



Holywell News



Issue No: 185
May 2026

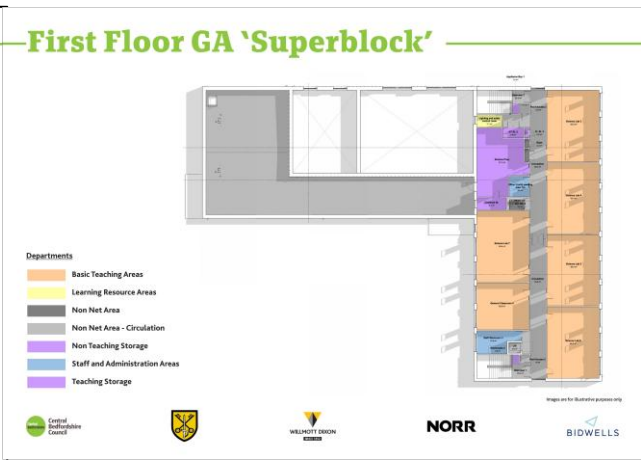
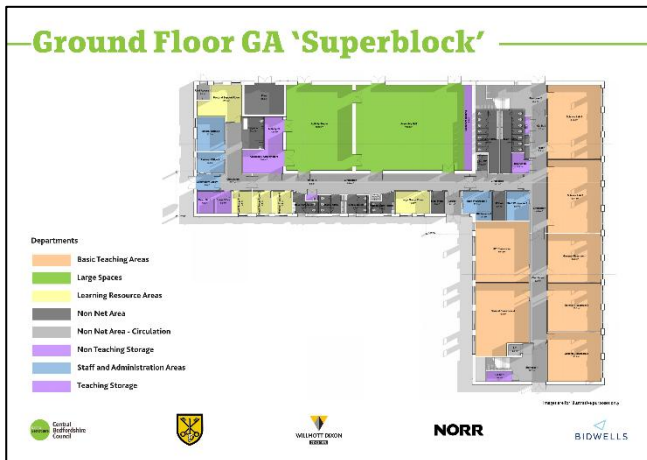
Headlines from Mr Simpson:

These are very exciting times at Holywell! We are in our last term as a Middle School and, following the engagement/consultation evening on the 21st May, we can now share the indicative images of our new buildings from Central Bedfordshire Council and our appointed construction company - Wilmott-Dixon. Some of the finer details are still to be agreed and some of the details in the images are for illustrative purposes only.

**REMEMBER STUDENTS
ARE BACK TO SCHOOL ON
MONDAY 1st June
HAVE A GOOD HALF-TERM**



Images are for illustrative purposes only



We're very happy with the design of the new 'Superblock'. This is a two-storey building which will include seven new Science laboratories, a new Assembly Hall with bleached seating, a Drama Studio, a new Computing suite, some general classrooms, an exams office and store and pastoral offices. This is due for completion in March 2028, so, in the meantime, we have a temporary Science block. This will start to be constructed after half term - apparently, once the groundworks are done, it takes about 2-days to install the actual pre-made building!

Staff are busily planning new schemes of learning for Year 9 and we are delighted that so many students are staying with us into Year 9. We are excited to take these wonderful students though to Year 11 and to GCSE. There will be a few other changes in September and later in the newsletter, we are sharing details of changes to our uniform. What will not change is the essential spirit and ethos of Holywell: we remain a proud Church of England School providing a values-based education.

Our value of the month for May is 'Resilience'. This was particularly helpful for our Year 6 students who had their SATs earlier in the month. They rose to the challenge and all tried their very best. Although we strive to have the best outcomes possible, we know that we have a wide and diverse student population and, while some students were supported to get greater depth in their assessments, for some, just actually coming into school to do the assessments was an achievement in itself. They all showed that determination to do their best, having that growth mindset and 'bounce-back' attitude when things did not go so well. We were very proud of them all. We are also grateful to families for all their continued support with all of our students.

