



Twycross House School | Twycross House Pre-Preparatory School

Twycross TIMES

SPRING 2022



‘MARY POPPINS,
PRACTICALLY PERFECT
IN EVERY WAY’



MARY POPPINS

The 27 strong cast, supported by student stage management, technical and hair and make-up teams were also given the professional treatment by University College Birmingham BA Hair and Make Up students led by a BBC hair and makeup artist. They were also able to work with an industry lighting and sound technician in preparation for the final performances.

Twycross Students from S1 to U6 have worked every week since September trying to make a 'Practically Perfect' performance and have exceeded every expectation in their hard work and tenacity.

Their teamwork and support for one another on every level has been wonderful to witness; from the perils of a pandemic to the expected commitment clashes that are inevitable in putting a school show together, they have been ready to 'step in' in a timely manner for one another in an admirable and thoroughly professional manner.

It is incredibly hard to pick out individuals from an ensemble which has worked so tirelessly to produce this performance but it would be remiss not to mention especially the U6 students for whom this will be their last performance with the school. Jasmine Morris and Abi Stacey have been at the heart of the show this year, performing with confidence and panache and looking after all of the younger cast members. We will certainly miss them as we start to think about next year!

Maddy Richardson as Mary Poppins is everything you could hope for in a leading lady, seemingly able to switch seamlessly from emotional moments to comedy timing – a talent she shares with her co-star Brinn Lilley as Bert.

They are complemented exceedingly well by Izzy Thomas and Tom Longland as Mr and Mrs Banks who work fantastically together to create the convincing family unit.

The youngest members of the cast in leading roles, Darcey Gibson as Jane and Oliver Timberlake as Michael, also deserve great praise for their dedication and maturity in taking on these demanding roles alongside their more experienced peers.

I cannot leave out the additional comedy stylings and characterisation of Baris Clarke, Evie Callery, Simon Louw, Kristian Howe, Jiya Parmar and Maddie Kerrigan who have all put so much into their acting and singing roles to make the show what it is.

And none of them would be able to do what they do without the constantly changing cast of chorus roles who make the songs and dances look effortlessly fantastic. To each and every one of them I give a heartfelt thanks and rapturous applause for making the show what it is.

Mrs L Shaw





MARY POPPINS HAIR AND MAKE-UP

The Mary Poppins hair and make-up team were pleased to receive expert tuition from students from the BA Hair and Make-up degree course at University College Birmingham.



CHEMISTRY TRIP - TUESDAY 15TH MARCH

The University of Leicester was kind enough to allocate an afternoon for the Upper Sixth to visit and complete a required practical within their facilities. We completed many thin layer chromatography experiments, including one which could only be viewed under U.V. light. It went well for the most part: one pair caused a slight mess, spilling a vial of coloured compound everywhere!

Luckily everyone laughed it off and we continued. The volunteer PhD students demonstrated how to conduct a comparison between the mass spectroscopy of aspirin and caffeine.

Following this, we were lucky enough to be shown many of the amazing chemistry facilities at the university, including NMR, mass spectroscopy and x-ray crystallography machines.

Lecturers at the university offered us a chance to ask any questions regarding both our upcoming exams and preparing with effective revision techniques.

Thank you to Mr Smaditch for organising this opportunity and to him and Mrs Cleaver for accompanying us on the day.

Lucy Dighton and Phoebe Tooth U6



WE'RE BACK! - THE RETURN OF LIVE MUSIC AND DRAMA TO TWYCROSS HOUSE SCHOOL!

After an agonizingly long hiatus of over two years (since our last music concert in December 2019) the school orchestra and choirs, together with the cast of the Pirates of the Curry Bean and a number of soloists overwhelmed the audiences in a stunning pair of concerts on Tuesday 8th March. This was followed on 23rd -25th March by three wonderful performances of Mary Poppins, which similarly was also two years after the school's previous production.

Despite the limitations of Covid restrictions over the last two years, the school orchestra has continued to grow and now has over 20 young musicians (with an average age of 10 years old) in it playing on a wide selection of instruments. The Swallows Choir has similarly taken on a new lease of life this year with

record numbers of participants and is currently practising hard preparing for the Young Voices concert in May at the Resorts World Arena, Birmingham.

For the majority of children in The Swallows, the 8th March concert was their very first time performing in front of an audience, having had this experience denied from them over the last two years, and for the older children these performances were a welcome return to the joys of performing we had all enjoyed in pre-Covid times.

Watching the energy and enthusiasm of all these talented performers, whether aged 8 or aged 18, was so special after so long a gap and for many of us, we really appreciated what we've missed out on during this pandemic. It was also noticeable

that whereas the year-group bubbles forced children apart, these performances (and the rehearsals for them) have helped bring back the whole-school community and it was particularly inspiring to observe the support and encouragement the children from different year groups gave each other.

Congratulations to all those involved in these performances. You were all amazing!

Adrian Taylor



A NESTING EXPERIENCE

Form 3 have been learning about bird migration and birds which stay in Britain over the winter. Most of these birds will be thinking about nest building now. We thought Form 3 could help them out. They had a really fun time making nests from moss, twigs, straw, and wool.

Many of the finished nests were on the large side and would have been more suitable for a passing eagle!

We decided that nest building by birds was a very skilful activity. The finished nests were placed in trees in a quiet part of the school grounds. We're hoping that at least one of them will be chosen by a passing bird!

Mrs L Holland



FORM 4 GEOGRAPHY

As part of their Geography syllabus studying the countries of Brazil, Kenya and Japan, Form 4 pupils have enjoyed cultural projects highlighting some of the unique aspects of these countries and honing their practical skills. Everything from a meal of sushi for their family and their participation in a martial art to origami and fans delicately decorated with cherry blossom was produced to reflect Japanese culture.

