



Holywell News



Issue No: 186
July 2026

Headlines from Mr Simpson:

It is the last day of the academic year and it seems strange writing this with no students on site! Thank you again for being so understanding about our early closure to support with preparatory works for our Summer refurbishment and the arrival of our temporary Science Block.

**REMEMBER STUDENTS
ARE BACK TO SCHOOL ON
FRIDAY 4TH SEPT
HAVE A GOOD SUMMER!**

We have had a productive two days – the Science rooms and the Food Tech / Textiles room are emptied and everything is being stored in the gym. The temporary Science block will be in place for the start of term, with the revamped Food and Textiles due to be handed over on the 12th September and the refurbished Art Rooms by the 24th September. Other rooms have been swapped and prepared ready for September and to enable us to still deliver DT and Art while the rooms are completed.



The move to becoming a secondary school is all very real now and we were delighted to celebrate the end of the academic year with all of our students. It is a historic moment for Holywell ... our last day as a middle school. At the Year 8 Awards Evening, I shared with students, staff and parents/carers some of the entries from the original school Log Book. This was the first entry:

Preamble.
The School building was completed and handed over in February, 1973.
The Headmaster, Mr. A. J. Morgan, B.Sc., was appointed on January 22nd, 1973 - the appointment taking effect from April 30th, 1973

The school opened with 105 students on roll

School Opened ~ September 4th, 1973.
105 on roll ~ 52 ex. Woolton
44 ex. Cranfield
6 ex. Aspley Heath.
3 others.
Thursday, 6th September
Blackboards (rotary) fitted.
Bell control clock fitted.

As we close the doors on Holywell as a Middle School, we have 657 students on roll – with students from Cranfield, Wootton, Marston Moretaine, Kempston, Milton Keynes, Wixams and several other local villages.

With regard to that last Log Book entry, I remember the rotary blackboards with their green surface and chalk to write on them ... we have come a long way since 1973 with every classroom now fitted with a smart, interactive board ... what hasn't changed is that there is still a wonderful teacher guiding the students in their learning through the lesson. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated team of staff we have at Holywell who support our students – this includes our frontline teaching staff, our SEND team and teaching assistants our support staff and our site team. Many staff have been at Holywell for a long time and it is this continuity and community that helps us to be the best we can be. As we transition over the next few years, there will be changes and developments; what will remain is that Holywell spirit and our core values of kindness, respect and responsibility. We have the same high expectations in terms of living our values, striving to be the best we can be (academically and socially) and working together in community. There will, however, be some changes and adaptations to those expectations in terms of practicalities in September – from the obvious changes to our uniform (a reminder of the changes and details of how to order uniform is later in the newsletter) to some more subtle changes to our rewards and consequences – we will still be using our Housepoint system and our Consequence Staircase (more details later in the newsletter). All of which is intended to ensure that Holywell remains a safe, focussed, learning environment where everyone can thrive.

The preparations for the building work has not stopped us from having our usual end-of-term activities and, although some have had to be adapted, we have enjoyed Sports Day (well done to St Andrew!!), Year 8 Awards Evening, Years 5-7 Awards Assemblies, Summer Concert, an end-of-year trip for all year groups, Thanksgiving Service at the Church and a fantastic Charity Fayre. The Charity Fayre raised £2,014.71 for our partner school – Misijute School - in Tanzania.



The theme of the Thanksgiving Service organised and led by Miss Brumsden, the Junior Worship Team and Choir was 'Journeys'. A very apt theme as we all head off into the Summer with different trajectories for September. There's a line in one of my favourite musicals (children of Eden) which says to 'make every journey worth the taking'. I urged students during our final worship and church services to think about the journeys they take and to make sure that whatever they do is worthwhile and has a positive impact. I wish all of our students success for the future – whether they are leaving us to carry on their learning journey elsewhere or whether they are journeying with us here at Holywell, we are proud of all our young people and we cherish the time that we have had with them .

Thank you to parents and carers too for your continued support and interest in Holywell – 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 Friday 4th September.