SATs week also coincided with Mental Health Awareness Week (somewhat ironic given the pressure some students felt under due to SATs!). The 2026 campaign theme was "Action," focusing on practical, simple steps that individuals, workplaces, and communities can take to support good mental health. To acknowledge Mental Health Awareness Week, we had a delightful morning with the whole school going on our annual sponsored walk around Marston Thrift. It was a great reminder that something as simple as a walk in the countryside can bring balance and an opportunity to refresh and recharge – it is also a reminder that we have such a beautiful natural area right on our school doorstep. If you haven't been for a walk together as a family through the Thrift, do take the opportunity over the Bank Holiday weekend to explore ... there are other amazing natural areas nearby so why not take a trip to one (or more) of the following:



- Woburn Estate & Deer Park: Just a 10-minute drive from Cranfield, this historic landscape boasts ancient trees, rolling parkland, and herds of deer.
- Priory Country Park: Located on the outskirts of Bedford (about a 15-minute drive), this 360-acre green space features lakes, meadows, and woodland ideal for birdwatching, walking, and cycling.
- The Forest of Marston Vale
- RSPB The Lodge Nature Reserve: Situated near Sandy
- Barton Hills National Nature Reserve: Stunning chalk downlands and sparkling chalk streams, making it perfect for sweeping, elevated countryside views.
- Dunstable Downs: The highest point in Bedfordshire, offering dramatic views and popular for kite-flying and ridge walk

We have already had lots of amazing sponsorship donations - please don't forget to return your sponsor form and sponsor money after half term. You may pay online via ScoPay at any time before 5th June 2026.

RESILIENCE May 2026

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." ~Joshua 1:9~

Persevere, don't give up, keep going;

Have a growth mindset;

You never walk alone, there is always someone there - just reach out

When things are tough, take a minute, breathe, recharge, reconnect.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish all students a restful half-term break.

MG Simpson

Mike Simpson

Headteacher

MFL News

LanguageNut Easter Competition Results



I am very happy to announce that the **LanguageNut Easter Competition** winner for Holywell is... 🥁 *drum roll please* 🥁



MARK in 6EA! A fantastic achievement—well done, Mark! 🙌

🥈 **Second place** goes to **Anaëlle in 8KG**

🥉 **Third place** goes to **Noelle in 5GJ**

A huge congratulations to all of our winners for their outstanding effort, enthusiasm, and dedication to language learning! We had an incredible number of students taking part this year, showing great commitment and competitive spirit. It has been amazing to see so many of you engaging with LanguageNut, building your skills, and challenging yourselves over the Easter period.

🙌 **Well done to every student who participated**—you should all be very proud of your hard work! Keep up the fantastic effort, and we look forward to the next competition!

Year 8 Languages Residential Trip to France

Our recent Year 8 residential trip to Château du Broutel in Rue, France, from the 5th to 8th May 2026, was a fantastic success and a memorable experience for all involved.



Accompanied by Mrs Morey, Mr Colbourne, Mr Smith, Mrs Sillett and Mrs Nowak-Boccard, 45 excited students embarked on their journey early Tuesday morning. Spirits were high as the coach departed Holywell School. After arriving in France, the group settled into the beautiful grounds of Château du Broutel, where they were warmly welcomed and enjoyed an evening of team games to kick-start their adventure.



Day two offered cultural immersion with a visit to the traditional market in Berck-sur-Mer, giving students a chance to practise their French and explore local delights.



The afternoon brought a delightful experience at a local boulangerie, where students watched a bread-making demonstration and sampled fresh French pains au chocolat.

The day concluded with a camouflage game bringing lots of laughter.





Parc Astérix

Thursday was all about excitement and thrills with a full day at Parc Astérix, a theme park filled with rollercoasters and attractions inspired by the famous French comic series. It was undoubtedly a highlight, with students returning to the Château full of stories and smiles.

Before heading home on Friday, the group made a fascinating stop at a snail farm. Students discovered the fascinating world of heliciculture: the farming of snails. They learned about the snail's life cycle, habitat needs, and how these tiny creatures are raised for food and cosmetics.



