



# Twycross TIMES

Twycross House School | Twycross House Pre-Preparatory School

AUTUMN / WINTER 2021



‘WHAT IS **CHRISTMAS?** IT IS **TENDERNESS**  
FOR THE PAST, **COURAGE** FOR THE PRESENT,  
**HOPE** FOR THE FUTURE. IF IT WERE NOT  
FOR HOPE, THE HEART WOULD BREAK’

AGNES M. PAHRO 1904-1985





## NEW ASTRO

We are very excited to share the latest news on the development of the new sports astro pitch being constructed. As you can see from the photos it is taking shape and we hope this will be ready to use in the Spring term.



## BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE NEW ASTRO!

We were very pleased to receive this aerial view taken by Mr Gibson and Annabel whilst flying over Twycross.

## First Year



## FIRST DAY

The First Year children have settled into school life at The Hollies very well. They are all working hard, learning lots of things and enjoying themselves. We are very proud of them!

## SHAPE

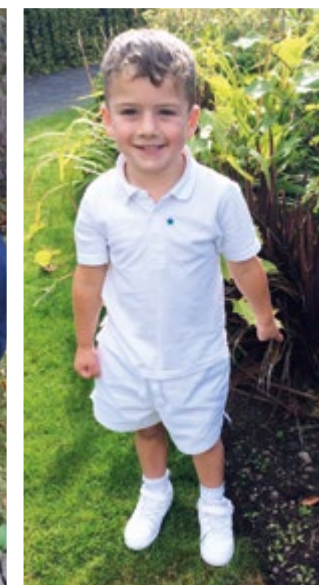
In the First Year we have been learning about 2D shapes.

We have made pictures with them and talked about the different shapes we have used.



## DIWALI

In our new Discovery Room we created a special area to learn about the celebration of Diwali. We made Diwali cards and used stick puppets to recreate the story of Rama and Sita.



## GARDEN

We always enjoy walking through the garden and looking at all the wonderful things in it. We had the opportunity to go into the garden and explore it with our friends. At the end of our adventure everyone found a special place where they planted a flag.



## TORCHES

Our topic about light and dark was very interesting. We brought torches into school and explored all of the dark places that we could find. The cellar was incredibly dark, but VERY exciting!



KINGS AND QUEENS DAY

We had a fabulous afternoon to end our topic on Kings and Queens. We dressed up as royals and enjoyed role-play. We practised our bow/curtsey as well as our royal wave. Together we sang the national anthem and listened to some classical music. The royal photographer took our photographs and we played some royal themed games. Also we learnt that the Victoria sponge cake was named after Queen Victoria and we enjoyed tasting some. We stayed in character all afternoon and we were impeccably behaved royals.



CHILDREN IN NEED

We had a fun-filled day celebrating Children in Need. Starting in the kitchen we baked gingerbread Pudsey Bear biscuits discovering where all of the ingredients came from. We learnt how to dance five different Pudsey dances and were great at following instructions, keeping in time to the music and, by the end, we were ready for a refreshing drink! Next, we cooled off in the garden by going on a Pudsey Bear hunt. After following a series of clues, we eventually found Pudsey and Blush with a delicious chocolate reward. We also created an amazing, collaborative piece of Pudsey artwork in which we designed and decorated a Pudsey Bear poster. To end the day, we iced our gingerbread Pudsey biscuits and they looked delicious.





# Second Year

## TRIP TO THE WOODS

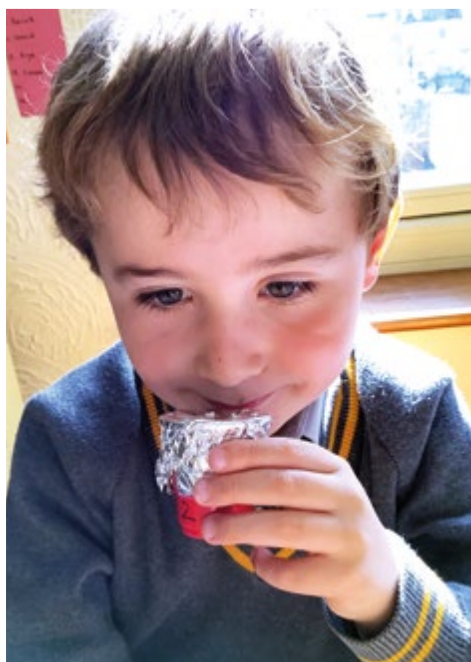
On a lovely September morning, we went on our first trip out in the second year. Our destination was the school woods where we went on a bear hunt. We were looking for different bear characters from story books. We found Paddington, Rupert, Pudsey and Winnie-the-Pooh amongst others.



# Second Year

## SCIENCE – SENSES

We have spent a few weeks exploring our senses. One of our favourite investigations was when we tasted a variety of different foods to see if they were salty, sweet, sour or bitter. Another enjoyable investigation was identifying a range of different smells from six mystery pots.





SCIENCE THIRD YEAR

The first half of this term our topic was 'Animals including Humans'. To round off this topic we were lucky enough to have a visit from Dr McNeela; who taught us all about the role of a doctor in keeping us healthy. She brought along a variety of pieces of equipment and everyone had chance to have a go at being a doctor or a patient!



Our Science topic after half term was 'Electricity' and we have had great fun learning about complete circuits and discovering how electricity can make lights, buzzers and motors work.



GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

The third year children have had a busy term studying The Arctic and The Great Fire of London.

In the first half of the autumn term, the children studied the history of The Great Fire of London. The children enjoyed learning about the living conditions in London in 1666, why the great fire started and how it was eventually extinguished. The high point of this topic was building our own model of London and setting it on fire. The children were able to witness the fire spread from one building to another and how, owing to a break in the buildings, the fire died out.

