



Twycross TIMES

Twycross House School | Twycross House Pre-Preparatory School

SPRING/SUMMER 2025



STEM: IGNITE MINDS WITH SCIENCE

INAUGURAL STEMM CAREERS FAIR AT TWYCROSS HOUSE SCHOOL

Thursday 1 May 2025 started like most days. Soft morning light spilled across the freshly mown school grounds as children shuffled in, backpacks bumping, registers being ticked off one by one. The day unfolded predictably until, as lessons wound down, cars crept across the fields and people made their way toward Underwood, Kirkpatrick Theatre, and the new Garden Studio.

By late afternoon, forty-eight STEMM ambassadors had arrived, some bearing banners, others lugging pipes or handing out freebies. A crowd gathered around a robotic dog performing flips and bows, laughter rippling through the air. Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine had come alive at Twycross Houses' inaugural STEMM Careers Fair.

Among the ambassadors were twenty-three parents and eighteen alumni, a testament to our community's unwavering support and the fondness past students hold for the school. Each ambassador claimed a table, donned a lanyard, and waited. At first, a trickle of curious students circled cautiously, but soon they were chatting eagerly. As more families arrived, the whole place began to buzz.

Everywhere you looked, students were engrossed in conversations with ambassadors from diverse backgrounds: research scientists, investment bankers, video-game writers, engineers, pilots, medical consultants, GPs, midwives, and even a vet, a mere sample of who was there.

From apprentices to directors and university professors, the breadth of experience was phenomenal. It allowed students to glimpse the vast array of careers beyond the school gates. There were plenty of networking opportunities, and one of the day's greatest successes was the generous work-experience offers made to pupils.

I extend a sincere thank-you to each STEMM ambassador for making the event such a resounding success. Your energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to share insights made a lasting impact. Students gained so much, and staff loved reconnecting with alumni.

I originally expected the event to last an hour, but seeing conversations still in full flow after three was incredible! It was a true reflection of the engagement and passion everyone brought, helped along by perfect weather and our beautifully manicured grounds.

Finally, thank you to the kitchen staff who prepared a wonderful feast of desserts, to all the staff who helped organise the day, and to Mr Assinder for hosting the event.

I Smaditch



FIRST MATHS CHALLENGE

This year, 4th Year students from The Hollies and Form 3 students from Swallows' Hill took part in the Mathematical Association's First Maths Challenge for the first time. This was a fun competition in which students were encouraged to think outside the box and approach problems logically.

All students performed extremely well in this very challenging event.

Special mentions go to James Hankin (4th Year), who was awarded a Gold Certificate, and to Harry Williams (4th Year), Lucien Lees (Form 3), Roy Stevens (Form 3), James Grant-Williams (4th Year), William Kelsey (Form 3) and Theo Lilley (Form 3), who all achieved Silver Certificates. Well done to all involved!

C. Kilkie



Have a go!

A shop sells toy monsters in three colours, blue, pink and yellow. The blue and the pink monster together cost £5. The pink and the yellow monster together cost £8. The yellow and the blue monster together cost £9. How much does it cost to buy one monster of each colour?

Solution:

If the three data statements are 'added' together then we are buying two blue monsters, two pink monsters and two yellow monsters, for £22. Therefore, the cost of buying one monster of each colour is £11.

JUNIOR MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE



The annual UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge took place in May. Students were put to the test on their mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency. Again, there was a great amount of interest and enthusiasm, with 39 students entering the event this year. There were some notable performances, shown below. Well done to all involved!