A big **MERCI** to the parents who supported this enriching trip. Our students were absolutely fabulous ambassadors for the school all week. They threw themselves into every experience with enthusiasm, humour and maturity — from visiting a snail farm, to bread-making, to bravely practising their French in real-life situations.

German Karneval Mask Competition

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news from our talented students!

Our students recently took part in the UK-wide cultural and language competition where they designed German Karneval masks, combining creativity with German language learning. It was organised by the British-German Association.

We are incredibly proud to celebrate our winners and special mentions:



🏆 **Maisie** (Year 6) – Second Prize = Germany book and £10 Amazon Voucher

🥉 **Thamer** (Year 8) – Third Prize = German book and £10 Amazon Voucher

☀️ **Cailin** (Year 8) – Special Mention

☀️ **Kayla** (Year 7) – Special Mention

The judges were incredibly impressed by the imagination, effort, and brilliant use of German across so many entries.

A huge WELL DONE to ALL our students who took part. Your imagination and effort truly shone through, and you have done Holywell School proud.



GIMAGINE German Award

Wonderful and incredible news about Cailin in Year 8 and Zoe L in Year 7. Over the Easter holidays, both Cailin and Zoe were the first in school to successfully complete the Gimagine German Award! The Gimagine Award, provided by the Goethe-Institut, is designed to celebrate and encourage young learners beginning their journey in German. It recognises progress, creativity, and engagement with the language and culture.



By completing the award, Cailin and Zoe showed outstanding effort and commitment to learning German.

This is a fantastic achievement and a real reflection of their dedication and enthusiasm. Cailin and Zoe received an official certificate from the Goethe Institut London, a prestigious accolade that can enhance their university application, CV, and personal achievement in German.

We are looking forward to more Year 7 and 8 students completing the award before the end of this academic year!

Well done, Cailin and Zoe – a brilliant accomplishment!

MFL Star of the Week



Each week, the MFL Department celebrates outstanding students of French and German as our Stars of the Week! This recognition is awarded to learners who demonstrate exceptional effort, progress, or enthusiasm in their language studies. Students may be selected for their active participation, creativity, or notable improvement and their achievements are proudly showcased on our department noticeboards. Keep an eye on the school's social media pages for posts featuring weekly certificates and nominations. And if you are named a Star of the Week, you will also earn 10 House Points!



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.

NETFLIX

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.

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 make regular use of the *Languagenut* and *Duolingo* apps to support their language learning. Both platforms offer fun, interactive activities that help build confidence, strengthen vocabulary, and boost independent study.

🎧 **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!

📖 **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.

Are you thinking about your GCSE Options yet?



Choosing your GCSE subjects is an exciting step. French or German could open doors you haven't even imagined yet!

Studying a language is more than just learning to speak. It is about discovering new cultures, boosting your confidence, and standing out to future employers and universities. Whether you are passionate about travel, interested in international careers, or simply want a challenge that is both fun and rewarding, GCSE French or German could be the perfect

choice.

To help you and your child explore what studying a language at GCSE really involves, check out this short video from our exam board Pearson Edexcel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bplJmebh4XI>

It gives a clear overview of the course content, assessments, and the amazing benefits that come with language learning.

Don't miss the chance to unlock a world of opportunities!

Why not consider French or German as part of your GCSE journey?

Outstanding Success in the 2026 Oxford German Olympiad

We are delighted to share the fantastic news that our students have achieved exceptional success in the 2026 Oxford German Olympiad, a highly prestigious international competition organised by the University of Oxford. This year's results are truly outstanding, with our school celebrating two winners and two runners-up across Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. This remarkable achievement reflects the dedication, talent, and enthusiasm of our students for languages and intercultural learning.