All best wishes always

MG Simpson

Mike Simpson

Headteacher

Staff News

We have a number of staff who are moving on from Holywell this Summer.

After over 10 years at Holywell, Mrs French is moving away from the area to be closer to family and to start a new teaching journey. We thank Mrs French for her leadership of RE and History and for all her hard work on Values, Student Voice and Protective Characteristics.

Staff in school are taking on Mrs French's responsibilities:

- Mrs Aldous is Subject Leader for RE
- Mr Ulph is Subject leader for History
- Miss Stephens is ECT and Work Experience Coordinator
- Mrs Hayle is looking after Values and Student Voice

We have also had some external funding to develop our Careers provision and Miss Brumsden has been appointed as our Careers Coordinator.

Miss Wall is completing her contract covering for Miss Mayles who has been on maternity leave. Miss Wall has been a great help with all of the drama activities in school and we wish her every success for the future.

Following her return from maternity leave, Miss Mayles is stepping down from her Subject Leader role from September and we welcome our new English Subject Leader – Mrs Murphy. Mrs Murphy is coming to us from a secondary school in Milton Keynes and is a very experienced secondary subject leader. She is also an examiner for GCSE and will be able to guide and support the English team as they take on the challenge of GCSE English Language and Literature.

Mrs Knight has also completed her short-term contract with us as Science teacher and we thank her for sharing her scientific knowledge and passion.

Mrs Day – our Science Technician – is also moving on and is taking up a post at Wootton Secondary. We have appointed a new Science technician and Mr Macfarlane will be joining us in September just as we move into our new Science accommodation.

Mr Massiah has so enjoyed his time as Cover Supervisor at Holywell that he has decided to return to full-time teaching and is taking on a Food Tech post in Leighton Buzzard.

Mrs Egerton – one of our excellent teaching assistants – is also having a career change and is leaving to train as a Building Control Surveyor.



AUTUMN TERM 2026

Closure Days: Tuesday 1st September, Wednesday 2nd September and Thursday 3rd September 2026

Term Starts for all students: Friday 4th September 2026

Half term: Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October 2026

Closure Day: Friday 27th November 2026

Term Ends: Friday 18th December 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)
Green pen / Red pen / Blue pen / Black pen
Ruler
White board pen
Reading book
Bag (rucksack)
Coloured pens or pencils
Protractor

Handwriting pen
Pencil
Eraser
Pencil Case
Water bottle (labelled with name!)
Pencil sharpener
Calculator
Dictionary

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 maintains a sense of community, whilst being comfortable and affordable. Please note that whilst we would like all students to wear the new uniform, we are happy for students to transition into the new uniform as they grow out of items (especially trousers and skirts. We would like as many students to wear the new jumper as possible.

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 – any all black footwear (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)

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.



Hairstyles

Hair should be its natural colour. Students are expected to have moderate hairstyles - patterns and track-lines should not be cut into hair. If you are in any doubt about the validity of a hairstyle, please contact the school before getting the haircut.

Jewellery and Make-up

ALLOWED

Watch

One plain ring

Plain stud earrings

Religious jewellery (eg Kara)

NOT ALLOWED

Smartwatch

Fashion rings

Hoop earrings, nose piercings

Necklaces, bracelets

Make-up

Fake or acrylic nails

Nail varnish.

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.)
- **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 and Consequences** - We are committed to maintaining high standards of behaviour and creating a calm, purposeful learning environment where every student can succeed. The revised detention system forms part of this commitment and will help us respond consistently when our expectations are not met. From the start of the new academic year, our detention system will change. Previously a C2 would warrant a 55-minute lunchtime detention. This will now be a 45 minute after-school detention. We believe this change will allow students to make the most of their lunch break, giving them the opportunity to eat, socialise and reset before afternoon lessons, while also ensuring that sanctions have a greater impact and provide meaningful time for reflection and restorative conversations where appropriate. Further details, including the procedures, timings and how parents will be informed, will be shared with you at the beginning of the new term.
- **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.

- **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.