Detailed models of rightly coloured homes in a favela in Brazil reflected the vibrancy of that culture in spite of the poverty and scale constructions of Kikuyu and Maasai homed reflected the resourcefulness and sustainability of Kenyan rural communities.

The pupils were complimented on their enthusiasm, dexterity and imagination in creating such

wonderful exhibits and their parents/carers deserve much credit for their assistance, their production of raw materials for the tasks and no doubt their considerable clean-up operations too!

C Perry



POETRY COMPETITION

Swallows' Hill students have showed their poetic skills by entering a national competition hosted by top poet Michael Rosen. Mr Rosen was in a coma for 40 days after he caught Covid and wrote a book, 'Sticky McStickstick', about his recovery.

The poet, whose work is studied in Form 4, launched the contest asking youngsters to describe in poetry a difficulty they had overcome.

Almost 100 Twycross students entered the February contest, writing amazingly inspirational poems on a range of topics from falling off horses to fear of injections.

J Davies

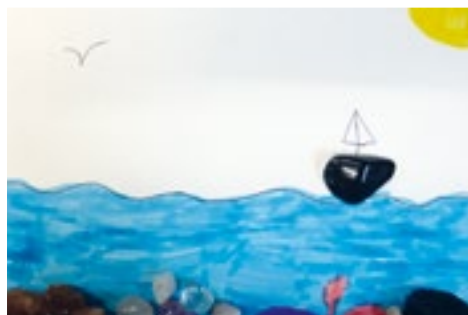




MINDFULNESS IN THE LIBRARY!

The focus was on well-being this term in the Library and we enjoyed it so much that it is going to be our priority long term. We've scheduled mindful meditation practices twice a week and I was delighted to see how well they were received by the students! Living in such challenging times, it is certainly needed!

Other activities you may spot on the photos were: Using crystals not only in meditation but also to create ephemeral "Crystal Creatures" art (thank you, Annabel, for the catchy title!), book reading, wool crafts, games, book charades and an Easter Egg Hunt. We also had the wonderful opportunity to create props for the Senior School Production! A big thank you to Mrs Shaw for allowing us to make some Mary Poppins magic, we enjoyed that immensely!





EXPERIENCE

“Diary of the Wimpy Kid”

Thanks to Annabel Gibson’s great idea, a group of talented Swallows children brought the fun of Diary of the Wimpy Kid to the Library! Congratulations to Annabel Gibson, Eliza Gilman and Amelia Yarnell for writing the script and organising the experience. Annabel’s commitment was extraordinary, organising auditions and narrating brilliantly without needing a script! A big thank you and very well done to all the performers from Forms 3 and 4: Annabel, Bahauddin, Bobby, Vivaan, Eliza, Amelia, Niharika, Phoebe, Ellie, Rhia and Arabella!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW STUDENT LIBRARIANS!

The following students have successfully qualified this term:

Our new Student Librarians are:

Form 5X: Austin Light

Form 3Y: Evie Knight-Ponticelli, Arabella Mann, Deon Paul

Form 3X: Arya Gunputh

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

Mrs T Avaraki





WORLD BOOK DAY!

Grateful that this year, we were able to celebrate World Book Day on the day, the Swallows' Hill children put a huge smile on our faces, dressing up as book characters! I hope the pictures will continue spreading the smile!

A big thank you for your donations, we've raised £262.76 for this charity!

It is always extremely hard to choose winners when all children look great in their book themed costumes! The winners this year are:

Costume Winners!

F3X: Hugo Davie

F3Y: Evie Knight Ponticelli

F4X: Cameron Mosley

F4Y: Niharika Juneenath

F5X: Henry Hardwicke

F5Y: Charlie White

Another very difficult task as they were all lovely! The winners are:

Bookmark Competition Winners

F3X: Alice Busby

F3Y: Ted Scott

F4X: Sofia Centonze

F4Y: Eliza Gilman





DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Both the Bronze and Gold groups have been taking part in walks and expeditions this term.

The new Senior 4 Bronze group took part in their first Navigational Walk in the local area. The Gold group travelled to mid-Wales for their first training expedition. Both award groups are working towards their final expeditions next term.



FORM 4 HISTORY

This term, students in form 4 have been studying the Anglo-Saxons as a part of their 'Invaders and Settlers' topic in history. This week, students in F4X and F4Y have had the task of constructing 3D Anglo-Saxon homes. In the lesson, students arranged a typical layout of an Anglo-Saxon village in Britain in which they had also designed their homes with authentic patterns and materials.

Form 4 students showed perseverance with their construction and house designs and they had fun showing their completed designs.

In lessons we have looked at the excavated Anglo-Saxon town of West Stowe to discover what village life was like. Students have enjoyed learning about their jobs, hobbies, beliefs and place names amongst other interesting Anglo-Saxon findings. Well done, form 4!

Mrs K Hitchin and Form 4



SWALLOWS HILL BOOK SALE

Swallows' Hill book lovers have raised almost £200 for their chosen charity.

Students from Forms 3, 4 and 5 donated some of their favourite books – fiction and non-fiction – which they no longer wanted for a second-hand sale.

Hundreds of quality books were sold in the Kirkpatrick Theatre during the lunchtime of Wednesday March 2, each one costing 50p. The many stalls were set out by Form 3 students and those from other years pitched in to help with the busy selling. Some students and even staff left with arms full of new additions, which all helped raise a total of £188 to go towards the RSPCA.

J Davies



COMPUTER STUDIES

Form 5 have been looking at the many ways in which a given task can be approached and solved through human thinking, as well as placed alongside computational thinking.

When looking at algorithms, pupils were tasked with creating a set of instructions for a family member to follow in making a sandwich. Through this, pupils developed a stronger understanding of the importance of clear and concise instructions for success, both in this task and when setting programme on the computer.

