



Happy Christmas from Twycross House School



On the last day of term the Lower Sixth organised a 'Christmas Jumper Day' for Save the Children. Both pupils and staff were delighted to support this charity event both at Twycross House and the Hollies. In total the school raised over £470. Thank you for your generous support.

Looking back at past issues of the Twycross Times it is wonderful how much effort is put into charitable fundraising by pupils of all ages with the fantastic support of parents and their teachers.

Over the past few years so many charities have benefited including Cancer Research, Air Ambulance, Water Aid, Help for Heroes, War Child, Rainbows, Alzheimer's, Macmillan, the British Heart Foundation, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Myton Hospice, Comic Relief, the Salvation Army as well as smaller local charities.

Money is not requested for school development but we do believe strongly that fundraising for charities outside the school is a vital part of the children's broad education. This empowers the children to look at the difficulties that can confront other people and do something practical to help.

The children are encouraged to organise charity fundraising themselves from the type of event, the publicising and planning, and at the end of the event counting the money raised and thanking all who helped. During the last 5 years the children from both Twycross House and The Hollies have raised an incredible £48,915.56.

Thank you to the staff who work hard to help pupils of all ages to participate in this important activity and in particular to parents, grandparents and friends for their outstanding generosity in supporting our events.

With all good wishes for 2017

S D Assinder
Headmaster





Twycross House Presentation Evening

At our annual A level and GCSE presentation evening we welcomed back ex pupil Natasha Banks. Natasha left Twycross House in 2006 with A-levels in English Literature, German and Biology and an AS-level in History.

She went on to study English Literature with Drama at Loughborough University and it was here that she discovered her passion for directing and producing films. Using the practical skills she gained at Loughborough, she was accepted onto an internship at the BBC and worked on one of Britain's most successful shows, Top Gear. This was the beginning of Natasha's television career and she hasn't looked back since. Now a producer, Natasha filmed ITV's Ninja Warrior UK earlier this year and most recently a female empowerment series for AOL. This involved interviewing successful and inspiring British women including Emma Watson, Helen Mirren and CoppaFeel! charity founder, Kris Hallenga. This November she's producing The National Television Awards with Dermot O'Leary for the third year running.

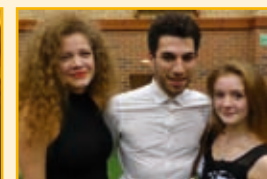
Natasha praised the students' excellent results. In 2016, 27% achieved A* in their A level examinations, 68% achieved A*/A grades, 79% achieved A*, A or B grades. Eleven students achieved all A*/A grades.



Natasha presented certificates to present pupils and we welcomed former students back from their first two months at university. Pictured here are; (Top Left) Head of English Mrs Lynne Murfin with Natasha Banks. (Top Right) Conor Beale (King's College, London – Chemistry), Olivia Shackleton (St Anne's College, Oxford – English Language and Literature), Mimi Henry (Reading – Zoology), Charlotte Lynch (Durham – Physics), Ryan Shepherd (Bath – Physics),



Amelia Springall (Bath – Chemistry for Drug Discovery), Abigail Williams (Cardiff – Law), (Bottom Right) Molly Goldspink (Bristol – French and Spanish), Abigail Wright (Bath – Pharmacy), Sophie Randle (Cardiff – Medicine), Joe Morgan (Liverpool, Aerospace Engineering), (Bottom Left) Conor Beale, Kieran Wordsworth (Leeds – Chemistry) Henry Clark (Bath – Electronic Engineering with Space Science Technology), Mimi Henry. (Middle Right) Toby Marshall (Lancaster – Biochemistry with Genetics), Joseph Epicheff (Oxford Brookes – Economics, International Business and Finance), (Middle Right) Olivia Shackleton, George Thomas (Kent – Business and Management), Amelia Springall.



Form 4X Charity

Members of Form 4X individually performed presentations within tutor time looking at why they thought Swallows Hill should donate to their chosen charity. Samuel McKenzie spoke about 'Back Up' - a charity set up to inspire independence in anyone affected by spinal cord injury and to encourage everyone to get the most from their lives. They work with people of all ages, from young children to the elderly. Form 4X then voted to support 'Back Up' as a form group. Samuel invited Bret Crossley, a paratriathlete, to come in and give an assembly on how he had been encouraged to return to sport after a serious motorbike accident. The students were greatly inspired by his achievement and subsequently Swallows Hill voted to have 'Back Up' as their charity for this academic year.

Mrs G Leney



Outdoor Learning

S5 biologists enjoyed a trip to Twycross Woods in order to study factors affecting distribution which is a practical part of their GCSE course. The first exploratory visit allowed the students to assess the habitat and then plan their own practical. The second visit was when the investigations happened. Armed with tape measures, quadrats and wellies the students set off to gather data to enable them to produce their scientific reports.

Mrs C Lauder





Feeling Blue in Senior 2

Senior 2 have been learning about The Blues in music and were fortunate enough to have a visit from Mr Rooney who was able to demonstrate his skills as a Blues Guitarist. He taught them all about the background to the blues and gave them the opportunity to make up their own "Blue Devil" song lyrics. He even let them all have a go at playing some blues on his electric guitar. There were definitely some budding guitarists in the making! It was really inspiring to hear such impressive live blues guitar playing and to have the chance to come up with their own music making in response.



Mrs Z Griffiths



History GCSE Trip to Kenilworth Castle

September 14th

On a glorious sunny day, sixteen Senior 5 historians, accompanied by Mrs Dent, Mrs Hitchin, Mrs Dodd and Mrs Toon spent the day at Kenilworth Castle as part of their "History Around Us" controlled assessment. This is a compulsory part of the course and allows the students to explore in detail an interesting aspect of local history.

On arrival the students were met by an expert guide, Sonia, who spent the next 1.5 hours guiding them around the castle and exploring the beautiful grounds. She told them all about the wonderful history of Kenilworth Castle, its function, purpose and design and the students completed booklets as we explored.



After a lovely picnic lunch the students then were able to explore the Elizabethan gardens and also the Gate House, which is the only part of the castle still in a good state of repair. Mrs Kelsey joined us in the afternoon with baby William – starting the history tradition early! The students were a real credit to Twycross and learnt a great deal about the beautiful Kenilworth Castle.

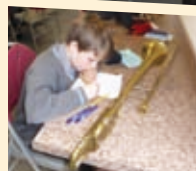
Mrs J Dent and Mrs K Hitchin



Tudor Tunes!