PE Department News

This half term has seen all that the British weather has to offer...searing heat or torrential downpours have meant that unfortunately a large number of fixtures cancelled this year. We will also have the building work to contend with next year but hope to still hope to run a full program of fixtures, albeit with probably more away fixtures than home ones.

Sports Day:

Thank you for your understanding with our slightly modified approach to Sports day this year. We always look forward to having so many of you come and spectate but once we realised that having you on site was just not possible, we wanted to make sure the students still got a great experience from one of Holywell's longest running traditions.

As always there were many top-quality performances from students, with **St Andrew** triumphing overall, breaking St George's run of wins. A massive well done to all of those who took part or cheered from the side of the track.

District Athletics

Over 20 schools were in attendance for the annual District athletics competition. Holywell performed brilliantly over the course of the day with overall wins for Archie, Poppy and Oscar. The Year 8 boys team managed to finish 3rd overall. Well done to everyone!

New School Athletics Records

Archie Nye – Year 8 Boys 100m

Joshua Massey – Year 8 Boys 200m

Oscar Elphick – Year 7 Boys Shot Put

Poppy Brandom – Year 8 Girls Long Jump

Jonas Gibbons, Archie Nye, Tom Marshall, Sam Quirk – Year 8 Boys 4 X 100m relay

Congratulations!!!

KS2 Rounders Tournament

Y5 rounders:

Having only been introduced to rounders this year, the Y5 rounders team had a successful tournament winning all of their pool games through excellent batting, fielding, teamwork and communication. Coming up to the final, where they sadly fell short by two rounders to a strong RBA side, finishing runners up out of eight teams. The whole team was praised for their representation of Holywell and how encouraging and kind they were to not only each other but the opposing schools.

Y6 Rounders:

The Y6 rounders team also saw success winning both of their pool games, however they fell slightly short in the match final decider and had to then battle for third place. Having being at a slight disadvantage batting first, yet still scoring high, they knew their fielding had to be strong to claim the bronze and through some excellent bowling, catching, vision and communication, the Y6 team claimed the bronze overall!

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!

MFL News

GIMAGINE German Award Wonderful and incredible news about our talented linguists in Years 7 and 8.



Over the summer term, selected students at our school successfully completed the GIMAGINE German Award from the Goethe-Institut. This award recognises students' commitment to language learning and intercultural understanding, with students completing minimum of 25 hours of independent German learning in



order to achieve the certificate.

The GIMAGINE Award provides students with an official certificate of completion and can also be used as evidence towards the Skills section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Some of our students have used this achievement towards completing their Bronze or Silver DofE Awards, while all students listed below successfully completed the GIMAGINE certificate.

Congratulations to the following students for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm for learning German:

Year 7: Anika, Eleanor, Jessica, Samuel, Vito, Raida and Zoe L.

Year 8: Nirvaan, Cailin and Isabelle N.

We are extremely proud of their commitment to developing their German language skills through independent learning and to broadening their intercultural awareness. Well done to all our students for this fantastic achievement!

Oxford German Olympiad 2026 Well done and huge congratulations to our students who took part in the Oxford German Olympiad 2026.

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of Triaksh (Year 5), James B (Year 6), Mark (Year 7) and Raida (Year 7), who were invited to attend the prize-giving ceremony at Oxford University, where they celebrated their success alongside other talented students from across the country. Their creativity, enthusiasm and commitment to exploring the German language have been recognised through this fantastic achievement.

The competition encouraged students to develop their German vocabulary while using their imagination and creativity to bring their ideas to life. Through this challenge, they gained confidence in experimenting with the language and discovered the enjoyment of learning something new.



We are incredibly proud of all four students for representing our school with such enthusiasm and dedication. Their achievements are a wonderful example of how creativity, curiosity and a

willingness to try something new can lead to great success. Congratulations once again to Triaksh, Mark, James and Raida on this fantastic achievement!

Summer Language Survival Kit: Keep Your French & German Fresh!

BREAKING NEWS: Scientists have discovered that French and German disappear from your brain after six weeks of nothing but ice cream, late lie-ins and endless scrolling...