Our Winning Students:

KS3 **Winner:** MARK (7DA) – Discover German 2

KS2 **Winner:** TRIAKSH (5GJ) – Discover German 1

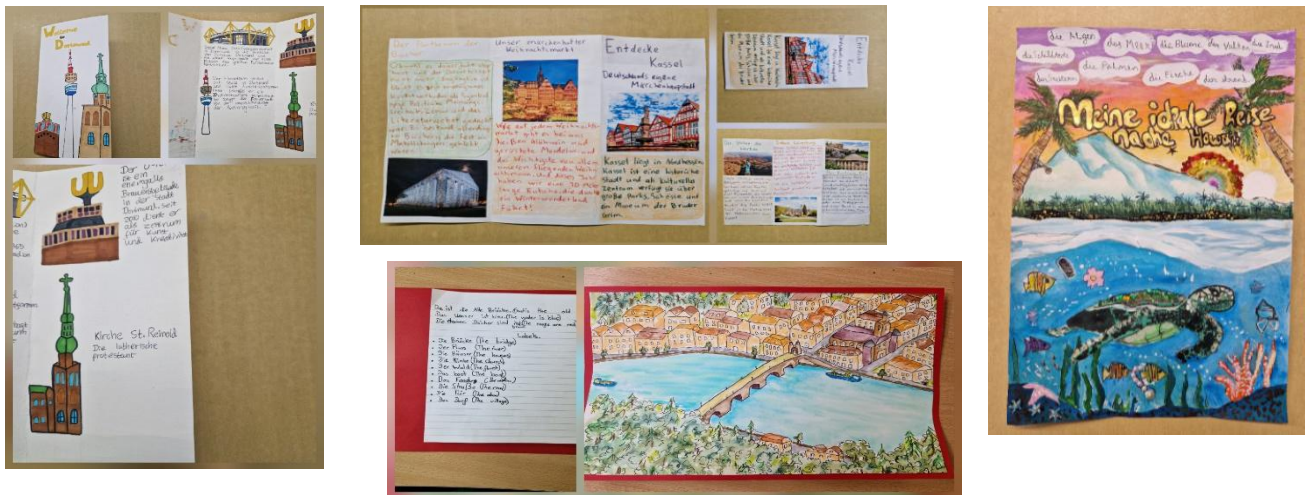
KS3 **Runner-up:** RAIDA (7DM) – Discover German 2

KS2 **Runner-up:** JAMES (6HJ) – Discover German 1

Each student demonstrated exceptional creativity, linguistic skill, and commitment in their entries, standing out in a competition with entries from schools across the UK and internationally. As a result of their success, all four students have been invited to attend a special prizegiving and celebration

ceremony at the University of Oxford on Thursday 25 June 2026. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their achievements in an academic setting of international prestige. We are incredibly proud of all four students for their hard work and determination. Their success in such a competitive and respected event is a testament to their talent and to the strength of language learning across our school.

Congratulations to all involved — an achievement to be truly proud of!



PE Department News



PE Clubs Timetable - Summer 2nd Half Term 2026

	13:05-13:35	13:35 - 14:05	15:45-16:45
Mon	Y7/8 Girls Rounders (SM/MK) - Field	Y5/6 Mixed Cricket (MK) - Field	KS2 Multi Sports (MK) - Sports Hall
Tues	Y7/8 Boys Cricket (ME/ZI) - Sports Hall	Y7/8 Girls Cricket (ES) - Field	<i>Rounders Fixtures Cricket Fixtures</i>
Weds	Y7/8 Mixed Flag Football (ZI) - Field		<i>Athletics Fixtures</i>
Thurs	Y7/8 Mixed Athletics (ME/CSI/MK) - Field	Y5/6 Mixed Rounders (MK) - Field	<i>Rounders Fixtures Cricket Fixtures</i>
Fri	Y5/6 Mixed Athletics (ZI/MK/ME) - Field		All Years Mixed Badminton (MK) - Sports Hall



Year 8 Girls Rounders

With over 30 girls at training most weeks, we have ensured that all students have played at least one game. Our first match was against a very strong Woodlands side who dominated from the start but with some excellent batting from our girls we managed to pull some rounders back.

Unfortunately, Woodlands A and B proved too strong and we lost both of our first games of the season.