In pattern recognition, pupils created pattern identification sheets using different shape and colour patterns. These were for their peers to follow and then to identify the next and/or missing parts to any given pattern sequence.

In their decomposition task, pupils were required to plan design and create the tallest free-standing tower from newspaper.

When looking at abstraction, pupils were provided with far more information than they required about a new Pokémon character. From this they had to abstract the key information, before bringing the character to life in the form of a 2D image. These Pokémon pictures were produced and judged. Congratulations to the following:

1st: Penelope Fisher (Johnson)

2nd: Edward Lauder (Scott)

3rd: Matilda Shade (Hillary)

Mrs H Williams



TIMES TABLES

Form 4 competed in a competition this term in completing an 8x8 times table grid. The fastest was Niharika Juneenath of 4Y (who is in Scott) with a time of 2 minutes 59 seconds. Marissa Wilson of 4Y in Hillary was second with 3 minutes 25 seconds. Third was Rita Lin of 4X in Johnson with 3 minutes 30 seconds.

The record of 1 minute 6 seconds has still not been broken since Sebastian Hart.

Mrs G Leney



FORM 3 EASTER EGG COMPETITION.

Form 3 have had some eggcellent fun in the run-up to Easter. Pupils were challenged to recreate a scene from the Easter Story. Each scene had to contain one hard-boiled egg and have a connection in some way to their school house team, Scott, Hillary or Johnson.

Form 3 have been superb in their support of this competition with many varied, amazing, and most definitely creative designs entered.

I am eggstreamly proud of you all for taking part in our first

Religious Studies House competition since Covid.

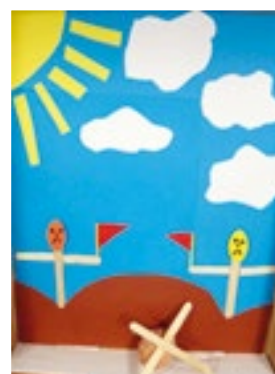
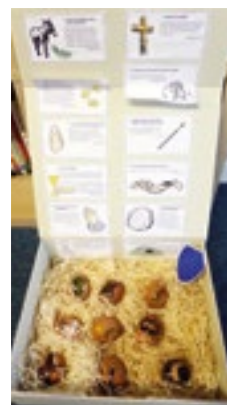
The top three entries were;

1st: Aanya Gunpath - Hillar

2nd: Sophie Mawdesley - Johnson

3rd: Casey Carr - Scott

Mrs H Williams





FORM 3 RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Pupils in Form 3Y and Form 3X have been reading about the festival of Passover in Jerusalem where on his first visit Jesus found himself so captivated by the Temple that before he knew it he was inside talking to and giving advice to the Jewish Leaders feeling safe inside his father's house, Gods house. Meanwhile Mary and Joseph were frantic with worry having lost Jesus over two days. We talked about the different feelings and emotions each of the characters how they may have felt during this time and discussed times when we have been lost, even if it had only been for a few seconds.

Form 3Y and 3X were tasked with planning, designing and creating their own brand-new temple, I am sure you will agree that they all would look amazing upon the streets of Jerusalem.

Mrs H Williams

'NO MORE LIVES WASTED' ROADSHOW – LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE SERVICE.

Sixth form students were invited to a driving safety roadshow where they learned about the 'Fatal Four'. The fatal four (mobile phones, speeding, alcohol & drugs and not wearing seat belts) are the main causes of road collisions in young drivers. It was a very emotional day with the severity of careless driving really hitting home to the students.

The message that the responsibly for safe driving not only falls on the driver but all the passengers in the car was emphasised. Students were offered a chance to take part in a virtual reality simulation where they were in a car collision.

The simulation showed how the 'fatal four' caused a road traffic accident,

with very serious outcomes, and then the scenario was replayed with a different outcome when the driver and passengers observed the rules. The students felt that the day was very important to take part in, especially as the majority of them are learning to drive or have just recently passed their test. I know I drove home with a new awareness after taking part myself.

Mrs C Lauder



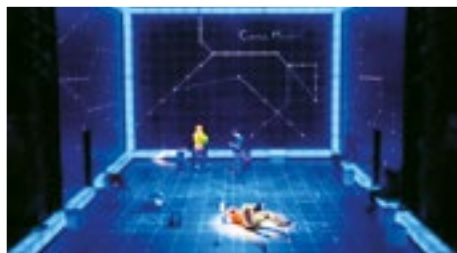
THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT TIME

On Wednesday 9th February, the GCSE Drama students went to see the National Theatre's touring production of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time' at Nottingham's Theatre Royal. The production tells the story of fifteen-year-old Christopher and his quest to solve the mystery of his neighbours' dead dog.

In collaboration with 'Frantic Assembly' the cast of this 10th anniversary production tell the story through demanding technical and physical sequences as well as intensely emotional performances, on which the students will be able to draw in their own future work.

The following week, the students were able to take part in a live zoom call with the actor Kate Kordel who played the part of Judy, Christopher's mother in the production. They were able to ask questions to develop their knowledge of how the play was rehearsed and performed as well as to speak about acting as a career.

Mrs L Shaw



SENIOR 3 CHARITY EVENT FOR UKRAINE

Senior 3 were galvanised into action during the last week of term to raise money for the Ukrainian appeal.

The form organised sales of blue and yellow ribbon badges and invited the school to donate cakes for a sale with all proceeds going to the appeal.

Over £1300 was raised! Thank you so much for your kind donations.



UKRAINE COLLECTION

Thank you to the parents of classes Senior 1 and Senior 3 who supported the Carley family in donating items for Ukraine.

Mrs Carley reported, 'we sent 3 full vans last week, one to Leicester and two to Sutton Coldfield and on to the Poland Ukrainian border. I want to say thank you to everyone who was involved, who gave and who helped - Thank you.'