(Okay... maybe not.) But just 10 minutes a day over the summer can help keep your language skills fresh and make September feel a lot less scary.

Our Summer Survival Kit is full of easy, fun ideas—no textbooks required! From watching a favourite film in French or German to learning a few new words, listening to music or changing your phone language, there is something for everyone.

Give a few challenges a go and let your future self say... "Merci!" or "Danke!" Have a fantastic summer!



German

Why Choose German?

Learning German is fun, exciting, and opens doors to opportunities around the world. Whether you dream of travelling, working in science or engineering, or simply want a skill that makes you stand out, German is a fantastic choice.

What Will We Learn in German Lessons?

German lessons are about much more than learning vocabulary and grammar. You will discover German-speaking culture through food, festivals, music, sport, famous castles and beautiful places. You will also learn about everyday life, traditions and what school is like for young people in Germany. You will also have the opportunity to work towards the GIMAGINE Award from the Goethe-Institut. This award recognises your language and intercultural learning and provides an official certificate. It can also be used as evidence towards completing the Skills section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Exciting Visits

Goethe-Institut, London

Visit Germany's official cultural institute and take part in interactive language workshops, cultural activities and events. You'll meet other students learning German and discover how the language can open doors to future study, travel and careers.

University of Cambridge

Take part in a German Film and Language Day, where you'll watch a German film at the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse, enjoy lunch at King's College and participate in language workshops inspired by the film. It's a fantastic opportunity to experience university life and see how enjoyable learning German can be.

Speaking another language really makes you stand out from the crowd.

A Skill for Life

Speaking another language helps you stand out from the crowd. Whether you choose a career in business, engineering, medicine, science, law, teaching, travel or technology, German is a skill that will stay with you for life.



Are you thinking about your GCSE Options yet?



exam board Pearson Edexcel:

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?

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bplJmehb4XI>

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!

R.E

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 Monday 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 just finished a look at justice and injustice in the world today, examining what key individuals and religions are doing to make things better around the world. We hope that this inspires them to campaign against injustice in their adult lives!

Business Option

Our Year 8 Business Option Group recently enjoyed an exciting educational visit to the Museum of Brands, where they took part in two engaging workshops: Smoothie Lab and Brand Evolution.

During the Smoothie Lab workshop, students worked collaboratively to design, develop and market their own smoothie brand. They considered target audiences, packaging design, pricing and promotional strategies, applying many of the business concepts they have been learning in lessons. The activity encouraged creativity, teamwork, communication and problem-solving while highlighting the importance of effective marketing and product development.

After a busy morning of learning, everyone enjoyed a relaxing lunch together in the park, making the most of the beautiful weather with packed lunches and the opportunity to spend time with friends. Students were treated to a well-earned ice lolly to help cool down in the summer sunshine.



In the afternoon, The Brand Evolution workshop gave students the opportunity to explore how some of the world's most recognisable brands have changed over time. They discovered how branding reflects changes in society, technology and consumer behaviour, developing their analytical skills and gaining a deeper understanding of how businesses adapt to remain successful in an ever-changing marketplace.

The students were outstanding ambassadors for the school throughout the day. Museum staff commented on their enthusiasm, excellent behaviour and willingness to participate in discussions and activities. They represented the school with maturity, respect and curiosity. The visit was a valuable opportunity to bring classroom learning to life, and we look forward to building on these experiences as our Year 8 Business students continue to develop their understanding of the exciting world of business.



Careers News



After a busy year which started in September with a visit from Hexagon Geosystems and spot the robotic dog, Thursday 2nd July was the Holywell Take Your Child To Work Day for year 8 students.



We had an amazing 96 students taking part and visiting a very diverse array of work places. The students shadow a family member or friend of the family for the day and are given a booklet to complete which sets them some tasks, to ensure they make the most of the experience. Remember it's never too early to have discussions with your children about future pathways. The following websites: [talking futures](#) and [skills for careers](#) are a great place to start.