C. Kilkie

Bronze (Top 50%)

- Samuel Wolferstan (Senior 2)
- Scarlett Wong (Senior 1)
- Juliet Thai (Senior 1)
- Ralph Greenall (Senior 1)
- Saul Westaway (Senior 1)
- Arya Gunpath (Senior 1)
- Tashinga Musoko (Senior 2)
- Elliot Gill (Senior 1)

Silver (Top 25%)

- Marissa Wilson (Best in School) (Senior 2)
- Samuel Gobey (Senior 2)
- Jemima de Jongh (Best in Year) (Senior 1)
- Sammy Mobayed (Senior 2)
- Edward Woolaston (Senior 1)
- Vivaan Srinivas (Senior 2)
- Ted Scott (Senior 1)

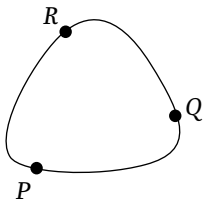
Have a go:

The map in the diagram shows three towns and the roads between them. The length of the road between any two towns is a whole number of kilometres. The route from P to R via Q is twice as long as the direct route from P to R. The route from P to Q via R is three times as long as the direct route from P to Q.

Which of the following could be the length of the route from P back to P via Q and R?

- A: 74 km B: 81 km C: 95 km D: 108 km E: 124 km

Solution: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xD6a65QY9hE&t=175s>



INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

The Intermediate Maths Challenge run by the UK Maths Trust took place in January and 30 of our aspiring Senior 3, 4 and 5 Mathematicians took part. The Maths Challenge is a 60 minute, 25 multiple choice Challenge, designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency.

The problems on the Intermediate Maths Challenge are designed to make students think about problems and apply lateral thinking in order to solve them. Most of the questions are accessible yet still challenge those with more experience in problem solving.

Scoring rules for the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge are as follows:

- A total of 135 marks can be achieved in the IMC
- 5 marks are awarded for each correct answer to questions 1 – 15
- 6 marks are awarded for each correct answer to questions 16 – 25
- Each incorrect answer to questions 16 – 20 loses 1 mark
- Each incorrect answer to questions 21 – 25 loses 2 marks
- Answers left blank will be marked as 0

The negative marking is done in order to encourage pupils not to simply guess answers.

To recognize the highest performers in the Competition, UKMT awards the top-scoring 50% of participants Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1. All participants receive a certificate of participation.

Congratulations to all the pupils who took part in the competition. The following pupils achieved certificates, with Katherine Thomas (S5) and Baris Clark(S4) achieving ‘Best in Year’ respectively and Henry Hardwicke (S3) being awarded ‘Best in School’. Congratulations to both Katherine and Henry who scored highly enough to qualify for the follow-on Kangaroo competition. Henry and Katherine were both awarded Silver certificates for their respective Kangaroo rounds.

Mrs A Buckle



Here are a couple of questions from the Challenge for you to try;

Q1: All Felix’s cats are normal cats. Together, they have 12 more legs than tails. In total.

How many ears do they have?

A: 2 **B:** 4 **C:** 6 **D:** 8 **E:** 10

Q2: “I can swim faster than you,” said the dolphin to the shark.

“That is not true,” said the shark to the dolphin.

“You are right,” said the starfish to the octopus.

How many of the dolphin, shark, octopus and starfish were telling the truth?

A: 0 **B:** 1 **C:** 2 **D:** 3 **E:** 4

Solutions:

Q1: Let the number of cats be n . Then the number of tails is n , while the number of legs is $4n$. So $4n = n + 12$. Hence $3n = 12$, that is $n = 4$. Therefore the total number of ears which the cats have is $2n = 8$.

Q2: Clearly, exactly one dolphin and one shark is telling the truth, though we are unable to say which it is. However, this means that the octopus is not telling the truth, which means that the starfish is not telling the truth either.

So exactly one of the four is telling the truth.

	Senior 3	Senior 4	Senior 5
Bronze	Nathaneal de Jongh	Leonidas Geston	Alessandra Beck
	Eddie Lock	William McLean	Scarlett Tombs
	Tanveer Nijjer	Toby Sanders	
Silver	Charley Shuker		
	Leo Johnson	Haney Li	Amelia Carthy
		Nomonde Musoko	Isabelle Randle
Gold		Liberty Walton	Harry Trye
	Henry Hardwicke	Baris Clarke	Katherine Thomas

Whole School

ROCKETS



ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY SCHOOLS' ANALYST COMPETITION

For several years, our Lower 6th students have been proudly selected to compete in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Schools' Analyst competition. This annual event challenges teams of three to apply and extend their chemistry knowledge through practical experiments that address real-world industrial or societal problems.