Then we moved on to the Arctic. We started this topic with a virtual lesson. Both classes assembled in the hall to meet virtually with members of the National Maritime Museum. Here, we were able to view exhibits from expeditions to the Arctic. The children heard about the first explorers thought to have reach the North Pole and learned about the controversy surrounding their claim. The children were very excited to experience this virtual lesson and happily made a thank you card that was sent off to the museum.





# Fourth Year

## CLAY HEDGEHOGS/ THE HODGEHEG

The 4th years have enjoyed reading 'The Hodgehog' by Dick King-Smith this term. They have produced some lovely pieces of work in English and had great fun modelling their own clay hedgehogs in art.



## RECYCLING

In geography, the 4th years have been learning about extreme weather conditions and what they can do to look after the planet. Reduce, re-use, recycle!



## CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

Busy little children have been at work creating Christmas crafts in the 4th year workshop! They are very proud of their cards and calendars.



## ROCKS/SKELETONS

In science, the 4th years have enjoyed a variety of different activities, including an investigation of different rock types and skeleton art.



# Whole School

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The children had a marvellous time together enjoying a rather wonderful Christmas lunch and a very festive atmosphere! Merry Christmas!



## FATHER CHRISTMAS VISIT 2021

On the last day of term, the children were treated to very special virtual visit from Father Christmas. As well as congratulating the children on all they'd achieved during the term, he also delivered a present for each child.

## POPPIES DISPLAY

The children of The Hollies produced another beautiful arrangement of poppies around the village memorial for Remembrance Day. All the poppies were made using recycled plastic bottles. After the display had been in place for a couple of weeks the children were able to take their poppy home.





# Whole School

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Once again the children arrived into school on the last Friday of term with great excitement. It was Christmas jumper day! There was much delight at all the different colours and designs, lots of sparkle and sequins. It was a very colourful day. Each child donated £1 to Save to Children and our total has not yet been tallied.



# Whole School

## SNOWY SCENE AT THE HOLLIES



## FINBAR

Finbar (40) spent his summer holiday walking the Battlefield and Borderlands Way. This is a 42 mile circular walk around Leicestershire and Warwickshire. The route was taken from a book and the two authors of the book came into school and presented Finbar with a signed copy of their book in recognition of his achievement. Finbar raised money for Riding for the Disabled Association.



## HARVEST FESTIVAL/ATHERSTONE FOOD BANK

The children have enjoyed a variety of Harvest activities this term. We have been thinking about where our food comes from and being thankful for all we have. We received a fantastic number of donations for Atherstone Foodbank who were very grateful indeed!

The donations made to the Atherstone Food bank this year were much appreciated. We did two collections, a food collection for harvest festival and a Gift for a Child at Christmas Thank you to everyone involved, we were overwhelmed by your generosity.





THE HOLLIES CHRISTMAS CONCERT – THE BIG LITTLE NATIVITY

A Big Story for Little Voices! A very well done to all our Hollies children who performed in our Christmas Nativity 2021. Although we were all sad to not perform in front of a live audience this year, the children excelled themselves when performing to the camera! Mary, Joseph and their donkey certainly told their story with beautiful angels and stars, sheep and shepherds, wise people and their dancing camels and not forgetting the Christmas tree, carol singers and winter wonderland animals. Of course, we couldn't have a Christmas without a sparkly Christmas List and the innkeepers' fabulous Christmas doors! A big thank you to parents for all your support and supplying the costumes. We have managed to raise over £1000 for our chosen charity Myeloma UK. We hope you enjoyed the show!

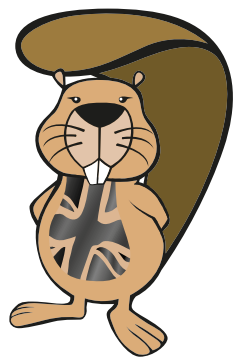
Mrs Saunders & Mr Taylor





BEBRAS

During the month of November most students were able to participate in the annual BEBRAS challenge. BEBRAS (Lithuanian for beaver) created by Prof. Valentina Dagienė is an international challenge ran by over 80 countries that promotes Informatics and the application of computational thinking in its tasks.



The challenges themselves disguise many topics taught at either GCSE or A Level, with binary trees, weighted graphs, Dijkstras shortest path and Turing machines all making appearances this year with many students (without realizing it) able to understand their concept/ application without ever being taught them (well except for Isaac!).

This initial round serves as a gateway to more advanced challenges set by TCS, Google and Oxford University (date tbc) with students scoring in the top ten percent nationally being awarded an invitation to the next phase. The next competition itself serves as a gateway to one final competition run by Oxford University.

Achieving a Gold award and gaining entry to the next phase of competition are:

Group	Forename	Surname
Juniors (10-12)	Leonidas	Geston
Juniors (10-12)	Nishita	Srinivas
Inters (12-14)	Max	Beale
Inters (12-14)	Amelia	Carthy
Inters (12-14)	Isabelle	Randle
Inters (12-14)	Niamh	Daniels
Inters (12-14)	Reuben	Mills
Inters (12-14)	Mya	Khela
Inters (12-14)	Michael	Li
Inters (12-14)	Lily-Anne	Guinan
Inters (12-14)	Linda	Sun
Inters (12-14)	Layla	Guintoli
Inters (12-14)	Barnaby	Crew
Inters (12-14)	Sophie	Robinson
Inters (12-14)	Lauren	Garland
Inters (12-14)	Freya	Sanders
Inters (12-14)	Henry	Blunt
Seniors (14-16)	Henry	Thomas
Seniors (14-16)	Thomas	Blackwell
Elite (16-18)	Isaac	Dugas

Congratulations to these participants as well as the many more that gained Distinctions this year. Well done.