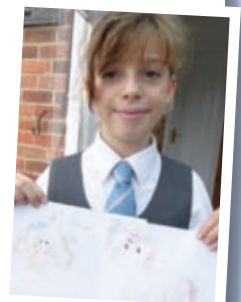
Children in Form 4 were in for a real treat when Mrs Richardson again volunteered to demonstrate her superb display of Renaissance and Baroque musical instruments. This was planned to support their class work in music as well as their current history topic on the Tudors. They were lucky enough to enjoy the sights of the hurdy gurdy, natural trumpet, cornett, cornamuse, shawm, sackbut, and recorders. It was fantastic to see and hear the instruments first hand, making it a valuable experience that Form 4 will all remember.

Mrs Z Griffiths



Raising Money for Charity

Congratulations to Isobel Corby from Form 4X who has raised over £230 for charity. She reports, "I did a sponsored walk raising money for Non-Hodgkin lymphoma and Alzheimer's research. I raised £230 then donated half to each charity. I then made personalised cards for both charities and raised £12. These charities mean a lot to me because my uncle has Non-Hodgkin lymphoma and my step Grandma has Alzheimer's."





Erasmus Darwin lecture

Sixth form students attended an evening lecture offered by Lichfield Science and Engineering Society. The Erasmus Darwin memorial lecture was presented by Dame Nancy Rothwell at the Lichfield Garrick. Dame Nancy's current research is focused on what causes strokes and what happens in a brain deprived of blood and oxygen, and on trying to find better treatments and preventions. An interesting and informative evening was enjoyed by all.

Mrs C Lauder

Orienteering

This year three pupils from Swallows Hill took up the challenge to learn how to orienteer. Sophie Sanganee (Form 5), Jacob McMahon (Form 4) and Harry Sanganee (Form 4) have been training after school with the help of more experienced orienteers Francis Mayes (S4), Ethan Tebbutt (S4) and Euan Tebbutt (UVI). They worked hard to master the techniques required to read a map and run in an unknown area visiting the control locations shown on the map by small circles. Impressively, they reached the standard needed to represent the school at the two British Schools' Championships. In October the Score Championship took place locally on Bagworth Heath and Woodlands with the challenge to visit as many controls as possible in any order in 45mins. The six orienteers were kitted out in their new, brightly coloured Twycross 'O' tops complete with motto "Semper orbiculatim curro" courtesy of Mrs Lilley (and Pliny). They all excelled themselves through their concentration and determination with special mentions for Sophie, 7th in the Year 6 girls, and Ethan, 1st in the combined Year 10/11 boys, whilst Francis profited from his improved fitness to visit 19 controls compared with 16 last year. They continued their training to take part in the standard course Championships at Sutton Park in November. These courses require the controls to be visited in a fixed order as quickly as possible. Harry had gained in confidence to take 12th place out of 52 Year 5 boys whilst Jacob showed true orienteering spirit when he realised he had missed a control and relocated himself to successfully complete his course. Ethan Tebbutt also took part in a special qualification event and has been selected as the reserve for the English Schools' team for the biennial World Schools' Championships in 2017.

Euan Tebbutt, Upper Sixth

Christmas Stamps

Once again the Lower Sixth form students have been busy Christmas Elves selling Christmas stamps, with all proceeds going to Cancer Research UK. The daily postal sorting office saw over 8000 cards being processed. The efficient production line allowed all students to receive their Christmas post on the last day, a tradition that every student enjoys and remembers for years to come. Thank you to everyone who purchased stamps and to the students who gave up their time to sell and sort through the mass of cards.

Mrs C Lauder



Honour Mark Assembly

Friday 16th December.

Lauren Garland of Form 3Y achieved 86 Honour Marks this academic term and was awarded the Individual Term Trophy. In second place with 77 Honour Marks was James Lui of Form 3Y and in third was James Garland with 74.

Merits Certificates were awarded to Emily Bewsher, Jessica Salt, Lauren Garland, Tom Blood, Katelyn Howe, Ruby Zala, Thomas Blackwell, Ali Mobayed, Harry Morrell, Dylan Reece, Sophia Brogan and Eva Hudson-Lawless.

Mrs G Leney



German Exchange

At the beginning of November, eighteen nervous Twycross students from Senior 4 and 5 greeted their unknown German guests for a week's hospitality in the midst of their families. Within the week, the nerves had been replaced by butterflies at the exciting prospect of their return visit to Schweich, at the end of this term.

The week's visitation flew by, with all students from both sides of the Channel claiming to be happy and enjoying the experience. By the end of the week, even some of our host parents were tearful to see their German 'son' or 'daughter' leave and vowed to aspire to maintain contact for the foreseeable future.

During their visit, the German students joined in with lessons at school, tried their hand at fencing and rugby, took tours of Cadbury World, the National Space Centre and Leicester City football stadium. Several were lucky enough to be taken to London for a day or two, to see the capital's sights, whilst others were invited to parties and family celebrations, bowling, tennis tournaments and football matches. The German staff were amazed and delighted by the generosity, support and friendliness of all of our families and students, teachers and of course the Assinders. They claim it was the best ever Twycross House - Dietrich-Bonhoeffer Exchange to date!



When we return from our visit on December 21st, laden with goodies from the German Christmas markets and tales to tell for the rest of our lives, we will know for sure if it was!

Frohe Weihnachten!

Mrs J Pound





Autumn In The Library!



This term's activities focused on improving the use of our library's reference section and the research skills that go with it.

Many of our new Form 3's spent enthusiastic lunchtimes collecting leaves and producing colourful leaf rubbings. After finding the relevant reference books, we attempted to identify the tree names. The leaves were then used to decorate display boards. Form 3 also helped produce an autumn tree display by writing their favourite book titles on leaves; encouraging others to rake up a good read!

Next came Halloween! The library hosted a program of craft activities, beginning with pumpkin pictures and skeletons (again using reference books to identify the correct names for human bones!). The annual Halloween card making session proved very popular, with reading related slogans such as 'Batty about books', 'Spooktacular reads' and 'Fangtastic reads'.

Lastly to round the week off, students competed in a 'Harry Potter Quiz'. With sweets at stake for the highest scores, competition was fierce! Depending on their score, students gained an O.W.L. grade (Ordinary Wizarding Level). Top marks produced witches



and wizards, but low marks labelled some poor students as trolls! A lot of fun was also had with the library's very own Sorting Hat! (Expertly made by Abbie Mitchel). Some Form 3's tried on the hat and were sorted into the famous Hogwarts Houses (by the mystical voice of Thomas Buckton!).