We then travelled to Pixbrook and played a very evenly matched game finishing in a draw. Lucy V scored 5 of our rounders with some excellent batting. Our final league game was against Etonbury who were very tight on their fielding and caught some of our key batters out. Again, we played our best but it was not our day – next year!



Year 7 Girls Rounders



The Y7 girls started off the rounders season strong with a win over Arnold; they have also managed two other fixtures where they fell slightly short, however this did not influence the number of girls attending club, resulting in multiple teams and participants! The girls always showed outstanding resilience, sportspersonship and were always encouraging each other for their fielding and batting, as well as an overall encouraging, motivational attitude toward the club and fixtures! We have been so impressed with the participation and commitment at rounders club this half term and have planned some friendlies for after half term.

Athletics

Our Key Stage 3 athletics teams are in the process of finishing of their league season with the potential to still reach the 'A' final at Bedford athletics track. Strong performances all round in their opening fixtures have meant that they currently sit 2nd (boys) and 5th (girls) with one round of fixtures to go.

Year 7 Cricket

The Year 7 cricket team has seen two defeats in their opening games, against Henlow and Alameda. A washout at Etonbury means that they have 2 games remaining. The team has a core of cricketing enthusiasts, which is great to see! Special mention to Oscar E who is currently leading the runs scoring and wicket taking charts!

Year 8 Cricket

The year 8 cricket team has shown excellent resilience and determination this season with numerous players playing for the first time and other experienced players showing fantastic leadership skills. The boys have shown great teamwork and some individual moments of magic to bowl out opponents and hit outstanding shots to gain crucial runs for the team. Overall the boys have been a pleasure to work with this season and have all put in lots of effort and dedication throughout, showing excellent school values during all of our fixtures. Well done boys.

London Mini Marathon



This year we were successful again in gaining spaces in the 1-mile mini London marathon! We took students down to London on the Saturday before the London Marathon. Students ran the last mile of the course and crossed the finish line that was used in the actual marathon on the Sunday.

Throughout the day 18,000 School children aged from 5-12 years old took part from across England.

All students who took part showed the School values and it was so loved to have so many parents and family members along the course to support us while we ran.

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



London Main Marathon



On 26th April, Mrs King ran the London Marathon, raising an unbelievable £1350.00 for My Name's Doddie Foundation, which is set up to find a cure for Motor Neuron Disease.

Despite the 26.2 miles; every time she was met during the course by friends and family, it was with a big smile and she proudly crossed the finish line still smiling! An amazing day was had by all. Students and staff were full of congratulations for her the next day at school!



Maths News

UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge (JMC) 2026

On Wednesday, 29th April, some of our most confident maths students from Years 7 and 8 were invited to take part in the annual 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 (75%) of our students who participated managed to obtain these higher levels, which is an outstanding achievement. This year, Holywell students received 2 Gold, 19 Silver and 26 Bronze awards between them.

In addition, the very highest performers are invited to take part in the Junior Kangaroo, on June 9th. So, I would like to give a special mention to Kaitlin Willoughby ('Best in School') and Toby Ashpole, in Year 8, who both achieved this accolade. Congratulations also go to Timothy Bance for achieving 'Best in Year' (Year 7).

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

Music News



In April, 50 of our year 5 students got to work with the Philharmonic Orchestra which was an amazing opportunity for our musicians. All students agreed that they learnt so much from the workshop and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



R.E News



Year 5 had a fantastic day on their RE Lifepath trip, taking part in a one-day pilgrimage to learn about the life of John Newton, who lived in Olney and wrote the famous hymn *Amazing Grace*.

The children followed in John Newton's footsteps, learning about his involvement in the slave trade and how he eventually turned to God after surviving a fierce storm at sea. Throughout the day, students took part in a variety of engaging activities, including singing, dancing and interactive workshops.

There was lots of fun had by all and the trip provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to bring their RE learning to life whilst exploring themes of faith, forgiveness and change.

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YEAR 6 SATs – Well done Year 6!