D Westaway



GCSE AND A LEVEL PRESENTATIONS

We were very pleased to present the GCSE and A level certificates to students who completed their exams during the summers of 2020 and 2021.

We celebrated these exceptional set of A level and GCSE results, which are the culmination of great hard work under adverse circumstances. Grades were awarded by teachers following a rigorous series of internal assessments and final examinations.

The results had been subject to extensive quality control both internally and externally.

In September it was excellent to meet up again with the Upper Sixth leavers of 2020. Some had returned from their first year at university and others had completed a gap year.

In October the Lower Sixth were awarded their GCSE certificates following a celebratory breakfast. Then in November we welcomed back the students after their first term of university who left school after their A levels in July 2021.

At this event we were very pleased to welcome our guest speaker ex pupil Matthew Raybould. Matthew attended Twycross House School from 2004 to 2012. In 2016, he graduated with a Master's in Chemistry from Merton College, Oxford. He then moved to New College, Oxford, graduating with a DPhil (PhD) in computational immunology in 2020.

He now works as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oxford, where he develops software to guide early-stage immunotherapy design.

Students travelled back from all over the UK and we were interested to hear their news from universities as far away as Leeds, Durham, Oxford, Exeter and Brighton.







It has been a very busy term in the Library. We have enjoyed seasonal activities, student librarian training, student experiences and focused on well-being by having periods of slowing down the pace to enjoy mindful crafts using natural and recyclable materials. Enjoy the pictures of some of the fun we had!



EXPERIENCES IN THE LIBRARY!

“Heroes of Olympus” and “Santa’s Grotto”

The very creative and talented S1Y group entertained us with two fantastic experiences this term! Before half-term the students who attended had to decipher all the clues necessary to crack the code which would allow them to escape the brilliantly created “Heroes of Olympus” Escape Room, based on Rick Riordan’s beloved book series. Everyone wanted to have a go and the S1Y students dedicated most of their lunchtimes over three weeks to accommodate demand!

A couple of months later, the same group of students turned the VI Form room into an atmospheric Santa’s Grotto and offered their guests a magical festive experience! Many thanks to Mr Hennigan for providing treats for the guests of both experiences. The Christmas cookies looked and tasted great!

A huge thank you to the S1Y group, for their hard work and commitment: Ella Walker, Darcey Gibson, Lilly Winter, Grace Siame, Amret Nijjer, Harriet Guinan and Nishita Srinivas. You are all amazing!



OUR TREE OF PROMISES

With the pretext of the UN’s Climate Change Conference which took place in Glasgow this November, the children created colourful leaves and wrote their promises to the planet and the promises they would like the world leaders to make. We then made our own ‘Tree of Promises’, inspired by the WWF initiative and some children sent a second leaf to WWF for a chance to be included in their ‘Forest of Promises’ which sent a powerful message to COP26.



FESTIVE FUN!

The students had fun making decorations for their form rooms in the Library. We also made salt dough ornaments together and they were so popular, the students made enough to put up at various areas around the school. This may be the beginning of a new Christmas tradition!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW STUDENT LIBRARIANS!

I was delighted to welcome several children from Forms 3 and 4 who showed interest in becoming Student Librarians! A big thank you to Ella Walker for her help in kickstarting the training and to all the Student Librarians who helped them with their tasks and look after the Swallows’ Hill Library.

Training is ongoing and so far, the following students have successfully qualified:

**Our new Student Librarians are:**

.....

**Form 4X:** Bahauddin Awan, Bobby Sun, Tejas Thakrar

.....

**Form 4Y:** Isobel Vause

Congratulations and thank you for the dedication you have already shown to the Library!

Mrs T Avaraki





CHARITY TALENT SHOW

RSPCA was voted by the Swallows' Hill students as their chosen charity for this year. To raise money for this important charity, Emily Davies and Matilda Shade from F5X organised a talent show with some help from the Library. Many talented young students delighted and amazed us with their performances. Very well done to all of you! Emily and Matilda took on the very difficult role of being judges! The students with the highest scores are listed below.

A big thank you to all involved, you have helped raise over £270 for the RSPCA!

Overall Winners:

- 1st: Eliza Gilman, Marissa Wilson, Maddie McLean and Penelope Fisher
- 2nd: Poppy Ward
- 3rd: Henry Hardwick, Joe Harold, Hugo Davies



Monday Performance:

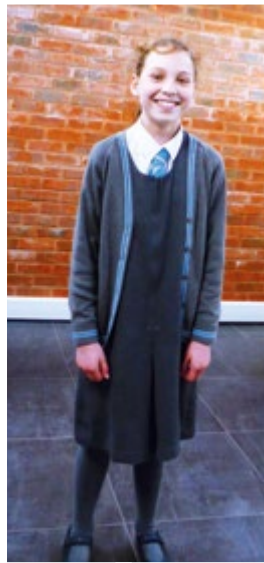
- 1st : Joe Harold F5Y (magic tricks)
- 2nd: Marissa F4Y (piano)
- 3rd: Isabelle Jones F5Y (clarinet)

Wednesday Performance:

- 1st: Eliza Gilman, Marissa Wilson and Maddie McLean (Comedy act + singing + gymnastics)
- 2nd: Hugo Davies (singing)
- 3rd: Henry Hardwick (Piano), Amelia Yarnell (Piano)

Thursday Performance:

- 1st: Penelope Fisher (dancing)
- 2nd: Poppy Ward (singing)
- 3rd: Eliza Gilman and Bethan Tombs (comedy act)





FORM 4 CHEMISTRY

Form 4 have had fun in chemistry exploring acids and alkalis.

They have had a go at making their own indicators using different fruits and vegetables.

One student even had a go at this at home in his kitchen with some great results! The students then had the opportunity to test their indicators to see which fruit or vegetable worked best.

Mrs D Vause



FEED THE BIRDS

Form 3 have really enjoyed making bird feeders this term.