Each year, competitors tackle a mix of familiar tasks, like titrations and less common techniques, such as chromatographic separations or atomic and molecular spectroscopy.

These varied challenges stretch students' analytical skills and highlight the breadth of modern chemical science. This year's brief came from the Department of Housing: assess whether an old industrial site is suitable for new housing development.

Our teams received soil and waste-heap samples to test for thiosulfate, azo dyes, and metal salts. They needed to identify each contaminant and calculate its concentration accurately.

In the laboratory, the students worked tirelessly all day. They measured reagents with precision, ran calibration curves, interpreted spectra, and cross-checked their data. It was inspiring to watch them collaborate so effectively, dividing tasks, troubleshooting unexpected results, and encouraging one another under time pressure.

Although only one team can claim the top spot, every participant did themselves proud. Congratulations to all our Lower Sixth chemists for their hard work, and special praise to Lauren Garland, James Garland, and Adeson Hanson for achieving the best overall Twycross result in this year's competition.

I Smaditch



SENIOR 1 STEM SPELLING BEE SUCCESS

Since its introduction to the Midlands in 2019, our school has embraced the STEM Spelling Bee as both a test of skill and a chance for friendly rivalry. Year after year, we’ve returned victorious, returning the trophy to our display cabinet and inspiring younger students to aim high.

The competition shines a spotlight on precise spelling in STEM disciplines, all wrapped in a race-against-the-clock format. Each contestant gets one minute to tackle randomly drawn words from an 80-word list. Among the trickiest this year were ‘electronegative’ and ‘accumulator’.

To pick our team, we host an internal contest in the Kirkpatrick Theatre. Thirteen brave volunteers faced the spotlight and battled to spell as many words correctly as possible.

The atmosphere was electric as every student cheered on their peers whilst Mrs Westaway and

Mr Smaditch sat upfront, ear-tuned to each rapid spelling so quick it was almost as challenging for them to keep pace! The top spellers were Jayson Gill, Arya Gunpath and Juliet Thai.

With our reputation firmly established, rival schools have sharpened their pencils and upped their practice hours. This year, six teams converged at Trent College on Thursday 20 March, each determined to claim the coveted trophy for themselves.

The Moment of Truth

After an intense round of spelling, the results were unveiled one by one. Individually, our students claimed first, second, and fourth places, an impressive feat against the region’s best. Then, after a suspenseful pause, our school was announced the overall winner for the fourth consecutive year.

The team greeted the news with beaming smiles, collected the



trophy, buzzed back triumphantly, making a beeline for the trophy case where the trophy has proudly sat for the past six years.

Congratulations to everyone who stepped up, from the initial heats to the final showdown. And a special well done to Jayson, Arya, and Juliet for leading us to yet another triumph!

I Smaditch

STORY WRITING COMPETITION

Congratulations to the winners of this year’s Twycross House School story writing competition.

All students from Form 3 to Senior 3 entered the contest and, as usual, the standard was extremely high making judging very difficult but very enjoyable. The first, second and third placed students in each year won Amazon vouchers for £15, £10 and £5 respectively.

J Davies



	1st	2nd	3rd
F3	Beatrice Price	Joshua K	William Kelsey
F4	Edward Gascoine	Zia Stevens	Logan Fowler
F5	Lucy Gibson	Addison Loke	Harrison Adams
S1	Justin Lin	Ted Scott	Max Thornton
S2	Effie Bowman	Adam Harafat	Eva Williams
S3	Ben Clark	Tanveer Nijjer	Ruby Tuesday

C3L6 CHEMISTRY COMPETITION

The University of Cambridge C3L6 Chemistry Challenge is crafted to push Lower Sixth students past their curriculum and into university-style scientific thinking. Designed by experienced teachers and Cambridge chemists, it stretches participants' problem-solving skills and offers a taste of advanced chemistry study.

