Holywell News

Issue No: 187
October 2026

REMEMBER STUDENTS ARE BACK TO SCHOOL ON MON 2nd November! HAVE A GOOD BREAK!

Headlines from Mr Simpson:

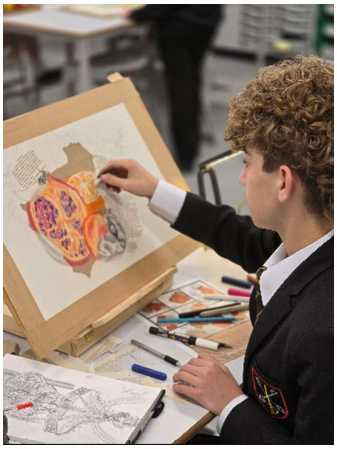
Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year … and it is the first in our transitionary phase! It has been very different without any new Year 5 students, but it has been a joy having so many of last year's Year 8 students staying on with us into Year 9. Everyone has settled in well and we are all also enjoying the new facilities.

Our theme for the year is 'We build together' and it was fascinating over the Summer break to see our new Science block being constructed and to have major refurbishments in the Art and DT departments.





The new Science Block, which will be with us for about 18 months, was brought on site in sections; the sections were craned into position and then all linked together. We have 5 labs and a prep. Room … although, we have so much equipment and so many resources that we've had to use one of the labs as an extension to the prep room! Our new Science Technician – Mr Macfarlane – has had the huge task of sorting everything out, whilst, at the same time, resourcing Science lessons and supporting with lessons. He's done a fantastic job and students and staff have been grateful for all his hard work. Mr Colbourne, Mr Smith and Miss Jude also worked hard – especially at the start of term when the rooms weren't quite ready – to make sure the new spaces are organised and ready for lessons. Students have already had the challenge of many new experiments and some well-established favourite curriculum challenges.

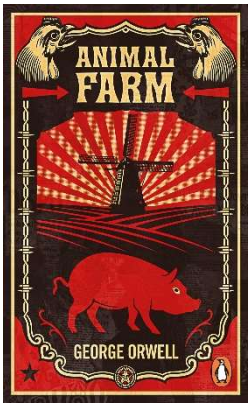


Students and staff are also very happy with the new Art Rooms. Miss Warren, Mrs Jeavons and Miss Lau have two lovely spaces in which they are supporting our students to be creative and to explore their own artistic styles.



Meanwhile, in Food and Fabric, Miss Selby now has two rooms in which to work. There is a dedicated Textiles Room and a dedicated Food Room – the new food room has 5 additional cooking stations as well as a demonstration station. Students have already been cooking - Year 9 have been exploring the science behind cooking eggs! They have been learning about the different techniques for boiling, poaching, frying and scrambling eggs!

In English, our new Subject Leader – Mrs Murphy – has been introducing Year 9 students to George Orwell's "Animal Farm" – the classic, allegorical dystopian novel which tells the story of the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm, how they overthrow their master - Mr Jones - and take over the farm themselves; they imagine it is the beginning of a life of freedom and equality … but find that not all as equal as they thought – very 'on message' with our values focus on 'justice'. Students have been introduced to GCSE-style questions and have recently completed an assessment analysing how Old Major persuades the animals into his way of thinking. Having identified all of the persuasive devices, they may well start using these devices at home!!



Year 6 have been working on narrative writing and had a brilliant joint English-Art trip to Wrest Park – they imagined what it would be like for a wounded soldier to be brought to this beautiful place as Wrest Park was used as a field hospital in World War One (more of that later in the newsletter!).



Students have also been enjoying our new uniform. The new school jumpers have been very well-received and the simple white shirt, school tie, black trousers/tailored shorts/skirts and plain black shoes have also been appreciated. The updated PE kit is also proving very popular and our 'PE Day = 'wear-your-kit-to school' policy is still enabling us to have more time in PE lessons and less loss kit! That's not to say we have zero lost kit and/or uniform!! Students still manage to mislay / lose items of clothing … so, please remember to label everything!!! Students look smart and the new uniform gives us a real sense of a practical, pragmatic community focussed on learning.

Our theme for the year is 'We Build Together'. We are being very clear about what we are building:

- A safe, dignified learning environment where everyone feels valued, understood, seen and supported.
- A culture of high-achievement where we can be the best we can be.
- Respectful, kind, responsible people working together in community.