We have discussed the types of food that can be put out for our garden birds.

They made two types: bread and fruit threaded onto a wire and pine cones covered in lard and seeds.

We have hung them up in a quiet area of the school grounds.

I'm sure the birds are going to really enjoy them.

Mrs L Holland



CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY!

During the last week of the summer holiday Christmas came early to Twycross House! We welcomed ex parent Anya Banks and her company - anyabankschristmasdecorator.co.uk - to construct two promotional decorative designs for the front door.

Photography by Carmen Freeman-Rey  
Designed by Anya Banks



FORM 5 DRAMA

This term our Form 5 Drama students have enjoyed their lessons on twisted fairy tales. Students applied their physical and vocal skills to create class performances of 'Girls in da Hood' - a modern take on the classic 'Little Red Riding Hood'. The children enjoyed exploring their characters and learning their lines to create an engaging performance. They created some outstanding work and should be very proud of themselves.

Mrs K Wyatt





SENIOR 5 PHYSICS

Senior 5 have been enjoying some hands-on physics this term, utilising some good weather to get outside with a go kart, power bags and dumbbells to investigate the relationship between work done and power. They also analysed the physics behind the three ball drop, calculating momentum, gravitational potential energy and kinetic energy whilst using their knowledge of conservation of momentum and energy to make predictions.

Inside the classroom, they had a go at creating a battery out of lemons and managed to draw a potential difference of ten volts when the whole class connected in series.

Later in the term, they used their knowledge of forces to create a hydraulic lifting bridge. They were able to calculate the input force required to lift a variety of masses using their knowledge of hydraulics linked with moments calculations (turning forces).

Mrs D Vause



DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER AWARD

Congratulations to all the members of Senior 5 for the successful completion of the practice and final expedition of the Silver award in Derbyshire and Shropshire this term. Thank you also to the Twycross House D of E staff team who train, organise, and supervise our young people to achieve their awards.



DRAMA

The GCSE Drama students were glad to get back to some live theatre this term. Senior 5 started the term with a highly energised outing to see ‘Six’ at the Birmingham Hippodrome where, for the first time since the first lockdown, it was lovely to have a full blown musical on stage with its take on the stories of the wives of Henry VIII. They listened to songs from the show all of the way back and so, despite the traffic, we were well entertained.

In October, the whole cohort went back to the Hippodrome to see the touring production of our set text ‘Blood Brothers’. As a powerful piece of theatre that speaks as much today as it ever did about the inequalities in society and the fatalistic future for

one particular divided family, it was wonderful to see this Willy Russell west-end classic reach a new and young audience as it has continued to do since 1983 - never having been off stage since.

In November, we were treated to the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama’s production of ‘Alice’ at The Curve in Leicester. To watch Drama school students in a devised piece of theatre, inspired by Lewis Carroll’s ‘Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland’ is the perfect complement to a term of creating our own devised pieces for GCSE assessment. The skill and creativity demonstrated by these Musical Theatre students provided inspiration and contemplation for Twycross students and new ways of

thinking about their own practical work. The Q&A session afterwards was also an invaluable insight into the world of auditions for Drama school, getting into a range of related professional courses and included excellent advice from the technical theatre perspective as well as those in front of the curtain.

Overall, a busy term of enrichment to give the Drama course its full breadth and to allow students the opportunities to engage with a practical subject in its real-world context. We hope for many more to follow and for our own productions to be open to friends and family later in the year.

Mrs L Shaw

REMEMBRANCE DAY AT TWYCROSS HOUSE

We were proud to support the British Legion and wear poppies as a symbol of Remembrance and in the hope for a peaceful future. Members of Swallows Hill also had made poppies which were proudly displayed for the parade.

On Wednesday 11th November pupils and staff from Twycross House School gathered to pay tribute to the men and women of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty.

Mr Taylor sounded the last post and then Lucy Dighton from the

Upper Sixth read a verse from the Remembrance Day poem ‘For the Fallen,’

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.”

After the two minutes silence the Reveille was sounded and the parade was dismissed.







## SENSORY BOOKS

Form 4 have been learning about the senses this term. They have dissected pigs' eyes and done lots of experiments on the senses of smell and taste. While learning about the sense of touch, they have been making sensory books. These are books with small children in mind, using lots of different textures and limited text. They have had great fun making them, using bits and bobs found around the home and coming up with lots of interesting ideas.

**Mrs L Holland**

## SWALLOWS HAMPERS

I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the school community this year. We were able to create 8 very impressive hampers for our raffle. Our 8 winners went home extremely pleased although the real success has been the amount raised - £340 will be donated to RSPCA. A wonderful achievement and thank you all for your support.

**L Knight**



## TWYCROSS CHEMISTS THROUGH TO NATIONAL FINAL!

We are very fortunate to have so many excellent chemistry students to choose from and to put forward for the annual Top of the Bench (TOTB) national chemistry competition. This year we entered two teams to sit the regional preliminary round held at our school on 1 December. There can, however, be only one winning team and I am very happy to congratulate Kierit Lehal (S5), Elliot Lewis (S4), Lauren Garland and Jessica Salt (S3) for being the highest scoring team out of 16 school teams in our region.

Their success means that they have been invited to represent the West Midlands region and to take part



in the Royal Society of Chemistry national TOTB final held in early 2022. This is the third time that a team from Twycross House School have reached the finals (both previous times were regrettably cancelled due to snow in 2018 and Covid in 2020). Many congratulations to the winning team

but also to James Callaghan (S5), Steven McHale (S4), James Garland and Oliver Salt (S3) for performing so incredibly well.

Good luck (and third time lucky?)

**Mr I Smaditch**

## BASKETBALL

Having had 19 months of just training in year groups, all of the basketball teams were/are itching to get started once again.