Sustainability and Climate Action

We have been working hard behind the scenes to embed a clear message about sustainability and reducing the huge amount of carbon dioxide created from running a school. Staff and students have been talking more and more about caring for their environment and thinking about how we can help our planet by changing some of the things we do. Next year is a big year for us and we hope to ensure that this message comes across in everything we do from our lesson planning to our lunch choices. Students will be leading on 'action led' projects to raise awareness and create genuine change. We hope that parents will support students in striving to get single use plastics out of Holywell altogether.

Eco Option

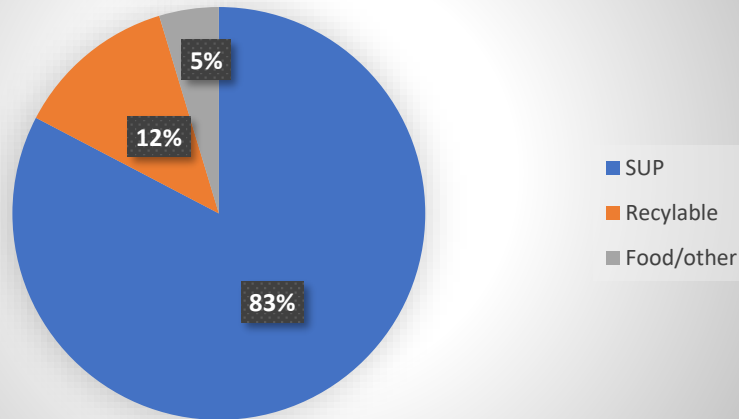
Some of the amazing work completed this year can be seen in all subject areas. The Year 8 Eco Option devised and led a whole school Environmental Survey and gathered data on single use plastic (SUP) in school. As you can see most of our litter (items not in the bins) in school is brought in from home and much of it ends up on our playground and in hedgerows. Eco Option students presented an assembly to Year 5 students to explain how this affects the local wildlife and birds.



SUP Single Use Plastic:
e.g. sweet, crisps, biscuit wrapper, cling film



January 15 Minute Litter Pick



Gardening Club



Gardening Club grew in strength this year with 2 sessions running but the new build sadly closed us off at the prime planting time! We still managed to get some beans, sunflowers, cabbage and cucumbers which somehow survived the heatwave. Either way it continues to astound us how much biodiversity it brings in, The Tuesday group discovered a huge Privet Moth last week and we have so many butterflies and insects visiting us.

Students also planted dozens of sunflower seeds in decorated paper cups (previously used in a milkshake sale) and sold them to students and staff, raising funds for both charity and our gardening club.

One of the positive effects of having the builders in is a beautiful wildflower meadow that has sprung up at the rear of the school where the mowers have been unable to access. It's only temporary but gives us an idea for some smaller areas next year.



We are always on the lookout for help with funds or donations of seeds, compost, mature manure, raised beds, PPE equipment if anyone can give a little it goes a long way for us.

Trips & Excursions!



Year 5 had an excellent time at Whipsnade Zoo on 2nd July!

Some excellent behaviour and compliments from the public. Highlights were seeing the Red Panda and Bear's up close. We also got to see the beautiful butterfly house and the amazing Bird Show!



Year 6 had a fabulous day at Whipsnade on 1st July!

With two coaches and the mini-bus, they were able to have a fun packed animal searching day! We were lucky

enough to have 5 Work Experience helpers for the day as well! Highlights were the beautiful Dunstable Downs scenes and the Giraffe's!



On one of the hottest days, we managed to take 62 children to London to watch Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Part 1 and 2! The aircon

was blasting in the coach and the children were very excited! The shows were incredible and thankfully, McDonalds were great with our large order and everyone had full tummies in between the shows! Well done Year 6. We hope this has inspired you to become an actor/actress when you're older, or try a little bit of magic!

Drama



The year 8 drama option group had a trip to see Dreams and Wishes Theatre Company perform 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' at The Venue in Milton Keynes in May. It was a great afternoon and the students were absolutely exemplary audience members, they represented the school brilliantly. They really enjoyed seeing Mr Johnson, a past teacher at Holywell. They also got to meet James and Rachel, who played two of the leading roles!