We have looked at what it looks and feels like to be safe and how we can look after each other. In our recent worship, we explored having a vision and a goal for the year and then 'finding the right crew' to help us design, build and realise our goal. We acknowledged that there would always be challenges but that we would work together, be peaceful problem solvers and take responsibility for our own actions – always building together with the heart. As we start half-term, perhaps as a family, you could think of something new to build or to try together. My Summer project was building, directing and performing in a local production of the Queen musical: 'We Will Rock You' (last few performances in Milton Keynes this weekend) and it has reminded me of the absolute need for collaboration. It has taken many hours of people with all different talents, skills and styles to create this show and so it is in school: we need everyone's talents, support and commitment to be a high-performing secondary school – we're just at the start of that journey and we're excited to take that next step with you. We're also at the start of our next school production: "Honk!" and we can't wait to see what Mrs Gittins and the cast do with this modern re-telling of 'The Ugly Duckling' story!

Have a safe and restful half term – all best wishes always

MG Simpson

Mike Simpson
Headteacher

Autumn Term 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
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/.

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.

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



Cross Keys Pub and Parking

As a school, we always try to support our local businesses and amenities. We also ask families to demonstrate our core school values of kindness, respect and responsibility within the local community.

With this in mind, please be aware that we do not have a formal parking arrangement with our local pub, The Cross Keys. The car park is private and reserved for pub customers only, and we ask all families to respect this.

From Monday 2 November, following the October half-term break, the Cross Keys car park will not be available for school drop-offs or collections. We appreciate that some families may have used it in the past. This date has been chosen to give families advance notice and sufficient time to make alternative arrangements for dropping off and collecting students.

We understand that changes to familiar routines can take a little time to plan for, and we are grateful for your understanding and cooperation. By respecting the pub's parking arrangements, we can help maintain positive relationships with our local businesses and wider community.

On site

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.

Around Red Lion Close

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.

Thank you for your support.

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

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.

Allowed	**Not Allowed**	
Watch	Make-up	Fake/acrylic nails
One plain ring	Fashion rings	Nail varnish
Plain Stud earrings	Hoop earrings, nose piercings	Smartwatch
Religious Jewellery (e.g. Kara	Necklaces, bracelets	

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.ubeequee.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 vast majority of our students have 0 negative behaviour points and have the opportunities for praise and rewards – everything from housepoints, commendations and physical rewards from the Holywell-done Shop' at the end of the year to reward trips and experience opportunities. Where sanctions are necessary, we have our consequence system. Since the start of term, we have revised our consequences and related detention system. This forms part of our commitment to addressing behaviour which falls below our expected standard and which disrupts learning. A C2 is now a 30-minute lunchtime detention. Repeat C2s and more serious issues will result in a C3 and a 1-hour after-school detention. We believe that these revisions and early interventions will ensure that these consequences have a greater impact and provide meaningful time for reflection and restorative conversations where appropriate.

- **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.

MFL News

Celebrating the European Day of Languages



On Friday, 25th September, our school came alive with the outfits and colours of the world as we celebrated the European Day of Languages. Students and staff had the chance to show off their creativity and have some multilingual fun.
Our school was filled with greetings from around the world! Every student and teacher received a sticker featuring the word 'hello' in a different language. At the start of each lesson, teachers greeted their classes using the word on their sticker, and students responded with their own greetings. This fun activity was a fantastic way to celebrate the diversity of languages, encourage curiosity and remind everyone that even a small word like 'hello' can bring people together! Bonjour! Hola! Ciao! Hallo!

The celebrations didn't stop there. Students were also invited to dress in attire inspired by a nation. Whether it was traditional clothing, national colours, cultural accessories, or national football kits, the school was a rainbow of cultures. The initiative encouraged everyone to think creatively while learning about the diversity of Europe and beyond.