With the Covid-induced absence of many of the main leagues, we have been playing friendlies with some like-minded local schools, along with the introduction of 3X3 basketball at the school games regional competition, to try and promote the sport ahead of the Commonwealth Games this summer. There is also the possibility of the resurrection of the NBA junior league after Christmas for U12 and U14.

The U15 team has had a perfect start to the season, finishing 6-0 (wins-losses) with matches against the



Market Bosworth School and Repton, which saw every player bar our previous top scorer score a basket. The team also did very well at the regional 3X3 tournament, winning the whole thing and progressing to the regional finals in January.

## U11-13

The U11s started off well against Fairfield School, winning 20-10 with a good all-round performance, especially considering this team took up basketball mid lockdown. The win was bolstered by a strong performance by Poppy Ward. U13s have done well this term and have gained some valuable experience at the 3X3 tournament for their age group.

However they were out-muscled and ended up losing three, drawing (not something usually done in basketball) two and winning one, which saw the boys win the plate but fail to get through to the next round. More success was had when we played Derby High in their first ever full-length match, which saw us come away with a 26-14 victory.

In the last basketball activity of the year, we hosted a double header of basketball matches against High Clare U11s and then U9s. The U11 match was won 12-22 in a great team performance. The U9s also won their first ever game 10-2 with great performances from all the players, which just showed that all those practices paid off!

**G Assinder**



FOOTBALL

After a late start to the season as Covid restrictions eased and in spite of some pretty wet weather later on, the U13, 12 and 11 teams were able to compete in 17 eleven and seven-a-side fixtures and one ISA tournament this term, winning 11, losing 6, scoring 73 goals and conceding 34 overall. The U12s were the most successful side, thanks to 13 goals in 4 matches from Rudi Carr (who also scored two more in the U13s) as they enjoyed victories over Dixie Grammar, St Georges School, Edgbaston and Polesworth High School. A tough 7-a-side fixture versus Rawlett on the 3G pitch resulted in honours even, with the A team losing but the B team winning. Overall the team finished with a record of Played 5, Won 4, Lost 1, 34 goals scored, 13 conceded.

The U13 team, captained by Lenny Prince, played some terrific football and always looked a threat when going forward but despite the outstanding performances of Phoenix Wong at centre back, defensive frailties were sometimes exposed too easily by strong or skilful players. There were comfortable victories

over Derby High and Repton B, but very narrow defeats to Repton A and Priory for which they really needed their captain and particularly their first team goalkeeper. Overall the U13s finished with figures of Played 4, Won 2, Lost 2, 19 goals scored, 8 conceded.

The U11 side made steady progress throughout the term, building a good team spirit and developing a better shape to the side as players found their best positions. There were hard-fought wins against High Clare and Priory but narrow losses to Dixie and Pennine Way despite the best efforts of stand-out players Taylor Adams, Harvey Gibson and Ayaan Obaid in particular. The team finished their 7-a-side season with a record of Played 8, Won 5, Lost 3, 20 goals scored, 13 conceded. The ISA 5-a-side tournament at Kidderminster in which two teams were entered saw the A and B team up against the best smaller independent schools in the Midlands and it took both teams a while to adapt to the format and level of the opposition. The B team actually performed better in the early stages

and qualified to divisions higher than the As for the afternoon competition but then found the challenge of playing a league of stronger teams quite daunting. However, they finished with creditable figures of Played 8, Won 2, Drawn 2, Lost 4. The A team, having underperformed in the morning, found the opposition more to their liking in the afternoon part of the competition but still ended up drawing a couple of matches they should have won. They finished with a record of Played 10, Won 4, Lost 4, Drew 2.

Overall, it has just been so good to see the youngsters back playing competitive school matches and all age-groups have made clear progress both individually and as a team. The future looks bright for next year's U13 XI and the U11 7-a-side team and I look forward to observing their progress next season. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents who have given up their time and often travelled some distance to support the teams – the players and I very much appreciate it.

C Perry

U9'S ISA FOOTBALL

In November we travelled to Kidderminster to play our first ISA tournament. We knew it wouldn't be easy as we were competing against some really good teams. We started very well, winning six matches in a row. We played some excellent football, with Miles and Casey each scoring a hat-trick, solid defending by our centre back Edward and an all-round super team performance.

After the lunch break we played against Priory School. We conceded an early goal which made it difficult for us, and ended losing the match 2:0. We then played four more games, winning two of them and losing two. Some of the matches were very physical and our children competed excellently, showing a lot of resilience. Although we had won



most of the matches unfortunately it wasn't enough to reach the top three and we finished in 4th place. It was a bitter result having beaten the 3rd placed team, but it was a very good learning experience for our children and there is still room to improve to return stronger for the future ISAs. Overall, we played really well and had a lovely football day!

A special mention to Charlie who has been a brave and amazing goalkeeper, and has on many occasions been congratulated for his saves by other schools. Also, a special mention for this group of boys and girls for their excellent team work and team spirit! You are a joy to coach and you have shown a lot of potential throughout the year!

Mrs Gill

U9'S FOOTBALL

It has been a good season for our U9s teams. The boys have been working very hard in lesson time and after school practice and as a result they continue to show great progress.

We started the season very strong, winning our first two matches at home with good 3:2 and 1:0 results against Repton Prep School. A few weeks later we travelled to Highclare

School where we lost our three matches against a very strong and more experienced side. Next, we played Dixie school where our teams put in incredible performances and won all of the matches comfortably.

We also travelled to Repton Prep School on a lovely sunny Saturday morning to compete in a football tournament. On a morning of high-



quality football which the kids really enjoyed, we won three matches and lost two. Well done to you all for working hard and representing our school excellently!