Year after year, our students eagerly tackle this demanding paper, even after previewing past questions! This year, 14,742 pupils nationwide sat the exam, putting our students in excellent company.

Outstanding Achievements

Copper Award - Georgina Saunders and Harry Sneath

.....
Silver Award - Oliver Salt, Jessica Salt, and James Garland

.....
Gold Award (top 10%): - Lauren Garland

Each of these awards reflects not only strong chemistry knowledge but also determination and a willingness to rise to a tough challenge. Congratulations to everyone who registered for the C3L6 paper.

I Smaditch

UK CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD SUCCESS

The UK Chemistry Olympiad is a national contest open to all secondary schools and colleges across the British Isles, though its demanding questions are primarily aimed at Upper Sixth students. Designed to stretch thinking, sharpen problem-solving skills, and deepen existing chemistry knowledge, the Olympiad tasks entrants with applying theory to real-world scenarios.

Despite its reputation for difficulty, five willing volunteers from our Upper Sixth cohort stepped forward to take on the challenge. They tackled questions on subjects ranging from industrial reaction kinetics to environmental equilibria, finding the experience as rewarding as it was rigorous.

Congratulations to Will Baines for earning a Bronze award, to Ava Downs, Tayla Forman, and Steven McHale for Silver, and to Tom Blackwell for clinching the coveted Gold. Even more impressive is that each student participated solely for the joy of the challenge, not university accolades, demonstrating remarkable maturity and genuine curiosity.

Well done to all five for embracing one of the country's toughest chemistry competitions.

I Smaditch

SENIOR 2 STEM IET FARADAY CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 14 May, twelve Senior 2 students headed to Charnwood Science Park in Loughborough to take part in the national IET Faraday Challenge. Run annually by the Institute of Engineering and Technology, this cross-curricular STEM competition tasks Year 8 pupils with hands-on activities spanning science, technology, engineering and maths.

The morning kicked off with organisers outlining the brief and introducing the toolkit, from hacksaws to electrical components. Our two Twycross teams, each made up of six students, opted to design and build a sensory toy for children with vision loss. Working within a tight budget, they sketched concepts, sourced materials, assembled prototypes and then presented their finished designs to the judges.

Throughout the day, our students thrived under pressure. They honed communication, teamwork and budgeting skills as well as creative design and practical construction techniques.

The challenge not only showcased their strengths but also highlighted areas for improvement, turning every setback into a learning opportunity.

Although our students didn't win, this being their first time at the Faraday Challenge made it all the more impressive, and the school looks forward to sending another team next year after such a rewarding experience.

We're immensely proud of how professionally they rose to the occasion, collaborating and innovating every step of the way. Well done to Alanna, Adam, Sammy, Vivaan, Marissa and Sam in team A and to Bahauddin, Harry B, Amelie, Tash, Tejas and Eloise in team B.

Special thanks go to Corinne and Jo from the Leicestershire Education Business Company for leading the event with such expertise, making the entire day an outstanding experience for our students.

I Smaditch



SENIOR 2 STEM CLUB UPDATE

Studying STEM subjects brings a wealth of advantages for our students, for example, to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, spark creativity and innovation, strengthen teamwork and communication, and pave the way to in-demand careers.

To help our Senior 2 students start on this journey, over the past two terms, more than twenty of them have gathered each week at lunchtime for hands-on STEM sessions exploring the science of water. Organised by teachers across Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine, these workshops included:

- Measuring liquid absorbency in nappies
- Building simple hydraulic arms to lift objects
- Calculating the total volume of water on Earth
- Analysing water trapped in rocks
- Launching homemade water rockets
- Creating terrariums and observing transpiration

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of staff who gave up their own lunchtimes. Many thanks to Mrs Vause, Mr Hudson, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Dunham, Mr Kilkie, Mrs Dodd, Mr Westaway, Mr Sampson, and our laboratory technicians, Mrs Watson and Mrs Cooper, for organising such fascinating sessions.