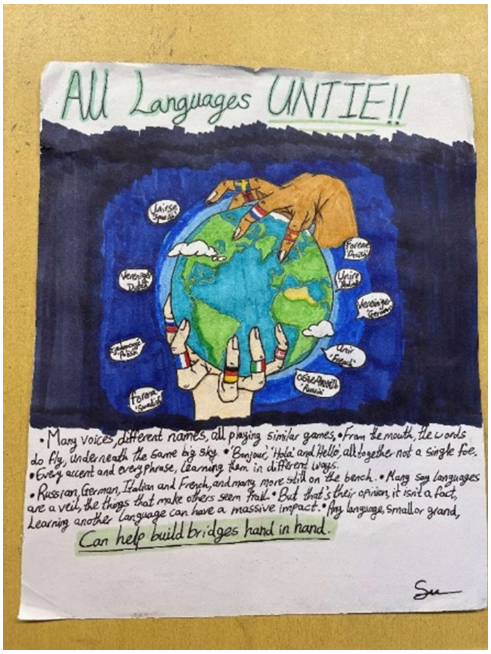
Students also had the opportunity to sign the European Day of Languages anthem, bringing language, music and movement together in a fun and inclusive way. https://youtu.be/Kdoy0aV32VM
In the afternoon, each class chose a language to explore and learn. Across the school, pupils were introduced to a fantastic variety of languages, discovering new words and phrases and learning about different cultures along the way.

The day was a brilliant celebration of linguistic diversity, curiosity and the joy of learning something new. It reminded us that languages are more than just words – they help us connect with others, understand different cultures and celebrate what makes us unique.
MERCI DANKE THANK YOU to everyone for making the day so vibrant and inclusive.

European Day of Languages: Competition



As part of our European Day of Languages celebrations, students were invited to get creative and design their own handmade posters inspired by this year's motto: "Languages Unite!" The theme encouraged students to think about how learning different languages can bring people together, build friendships, celebrate different cultures and help us connect with people around the world.



We were delighted by the creativity, imagination and effort that went into the posters!

Each entry offered a unique interpretation of the theme, and we are incredibly proud of everyone who took part.



The excitement doesn't stop there!

Our best entries will be submitted to the international competition, where the winning posters could be displayed at the European Centre for Modern Languages in Austria!

What a fantastic opportunity for our students to share their creativity with an international audience.

Well done to all our budding artists!

Our Year 9 German Option students take on the GIMAGINE German Award!



Our Year 9 German Option students have been given the opportunity to embark on an exciting journey with the GIMAGINE German Award, an online programme developed by the prestigious Goethe Institut. We are proud to announce that Holywell School has been selected to receive funding for this programme, making it completely free for our students.

This initiative gives students a unique opportunity to further develop their German skills and broaden their global knowledge. Successful participants will earn an official certificate from the Goethe Institut London, a prestigious accolade that can enhance university applications, CVs, and personal achievement in German. Students taking part will:

- Complete interactive German Starter modules online.
- Extend their reading, listening, and vocabulary skills.
- Explore global topics to develop broader cultural awareness.

MFL Star of the Week



Each week, the MFL Department celebrates students in French and German as the Star of the Week! This recognition goes to students who show outstanding effort, progress, or enthusiasm in their language learning.

Stars are chosen for great participation, creativity, or improvement, and their achievements are proudly displayed on our noticeboards. Look out for the certificates and nominations on the school's socials.



Languagenut Homework

Reminder: Weekly homework for all year groups is set on Languagenut!
Languagenut is a fun and interactive platform that allows students to practise vocabulary and reinforce what they have been learning in their language lessons.
Regular practice is key to building confidence and making progress, so we encourage all students to keep up with their weekly tasks. Thank you to all our families for your continued support!

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.

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:

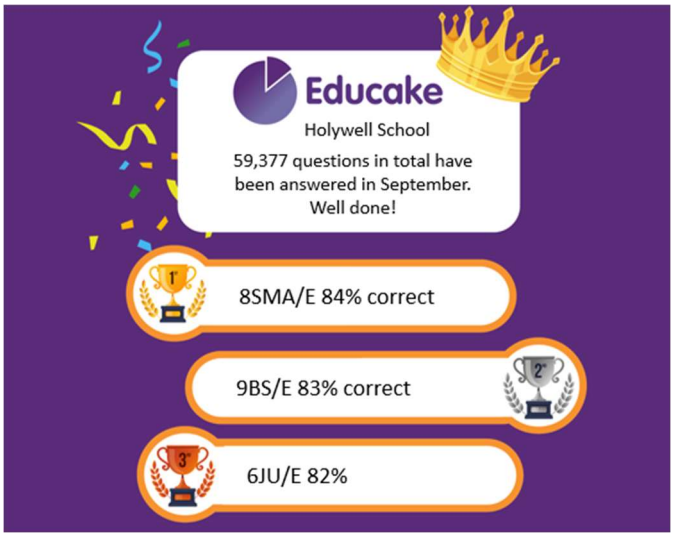


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bplJmebh4XI

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?