Bonfire night is traditionally the British Autumn highlight. Unfortunately this particular bit of dark English history is in danger of being overshadowed by Halloween. In an attempt to keep our history alive, Swallows Hill had a display which informed students about Guy Fawkes and the infamous Gunpowder Plot of 1605. To decorate the display further, the library held an unusual pyrotechnics activity, where students made their own model firework. They were reminded of the associated colours of elements commonly used in fireworks as well as the chemistry of gunpowder and of course the bang!

Remembrance Day always provides sombre food for thought. The library tries to remind students of the importance of remembering history and the available stories that tell of the great heroism and the horror that took place. Thank you to the students who gave up their time to help make poppies for the displays around school, which prompted some interesting debates on war.

This year's National Anti-Bullying Week took place during November 14th-18th. Twycross House School took part via form-time and assembly activities across all years. Students were made aware of the crippling effects that bullying can have - in all of its forms. Attention was drawn in particular to cyber and

emotional bullying; both of which are often difficult to detect. Mrs van Arkel set up interactive videos in the I.C.T. room over lunch-times, where students could test themselves in hypothetical situations.



Meanwhile the library provided anti-bullying displays across school to stimulate debate and perhaps a little bit of soul searching! In addition the library offered the chance to make colourful 'friendship bracelets' which incorporated single words, chosen by the students, to promote the anti-bullying message (e.g. STOP!, NO!, FRIENDSHIP). It also provided an opportunity to introduce some powerful reading material which retells stories of courage and fortitude in the face of adversity.

Christmas is of course the highlight of any Autumn term and is a great time for the library to promote the comforting tradition of curling up with a cracking good read. Lunch-times offered the chance to make Christmas cards and decorations, utilizing recycled materials. Many thanks to students who have helped make the festive displays and especially to those who entered the 'Christmas Genre Tree' competition. Each tree was a work of art in its own right and proved a difficult task for Mrs. Murfin to judge. First prize went to Layla Guintoli & Olivia Hartley for their fantasy themed tree. All entrants received a book token and something sweet!

Lastly, a big thank you to all student librarians who have shown impressive commitment and responsibility. The range of activities offered at lunch-times would not be possible without their help.

Mrs A Lington





Macmillan Swallows Hill Tea Party

We had an excellent reception to our annual Macmillan tea party in Underwood. We had an incredible donation of cakes and cookies and we also sold tickets for a raffle and tombola during the event.

Thank you so much for all the help from parents, staff and our team of willing helpers without whom the tea party would not have been possible.

The total raised was an amazing £697.40. We look forward to next year's event and your continued support to this brilliant charity.

Mrs P Toon



Macmillan Cake Sale

On 30th September the Lower Sixth form students held a cake sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the sale by baking, buying and eating the delicious cakes. The event was very successful, raising £564.82 for Macmillan Cancer. Thank you for your continued support to the annual cake sale. Same time next year!

Mrs C Lauder



Form 3 Christingle Service

This year due to building work at St James' Church, we had to relocate our Christingle service to Swallows Hill. The form 3 pupils were able to perform the service to Form 4X who thoroughly enjoyed the service.

The Christingle was a lovely opportunity at this busy time of year to take time to stop and reflect upon our own lives and be able to give thanks through prayer for our family and friends and to think of those who are without at this time of year.

Form 3 pupils all took part in the service wearing festive jumpers adding to the atmosphere of celebration. Carols were sung beautifully creating a joyful and cheerful atmosphere.

Lighting of the Christingles took place outside where pupils gave thanks through prayer and carols.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and may your 2017 be blessed with all that you wish for.

Mrs H Williams and Mrs Z Griffiths



The Royal British Legion

Thank you to everyone who bought poppies this year. £163.37 was raised for the Royal British Legion.

The Royal British Legion provides lifelong support for the Armed Forces community - serving men and women, veterans, and their families.

The Lower Sixth



Xmas Cards

Congratulations to Form 3 and 4 for producing some colourful Christmas cards.



E Safety News

It is clear that the link between school and home as far as E-safety is concerned is crucial. It seems fitting, therefore, to share some of the E-safety work that pupils have been doing in their form periods and ICT lessons, so that parents can help to reinforce the message at home.

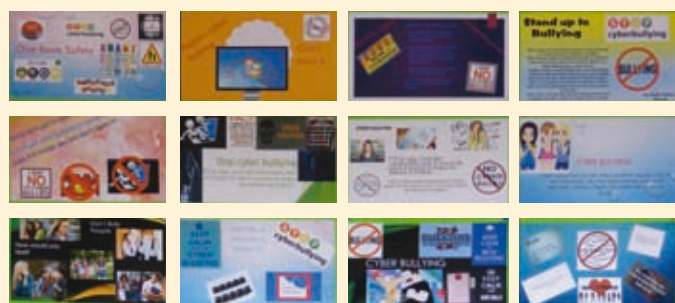
In November, as part of national Anti-bullying week, Mrs van Arkel took time out of her usual lessons to talk about Cyber-bullying with all of her classes during the week. This was



combined with a poster campaign throughout the school and in the ICT room which highlighted the issues surrounding this topic. Mrs van Arkel was pleased to see pupils taking a keen interest in the posters and discussing the message that they conveyed amongst themselves. Some pupils also enjoyed designing their own Cyber-bullying awareness posters.

Pupils are now well used to their termly E-Safety sessions that were introduced in the school several years ago to help to guide pupils through the increasingly complex issues regarding the use of the internet and social media in particular. One of the key questions that came up in one such session this term was, 'Are you a good digital citizen?' This elicited some insightful comments from pupils regarding the need to treat other people online with the same respect that they would in real life.

Mrs S Sanganeer



Visit to the Space Centre

In November Form 3 went to the National Space Centre in Leicester for the day. They had been studying the planets as part of their Geography course and the trip really brought the topic to life.

There were many interactive activities for the children to have a go at and a trip on the space simulator was a real highlight.

There were many interesting displays which prompted lots of discussion and much fun was had by all.

Mrs C Fellows



Form 3 Creative Studies

Form 3 Creative Studies lessons take place in the ICT room once a week. This term the task was for pupils to plan, design and create festive Christmas Dinner Placemats.

Throughout the task pupils were required to demonstrate their developing knowledge and understanding of effective use of the mouse and how to appropriately insert festive pictures onto their placemats using Word.