We hope we get a response as to where exactly it is distributed and will update you later on this. My family have arrived safely now after a long and emotional journey so we will have a break from collecting, but perhaps look to help in other ways as the situation develops.'



TWYCROSS CHEMISTS ARE RUNNERS UP IN THE TOP OF THE BENCH NATIONAL FINAL

On the afternoon of Monday 21 March, Kierit Lehal (S5), Elliot Lewis (S4), Lauren Garland and Jessica Salt (S3) put on their lab coats and brand-new Royal Society safety glasses and entered the lab to take on the practical challenge, not only representing our school but the West Midlands region as well. Despite the virtual nature of this year's competition due to Covid, in total, 116 students from across the UK and Belgium took part this year.

During the afternoon, the students made a standard solution of copper nitrate and then carefully diluted the solution 11 times. This was followed by using a simple spectrophotometer to measure the amount of light transmitted through the coloured solutions. They also carried out some tests to identify unknown samples. The students worked hard all afternoon producing great results, but I was most impressed by how well they worked together as a team. A couple of days later they sat a 30-minute individual test on their chemistry knowledge.

The results arrived on the morning of 1 April, so I was a little wary, but the team came together at break and watched a short video announcing the top 6 teams.

I am very pleased to share the news that the Twycross House School team came 6th out of 28 schools. As runners up, the team will receive a prize.

Over the Easter holiday they and their parents have been invited to Coventry University to receive their prizes so more photos to follow soon. Congratulations to all the students!

Mr I Smaditch



UK NATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD SUCCESS

The UK Chemistry Olympiad is a national competition open to all secondary schools and colleges in the British Isles but the questions are mainly aimed at Upper Sixth students. The competition provides opportunities for students to develop their thinking and problem-solving skills, and to test their existing knowledge of chemistry.

The competition is not easy.

After reading out these words to the Lower Sixth chemistry class, I was extremely pleased to see five hands tentatively go up. I would like to thank Lawrence Cockrell, Evie Gibbs, Abi Hamilton, Will Meadwell and Sam Nugent for accepting the challenge a whole year early.



Although a little shell-shocked, they were all happy to have survived the ordeal, but agreed that it was interesting to attempt questions about chemistry in real-world situations.

I would like to congratulate Sam Nugent and Abi Hamilton for being awarded a Bronze award, which is quite remarkable at this stage in their course, but I am especially proud of all five students for giving it a go!



BADMINTON

This year saw the return of the local schools Badminton league, again, an event which hasn't featured on the fixture list since Covid struck. This time around we entered 2 teams - U14 girls and U16 boys.

With the help and coaching from Mr Westaway on a Tuesday lunchtime, the girls (Sophie A, Sophie R, Linda, Emily B and Ruby) finished the season undefeated (with only one blip in the form of draw against Higham!).

Resulting in them topping the table - a fabulous achievement - well done, girls!

The boys (Charlie, Finlay, James, Steven and guest player Corbyn) had a more difficult time, playing some tough schools and county players along the way.

With 4 wins, 2 losses and 1 draw, the boys finished in the top half of the table - a very respectable end to the season, well done!

Miss H Blencoe

CROSS COUNTRY SELECTION

Congratulations to Amelie Brown who competed in the Leicestershire and Rutland Schools Athletics Association Cross Country Championships on 5th February.

As a result of this race, Amelie was selected as a reserve for the English Schools Cross Country Championships at Hop Farm, Kent on Saturday 19th March.



BASKETBALL

U15s had two preparation matches for next season's campaign, which should be going ahead bar any natural disaster!

The preparation matches saw them play against Repton's U18s side. The team really rose to the challenge the first time around and only lost by 9. Unfortunately, Repton's team got the measure of them in the next match beating them by a little more than 9!

A little more success was had in the 3x3 tournament county finals which saw the boys go undefeated in our pool games thanks to excellent team play by Stephen McHale, Charlie Blood, Jacob McMahon and Elliot Lewis, not to mention the sharp shooting of James Hicks. It must be noted that the last game was won once we reached double overtime, which in 3x3 means that the next team to score wins!

After 2 defensive stops and a medical emergency which saw our key point guard Stephen McHale sidelined, Charlie Blood scored the golden basket off a terrific rebound.

Unfortunately, we lost to a very good (and tall) Alcester Grammar side, but only by 2. All in all, the boys did themselves proud.

The U12s have had a successful start to their NBA Jr campaign winning all of their pool matches against much larger schools all over Coventry and Warwickshire. This means that when the play-off draw happens, we will be placed first in our group.



The whole team has contributed to every match played and I could not be prouder of them and the effort they have put in, in both games and practices.

The U13 team consists of 3 U13s and 9 U12s who play up in this pool. Unfortunately, they got off to a rather harsh start, getting soundly beaten by a strong and fast Barr's Hill team, but we had some good wins against Nicholas Chamberlaine and Lawrence Sheriff.

This should mean that we advance into the playoffs, but will have to wait for the draw to see where we are placed.

G Assinder

TWYCROSS HOUSE SCHOOL EQUESTRIAN TEAM SUCCESS

Congratulations to the School Equestrian Team who competed at their first NSEA Show Jumping competition on March 13th at Eland Lodge. There were some amazing results including two school team wins and lots of individual placings. They all supported each other wonderfully and showed great horsemanship.

Team Results

50cm Grassroots SJ – Sophie Mawdesley, Harriet Bennett and Charlie Moreton = Team 1st

60cm Grassroots SJ – Sophie Mawdesley, Harriet Bennett, Charlie Moreton and Isabella Moreton = Team 1st

Both of these results qualify the teams for the Championships at Hickstead All England Showground on 24th August.