In June, Mrs Gittins, Mrs Gough, Miss Wall and Mr T brought the school production of 'Matilda' to the stage! The cast of over 40 students had been working incredibly hard for several months on the production. There were some super performances and wonderful singing. It was fantastic to see so many parents/ carers and friends supporting the young people. We were very proud of everyone involved and hope to see even more students getting involved next time!



We were so impressed by the whole performance and all the pupils did you proud. Absolutely incredible production!! Well done everyone you absolutely smashed it
It was amazing, well done to all the cast and crew for a fantastic performance

Absolutely loved watching tonight's performance, everyone was incredible with their acting skills and amazing singing throughout the show. Well done!

Absolutely fantastic... what an amazing cast of talented young people. They should all be very proud

Congratulations on a fantastic performance.

Thoroughly brilliant

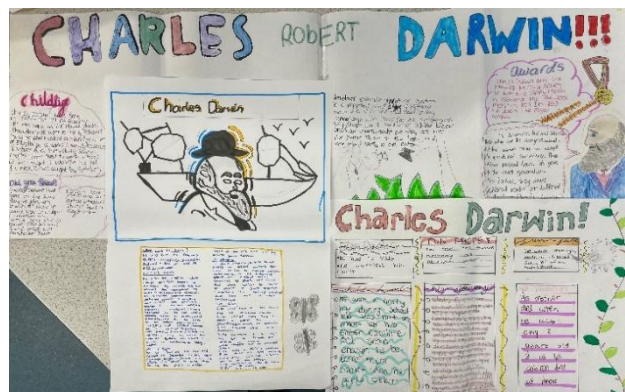
We were memorised by the show!

Science Department News

As we reach the end of another academic year, we reflect on the achievements of our students and look forward to the future with ambition, optimism and a determination to continue striving for personal success. We would like to thank Mrs Knight for all her hard work, dedication and contribution to the Science Department and wish her every success in her next adventure. In September, we look forward to moving into our new temporary Science block. These improved facilities will provide an outstanding learning environment for our students as we continue preparing to deliver a full secondary Science curriculum and develop our department for the future.

During the final term, our **Year 5** students engaged brilliantly with the topic 'Reversible and Irreversible Reactions', exploring the differences between chemical reactions and physical changes. The recent off timetable day on the theme of safety proved particularly valuable as students applied their knowledge of fire safety procedures while investigating the burning times of different materials.

Year 6 continued their learning about 'Living Things and Their Habitats', exploring the fascinating topics of evolution and inheritance. Students discovered how fossils are formed through studying the work of Mary Anning, explored the story of the peppered moth during the Industrial Revolution, and developed their understanding of how natural selection leads to evolution. They researched, collaborated and produced excellent presentations about Charles Darwin. Amazing work, Year 6!



We would like to congratulate all Year 6 students as they reach the end of Key Stage Two and wish those moving to new schools every success in the future. For students continuing their journey at Holywell, we look forward to developing scientific knowledge, skills and understanding together as they begin Key Stage Three and beyond.



Year 7 students studied 'Reproduction', building on their previous learning about life cycles from Years Five and Six. Through exploring the miracle of life, students developed a deeper appreciation of the processes that make each of us unique and the incredible complexity of living things. In their final half term at Holywell, **Year 8** students focused on 'Reactivity', 'Genetics' and 'Interdependence'. They investigated the structure of DNA and explored how inherited characteristics are passed from one generation to the next. Students also revisited food chains and food webs, developing their understanding of how changes to one part of an ecosystem can have wide-reaching impacts.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all students in Years Six, Seven and Eight the very best for the next stage of their learning journey, whether that is at a new school or continuing here at Holywell. As we say goodbye to some students, we do so knowing they are well prepared for the challenges and opportunities ahead. We hope all students continue to aim high, work hard and embrace every opportunity that comes their way. Have a wonderful summer!

Year 5 PSHE Charity Fundraising

As part of their 'economic wellbeing' unit of work which teaches them about budgeting, looking after money and bank accounts, year 5 plan and carry out a charity fund raising activity. As a class they have to democratically select the activity and the charity that they would like to support.