English

Fantastic launch to our new English homework 'Educake'.



Special mentions to

Michelle Mahima in 6MGS/E who answered 181 questions (including 16 she set herself) with 93% correct.

Harmony Kissi in 7SMA/E who answered 348 questions (100 set herself) at 88% correct.

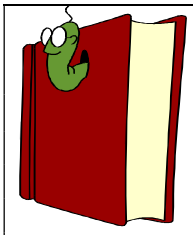
Eleanor Austing in 8JMU/E who answered 218 questions (63 self set) at 96% correct.

Maiha Aktar 9BD/E 128 questions (22 self set) at 96% correct.

The following all set themselves over 100 extra questions:

Joshua-Jack Parry (800 extra!)
Mason Brierley
Jake Britton
John Junior Mellor
Charlotte Orme

Massive well done to all!



Book Fair

We will be hosting a **Scholastic Book Fair** at Holywell
from **11th November** for one week

There will be a wide range of books suitable for all students with an opportunity to view them during the week. The Book Fair will also be open to all children at lunchtimes.
The usual reservation and order arrangements will apply.

We will be selling a selection of Children in Need items after half term in the Library (all proceeds to Children in Need)

Careers News

Careers Talks
Our Library Careers talks for Year 8 and 9 students are giving pupils the opportunity to hear directly from professionals and discover more about the wide range of careers available to them. So far, students have enjoyed talks exploring careers in Web App Development and Real Estate, providing an insight into different industries, the skills required and what working in these areas is really like.

Upcoming Talks…
We have some exciting sessions planned, including talks focusing on:

- **Animation**
- **Youth Offenders Services**
- **Construction**

These sessions are designed to broaden students' horizons, help them discover careers they may not have considered and encourage them to think about the skills and pathways they might need for their future.

We're Looking for Speakers!



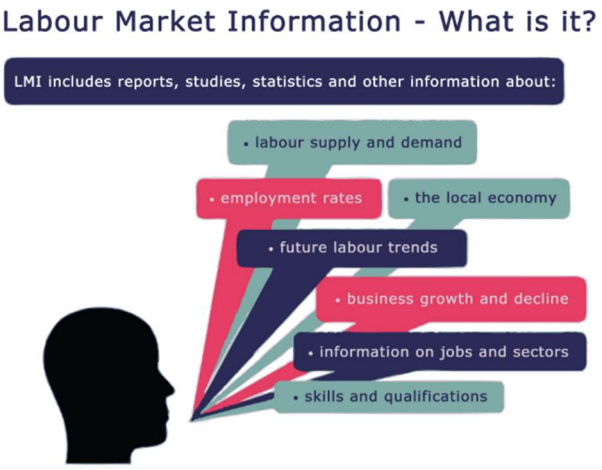
After Christmas, we are hoping to expand our programme and would love to hear from people who would be willing to share their career journey and experiences with our students.

If you are interested in being a speaker, or know someone who might be, please get in touch:

tbrumsden@holywellschool.co.uk
Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered their time.

Labour Market Information – Why It Matters

As part of our careers programme, we are also helping students understand **Labour Market Information (LMI)** — what jobs are available, which sectors are growing and what skills employers are looking for.



The world of work is constantly changing, with developments in technology, construction, digital industries, engineering, health and creative careers creating new opportunities. Understanding these trends can help students make informed choices about their subjects, further education and future careers.

Parents and carers play an important role in helping young people explore their future. You don't need to have all the answers — exploring careers information together can be a great starting point.
Some useful resources include:

- **National Careers Service** – Explore careers, qualifications, skills and job profiles.
- **iCould** – Career videos and information to help young people discover different possibilities.
- **Careerometer** – Explore information about different occupations, including typical pay and employment trends.
- **Skills for Careers** – Information about apprenticeships, skills and routes into different careers.

Unifrog – Coming Soon!

We are very excited to be introducing **Unifrog** to our careers programme soon.

Unifrog is an online platform designed to help students explore careers, subjects, qualifications and future pathways. Students will be able to use the platform to discover opportunities, research different careers and start building a clearer picture of their future.