Individual Placings - Grassroots Competition

40cm – Grace Bennett 13th place (this was Grace's first proper competition)

50cm – Charlie Moreton 6th place, Sophie Mawdesley 7th place, Harriet Bennett 8th place

60cm – Isabella Moreton 1st place, Harriet Bennett 2nd place, Jessica Fenwick 3rd place, Charlie Moreton 5th place, Sophie Mawdesley 15th place

70cm – Isabella Moreton 1st place, Jessica Fenwick 8th place, Isabella Moreton 9th place

Individual Placings - RPL Competition

80cm – Isabella Moreton 1st place

90cm – Isabella Moreton 1st place



EQUESTRIAN SUCCESS AT PICKERING GRANGE

The School Equestrian Team had further success on Saturday 26th March with another team 1st place in the 60cm British Showjumping 'Just for Schools' competition at Pickering Grange Equestrian.

The team consisted of Jessica Fenwick, Sophie Mawdesley and Charlie Moreton.

They also gained some individual placings too (Jess 1st, Sophie 3rd, Charlie 5th)



U12 CROSS COUNTRY FESTIVAL AT WOLLATON PARK

On a cold February afternoon, we took part in the Nottingham cross country festival where hundreds of boys and girls had gathered to run the course. Unfortunately, we did not manage to place in the race, but the children had a lovely time marvelling at Wollaton Hall or, as they called it, Wayne Manor!

G Assinder



U9 NETBALL

Our U9 Netballers have continued to improve their skills and game play during lessons and after school clubs this term. Their enthusiasm for the sport has been second to none, which has resulted in some impressive wins against Crescent School, Nottingham High and Lichfield – the girls remain undefeated in our friendly fixtures this year – what a FANTASTIC achievement!

This term also saw our U9s take to the court in the annual U9 ISA event. This year it was played in a Bee

Netball Stinger format (5 aside, rather than the 7 aside we have been used to!). Our five girls and one boy (Charlie), had a fantastic day, beating a variety of different schools to reach the all-important semi-finals against hosts Stafford Grammar. Good captaincy from Emilie and shooting from Aanya kept us in the game for the first half, but unfortunately, Stafford's height and speed were too much for us – final score 3-1. We ended the tournament in 4th place – a valiant effort from the girls (and Charlie!) – WELL DONE!

U11 NETBALL

Twycross U11 A&B Netball teams, captained by Poppy and Phoebe have been dedicated and committed to after school practices, come rain or shine! Their hard work and high effort levels have paid off in fixtures, seeing them go undefeated across both teams this term. Notable performances from our shooters (Matilda, Rose, Eloise and Isabelle) have enabled us to secure big victories against Lichfield, Highclare and Pennine Way. Well done, U11 Netballers!

U13 NETBALL

Our U13 Netball teams have not failed to continue to impress this term. They have been keen and eager to train each week and have played some high-quality netball against a variety of different schools. The highlight of the term though, must be coming second place in the Ambleside Tournament – losing out in a close-fought final to Higham Lane (7-6!) – an EXCELLENT achievement, well done, girls!

U11 ISA TOURNAMENT

On a beautiful sunny day in early February, the U11 netball team travelled to Cheltenham for ISA netball tournament. The team had a bit of a nervy start and lost their first game but they went on to win five of the next six pool games and narrowly lost a closely-fought game to the eventual pool winners. This meant we came 3rd in the pool, which sadly meant we didn't make it through the semi-finals. The team playing brilliantly all day and it was a particularly great performance, considering that we were missing our main shooter and a number of the girls had to play out of position. Overall, a fantastic day of netball, well done, U11s!



U13 ISA TOURNAMENT

The U13 ISA netball tournament took place in Loughborough on a very cold, grey morning. The team played well in the pool games with two wins and two losses and having been leading for most of their last game, it finished in a draw right on the whistle. This put us 3rd in the pool but still earned us a spot in the quarter-finals.

The girls put in a great effort but were outplayed by a very tough team who went on to be one of the eventual finalists. We ended the day with an impressive win and finished the tournament in 5th place, a great overall result. Well done, U13s!

Miss H Blencoe and Mrs S Beavan



U9 TAG RUGBY

The Under 9s took the long trip along the A5 to Stafford Grammar for the ISA Tag Rugby Tournament. It was a lovely sunny day, which saw us play five pool matches – winning two, losing two and drawing one. This took us to 4th place play-off against Crackley Hall School, which we won! As a result of this, the U9 team came 4th out of the ten schools who entered!

G Assinder



U11 HOCKEY V BANSTEAD

Our U11 girls' hockey team was the first to use the new astro for competitive competition with a fixture against Banstead Prep, who had travelled to us from Surrey as part of their annual sports tour.

The afternoon was a wet and windy one, but that certainly didn't dampen the girls' spirits, as they fought ruthlessly, winning the match 8-0. A fantastic all-round term performance with a number of the girls scoring. A very promising performance – the future certainly looks bright for U11 hockey!

Miss H Blencoe

U9 AND U11 ANNUAL TWYCROSS CROSS-COUNTRY MEET

The second half of this term saw the return of our Annual Cross-Country Meet – an event that we haven't been able to hold for the last couple of years due to Covid.

The event involved eight different schools across two days of competition, with the U11 races taking place on the Monday, followed by the U9s on the Tuesday. Both days were a huge success, with close races on each day for both the boys and girls. Notable performances from Ella-May and Poppy secured third place for our U11 girls' team and Myles ran a great race to finish in the top 10 boys in the U9 race. All children involved had a great time and ran their socks off!

Overall team winners for the U9 event were Dixie, with Nottingham High in second place and joint winners for the U11 event were Crackley Hall and Repton Prep.

Finally, a HUGE thank you goes to our Senior 2 helpers and hares who did a superb job of guiding the visiting schools and helping out on both days.