Year 6 completed their KS2 SATs tests on the 11th - 14th May. They were very thoughtful, resilient and they all did their very best. Whatever the outcome of the tests, we are proud of our students and the progress they have made.

In preparation for the SATs, students designed Mind Monsters in their Art lessons.

These Mind Monsters were representations either of their SATs feelings OR representations of their protector monster ... something to keep them safe and happy through the tests.

Since the tests in English and Maths, they have been working on their English writing which teachers assess (and which is moderated by a team of external experts). All results will be available before the end of the school year.



Annual Thrift Walk



As part of caring for our mental health week, on 5th May the whole school took part in its annual sponsored Thrift Walk.

This is always a wonderful opportunity to raise some funds for our wellbeing provision in school and it also allows us to connect with nature and explore the wonderful Marston Thrift. Thankfully the changeable weather was on our side and all years successfully completed their walks, well done all!

PSHE Day

19th May was our annual PHSE day. Each year group had six activities based around a key PSHE theme. For the Year 5's, this was safety, Year 6 wellbeing, Year 7 British values and Year 8's careers.



World Cultural Diversity Day

As part of World Cultural Diversity Day our students thoroughly enjoyed creating a huge display of the world map to show the furthest places from which our students families' originate. Students had great fun finding out where in the world is the furthest place from Holywell that any of their parents or grandparents originate. They placed a sticker on the map to show their cultural heritage. This visual display helped to highlight and celebrate the wonderful cultural diversity that exists in our school.



On 21st May students were invited to come to school dressed in their cultural outfit or anything unique that represents their culture, heritage, or background.

Building The Bridge: Creating Inclusive Spaces for Every Child

Over the past few months, we have been incredibly fortunate to receive a number of grants and donations which are helping us transform SEND provision at Holywell and continue building *The Bridge* - our “home school within a school” provision designed to support students with anxiety, dyslexia, ADHD, emotionally based school non-attendance and other additional needs.

The vision behind The Bridge is simple: we want every child to feel safe, understood and able to succeed in school. For some young people, a busy mainstream classroom can feel overwhelming. The Bridge provides a calm, low-arousal environment where students can regulate emotionally, rebuild confidence and continue learning while remaining connected to school life and friendships.

One area we are especially excited about is our growing *Reading for Pleasure* library. Thanks to the Inclusion Innovation Fund and additional grants, we have been able to create a fantastic collection of graphic novels, illustrated texts and accessible reading materials chosen specifically to engage reluctant readers and neurodiverse learners.

The shelves are now packed with favourites including *Bunny vs Monkey*, *Dog Man*, *Donut Squad*, *Tom Gates*, *Lottie Brooks* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and the classic “Bum or Face” animal books our students genuinely love reading. Graphic novels and illustrated texts can be hugely beneficial for children with dyslexia, ADHD and working memory difficulties because they reduce cognitive overload, provide visual context and help sustain attention and enjoyment. Reading should feel joyful and achievable, and these books are already making a huge difference to confidence and engagement.

We have also purchased a number of books to support adults with understanding neurodiversity and anxiety. We have several books we are happy to lend out to any family who would like to do research but are unsure what to read.

A huge thank you must go to [The Book House in Thame](#), who carefully curated the collection for us. Their expertise meant we could build a library full of high-interest, accessible books without having to reinvent the wheel ourselves!

Alongside the reading provision, every English classroom is now equipped with a writing slope. These are simple but incredibly effective tools which support posture, handwriting and visual tracking. For students with dyslexia, ADHD or working memory difficulties, writing slopes can reduce physical strain, improve focus and make extended writing tasks feel far more manageable. Small adjustments like these can make a very big difference in helping children feel successful in the classroom.