More information will be shared with students and families shortly, including details of how students can access and make the most of the platform.

Miss T Brumsden – Careers Leader

Trips & Excursions!



🔥 MAY THE ODDS BE EVER IN YOUR FAVOUR! 🔥

On 2nd October, a group of brave Year 8 and Year 9 students ventured into the heart of Canary Wharf for an unforgettable trip to see *The Hunger Games* live on stage. And just like the tributes entering the arena, we were in for an experience full of suspense, action and surprises!



From the moment we entered the theatre, the incredible arena-style seating caught our attention. The seating transformed into a spectacular stadium-like setting, making us feel as though we were truly part of the Hunger Games themselves. We weren't just watching the action unfold, we felt as if we were right there in the arena! The moving seats were amazing!

The production took immersion to another level with amazing fire effects that made us feel the heat coming from the stage. The actors and actresses didn't just stay on stage either! They used the stairs throughout the seating area as part of the performance, bringing the action right into the audience. It felt as though the tributes could appear beside us at any moment!

The show was packed with thrilling action, impressive choreography and fantastic use of props that brought the dangerous world of Panem to life. Every dramatic movement, unexpected moment and spectacular effect kept us on the edge of our seats. The combination of creative staging, talented performers and incredible action made the experience feel like stepping straight into the arena.



And the Victor Is…
THE THEATRE!

Our Year 8 and Year 9 students had an amazing time experiencing *The Hunger Games* in such a unique and immersive way.
From the blazing fire effects to the stadium-style seating and action unfolding all around us, it was a trip worthy of the Capitol itself!



One thing is certain: this was no ordinary day at the theatre. It was an adventure where the odds were ever in our favour!

Remember, tributes: the show may have ended, but the memories will last forever!

Even Mrs McCann's trip. If you know, you know... Until next time!

A SPELLBINDING ADVENTURE: YEAR 6 VISIT THE WIZARDING WORLD!



"It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live!"

Our Year 6 students embarked on a truly magical adventure to London to watch *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* at the spectacular Palace Theatre! From delicious dinners to jaw-dropping stage magic, the trip was filled with unforgettable moments that left us spellbound from beginning to end.

A Magical Feast at McDonald's!

In between stepping into the wizarding world, our students enjoyed an excellent dinner at McDonald's. It was the perfect opportunity to refuel, chat with friends and get excited for the second part of this spectacular show that awaited us. Even the finest witches and wizards need a good meal during the magical adventure!

Magic, Mystery and Spellbinding Stage Effects!



As the curtains rose at the Palace Theatre, we were transported straight into the enchanting world of Harry Potter. The stage was bursting with incredible illusions, astonishing transformations and breath-taking magical effects that had everyone wondering, *"How on earth did they do that?"*

From the mysterious appearance of magical writing to the unexpected scare jumps that had us gasping in our seats, the production kept us captivated throughout. The clever use of lighting, sound and stagecraft made the impossible seem possible, proving that theatre magic is truly something special!

Friendship, Time-Turners and Unexpected Adventures!

At the heart of the story was the friendship between Albus Potter and Scorpius Malfoy. Watching their friendship blossom as they navigated challenges, difficult choices and extraordinary adventures was a real highlight of the show. Their bond reminded us that friendship, loyalty and courage can help us overcome even the most complicated of circumstances. Scorpius was extremely funny! The story was full of twists, turns and suspense, keeping our Year 6 audience on the edge of their seats. There were moments of laughter, moments of tension and plenty of magical surprises along the way!

Meeting the Stars Behind the Magic!





As if the show itself wasn't magical enough, we had an extraordinary surprise waiting at the end! Before boarding our coach home, the students had the amazing opportunity (very good timing) to meet the actors and actress playing Albus Potter, Hagrid and Hermione Granger.

Meeting the performers who had brought these beloved characters to life was the perfect ending to an already unforgettable evening. It gave our students a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the talent and dedication that make live theatre so incredible. It was also great to see how some of the students protected the school we came from due to confidential information, then realised it was Hermonie and spoke like they were best friends!

Back to the Muggle World!



With happy faces, wonderful memories and plenty to talk about, our Year 6 students climbed aboard the coach for the journey home. From our delicious McDonald's dinner to the spectacular magic on stage and the excitement of meeting the cast, it was an evening that truly felt like stepping into Hogwarts itself.