Miss H Blencoe



JUNIOR RUGBY

The Easter term has been a very successful period for the school U13 and U11 rugby teams involving a large number of players who have made significant progress in their understanding of the game and their individual skill level. The U13s won all of their matches and the U11s won or drew all of their games against similar-sized schools.

The competitive season began late due to Covid restrictions but got off to a winning start with a hard-fought 22-17 victory against a strong Rawlett School (Tamworth) side. Arthur Davies, Flynn Eddy and Reuben Mills were highly influential at the breakdown and Carter Brangwin emerged as a very promising full back. The U13s followed this victory up with a comfortable 30-10 win against a much less experienced but enthusiastic Priory (Birmingham) side that enabled some less competent players to gain match experience. Their final match resulted in a comprehensive 40-15 win over a powerful, physically larger Lichfield team that struggled to cope with some excellent rucking, aggressive running and tackling and turn-overs at the breakdown.

The Inter season concluded with the house competition which saw Hillary, led by the excellent Stan Howley, dominate the S1 competition, with Scott as runners-up and a much closer contest at S2 age saw Scott finish top with Hillary as runners-up. The U13 squad of captain Reuben Mills, Flynn Eddy, Arthur Davies, Lenny Prince, Aidan Clamp, Jake Critchlow, Ryan Maude, Phoenix Wong, Charlie Woodman, Monty Fisher, Seb Savania, Stan Howley, Shane Gordon and Hari Rajkumar are to be congratulated for their efforts and their support of school rugby.



The U11/U10 season began with a number of well-supported practices and Poppy Ward and Brody Varden emerging as leaders of their respective age-groups before their first competitive match against the Crescent School (Rugby) at the beginning of March. Both U11 and U10 matches were close affairs with the older players, captained by Austin Light, ultimately winning 55-35 thanks to an outstanding performance from Taylor Adams and the U10s just losing out by one try 45-50. The next match against Banstead Prep. was another close contest with the U11A team, captained by Alex Colclough, drawing 50-50 and the B team ultimately running out 65-35 winners.

Their third match saw the U11s put in a strong performance against Lichfield and Ayaan Obaid's pace and strength helped guide the team to a 50-35 win. However, the following fixture brought both U11 and U10 teams back down to earth as both U10 teams were comprehensively outplayed by experienced Fairfield (Loughborough) teams and the U11s suffered their first defeat, despite leading at half time, eventually losing 25-35.

The U11 ISA tournament took place on a beautiful spring day at Princethorpe College with group matches in the morning and semis and finals in the afternoon. The squad of Poppy Ward (Capt), Eliza Gilman, Austin Light, Harvey Gibson, Alex Colclough, Alec

Simpson, Ayaan Obaid, Henry Jeans, Joe Harold, Oscar Thompson and Brody Varden were enthusiastically supported by a cheerful and vociferous troupe of parents and grandparents. The group matches began with a close 15-15 encounter with local rivals Dixie Grammar and then a heavy 5-35 defeat to Crackley Hall (Leamington - junior school to Princethorpe) but the team bounced back to win 15-5 against the Crescent School.

The semi-final saw Twycross paired with Dixie Grammar again but this time, the team's tackling and rucking was stronger and they secured a place in the final with a 15-5 win. They had to face tournament favourites Crackley Hall again and with Twycross House running out of steam and ideas, their opponents dominated the match and cruised to victory, leaving the team to settle for the silver medal after an entertaining day's rugby.

The house rugby competition was an even contest right down to the last match but Hillary ended up victorious, with Scott runners-up after the contact and tag match results had been calibrated.

A fitting finale to a challenging but enjoyable term of rugby.

C Perry

U16 RUGBY

I have been extremely impressed with our U16 team this year. They started the season incredibly well with excellent results against Dixie and Stoneygate. A special mention to Beau and Will, whose performances set the benchmark for the rest of the team. Our U15 players strengthened the squad and I want to praise them for playing with our U16 team.



U15 RUGBY

The U15 and U14 teams have combined to create an outstanding squad of players. Extra praise to Elliot, Sam, Charlie and Evan whose performances on the field were consistently impressive. Our U15s are currently unbeaten this season with the performance of the season coming against Lichfield. This was a match in which every player stepped up to do their part and resulted in an excellent performance against a very good team. I am eagerly looking forward to seeing how well this squad of players perform next year.

U14 RUGBY

The U14s have benefitted from playing consistently with the U15 team, which has moulded them into a well organised and determined team. Their performance against Rawlett produced a fantastic result with outstanding performances from Tom, Josh, Arthur and Rupert.



U9 RUGBY

I must start by praising every member of Form 3! Since as we introduced contact rugby to the boys and girls, their commitment has been superb. The U9s managed to finish 4th in the ISA Tag competition and won against Lichfield and Crescent in great Tag matches. This group of players are already eagerly anticipating the contact matches which the 2023 season will bring and I have very high hopes for them!



GIRLS RUGBY

This year we started contact girls' rugby for all girls. I have been incredibly impressed with the commitment shown by the junior and senior teams. We have been able to secure our first match for the summer term and I cannot wait to see how they perform. We will be starting again in October and everyone will be welcome to join as we continue to grow this fantastic sport!

L Knight

U13 ISA FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On 8th March our U13s competed in the Midlands ISA Football competition. After a rocky start to the tournament, they grew in confidence.

The boys produced fantastic performances against Bowbrook College and Quinton House. Lenny Prince captained the team superbly throughout the day.

Oscar Carley and Rudi Carr finished joint top goal scorers for the school with 7 goals each (both boys are currently in S1 – this is a great sign for next year!) We finished 5th overall after a valiant effort, well done!

L Knight



U10'S GIRLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

In February, we travelled to Repton Prep to compete in our first girls' football tournament. We knew that we had a strong team, but also that we would be playing against difficult opposition who would be tough to beat.