Mrs Gill

U14 FOOTBALL



The U14's played exceptionally well in the ISA tournament. They received compliments from a range of schools - "Manchester City of the tournament" (A compliment to some but not all supporters!)

After a full day of matches the boys finished 2nd after not losing a single game or conceding a single goal!

Winning 3 games, drawing 4. An outstanding team performance with positives in every aspect of their game. An unbeaten team to finish 2nd is desperately unlucky nonetheless I cannot praise the squad enough for their commitment and performances on the day. Well done!

L Knight

U18 FOOTBALL

It was fantastic to have our most senior students playing competitive matches once more. The season started with some fantastic results, notable wins against Brooke House Academy B, Dixie, Highclare and Polesworth High were outstanding team performances. Special mention to a fantastic team goal against Repton finished beautifully by Nathan Dugas and Reuben Tunday's halfway line clearance/shot! After half term the performances were fully committed although injuries, commitments outside of school and external sources hindered some of the results. Overall a great term of sport and I look forward to coaching the U18's next year.

L Knight

U15 FOOTBALL

The U15 team has been a delight to coach with strength in all positions - a fantastic problem to overcome! The season started with a tough match against Stoneygate. Our A team lost although the B team were excellent in their 8-1 win!

The A team bounced back strongly with a great team performance against Lichfield winning 4-2. After a few cancelled matches the boys were able to finish the season

with wins against Repton C and St Georges. Special mention to Alex Fitzgerald as captain and leading goal scorer Arthur Davies.

L Knight



U16 FOOTBALL

Our U16's have been strengthened by the positive attitude of the less experienced players stepping up to support the team. Unfortunately the U16 team has suffered with the most number of matches cancelled. The boys put in a good performance against a strong Brooke House team

and a well organised Repton B team. The outstanding performance was a 3-3 draw against St Georges with a hat trick from Harry Morrell although special mention must go to Finlay Thompson-Lowe with an excellent debut performance.

L Knight





## U15S GIRLS' FOOTBALL

It has been a challenging start for our girls' football. Without much practice time, we have played two matches against Derby High School, losing them both. This group of

girls are very hard working and love football, and no doubt these results will motivate them to do better in our upcoming matches. It's great to see that the same girls who started

football with me when they were U11s are still as enthusiastic about it as they were then! I am very proud of you, girls, keep working hard!

**Mrs Gill**

## U14 GIRLS TENNIS

At the end of last Summer term, our U14 girls tennis team won their league in the LTA schools tennis tournament, which set them up for a Regional knock-out tie this term. Despite several failed attempts due to Covid, we finally managed to travel over to the highly regarded Bromsgrove School on a dry, sunny afternoon in October. Without our number 1

seed and Captain, Sophie (a nasty finger injury meant that she could not play), we knew it was going to be a tough afternoon on court against well drilled, highly skilled opponents. Emily C put in a fine performance to beat Bromsgrove number 1 seed in the singles in a hard-hitting, tense game and fourth seed Sophie R made a superb comeback to also beat

her opponent. But unfortunately, we couldn't pull it out of the bag when we needed to in the doubles and ended up losing the fixture 4-2. Overall though, a fantastic run and fingers crossed for more luck and an injury-free tournament this Summer!

**Miss H Blencoe**

## EQUESTRIAN GAMES SUCCESS

Congratulations to Issy Moreton of Form 5 who qualified for The Schools Equestrian Games Championships earlier this year. Riding for Twycross House School in the Eventing Champs, she won the competition by a very clear margin, leading with the best dressage score of the day and completing a brilliant clear show jumping and cross country easily inside the time allowed to complete.

She has also recently won in the pairs dressage to music at the National Pony Club Championships.

Issy has represented her local Pony Club branch at the Regional Championships for 3 separate disciplines - pure dressage where she individually won her section and then won overall against all competitors. For the pure show jumping, she was

the only member on her team to jump a triple clear and help them to win overall team champions. She then competed individually in the eventing champs where she again took the win by a decent margin.

This success comes after much hard work and dedication, and the ability to perform under pressure. Well done!



## HOCKEY SUCCESS

Congratulations to Isabella White (Senior 3) who has been selected for England Hockey U15's Ladies Squad and joined their Midlands' Performance Centre Academy in November.

This comes on top of her U16's County Hockey for Warwickshire selection and playing for the Ladies 1st team Hockey for Atherstone Adders.



## ISA SWIMMING QUALIFIERS

On 4th November, after numerous time trials and early morning training sessions, we travelled to Walsall Gala Baths with 7 Junior swimmers to compete in the ISA Swimming Qualifiers (the first time we have ever entered this event!). The nerves and adrenaline were high as our boys and girls took to the water to compete for the school and try to swim a fast enough time to get them to the National finals. Our U10 club swimmer, Marissa, went first, swimming breaststroke. A strong performance saw her place well in her heat and 3rd overall in her age group. Our backstroke swimmers, Alice, Ollie, Izzy and Joe, swam straight and fast and placed well in their respective heats. The stand-out performance on backstroke, however, was Eliza who came first in her race, giving her an excellent chance to qualify for the national finals. The penultimate freestyle races saw Emilie and Marissa glide through the water to place well in their races. Joe and Izzy also swam fine races and Ollie powered through his race to earn himself a 3rd place overall in his age group - what a fantastic achievement!

All of our swimmers had a great day at this fun, highly competitive and well organised Gala - they swam their socks (or fins!) off and represented the school admirably.

A huge thank you to Miss Rowland for putting on extra training sessions for the children and ensuring that they were 'race ready'!



## DID SOMEONE SAY ISA NATIONAL SWIMMING FINALISTS?!

After a nervous couple of days of waiting after the qualifying event, the email finally came through from the ISA organisers to confirm that we had not one, not two, but THREE swimmers qualify for the National Finals which were to be held down in London in the Olympic pool! I'm not sure who were more excited - the girls, the teachers or the parents!