A huge well done to all our Year 6 students for making the trip so special. We hope they will remember this enchanting experience for years to come!

Mischief managed! *Until our next magical adventure… Draco dormiens nunquam titillandus — never tickle a sleeping dragon!*

PE Department News

PE Clubs Timetable – Autumn 2nd Half Term 2026

	13:05-13:35	13:35 – 14:00	15:45-16:45
MONDAY	Y6 Mixed Table Tennis (MK) - Gym Y9 Girls Netball (SM) – Sports Hall	Y7 Girls Netball (EA) - Sports Hall Y7/8 Boys Table Tennis (MK) – Gym	Y8/9 Mixed Dodgeball (MK) - Sports hall
TUESDAY	Y7 Mixed Multi Sports (JU) - Gym Y6 Mixed Netball (HMc) - Sports Hall	Y9 Boys Football (ZI) – Sports Hall	
WEDNESDAY	Y6 Mixed Badminton (EA) – Sports Hall	Y7/8 Girls Badminton (ME) – Sports hall	
THURSDAY	Y6 Multi Sports (CSI/MK) - Gym *(Invite Only)* Y8 Boys Badminton (ME) – Sports hall	Y8/9 Girls Football (MK) – Sports Hall	Y6/7 Mixed Dodgeball (MK) - Sports hall
FRIDAY	Y8/9 Girls Basketball (ES) – Sports Hall Y9 Mixed Table Tennis (MK) - Gym	All Years Girls Table Tennis (MK) – Gym Y7/8 Boys Basketball (ZI) – Sports Hall	All Years Mixed Badminton (MK) - Sports hall

If you wish to attend an after-school club, please take a permission letter from outside the main school office.

Boys Football

The Year 8 football team have started the season in fantastic form winning 3 out of 4 matches, drawing the other against Pix Brook. The boys won their first game 7-0 against Henlow and had amazing performances in both attack and defence, whilst also having a few players represent the team for the first time and made an excellent impression. The Year 8's then went on to beat RBA 6-1 and finally Parkfields 9-3, scoring a huge 22 goals in just 3 games. The boys still have 1 game to play against Wootton. Keep up the great work and thank you to everyone that has been attending the football club every week.

The Year 6 and Year 7 teams still have plenty of fixtures to play. The Year 6 team is still searching for their elusive first win of the season. The effort from the boys has been great but at the moment this isn't translating to goals or clean sheets! The Year 7 team has had a mixed bag of result…won 1, drawn 1 and lost 1. Again, the effort is great and we have seen plenty of goals in our games. Hopefully we can finish off the season with a couple of positive results against Wootton and Woodland.

Year 9 Boys Table Tennis

The year 9 Boys attended their first Upper School fixture this week, the District Table Tennis Tournament. We travelled to Redborne Upper with a strong team, Jack, Freddie, Freddie and Seth. The boys played pupils from year 9, 10 and 11 in the Tournament and some excellent play was demonstrated. We finished in second place behind Redborne a fantastic achievement!
Well done to the 4 boys who took part.

Year 9 Girls Netball

On Monday 19th October We took our A and B team to Redborne for a friendly netball match. The Redborne girls were very strong but both of our teams played really well with some of them making their debut at a Scholl fixture. The A team had an exceptionally tough match was the Redborne Shooters not missing a shot but they pulled together and won their last quarter with the final score at 22-15 and the B team finishing 11-2. Well done to all of the girls that played.
Oppositions players: Michelle, Jasmine, Amy and Heidi.



Year 9 Girls netball club is on a Monday lunchtime, all are welcome!

Promote your team…
If you would like your club/team to be promoted at school to encourage others to join, then please send details to mkotur@holywellschool.co.uk. We have a lot of eager students who want to start playing more sports outside of school.

Clubs:
If attending a PE club, students should wear their normal school uniform to school and then change into PE kit before the club – unless this is an indoor club when all they need to bring is a pair of trainers. If they have PE on the day of the club they are attending, students should wear their PE kit to school BUT bring spare kit to change into if there's a chance they could get muddy!

Work on restoring the school field to a usable state will begin during half term so fingers crossed we will be able to use it again in the not too distance future. Thank you to everyone for their patience and understanding with this.

Finally, the department would like to thanks students, parents and carers for their continued support throughout the half-term; it is much appreciated.