All pupils have worked hard to enhance and improve hand-eye coordination while following set method rules for the correct procedures required for this festive task. I'm sure you will agree the results are fantastic. Well done to all Form 3 pupils - you have all worked hard this term.

Mrs H Williams





Greek Plays

This year the Classics department took a group of 30 students studying to see the double bill Greek play in Cambridge. The plays are performed in Ancient Greek (with surtitles) and all roles are played by students. The combination of Sophocles' *Antigone* and Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* certainly gave the students plenty to think about. *Lysistrata* was particularly lively, and the political comedy was brought bang up to date with references to Brexit and Trump. We were also shown around Christ's College by Dr Edward Allen, a fellow in English, which hopefully went some way to demystifying the collegiate system for the students.

Dr S Assinder



Gabriel Assinder married Faye Whitby on August 6th at St James' Church, Twycross, on a perfect summer day. The reception was held at Twycross House School. Congratulations!

Theatre Update and Other New Developments

Plans for the new school theatre and dance studio are now approved and builders are now visiting the site to prepare their estimates for building. It is anticipated that work will start in early February, with completion expected by the end of year.

Since Twycross House School was founded in 1976 we have rented some of the playing fields from the Crown. We are pleased to inform you that the school has now bought this land.

At the same time we were offered the opportunity to buy Twycross Cricket Club. Our paramount desire is to keep cricket in Twycross and also to protect the green space of the village from development. The club will continue to operate as a cricket club. We also look forward to forging stronger links with the club by offering shared grounds and facilities. The first project we will be looking at is the resiting of the pavilion and a new development that can be used by both the school and the club.

S D Assinder



Public Speaking

On 23rd November, four teams of public speakers represented THS at the first round of the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition held at Ashby School. This is a national competition aimed at encouraging speaking and presentation skills among young people.

In the Intermediate category (age 11-13) we were entertained and informed in equal measure, firstly by Isabelle Fellows, Amy Nugent and Emily Barker discussing the uses and ethical implications of genetic engineering, and then by Sam Nugent, Oliver Duby and Alex Holmes making the case for funding the UK's space programme. Both teams spoke with confidence and flair in front of a large adult audience, and coped admirably with being chosen to open the competition by appearing as the first two teams out of nine. Amy and Oliver, the speakers, had to think on their feet to answer a question from a member of the audience, which they did with poise and authority.

The Senior category (14-17) featured another two THS teams. Natasha Lockett, Jake Bhakta and George Arnold addressed the controversial issue of school uniforms with an entertaining blend of humour and rhetorical skill. Ethan Hart, Christopher Lumb and Jonathan Vening-Richards - competing against teams several years their senior - delivered a rousing tour de force on the practical and ethical consequences of cheap clothing, and so impressed the judges that they won the Senior Category overall. They will compete in the next round of the competition in January 2017.



Huge congratulations to all the participants, and best of luck to Ethan, Chris and Jonathan for the next stage.

Mrs S du Sautoy

Taste of Spain

As part of the new AS Spanish course, pupils now study the topic of Spanish gastronomy. It is clear to see that this has proved a very popular part of the syllabus and what better way to reinforce learning than to put the theory into practice. Pupils really enjoyed both making and eating a delicious Spanish Paella!

Mrs S Sanganee





Form 3 Religious Studies

This term Form 3 pupils have been studying Bible stories from the Old Testament and looking at how the stories and characters link and how faith can take a variety of different forms in today's society.

To help understand that we are all different and take faith and strength from a variety of different sources pupils were asked to create a Spirit Spoon.

The Spirit Spoon was to be reflective of them as an individual and the things that are close and important to them personally.

Pupils discussed the concept of faith and found out from one another that faith and strength can come from a wide variety of influences such as family, pets, sports teams, music and places of pure imagination.

The spirit spoons are displayed in the classrooms providing pupils with a positive visual tool for when times are challenging or they may simply require seeing positive and happy stimuli to help with their day.

As you can see the pupils have produced some creative and unique spirit spoons. Well done Form 3.

Mrs H Williams



Friday Challenge!

Lower Sixth form students have been put through their paces every Friday morning when they have been presented with different tasks to complete. Challenges involving celebrity mash ups, world countries, Malteasers, politics, egg-drops and bottle flips tested the students' mental and physical abilities to the full. Each event allowed the teams to compete against each other for points in a league style tournament. The final event involved a three man catapult and the pressure was on with several teams still being in the running. The winning team was: James Carlyle, Ka Chun Yau, Rory Fulwell, Alex Whetton & Dan Page.

Mrs C Lauder and Mr P Hudson



New Staff

Welcome to the new members of staff who have joined Twycross House School this term

Mr Tim Buckton - Associate Headteacher and teacher of maths, further maths and physics

Mrs Grace Williams - Associate Headteacher and Head of English

Mr Luke Knight - Head of Lower School and teacher of boys' games

Mrs Charlotte Lauder - Head of Lower Sixth and Head of biology

Mrs Kate Hitchin - Teacher of history

Mrs Fiona Conway - Teacher of French, Spanish and German

Miss Catherine Charlwood - Teacher of English





Senior Maths Team Challenge

On November 16th a team of talented mathematicians travelled with Mrs Jackson to the University of Loughborough to represent Twycross House School at the Regional Heat of the UK Senior Team Mathematics Challenge 2016/17.

This is a national competition, which combines mathematical, communication and teamwork skills and offers pupils another way to express and develop their enjoyment of Mathematics. The challenge promotes mathematical dexterity, as well as team working abilities and communication skills. Our team, made up of Rebecca

Brayer and Alex Coles (L6), and Paige Thomas and Euan Tebbutt from U6, competed against twenty four other teams from the local area. This is a big increase in the numbers from previous years, so the challenge really was on!

The team competed in three rounds: a group round, during which the team had to solve 10 puzzles in 40 minutes; followed by a mathematical cross-number round, with one pair from the team solving the across clues and the other pair solving the down clues; and finally a mini-relay, where each member of the team solves part of the puzzle and information passed from other members of the team is needed to solve the relay completely.

After a really exciting afternoon the results were announced and our team came sixth out of the twenty four teams. The team are to be congratulated on this fantastic result.

During the last year Euan Tebbutt has been training up future generations of talented mathematicians in Senior 2, 3 and 4 by running a maths enrichment group once a week. We would like to thank him for his contribution in inspiring these future geniuses. Euan is one of the most talented mathematicians we have had the pleasure of teaching at Twycross, and recently achieved 100% in the Senior Maths Challenge, the first at Twycross ever to achieve this impressive accolade.