We played some excellent football and won every single match, scoring twenty goals and just conceding one! All the girls deserve a mention for their excellent performances! Scarlett made some amazing saves

in goal and scored some lovely goals when playing outfield. Martha and Arabella were very solid in defence.

No one would have thought it was Aanya's first football match, very well done in midfield. Emily was brilliant at centre back and no one could get past her on the day.

Jess never gave up while playing up front, superb work ethic. Last but certainly not least, Eliza, our top scorer was chosen best player of the tournament!



Well done, girls, keep up the incredible work and keep on loving football the way you do! You are an awesome team and I'm proud to be able to coach you!

U11 & U13S GIRLS' FOOTBALL

We entered the ISFA competition for the first time and the standard of football is high. As a result, we expected it to be challenging, particularly having had limited time to practise across both age groups.

All of the matches played have been held at Repton Prep School, where the U11s have faced Terra Nova and Repton Prep. Although both matches were tightly contested, luck

was against us and we were twice on the losing side. The girls showed great fighting spirit.

The U13s played just one match against Repton Prep so far, and were unfortunate to come up against a very strong Repton team on the day. This defeat motivates us to work harder ahead of our upcoming matches!

Mrs P Gill



ULTIMATE - U14 INDOOR NATIONALS

Flux had two teams competing in the U14 division this year. The U14 division was a round robin format with all the teams playing each other. Flux A (Senior 2 boys) had a fantastic first day, winning all their games and putting in a really strong and confident performance throughout the day, despite only having one sub. A couple of reinforcements turned up on Sunday, which was great and the boys continued to play well, winning all of their remaining matches except for a hotly-contested game against the eventual winners, which they lost on the buzzer. They finished the tournament in 2nd place overall which was an absolutely brilliant result!

Flux B (Senior 1 boys) also had a brilliant weekend with some great results. They had two very tough games at the start of Saturday but after this, they grew in confidence and went from strength to strength. As they started to get used to playing on a bigger pitch and get used to the structure of 5 aside, the connections began to come and the results followed. They finished the tournament in 4th place. This is a fantastic result for them as a team and very exciting to think they can all play again in the same division next year. The team also won the 'spirit of the game' award demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship throughout the weekend.

U17S

Flux also had two teams competing in the U17 division. Flux A (Senior 3 boys) had a strong first day with some great results, but lost two crucial games in their pool to leave them outside the top eight.

The next few games gave them the chance to improve and earn the right to cross back into the quarter-final bracket. Unfortunately, a tough loss against a good side from Leeds left them fighting for 9th and a further tight loss saw them finish the tournament in 11th place.

There is a huge amount of potential in the team and with two more years left to play in the division, they will have the chance to come back with more experience and hopefully to compete for the top spots in the future.

The Senior 5 girls were all playing together as a team (Flux B) and after a very tough start on Saturday, they put in some fantastic performances throughout the rest of the weekend.

Their skills and ability to play the structure meant that they came away with a number of really great wins and showed they were a real force to be reckoned with as a team. They finished the tournament in 12th position, giving Flux A a run for their money in the last game. The girls should all be very proud of how well they played.

Several of our Senior 3 girls also had the chance to play with a team from Manchester. The coaches commented on how well they played and they all gained valuable experience and also won the 'spirit of the game' award for that division.



U20S

Flux entered a mixed team in to the U20 Open championships with the help of alumni players of Toby Nicholas and Nathan Wright. The team played amazingly well to get to the semi-final. They produced an incredible performance against the eventual winners, narrowly losing 7-5 but battling all the way through a very tight game. Playing our signature zone, they stifled the flow of the opposition and then capitalised on their mistakes but couldn't quite turn it into a win. The team took this good performance in to the final game and finished as convincing winners to take 3rd place.

GREAT BRITAIN

Eighteen Twycross students have been through the trial process for Great Britain and will be representing Great Britain at this summer's U17 European and U20 World Championships in Poland. Well done, congratulations and good luck to all those involved!

U20 - Boys - Toby Nicholas & Nathan Wright

U20 - Girls - Luisa Leyland, Jess Barker, Keeva Morrell, Niamh Rooney, Charlotte Hicks, Ellen Burton, Alicia Guintoli, Bea Pound & Isabel Whitehall

U17 - Girls - Ella Morris, Ellie Mills, Eva Hudson-Lawless, Emily Gibbs, Lucy Jarvis, Ruby Tasker-Dufour & Mollie Williams

M Beavan



First Year

BEE BOT

We have been learning how to programme Bee Bot. We can make him complete a series of movements to find a 2D shape on his mat.



CHINESE NEW YEAR

It was very interesting to learn about how the Chinese New Year is celebrated and that this year is the Year of the Tiger. Lucas told us all about how his family celebrate this special time of year.



First Year

GARDEN

We took part in the Big Schools Birdwatch. Looking quietly and carefully all around the garden and the field we spotted lots of different birds. We were very lucky that although the Blue Tits were hiding in the holly tree, they popped out to see us



PANCAKES

Making pancakes is fun but eating them is even better! Mrs Fowler is very clever and she managed to toss the pancakes and then catch them in the frying pan



PENGUINS

We found out all about different types of penguin. The Little Blue Penguin only weighs 1kg. The Emperor Penguin can weigh up to 41kg. After all of our research we made our favourite penguin out of dough



Second Year

BAKING

To share the love on Valentine's Day, we made some shortbread heart biscuits.

They were scrumptious and we hope you enjoyed them too!



CHINESE NEW YEAR

Celebrating Chinese New Year was lots of fun! We all took part in a carousel of activities in which we experienced the Chinese culture. Tasting Chinese cuisine was one of our favourite activities because the food was delicious!