Drama News



The school production this year is 'HONK!', an exciting and heart-warming musical of the Ugly Duckling story. If students missed the meeting before half term and would like to take part please see Mrs Gittins.

There is a workshop after school on 3rd November 2026 and auditions the following week. The actual production is on 19th and 20th May 2027.



We will also be holding another talent show after the success of last year's 'Holywell's Got Talent'. If you can sing, dance, do magic, gymnastics, martial arts, recite poetry or something completely different please audition!

Auditions are on lunchtimes on 16th and 17th November, please sign up prior in room 17. The grand final will be at 5pm on 2nd December 2026.

Art News

A Day of Inspiration at Wrest Park!



Our Year 6 students recently enjoyed an inspiring trip to **Wrest Park**, where they explored the beautiful gardens, Wrest Park House and grounds to gather ideas for their English writing pieces and develop their artistic skills.



Surrounded by stunning landscapes, elegant statues, peaceful lakes and a plethora of natural beauty, the students had plenty of opportunities to use their senses and imaginations.

They carefully observed their surroundings, taking note of colours, textures, shapes and sounds to help bring their descriptive writing to life. Our favourite imagination piece came from laying down on the floor of the house, and looking up to see the ornate ceiling decorations, as the patients may have done.



The trip also provided a wonderful opportunity to practise observational drawing and create artwork inspired by nature. Students took their time to study the details of leaves, trees, flowers and architectural features, developing their confidence in sketching and capturing what they could see.

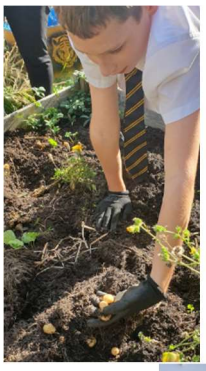


It was fantastic to see everyone embracing the outdoors, experimenting with different artistic techniques and discovering how close observation can spark creativity. The experience has given pupils a wealth of ideas, vocabulary and inspiration to take back into the classroom.

Wrest Park was the perfect setting to bring together English, art and the natural world, encouraging our pupils to look more closely, think creatively and express their ideas in exciting new ways!

Year 6 were on their best behaviour and we really enjoyed the rainy day out!

Gardening Club



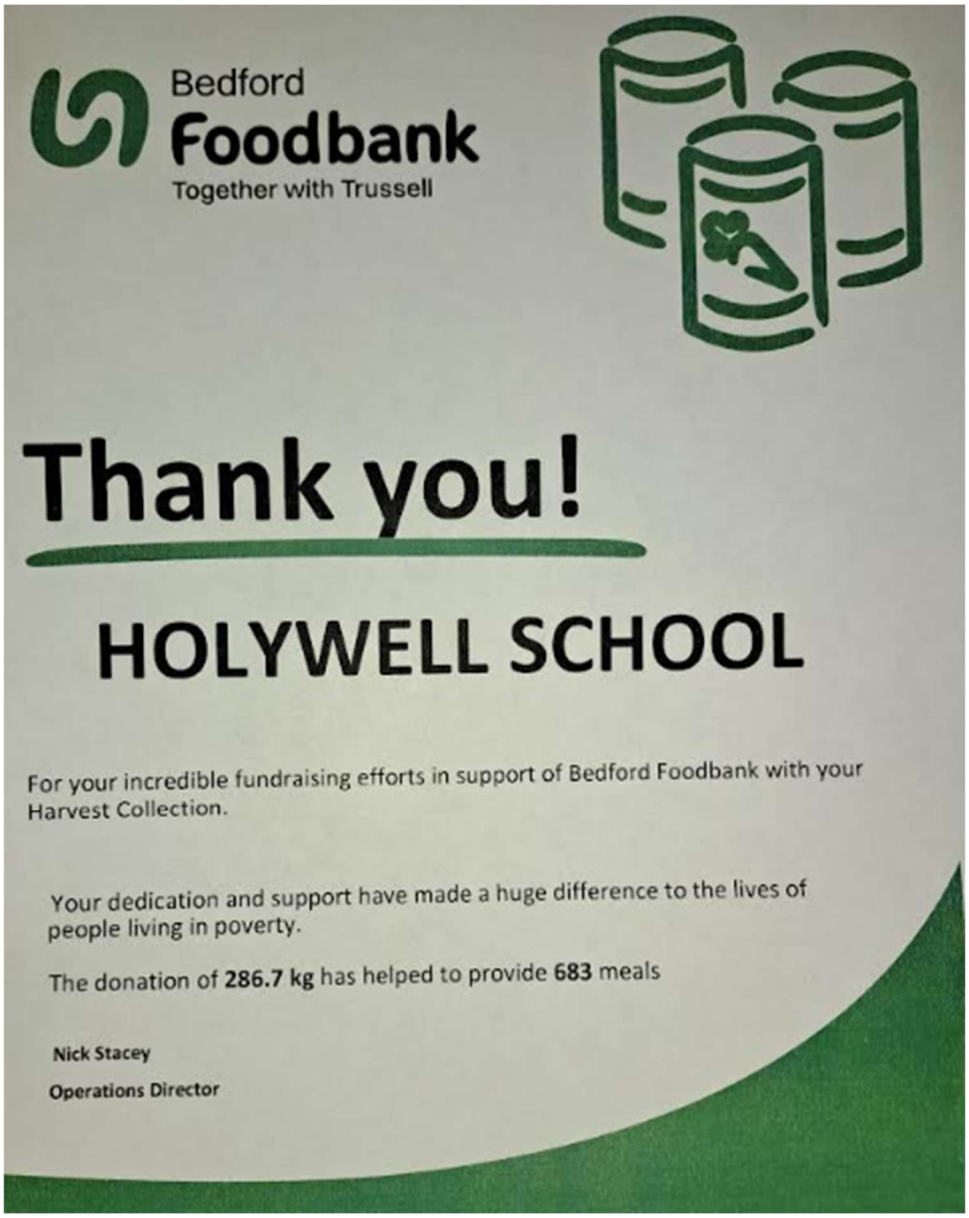
Gardening Club has now come to an end for the season. We have picked and eaten the last of our vegetables, put all our raised beds to sleep and covered with card to keep them weed- free for the Spring. Students have created a ‘bulb lasagne’ by layering spring bulbs in tubs and then topped them with pansies in our school colours. Well done to all our young gardeners who work so hard each year, big plans for the spring!