Here he describes some of the exciting things they have been doing:



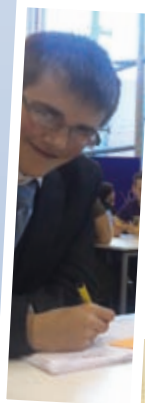
Maths Club by Euan Tebbutt

I have been running a weekly maths club for a group from S1 to S4 aiming to improve their ability at the UKMT Maths Challenges and to introduce them to fun areas of maths which they would not normally cover in maths lessons, for example graph theory and modular arithmetic. In our sessions we have also been doing a variety of exciting team challenges such as maths relays and cross-numbers.

Recently the club members competed in the Bebras Challenge, an international competition which tests participants' mathematical, logical and computational reasoning. They all achieved highly impressive scores, with special mention to Alex Jackson, who scored 155, and Ethan Tebbutt, with 159, who gained Best in School certificates in the Intermediate and Senior categories respectively. This competition is taken online so my thanks to Mrs van Arkel who set it up for us.

Next term we will continue preparation for the Junior Team Maths Challenge and the Year 10 Team Challenge.

Euan Tebbutt, Upper Sixth





Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards

Congratulations to four former students pictured here at St James' Palace after receiving their Duke of Edinburgh Gold award.

Pictured left to right: Declan Cartwright, Samantha Borley, James Borley and Daniel Shakeshaft.

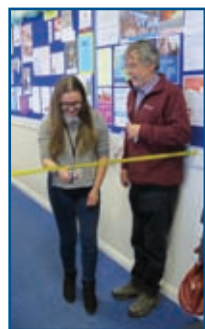


Duke of Edinburgh Autumn Update

Congratulations to the Senior 5 Silver groups who successfully completed their expedition section during this term. They travelled to the Peak District for the practice, and then onto Shropshire for their final. The 23 participants enjoyed some stunning scenery and unusually some good weather – and even managed some fish tickling where their catch was then safely returned to the water!

In November, 31 Senior 4 Bronze participants enjoyed their first full day's training in school. The day consisted of getting to grips with tents, lighting stoves, maps and navigation, first aid, food and nutrition and equipment. Training starts in full in 2017 leading to preparation for their expeditions in Warwickshire and the Cotswolds in the summer.

The 22 new Lower Sixth Gold group have already divided themselves into their walking groups ready for their practices and final next year. The first expedition will be at the end of the Easter term to mid Wales, followed by a further practice expedition in Yorkshire and hopefully a slightly drier final than last year in Snowdonia!



Duke of Edinburgh - Volunteering Case Study

There has been much publicity with the community takeover of libraries as county councils across the country threaten closure in order to save money. Market Bosworth library has been such one case where a number of individuals from the community have worked together to produce business plans and meet with the council to negotiate to keep the library open and fully manned by a team of volunteers.

Katie Wells has been volunteering at the Market Bosworth Community Library for both her Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh award. Her duties include organising displays and tourist information, giving IT advice, signing up new joiners to the library, checking books in and out and cataloguing new books. Her enthusiastic work at the library has greatly impressed both the trustees and library users – so much so that she was asked to 'cut the ribbon' to formally open the library in December.

The library is always looking for volunteers. Please see www.marketbosworthcommunitylibrary.org for more information.



Great Goal!

A group of Lower Sixth form students took on the challenge of planning, running and organising a charity event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. They raised an impressive £178.49 from organising a knockout FIFA tournament involving students from S1 to UVI. The final was watched by a sell-out crowd with the winner being Nathan Dugas.

Mrs C Lauder





Junior Netball

The A, B and C teams started their season with friendly fixtures against Milverton winning all their games, 20:0 to the A team, 10:0 to the B team and 9:0 to the C team. Twenty-one girls participated in these matches, who all played excellent netball.

Their respective NPSSA leagues have taken place over the term and both A and B teams have done amazingly well and have earned themselves the championship spot and won gold! The B team only played four games and came away with four wins, with only two goals scored against them. Well done to captain Isabella White who played very well.

Eight games were played by the A team who also won every one and again only two goals were scored against them. Great defensive play from all the team played a part in this, as the players have to rotate around and play in every position. Lucy Jarvis, Lorna Thomas, Olivia Cox and Bea Pound were very effective. Team captain Alex Wylie lead the way by scoring nineteen of the fifty two goals, with Ingrid Davies scoring nine and Ellie Mills eight.

Well done to all the girls who regularly participate in lunch time and after school practises. Thank-you to Mr Finley who bought the girls down to Ambleside.

Mrs J Thomas



House Netball

This term has seen the girls competing in their house netball, where every pupil represents their house. S1 and S2 had some fantastic games but this year there was a clear winner; congratulations Hillary! However, a well done must also go to Drake who came 3rd and Scott who came 2nd.

S3 and S4 also took part in their house netball and after 3 intense and very close matches the overall winner was Scott: congratulations! Again, a well done must also go to Drake who came 3rd and Hillary who came 2nd.

The Junior house netball will follow in the spring term: good luck!

Miss S Robinson



Netball

The start of the netball season began with a challenging U16 tournament, where the girls came 5th. Although playing in this tournament so early on in the season was tough, the girls saw it as an opportunity to help improve their game and prepare them for future fixtures. They came to every after school practice ready to learn and improve and each week they have made good progress. Well done girls - keep it up! A special mention must go to Alex Vero who captains the team as well as, Lucy Slater, Fiona Simpson and Mollie Gibbs who have also started to help train our younger teams after school. Keep up the hard work; you are great role models to our younger players!



The U15 team have had a tough start to their season with a loss against Ockbrook but with their tournaments and fixtures coming up after Christmas I am looking forward to seeing them play in more competitive fixtures.



The U14 and U13 leagues have also started with both teams making a promising start and I look forward to seeing how the girls get on after Christmas. A special mention must go to Keeva Morrell who captains the U14 team and Luisa Leyland and Jessica Barker who captain the U13 team.

The U12's first competitive match was against Higham Lane who both challenged and pushed our team and it was a good introduction to the world of 7 a side netball. Again, the U12's entered their league very early on in the netball season and have made a terrific start competing against schools such as Ash Green, St Nicholas Chamberlain, Etone and St Thomas More. The U12's have a very promising netball season ahead of them and I look forward to seeing them grow as a team. A special mention must go to Charlotte Hicks and Evie Gibbs who have captained the U12 team, well done.