Our qualifiers were: Emilie for the U9 regional freestyle relay team, Marissa for the U10 regional freestyle relay team and Eliza for the U10 individual backstroke.

On the morning of the event, Miss Rowland and I drove down to the London Aquatic Centre to meet the girls and their parents, ready for the eagerly anticipated event. And wow did it not disappoint - the stands were full of spectators and the atmosphere electric!



Eliza was up first for her individual backstroke race. With the adrenaline pumping and the blood flowing, Eliza made a great start to her race and held a strong position in the middle of the pack. At 40m the pace accelerated and the swimmers at the front extended their leads. Eliza ended the race in 6th place - what a great achievement!

Next up was Emilie in the U9 regional freestyle relay race where she competed in a team with swimmers from 3 different schools. Emilie took the 2nd leg of the race and swam a strong 50m to secure 4th place for the team - only fingertips away from a bronze medal! Well done Emilie!

Finally, Marissa took to the water with her U10 relay team, again with swimmers from other schools. Marissa was given the all-important fourth and final leg to swim - a huge responsibility. She started her 50m well, with a strong dive and transition, but had too much work to do to catch up with the leaders of the race and held on to finish 6th with her team. Congratulations!

A huge WELL DONE to these 3 girls and I look forward to seeing how well we do next year - just keep swimming!

**Miss H Blencoe**





# ISA BADMINTON

This year's ISA badminton tournament was a huge success for Twycross. The event (which sadly couldn't take place last year due to Covid), held this year at Nottingham University, usually has multiple schools compete in different age categories - representing Twycross we had Stephen McHale (S4) in the U15 boys category, Sophie Ashford (S4) and Isabella Cockrell (S5) in the U17 girls category and finally James Callaghan (S5), Finley Thompson-Lowe (S5), Charlie Morris (S5) and I in the U17 boys category. Within some age groups, schools were forced to pull out of the tournament last-minute, which lead to us playing some of our own players - which wasn't ideal but it was all great fun! Everyone did superbly, with James winning the U17 boys plate, and Finlay coming 2nd after a close-fought final, ending 21-20 in the deciding set. Charlie came third within the main cup event after some excellent group stage performances, and I managed to win the U17s main cup. This is the third year a student representing Twycross has won this category which is amazing! (It's a good thing I wasn't told this before the final match!) Stephen came fourth in the Cup tournament, however this was a huge achievement as he was the only



person from a school other than 'The Webber School of Badminton' to be in the final group stage. The other players from that school were unbelievably talented and Stephen did exceedingly well to beat a few of them on his road to the final four. As for the girls, Sophie came 3rd in the main Cup tournament after some excellent matches in the group stage and an insanely close three set match in the semi final against Isabella, who then went on to win the final and take home the girls U17s trophy as a result of a fantastic final performance.

Doubles in the afternoon was hugely entertaining for all the players, with a much more relaxed atmosphere and all the groups combining to play

one big mixed doubles tournament - where Twycross did equally well! Finlay and his partner (from another school) came third in the cup competition, whilst Isabella and James came 2nd and myself and my partner from another school came first after an extremely close fought match ending 15-13 in the deciding set. This meant Twycross took all 3 top spots in the U17 doubles category which is just amazing.

A huge thank you to Miss Blencoe for making the tournament possible - we can't wait for next year!

**Lawrence Cockrell -  
Badminton Captain**

# U13 NETBALL

This term I have been impressed with the dedication and continued commitment to after-school practice each week by both S1 and S2. This has led to some great competitive matches against other schools and these fixtures will continue into the Spring term. Both our A and B teams had great wins to start off the competitive season against Arnold lodge (A:17-10 B:16-2) followed by another fantastic win against Dixie (18-11). During that same week the girls narrowly missed out on another

victory, this time playing Higham Lane. It was an exciting back and forth between the two schools, but ultimately Twycross were not able to walk away as winners on this occasion (21-18).

The girls then took part in the first half of their Ambleside League which resulted in two wins, one draw and one loss. The second half of league won four lost one. The girls played brilliantly and both their skill and behaviour throughout the entire

competition were a credit to the school. Twycross then faced Etone as their final opponent of the term, where they walked away victorious achieving a convincing win 20-12.

The progress each and every one of you has made is brilliant and as a team you have improved tremendously. You have been a pleasure to coach and I hope you have many more victories next term and I wish you all the best.

**Miss S Robinson**

# U11 NETBALL

Our U11 netballers have been dedicated and committed to training this term and have really gelled as a team. Unfortunately, owing to poor weather and extenuating circumstances, they have only had one game so far. However, there are plenty in the diary for after Christmas! Their one match at the start of the season saw the A and B teams travel to Pennine Way on a warm, sunny afternoon to play on their all-weather surface. With only one training session under their belts the girls played very well, showing their skills learnt in previous years. Our A team were victorious, winning 12-3, with notable shooting performances from Rose and Matilda and Captain Poppy showing her play making skills in the Centre court. Our B team were not so fortunate, losing out 10-4 in a game of two halves where the score really did not reflect how close the game really was. Well done U11s!



# U9 NETBALL

The U9 girls have worked really hard this term to learn the rules and skills required to play netball. Come rain or shine, they have been committed to both lessons and after school practices and this has paid off with 2 wins out of 2 in the matches they have played so far (lots more to come after Christmas!). The first game against Old Vicarage was

played in awful wind and rain and saw all girls represent the school. The final score was 6-5 to Twycross. The second game against Pennine Way took the same course, with our A team winning 6-1 and the B's winning 4-0. Well done U9s, keep up the good work!