Charity



This Harvest Festival was a great success supporting Bedford Foodbank. Students really entered into the spirit of the Harvest Appeal bringing an item of food in exchange for a non-uniform day!

Your generosity donating food to the Bedford Foodbank amounted to an amazing 286.7kg of donations which will help feed multiple families and will boost the Foodbank's reserves for over half term.

Thank you for your kind donations!

We will be selling a selection of Children in Need merchandise in the Library at lunchtime from 2nd November 2026



HOLYWELL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SHOP

Lunchtime in the Library

30TH NOV – 3rd DEC

Items range from £1-£6

Buy presents for all of the family!



Supporting

KEECH HOSPICE

Holywell Safeguarding Newsletter

October 2026
Issue: 13

MEET THE TEAM



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.

Our first edition of the school year focuses on reintroducing parents and carers to our section of the schools website and other new support the department will be offering in the new future.

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 are very proud of our website and under the Safeguarding tab, you will find an array of support options in the form of workshops for parents and carers, local and national organisations that can support families and children in a variety of ways.







Carers in bedfordshire

EVERYTHING OK?

CHUMS

brook

mind

We are also delighted to be launching the Holywell Food Larder - this will be open to all parents and carers straight after half term!



How You Feel Matters

Getting support in Central Bedfordshire

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.



Need some information?

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

CHAT HEALTH
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

How do you get help?



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 861435

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 863924

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?

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

Need more help?



CAMHS - Emotional & Behavioural Team
Provide assessments, support and treatment for children and young people up to the age of 18
NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE CAMHS
www.elft.nhs.uk/services/north-bedfordshire-camhs
TEL: 01234 893301

SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE / LUTON CAMHS
www.elft.nhs.uk/camhs/where-we-work/south-bedfordshireluton-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.

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.
She has been working with a number of our students accross all year groups.

In the New Year, we will be offering a parent workshop via our link to MHST (Mental Health Support Team) to discuss what support can be accessed for your children

We are lucky enough to have a member of the 0-19 Team (School Nurse) in to complete work with a number of children across all year groups.

Holywell School is now LIVE across Social Media Pages

@HolywellCoE

Holywell School Bedfordshire

@Holywellcoe

Please like/follow to receive updates

www.holywellschool.co.uk