The U13's competed in an away fixture against Higham Lane. It was a great game with our girls only 3 behind in the third quarter. However, by the time the final whistle was blown the end result was 16-9. Despite the final score it was a great fixture and the girls gave it their all! They also played a home fixture against Ockbrook and had a phenomenal win 20-2! Even as our score climbed higher and higher the girls continued to put in 100% effort and played incredibly well the entire time.

Similarly, the U12's competed against Ockbrook with another impressive win of 15-6. I've no doubt that if the girls continue to commit to practice each week and continue to put the effort in, our teams will go far. Well done girls!

Overall, it has been an exciting and challenging start to the netball season and I look forward to many more fixtures after Christmas!

Miss S Robinson





Table Tennis

As part of the Warwickshire School Games Twycross entered a team of keen but inexperienced table tennis players into the U13 Nuneaton and District Schools Competition held recently at George Eliot School. Competition for places in the team had been tough with intense lunchtime practice sessions on the outside tables.

The chosen team of four, captained by Michael McHale, included Marshall Clarke, Will Venables and Lawrence Cockrell. All the players raised their game for the tournament and with victories over Higham Lane and George Eliot it came down to the last round of matches against Polesworth who had beaten Twycross in the same competition last year by one point after the final rubber was drawn.

This year, however, the tables were turned and although the rubber was again drawn at two matches each, it was Twycross who finished on top due to a better points difference.

The team are now preparing to represent the district in the Warwickshire School Games at the start of February 2017 in Solihull and we wish them every success as they face the best schools in the county.

C Perry

Junior Hockey

The U9 hockey team played their first competitive hockey game against Old Vicarage School this term. Having only played on the tarmac at school in their seven games lessons the move to a mini-astro surface was a new experience for them. With over twenty girls in the year group team selection was not an easy task as so many of them had proved that they were more than capable of taking on this challenge.

The team lead by skipper Isabella White, who was elected Man-of-the Match by the opposition did exceptionally well despite losing 4:1. Ruby Dufour-Tasker and Sophie Ashford did an amazing job up front and had many near misses on target or shot from outside of the D and therefore the goals were disallowed. Sophie and Daisy Whitehall played in many different positions, but did a brilliant job in defence in the later stages of the game and prevented the opposition from scoring on many occasions. Other team members Jess Morrell, Lauren Garland and Maia Giarretta also played well. The long bus journey was almost as exciting as the game and Mrs Toon's 55-point turn to reverse the bus out of an incredible small space earned her a gold medal from the whole team!

Mrs J Thomas



Girls Hockey

This term the Girls have had a comprehensive set of fixtures with matches in the U11's, U12's, U13's and U15's age groups. We have travelled both near and far to play local matches against Dixie Grammar and more distant matches and tournaments in the cities of Derby, Lichfield and Coventry.

By far the most impressive performance was the U15's match against Lichfield Cathedral School. Flora Campbell scored an amazing 9 goals in a comprehensive 14-0 victory. Not to be outdone, Hannah Jarvis also scored 5 goals in the same match.

Twycross U13's played two matches against Lichfield Cathedral School winning one match 9-0 and narrowly losing 4-3 in the second. Alex Wylie was the star of the show in both matches, scoring an impressive 6 goals in total. Evie Gibbs and Jessica Barker also chipped in with 5 goals between them.

The U12's have had a mixed set of results, and have discovered a new goalkeeper in Molly Palmer-Thomas - even though she is slightly younger and plays in the U11's team as well, Molly has made an impressive start to her Twycross hockey career.

The U11's team played local rivals, Dixie Grammar, and ran out 3-1 winners in a very tight match. Goals came from newcomer Zara Martin, Bea Pound and inevitably, Alex Wylie.

Many thanks to all the girls who have played in matches for Twycross House over the term, and also thanks to all of those who have been at team practice over the last term with 100% attendance from Emma Slater and Jess Callaghan and over 90% from many others.

M Thomas

Volleyball Power League

This year in the Nuneaton Schools Girls' Volleyball Power League we have 14 pupils registered to play creating 5 Twycross Teams. The League requires teams to play fixtures every week in a round robin format. 25 teams are registered in the league representing four different schools from the North Warwickshire Sports Partnership. Current League standings place all our teams in the top 10.

Each week pupils can be nominated towards the Most Valuable Player Award.

Teaching staff nominate players based upon their skills on court, umpiring abilities, team work and overall sportsmanship. In total 27 pupils have been nominated over the first four weeks of the Power Leagues.

Huge Congratulations must go to Amelia Blunt and Lucy Dighton who are currently in joint first place, Alicia Guintoli who 3rd, Yasmin Kerman who is 10th, Evie Gibbs who is 11th, Hollie Pickering who is 18th Lily Coates is 19th and the 20th most valuable player is Charlotte Hicks. A fantastic achievement to have so many players nominated after only 4 weeks of full Power League fixtures.

Congratulations to you all; I'm looking forward to seeing what you can achieve in 2017.

Mrs H Williams





Basketball

The start of a new term brought with it a new basketball season with a fresh crop of budding young stars. The U12's NBA JR team starts its fixtures after Christmas and we will be traveling across Birmingham to a number of schools, so have been putting in a lot of hard work in the sports hall in preparation!



The U14's became district champions by not losing a game in the local school games competition against huge schools such as Nicholas Chamberlain and George Elliot. Lead by Issac Dugas, Alex Jackson, Thomas Buckton and Cameron Lewis the team paved the way for the next stage of the competition in January.



The U16's, though hampered by injury, became district champions again by beating the aforementioned teams. Max Dighton, Luke Barrowclough, Nathan Harris, Adam Dodd and Jacob Youles had strong performances with promising signs coming from the support of the rest of the players leading to a very solid and well organised team.

Thirty nine keen sportsmen made the trip to see the top of the table clash of Leicester Riders and Newcastle Eagles on Friday the 9th December with some good basketball to learn from!

G Assinder

Senior Football

A very busy and enjoyable first half of the season has seen a record 33 matches played against varied opposition from the state and independent sectors. The U18s remain unbeaten but their fixture list has been badly affected by cancellations. The U16s have easily dispatched weaker opposition putting six past Repton B and Dixie Grammar but have failed to raise their game against stiffer opposition. Ethan Morrell, a real talisman for the team, has scored an impressive 13 goals in eight matches and his absence due to injury coincided with a run of poor results.