We rated the different foods and wrote down our scores using Chinese characters. Making decorations was amazing and we used new skills such as cutting slits into paper to create a lantern. The concertina dragon was tricky to make, but we kept on trying and they looked wonderful!

We also made clay dragons and learned how to roll, pinch and make marks in the clay using tools.

Finally, we acted out the Chinese Lunar New Year story and performed it to our friends. What a fun-filled afternoon!



Second Year

HOT AIR BALLOONS

In our history lessons we have been learning about travel and transport from the past and present. The hot air balloon was the first successful mode of air transport to carry humans and this is why we decided to make one of our very own.

First of all, we thought about what we wanted the hot air balloon to look like and the materials we would like to use.

Then we explored how to papier-mâché the balloon which was extremely messy and great fun!

Attaching the basket was challenging but, with some perseverance, we did it! We were extremely proud of ourselves and the finished products look fantastic!

Can you spot your favourite?



WEIGHING

This term in maths, we have been comparing objects according to their weight.

We completed lots of practical sessions exploring balance scales and using the terminology heavier, lighter and balanced.

We explored several challenges such as whether bigger things are always heavier and why glue sticks may not always weigh the same.



WEATHER FORECASTING

As part of our science topic we have been exploring the weather and how this changes throughout the year. We compared the weather in winter with the weather in summer and noticed some key differences. To build on our learning we tried our hand at being weather

reporters! First we watched a video of Mrs Assinder being a weather presenter using a green screen before having a go ourselves. We used a map and various weather symbols to forecast the weather in winter and in summer. It was great fun!



Third Year

VAN GOGH

3o & 3y have studied some of the work of Vincent Van Gogh, specifically his painting titled 'Starry Night'.

After completing their individual versions of Starry Night, both classes worked collaboratively to produce this stunning art display (pictured). Each child worked on their own section of the artwork, using a media of their choosing.

I think you will agree that they have produced an excellent art display.



KITES

The garden at The Hollies was full of gleeful cheers when the children of 3o & 3y created their own kites during a D&T/art lesson.

Both classes have been learning about different religious festivals

and one festival was celebrated with the children flying kites. With great excitement the children made their kites and then got to fly them in the school playground. The children were also able to use their knowledge of forces, a topic they are currently

studying in science, to explain what was needed for their kites to fly and inevitably fall back to earth.

Thankfully it was not too windy and we managed to keep all the children on the ground!



Third Year

WORLD BOOK DAY

The third years enjoyed making characters from their favorite books out of potatoes!



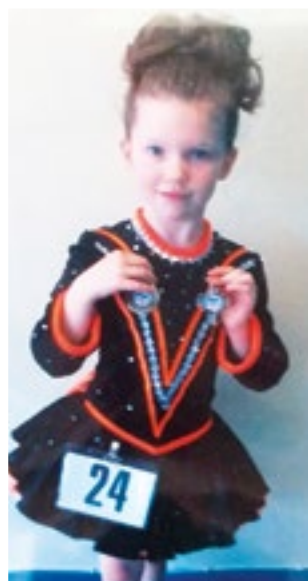
ST PATRICK'S DAY

For thirteen years (Covid allowing), Keeva Morrell has danced for the pupils of The Hollies every March to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

Keeva will be leaving THS later this year for university and is handing her duties over to 1st year Kitty Lynch.

Kitty and Keeva danced for the children of The Hollies on Friday 18th March. We have seen Keeva's dancing improve year on year and we are always left of awe of how quickly her legs and feet move. Kitty has made an excellent debut in front of the whole school and will hopefully continue this tradition in the years to come.

Thank you, Keeva, for entertaining us every year and good luck to Kitty, you have big pumps to fill!



Third Year

SCIENCE

Following our electricity topic in the Autumn term, the children had worked hard during the Christmas holidays to build a motorised model. Many thanks for all the support given by parents, over the holidays. Children had great fun explaining and demonstrating their models to the rest of the school.



Third Year

SCIENCE

Our topic after half term has been 'Space', during this we investigated some of the different forces that we experience here on Earth and how we could use these forces to help with our space travel.

We carried out experiments to learn about gravity, up thrust and air resistance.



Fourth Year

MOTHERS DAY/EASTER CARDS

We have been very creative making Mother's Day and Easter cards for our families.



E-SAFETY

Mrs Morell has been reminding us about how to keep safe online. Smartie the Penguin has taught us all a very important message "Before you click, click, click, you need to think, think, think and tell someone."



WORLD BOOK DAY

We celebrated the 25th anniversary of World Book Day by bringing some of our favourite books into school and sharing them with our classmates. We also wrote a book review on a favourite class reading book George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl.



Fourth Year

MAGNETS

As part of our forces science topic, the children had great fun working as a team to invent, make and play their own magnetic fun game.



ASTRO

We are delighted that Miss Blencoe and Mrs Gill have invited the 3rd and 4th Years to enjoy their games lessons on the Astro turf pitch at THS. The children have been thrilled to enjoy the new facility and have been practising their skills!

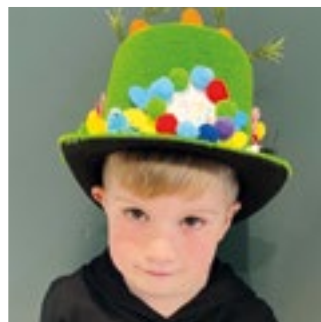
Whole School

EASTER BONNET PARADE

We were delighted to be able to invite the children to parade in their marvellous Easter hats after a two-year gap owing to COVID school closures.

Watching them made everyone smile and it brought a much-needed touch of spring to us all.

Well done to everyone for their efforts!



ASTRO IN ACTION

We are delighted that our new astro all-weather pitch has now been completed and has been used by all age groups for games and matches.