The grants have also allowed us to purchase sensory equipment, comfortable furnishings, Chromebooks, emotional literacy resources and intervention materials to make The Bridge a genuinely supportive and inclusive space.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible generosity and support of our wider community. We would like to say a massive thank you to:

- Wootton Parish Council
- Councillor Bongo
- Heart of Marston Trust
- Central Bedfordshire Council for the SEND Innovation Fund
- The Gale Trust
- The Book House in Thame

Your belief in our vision is helping us create meaningful opportunities for children who need them most. Every donation, grant and conversation of support is helping us build a school where all children feel they belong.

We are incredibly proud of what is being created at Holywell and look forward to sharing more updates as The Bridge continues to grow.



Term Dates for this Academic Year 2026

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

Term Ends: Friday 17th July 2026

Closure Day: Monday 20th July 2026

SUMMER TERM TEST DATES 2026

PLEASE DO **NOT** BOOK HOLIDAYS DURING THE FOLLOWING
ASSESSMENT PERIODS:

All Year Groups – GL Assessments

Week commencing 8th June 2026

Please note that dates may differ from other schools.

Dates are correct at the time of printing.

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 for School



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

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 proposed 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, there are an increasing number of families taking ‘the odd day’ here and there ... this is having a HUGE impact on learning.

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.

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

School Caterers

Please note the **School Caterers operate a cashless system, so no money is taken at the kitchen.** Please can parents regularly check the balance on their child's Parent Pay account via the ParentPay website: <https://www.parentpay.com/>.

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.

For those students having school dinners provided by AiP, please ensure you have completed their 'Special Dietary Allergy/Medical Meal Request Form', available from the Kitchen.

Dropping Off and Picking Up

We ask parents not to drive their vehicles onto the school grounds at the beginning and end of the school day. This is for safety reasons, due to the presence of large numbers of students and the school buses arriving and departing.

Please also drive carefully and considerately around the area of Red Lion Close, as students often dash across the road for their "lift" home without taking the usual care. Please also ensure that you do not block residents' driveways at any time.

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
- 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.

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT – A REMINDER

School Organiser (replacements via Scopay)	Handwriting pen
Green pen / Red pen / Blue pen / Black pen	Pencil
Ruler	Eraser
White board pen	Pencil Case
Reading book	Water bottle (labelled with name!)
Bag (rucksack)	Pencil sharpener
Coloured pens or pencils	Calculator
Protractor	Dictionary

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.**

UNIFORM FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

Following consultation with students, families, staff and governors, we are delighted to provide details of our uniform changes for September 2026. In designing the new uniform, we have tried to make things simple, affordable and comfortable, whilst still remaining smart and something students can wear with pride. We have also been conscious of the new DfE guidelines for uniform and our branded items are in line with that guidance (only three compulsory branded items and the school tie).

The main changes are:

- Replacing blazers with a school-branded jumper (with the school badge and House colours)
- Moving from grey to black trousers/skirts
- Simplifying the shoe policy

Students were very keen to keep ties and shirts and we agree that this maintains an element of formality and professionalism; the move to jumpers instead of blazers maintaining a sense of community, whilst being comfortable and affordable.

Current item	Changes/New item
School Blazers	Not required/part of the school uniform
School Jumpers	Changed to V neck with the house colour edging the school logo - Compulsory
School Tie	No change – clip on black and gold
School Trousers	Changed colour from grey to black Black-tailored trousers; not cord or denim
School Skirt	Changed colour from grey to black Pleated skirt is still a requirement
School Shirt	No change – White shirt
Footwear	Black – sensible footwear, plain black footwear with black logos are an acceptable comfortable alternative (non-canvas). No heels higher than 4cm
Summer Polo Shirt	No change – White polo shirt in the summer term

PE reversible Rugby Shirt PE Mid-Layer Top PE Polo shirts	No change – Logo item Rugby shirt - Compulsory Plus at least one of the other two items (mid layer top or/and polo shirt)
PE Joggers	No change – plain black tracksuit bottoms/leggings
PE shorts	No change – plain black shorts Minimum 5-inch inseam
PE socks	No change – knee length black and short white
Football boots	No change – suitable for the school field (shin pads and gum shields are still required)

Changed item – School Jumper	Changed item – School Skirt	Changed item – School Trousers
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We will continue to make reasonable adjustments as necessary for students with sensory needs. If families need to 'phase in' the new uniform (especially changing colours of trousers and skirts), we are happy to accommodate this.

