prevention Lead, Chris Kirby, said:
Many people also underestimate the dangers of jumping into water or taking a dip to cool off, with these dangers exacerbated for those with limited experience of outdoor swimming.

Meanwhile, unseen hazards and cold-water shock can mean even strong swimmers can get into trouble.

Simple tips to help stay safe include:

- Stick to proper pathways and stay clear of the water's edge
- Don't enter the water after drinking alcohol
- Walk a safe route home after drinking, with friends and away from water
- Cold water shock can kill, walking into the water rather than jumping in can help reduce the risk.

If someone is in trouble in the water,
the best way to help is by staying calm, staying on land, and remember Call, Tell, Throw:

- Call 999 for the emergency services
- Tell the struggling person to float on their back
- Throw them something that floats.

#BeWaterAware





child accident
prevention trust



Safety around roads - Information from the Child Accident Prevention Trust:

Pedestrians - older children :

Children find it difficult judging the speed and distance of traffic until they're at least eight. Accidents peak around 12, as children start making independent journeys

Where are the safe places to cross?

What should they do if they see their bus and they're on the other side of the road?

- They can be mesmerised by their mobiles, so remind them not to talk or text on their phones or listen to music while crossing the road.

Cycling

- Get your child into the habit of wearing their helmet.
- If you cycle as a family, remember to wear yours too
- Look out for cycle training.

Many schools offer courses to help children gain practical skills.

(Holywell ran Bikability sessions with a number of our Year 5 students this year ; a big thank you to Mr Eames for facilitating).



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

YoungMinds

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 331450

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://giveusashout.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-samaritan/

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 provide weight management programmes for all ages.
www.more-life.co.uk TEL: 0800 208 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.elft.nhs.uk/services/north-bedfordshire-camhs>

TEL: 01234 893301

SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE / LUTON CAMHS

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/camhs/where-we-work/south-bedfordshire-luton-camhs>

TEL: 01525 638613

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

Hydration Guidelines

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

Why is water important?

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

Organisation in school

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

Hairstyles, Make-up and Jewellery

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

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

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

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

Jewellery: 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. Nose studs are not permitted, except for religious purposes.

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

No Aerosols Please

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

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

Being September Ready!

There is nothing more annoying than 'Back to School' signs and displays in shops even before term ends ... however, the Summer is a great time to get things ready for September.

Equipment

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

Uniform

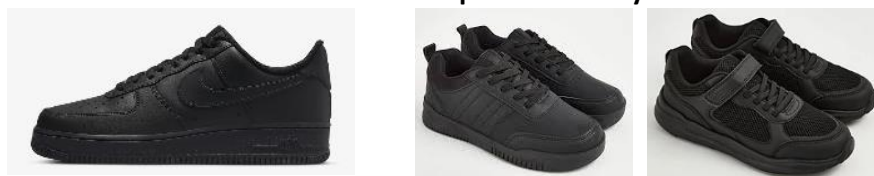
Blazer	Black
House Badge*	For blazer
Trousers / Short trousers	Plain grey tailored trousers, not cords or denims
Skirt	Plain grey, pleated skirt, knee-length
Jumper/Cardigan	Plain grey, V-necked
Shirt	White
School Tie*	Black and gold clip-on
Socks	White, grey or black (No trainer socks)
Shoes	Black (No boots, trainers or heels higher than 4cm)
Coat	Any plain style

Shoes should be black (No boots, trainers or heels higher than 4cm); just because a shop/retailer labels a pair of shoes as 'school shoes' does not automatically mean that these are the correct shoes for Holywell. We ask that shoes are shoes (!) ie. made of strong material (usually leather) with a stiff sole and a heel. Please see the updated images below of what is expected (NB. this is not an exhaustive list but it indicates the general styles).

Acceptable shoe styles



Unacceptable shoe styles



NB> Nike Air-Force Ones, Adidas Tenosaurus or any other sports branded footwear or non-branded trainer style are not acceptable footwear