5GJ did an amazing job of organising a charity sale in the gym during a very hot lunchtime. They raised a total of £119.67p which will be shared between Cancer Research UK and Make a Wish Foundation. **5NC** and **5CS** both organised bake sales. Mrs Smullen was very impressed with their baking skills! **5NC** raised £49.60 for the RSPCA and **5CS** raised £47.60 for Unicef. Well done to **5ZI** raised £85 with their bake sale. They have adopted a tiger, who we very much hope will visit Holywell and the remainder will go to Cancer Research UK. Congratulations to all the classes that took part. I was so impressed with their ideas, execution and organisation.



Charity Fayre

Students had a brilliant afternoon visiting each other's charity stalls and raising money for our partner school in Tanzania.





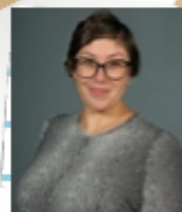
Holywell Safeguarding Newsletter

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!



Central Bedfordshire

Summer of Play at Dunstable Downs Sport Village

Free, outdoor activities including football, cricket, hockey, tennis, golf, and soft archery.

Flitwick Leisure Centre has a number of sports based activities on and Flitwick Library have event including a 'relaxed screening of the original Toy Story film, suitable for those with SEND needs.

Bedfordshire Libraries (both Central Beds and Beds Borough) hold an event called 'The Reading Challenge' every summer and there are events during the holiday in libraries for children.

A fantastic, fun way to encourage reading - this years theme is Music!

Please see website for details;

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

[https://virtual-library.culturalservices.net/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/O.children_teenagers/src_bbc.h](https://virtual-library.culturalservices.net/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/O.children_teenagers/src_bbc.htm)

tm



There are lots of friendly events and activities going on throughout the summer in Bedford Borough and Central

Bedford Borough

The Higgins Museum has a variety of events on over the holidays, including a Robotics Workshop, Lego Workshop, Archaeology and more!

The River Festival has now opened up in Inclusive Island in St Mary's Island which will be a quieter area for families - exclusively for SEND Families



H
The Higgins
BEDFORD



How You Feel Matters

Getting support in Central Bedfordshire

IT IS IMPORTANT TO TALK: Try talking to the school/college mental health support, a counsellor, doctor, friend, family or another trusted adult.

IF SOMEONE TALKS TO YOU: Help them get help and get support yourself if you need it.

Central Bedfordshire



Need some information?

How do you get help?



Everything OK?

Everything OK is a website designed to help you find the help and support you need when you've got questions about your thoughts or feelings.
www.everything-ok.co.uk

CHATHEALTH

Service for young people to confidentially ask for help on a range of issues.

Talk to a school nurse chathealth.nhs.uk TEXT: 07507 331 450

School Nursing Service

Providing support on a range of issues, 1-1 virtually or in school.

bedslutonchildrenshealth.nhs.uk/services/bedfordshire-and-luton-0-to-19-health-visiting-and-school-nursing-service
TEL: 0300 555 0606

SHOUT

Free, confidential, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope. 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 859435

RELATE

Free, confidential counselling for children, young people, couples and families. www.relate.org.uk
TEL: 01234 356350

CHUMS

Mental health and emotional wellbeing service for children and young people. chums.uk.com
TEL: 01525 863824

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



Do you need urgent support?

Need more help?



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 AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 999

CAMHS - Emotional & Behavioural Team

Provide assessments, support and treatment for children and young people up to the age of 18

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE CAMHS
www.eft.nhs.uk/services/north-bedfordshire-camhs
TEL: 01234 893301

SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE / LUTON CAMHS
www.eft.nhs.uk/camhs/where-we-work/south-bedfordshire-luton-camhs
TEL: 01525 638613

Primary Care Access Service PCAS

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

Have a good Summer

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."

- John Lubbock, The Use of Life -



Make sure you rest well, recharge, reconnect, try something different,
build bridges, mend walls,
and count your blessings.



Foundations just about ready for the arrival of the temporary Science building!