**Miss H Blencoe**

# SENIOR NETBALL U14 AND U15

The U14 team had a great start to the year with a strong performance in the first half of the Ambleside Netball League, winning 3 of their 4 games comfortably and drawing the other. Unfortunately, due to bad weather the 2nd half of the league was cancelled and has been rescheduled for the Spring Term but the team are looking forward to building on their successful start. They put in another very strong performance against Dixie early on in the year, winning 13-1. This was followed by a tough game against Higham Lane just before Half Term. The team was playing well but after losing a player in the last quarter

and therefore losing their stride, they lost 20-9.

The U15 team (a mixture of U14s and U15s) played Etone and despite some great play in the Centre court, were outplayed in the Ds at both ends and lost the game 15-3. The team played Higham Lane A and B at the end of this term and had a good win against the B team (8-4) but lost out to a very strong Higham A team. The girls did a great job and played some lovely netball but weren't quite strong enough to compete.

# U16

A mixed U16/U17 team had a great game against Higham Lane. Considering that they had not played netball for over a year,

the team put in a really fantastic performance, playing some wonderful netball but narrowly lost 18-17. The U16s put in another very strong performance against Etone and won 20-9. Sadly their other fixtures were cancelled this term.

# U18

The U18s have been back on court this year and it has been really great to see the girls playing again. They have put in 2 very strong performances, beating Etone 25-10 and Lichfield 31-15. Well done U18s! There have been so many great performances this term for the Senior netball teams and we are looking forward to continuing this next term.

**Mrs S Beavan**



# ULTIMATE – JUNIOR WOMEN’S NATIONAL CHAMPIONS 2021

56 students in 7 teams took to the field at the Junior women national ultimate championships, held at the Cranford Superdome in London.

In the U14 division the Twycross teams improved massively from the experience and enjoyed the competition against teams from Exeter. One of the teams reached the u14 final losing out and finishing as runners up. The team was led by the energy of Tabitha Adams and the throws of Darcey Gibson. The second team finished 4th with Poppy Ward and Matilda Shade playing well.

In the U17 division our three teams played amazingly well. The senior 3’s at the younger age of the division outperformed teams with older players. The work rate of Emily Carley

and skills of Lauren Garland help one of the teams finish 5th, while Liv Rosell and Katie Campion helped another team to 7th position. The standout performances though were from the Senior 5 girls who won their initial group and powered through the quarter and semi final against strong sides from Aylesbury and Leeds. The final was a close affair with the game within one point until the team from St Peters in Exeter pulled away. Bea Pound led the team well with Ellie Mills and Emily Gibbs playing well.

In the U20 division Twycross sent two teams and saw a few ex-students in the opposition teams as well. Both teams made it to the semi finals and the first team won through to the final having only conceded 4 points

in the games to get there. Notable performances from YeeLee Yau, Jess Callaghan and Keeva Morrell made sure that Twycross regained the National Title to make it 6 wins in the last 7 years.

As preparations for the tournament the senior girls took on Birmingham University. The girls learnt lots and performed amazingly to win 8-3 against a very good university team. The girls were also involved in the first fixture in the Midland mixed league which Twycross won against Flyght Club from Nottingham.

Well done to all the players who have worked hard and represented the school so well over this term.

M Beavan



## CHRISTMAS JUMPERS FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN

Students from F3 to UVI have been displaying their amazing Christmas jumpers in aid of Save the Children. The last day of the autumn term saw a very colourful procession of tasteful (and not so tasteful) Christmas jumpers around Twycross House School. Thank you for your donations to a very worthy cause



## CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Once again the lower sixth form students have been busy Christmas Elves selling Christmas stamps, with all proceeds going to our chosen local charity Canine Partners. 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 students 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



## GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIPS AND TALKS

The delayed 6th form field trip to North Norfolk saw the Geography



students undertake coastal fieldwork and urban settlement data collection. The trip began in Cromer with the students taking beach and groyne profiles and looking at the coastal protection schemes. We then travelled along the coast to West Runton to see the Jurassic geology. Sheringham was the next stop for some sound scaping and ethnographic observations. The trip

finished with a trip to Blakeney and a spot of crabbing – we never caught the big one!

Back at school, all the 6th form students were treated to a talk from Andy Wells who shared his expertise and experience of a career in Geography and the importance of GIS in the modern world.

M Beavan



## MAGMILLAN CAKE SALE

This year's Macmillan cake sale was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who supported by baking cakes, buying cakes and eating cakes! We were so happy that we were able to run this event, even if it was a slightly changed occasion. Cakes were sold in 'surprise bags' which increased the excitement of the day. The event was a very successful charity event, raising £899.52 for Macmillan cancer. The last two years have been hard on charities so it was nice to be able to start our support again. Same time next year?

**Mrs C Lauder**



## THE LOWER SIXTH FRIDAY CHALLENGE

Lower sixth form students have been put through their paces every week during form time when they have been presented with different tasks to complete. Challenges involving catch phrases, world countries, balance bars, basketball head, three-man catapults, 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 the 'cup drop' and the pressure was on with several teams still being in the running. The winning teams this term are Quiztina Aguilera and I eat asbestos!

**Mr P Hudson**



## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

On the 25th of November, Twycross House School supported the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women by wearing orange; in the form of stickers, socks and wristbands. The initiative came around after our NCYW (National Council for Young Women) group, led by Ellen Burton and Charlotte Hicks, organised this in-school campaign to spread awareness of the increase in abuse against women especially since the Covid-19 pandemic.

This day is annually represented by orange as it symbolises a brighter future free of violence against women and girls. Unfortunately gender-based violence is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violation which is still, for the most part, unreported owing to the shame and stigma it is followed by. Our NCYW group run meetings once a fortnight to try to actively discuss and combat injustices experienced by women.



We hope to continue to advocate with the help of Mrs Shaw and everyone involved here at school.

**C Hicks and E Burton, Lower Sixth**