With a balanced and settled side the U15s have produced some fine performances and look set to retain their place in Division 1 of the District League after only failing to pick up points against a dominant Higham Lane side who are also County Champions. Their promising run in the ESFA Cup was only brought to an end by one of last year's finalists, Stretford Grammar from Manchester. The U15B team have enjoyed three close matches, winning two of them by the odd goal. Desmond Cheung has been the stand out player for the U15s, abandoning his midfield role which he enjoyed so much to play with distinction in between the sticks.

The U14s have improved during their six matches, developing a better shape and team spirit and coped well with the loss of their captain Toby Nicholas to a horse riding injury. They have twice scored five goals in a game and have bounced back quickly from heavy defeats to Repton B. Frank Burton has caught the eye playing in an unfamiliar role at centre half and the Wright brothers have shown their versatility, commitment and increasing maturity by playing in various positions with Connor showing a keen eye for goal.

C Perry

Ultimate Report

Congratulations to the Twycross Flux Ultimate teams who achieved a clean sweep at Junior Women's Indoor Ultimate National Championships.

Twycross House School took 7 teams across 3 divisions to this year's Junior Women's Indoor Ultimate Championships in Wolverhampton.



U14 Division

Twycross first team beat everyone in the round robin pool play before defeating Bishops Heber High school from Cheshire in the final 11-4 in a dominant display. Tara Wylie won MVP for the final but all the girls showed amazing athleticism and skill throughout the day. Our 2nd and 3rd teams tied for third place and were equally impressive with some outstanding play for this level of Ultimate.

U17 Division

After losing in the final last year the girls were determined to improve on their performance. Lead by Alex Vero the team won all their games in pool play and faced the defending champions in the final. This time Twycross came out



on top with excellent disc skills and more importantly team work that allowed them to run out 9-7 winners over St Peter's College from Exeter. Hannah Jarvis won MVP of the final and the team also won the spirit of the game award, showing that not only could they play competitively, but they also played in a manner which gained the respect from their opponents.



National squad for Charlotte Heggs

Congratulations to Charlotte Heggs, Lower Sixth, who has been selected to represent the National ISFA U18 Girls squad.



Boys' Games Report

It has been another extremely successful term for the Boys' sporting fixtures. The introduction of contact Rugby has been received really well and has grown the appreciation for a dirty top to display a good afternoon of hard work!

Our U9's Football have played superbly well over the season; the A team only lost one match winning all the rest with an outstanding match at Warwick, early in the season. The B team have won one and drew one match displaying superb team spirit against tough opposition. The U9's also played their first Rugby match against OVS and won 25-20 in a thrilling match.

The U11's have been extremely successful picking up great victories against OVS and St Georges; the later match was a fantastic display of teamwork and leadership from our Captain, Will Simmons. We cannot overlook the U10's and the 2nd place finish in the Ashby Football tournament! This competition combined boys who do not always play together but they linked up well and the team performances were outstanding.

U13's have evolved as a team over the season, led by Isaac Dugas the captain. The 1st XI have only lost once against other independent schools and that was against a strong Repton team; even that was an outstanding match that did not reflect the brilliance the boys displayed.

Every player has made a huge contribution to the team, notably an abundance of goals from Max Tingay-Holt, although goal of the term had to be Reuben Tunday's 25 yard top hand corner strike against St Crispins!

Overall a great season for all the teams and I look forward to building upon the foundations in the Spring Term. Please come along to support and enjoy the success!

L Knight



Junior Cross Country

The juniors have participated in two of the three NPSSA cross country events this term. Race one was held at Michael Drayton School and both teams did very well. Great runs from Alex Wylie in first position, Olivia Cox sixth, Amelie Brown tenth, Eileen Nistelberger, Sophia Brogan eleventh and Tayla Forman eighteenth saw the team finish in first position overall. Race two at Stockingford School saw the girls finish in almost identical positions with a second gold medal for Alex Wylie and gold position for the team.

The boys' team also did very well gaining a silver position in race one and bronze in race two. Individual performances from James Callaghan in seventh and sixth positions, William Simmons third and twelfth, Dylan Reece, Harry Sangane, Jack Underwood and Sam Cooper helping to achieve this.

Race three takes place in February in the middle of school cross country lessons so both teams will be well prepared for this event.

Mrs J Thomas



Badminton

The U14 boys and U14 girls badminton league has started and there has been some fantastic play from our pupils. The girls' practice has gone from strength to strength in terms of numbers and their dedication week in, week out is great to see! Both the boys and girls have vastly improved and have gained some great competitive experience in the world of badminton! Well done and I wish both teams the best of luck in their leagues.

Miss S Robinson

Phoebe - Swimming Success!

Although I swim for the city of Birmingham Squad and regularly swim open meets around the country, I recently decided to swim for my home club Chase at the Stafford County pool. I entered 6 events to obtain more up-to-date swimming times. For my efforts I achieved six personal bests and received six gold medals. My most successful race was the 200m Butterfly, in which I improved my time by 1 minute and 1 second. This gives me a County and Midland qualifying time.

Phoebe Tooth, Senior 2Y





Harvest Time on the Farm



At Harvest time this year, we were lucky enough to welcome Mr and Mrs Gilman, local dairy farmers, to talk about all the work involved in looking after the cows on their farm. Mr Gilman also brought in a life-sized cow and a training milking machine! The children were all keen to ask lots of questions about life on the farm and were surprised to hear that Mr Gilman had to get out of bed at 5am to milk the cows.

Some children decided that they no longer wished to be farmers when they grew up!

Harvest Donations to Atherstone Food Bank



At our Harvest Festival this year the children learned about people in our local community who do not have enough money to buy food.

We were, yet again, overwhelmed by the generosity of our parents who donated a mountain of non-perishable food and essential household items for the Atherstone Food Bank.

A big thank you to all who donated this year, your donations were gratefully received.



Atherstone Foodbank Toy Collection

The Hollies recently had a very special toy collection on behalf of Atherstone Foodbank. A fantastic selection of toys was generously donated. We are sure they will make many children happy over the Christmas period.



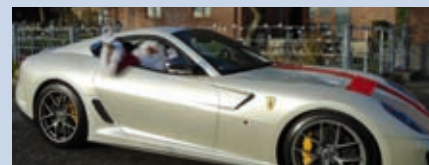
Cake Sale - Treetops Hospice

In October, we held a charity cake sale in aid of The Tree Tops Hospice which provides wonderful care for people at their time of need. Thanks to you and your generosity we raised £300.



Christmas Party & Father Christmas

Our final day and we waited for a special gentleman dressed in red. Excitement grew throughout the day with a party lunch and fun together before our Christmas holiday.



Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday 15th December everyone wore a special Christmas jumper. We raised a grand total of £123 for Save The Children.



Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone for their kind donations. Together this term we raised...

£954 - Children's Cancer & Leukaemia Group

£769 - Myton Hospices

£123 - Save The Children

Have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Mr and Mrs Assinder & All The Hollies Staff

First Years



First Day

What an amazing first day at The Hollies! We made many new friends and had lots of fun. We are now looking forward to the rest of the year and all the wonderful things we will do.



In The Garden

It was great fun to explore the garden at The Hollies. We looked at all of the lovely plants, trees and ornaments and then decided which part of the garden was our favourite. We had decorated a flag and put it next to the place we liked best.



Painting With Water

When it was dry we went outside and had lots of fun painting with water on the floor. We wrote letters and numbers really carefully and watched them vanish as they dried in the sun.



Cooking

This term we have been busy in the kitchen. We have learned a lot about kitchen safety and have made some delicious things to eat.

Polesworth Abbey

We were very excited when we went to Polesworth Abbey. We had to follow a star to find the stable where Baby Jesus was in a manger. The real story of Christmas is very special! As usual the children's behaviour was exemplary. Well done First Years.





Second Years



Golden Time

The children enjoy choosing fun activities and sharing time together.



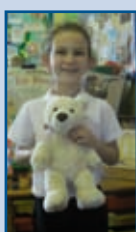
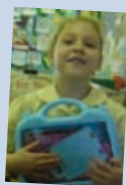
Teddy Bears



The Theme of Our Topic Was Toys

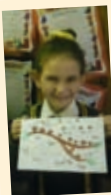
We looked at toys from the past and compared them with our toys today.

Alex (2y) brought in a snakes and ladders game that his grandma had played with as a child.



Preparing for Christmas

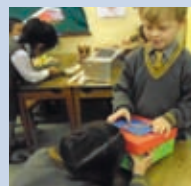
A busy time getting ready for Christmas.



Nativity Play

Class 2o performed a Nativity play to the whole school and finished off with a verse of 'Away in a Manger'. The children enjoyed acting the story and knew their words perfectly.

Good job, 2o!



Investigating Light

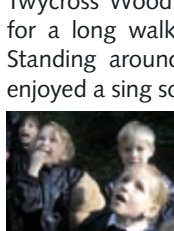
We all made light boxes and discovered that by letting in light we were able to see what was inside.



Teddy Bears Picnic

The school teddy bears were very excited to be taken to the

Twycross Wood with the second year children for a long walk looking for signs of autumn. Standing around a smoking camp fire we all enjoyed a sing song and a snack.



Third Years

Class 3o - Corbin Morris West End Performance - Majesty's Theatre London

Corbin Morris performed 'Les Petites' with his dance troupe, dancing to Thumbelina and Snow White as Bashful. Corbin also sang solo a verse from Little People from 'Les Miserable' as Gavroche.

Well done Corbin: a future West End star!



Class 3y Cooking Cheese Stars

Mrs Orchard taught us how to make cheesy stars and angels. They were delicious!



For the first part of the term our Science topic was 'Animals including Humans'. During this topic we learnt about different types of animals, their lifecycles as well as how to keep our bodies healthy. For one of our experiments we had great fun investigating our heart rates before and after exercise.



Measuring

We measured our arms and legs with centimetre tapes.



Circuit Boards

We had so much fun making circuits at school. We used crocodile clips, bulbs and switches and batteries. Isabella and I made the circuits together. We had so much fun.

By Alice Forman (Class 3y)



Fourth Years

Class 4o French Lesson

The 4th Year children enjoying their French lesson using the "Passport" computer programme.



Class 4o Clay Nativity

Putting the finishing touches



to our clay nativity sets.





Twycross at the Christmas Movies

"A magical night out."

"So much talent on one stage!"

This Christmas, Twycross held its very own premiere and the stars were out in force on the red carpet! There was an array of talent to be seen and a fantastic evening was had by all. The evening was professionally hosted by a selection of students from Form 4 who kept us entertained throughout. We began with a selection of soloists followed by a festive overture performed by the orchestra. The Form 3 and 4 pupils sang a range

of songs from the emotional to the energetic and I am sure you will all agree when I say how beautiful they sounded, how smart they looked and how many promising performers we have in those year groups. They even treated us to a little bit of tap! Mrs Griffiths did a wonderful job in co-ordinating this whole seamless performance. The Form 4s also did their own rendition of The Grinch with Thomas Blackwell doing an accurate portrayal of the grumpy creature who lives on the mountain. The Seniors also stepped up to plate with a performance from 'Ensemble' and solo recitals from Phoebe Tooth and Andrew MacCallum. Oh, and a big thank you to all of the audience members who raised the roof with their participation in the carols! A huge well done to all performers – you should be extremely proud of yourselves!

An incredible £900 was raised on the door for Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group so thank you all very much for your kind and generous support.

Miss E Clift



Ensemble on Tour

This year, 'Ensemble' (Twycross' very own choir) was honoured to be invited to sing at Whitwick Methodist Church as part of Coalville Male Voice Choir's annual Christmas concert. Having only formed in April, this was an exciting prospect for all of the children involved.

They performed eight songs in total ranging from traditional Christmas carols to more recent popular Christmas songs and it is fair to say that they gave a stellar performance. For many this was the first time that they had performed in front of an audience who weren't made up on Twycross parents but they fought through the nerves and did something to be proud of.

Many of the members of Coalville choir were thrilled to see such an enthusiastic group of students and commented on how they hoped they would stick with it in the future. A massive thank you to them for having us as their guests for the evening! Half of the profits from the evening will be donated to our chosen charity for this year Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group.

I cannot congratulate Ensemble enough on what they have achieved in such a short space of time and I look forward to coming back in January to some fresh songs. We might even get some t-shirts...!

Miss E Clift

This year's Christmas concert brought something slightly different to the Hollies. Austria had arrived in Twycross! With the 'oom-pah' sounds of an Austrian band, children dancing in traditional costume, twinkling stars and ribbons of dancing snowflakes, it was hard not to imagine you were in the Austrian Alps!!

The Hollies Christmas Concert

Well done to all the children, particularly those who sung solos - always a daunting prospect! Our two main characters, Rueben Mills and Arthur Davies were clearly capably in their roles as Father Joseph and Herr Gruber, without whom Silent Night would never have been written.

Oh yes, and watch out Swallows Hill - our 4th years are already singing in German!

Thank you once more to all the parents who provided such beautiful costumes.