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.

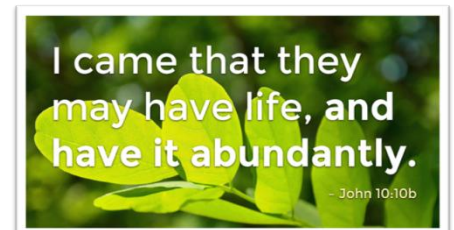
- **Mobile Phone Policy** – Please remember that we are a non-smart-phone school. Smart phones are not to be brought on-site. The only students with permission for smartphones in school are those with medical conditions (eg. diabetics whose insulin levels need monitoring) or serious safeguarding issues. 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.
- **Sunhats and Sun Protection Cream** – Please ensure that your children are equipped for any hot weather with a sunhat (baseball cap style) and sun protection cream. Students can bring sun cream into school, but must be able to apply it themselves – staff are unable to apply it for them.
- Students are encouraged to have water bottles and sun hats with them during P.E. lessons.
- **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.

Bishop Richard comes to visit



We were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Bedford – Bishop Richard – to Holywell on the May. Bishop Richard hosted a lovely collective worship all around our school mission of ‘Live Life in all its Fullness’. Bishop Richard’s take on this was that:

- You are precious
- You are compassionate
- You are never alone



He also reminded us that the message of John 10:10 is:

- To know that you are loved by God
- To know that you are called to love others
- To know that Jesus is always with you

As well as a tour of the school, Bishop Richard met with members of the Junior Worship Team and the Values Ambassadors. They had the opportunity to ‘Grill a Bishop’ and they asked all sorts of fascinating questions. We found out that Bishop Richard had a strong calling to the church from the age of 16 and has had this role for 14 years. He talked about the process of becoming a bishop and that he was humbled to be asked by the church to take on this role – saying that they thought he could do this job and that they saw in him gifts that he could share. On challenging days, he has a strong sense that God is in charge and he most enjoys meeting people who have had a difficult time and have come to faith out of these struggles. His advice was that we should always aim to build bridges not fences, always aiming to be peaceful problem-solvers. His favourite Bible quote is John 10:10 and he also likes Peter’s first letter as it is a letter of hope. Bishop Richard’s favourite parable is that of the Lost Sheep – he likes the image of Jesus as The Good Shepherd and Bishop Richard always carries his staff with him as a physical reminder of this. When not ‘at work’, Bishop Richard enjoys cooking, theatre and reading.



Holywell Safeguarding Newsletter

MEET THE TEAM

May 2026
Issue: 11



Mrs Stewart-McAlpine
Deputy Head & DSL



Ms Newbury
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.

This edition of our newsletter focuses on changes and transitions.
As a school we are about to go through many changes and many of our students will be transitioning to new schools in September.
We are also welcoming a new member to the Safeguarding Team:
Ms Newbury, our new Family Support Worker!

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!



There are lots of resources online to support children transition to secondary school and to start a new school. We have listed a number of supportive sites and organisations offering advice below for parents and carers to access.

The BBC has a number of pages dedicated to supporting transition to new school – please see below:

Advice for parents who have a child starting secondary school this year, with tips on the emotional and practical sides of the transition.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/groups/c5vpkq11934t>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/articles/zkc9pg8>



B B C
BITESIZE

There are organisations such as Young Minds and Place2Be that offer advice and short videos for parents and children supporting children going to new schools and transitioning to secondary:

www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/getting-ready-to-start-secondary-or-high-school/

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/transitions-and-times-of-change/>

www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/helping-your-child-manage-the-move-from-primary-to-secondary-school/

<https://www.annafreud.org/resources/schools-and-colleges/supporting-childrens-transition-to-secondary-school-guidance-for-parents-and/>



YOUNGMINDS
Fighting for young people's mental health