But our biggest thanks and congratulations go to the students themselves, whose enthusiasm turned a trickle of curious visitors into a buzzing community of young explorers. They learned to navigate the overlap between subjects and to master practical skills, from teamwork and data recording to presenting their findings, while having plenty of fun along the way.

As just one example of the many engaging activities they tackled, and building on those cross-disciplinary skills, in their hydraulics session, the students were the first to try out some new kit! They created hydraulic lifting platforms from wood, screws and glue following the instructions given then tested their creations. It was great to see them adjusting their work to make the platforms lift level and stronger.

They were able to experiment with different sized syringes and make the connection between the surface areas of the slave and master pistons and the amount of effort required to lift a certain mass. Knowledge that will put them in good stead for their GCSEs.

Most participants have also chosen to develop a scientific investigation for the **Bronze CREST Award**. Projects range from studying bacteria in milk and testing sports-science techniques, to making natural soaps, exploring hydraulics, modelling aerodynamics in F1 cars, designing paper planes, and even examining food spoilage.

A few students will carry their work into the school holidays, and we look forward to sharing their results in the next newsletter. Good luck to everyone taking on this exciting challenge!

Mrs D Vause and I Smaditch



NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC THINKING CHALLENGE 2025

The National Scientific Thinking Challenge began in 2020, when friends at six UK universities launched it to address pandemic-related learning gaps.

Four years on, over 20,000 Year 10 students across the UK analyse data, interpret graphs and texts, spot trends, propose hypotheses and identify anomalies, rather than simply recall taught material. If you'd like to try, head to their website!

This is our third year running the challenge, and a record 36 students entered. Facing unfamiliar problems, they stretched their analytical skills and tackled each question with enthusiasm.

Of our 36 participants, 19 earned awards, an outstanding achievement given the competition's rigour:

- 5 students won Bronze awards (top 40% nationally)
- 10 students won Silver awards (top 25% nationally)
- 4 students won Gold awards (top 10% nationally)



Congratulations to every student who took part, especially those who stepped outside their comfort zones. We look forward to even more participants next year!

Well done to the Gold award winners, Saehj Bisel, Leo Geston, Baris Clarke and Toby Sanders.

I Smaditch

TWYCROSS HOUSE SCHOOL IMPRESSIVE AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY 'TOP OF THE BENCH' NATIONAL FINAL

After two demanding rounds, the preliminary at Coventry University in November 2024 and the regional final at Birmingham University in January 2025, Twycross House School were chosen to proudly represent the West Midlands at the RSC National Final held at Cardiff University on 22 March 2025.

Having competed in this event since the 2017/18 academic year, Twycross continues its strong tradition of excellence in science - marking the fourth time our school has reached the national final.



This year, the school sent a dedicated team of four students: Katherine Thomas (S5), Baris Clarke (S4), Henry Hardwicke, and Ben Clark (S3). Despite feeling a bit apprehensive at first, especially upon witnessing 112 students, numerous teachers, and a dozen Royal Society of Chemistry officials gathered at the event, the team quickly gained their rhythm. After completing a tough chemistry quiz, they took on a practical challenge in an undergraduate laboratory, where they prepared an alkaline glucose solution that decolourised and subsequently restored a methylene blue indicator within the allotted time. Notably, some of the top independent schools in the UK were among the 28 schools participating, making the team's fourth-place finish even more commendable and a testament to their hard work and thorough preparation.

Regrettably, this was the last RSC national final, adding extra significance to the event. Special thanks go to the supportive parents who have consistently helped students attend these events. Congratulations to Katherine, Baris, Henry, and Ben on an outstanding performance!

I Smaditch



Whole School

BUG HOTEL

In biology, Form 3 have been studying life cycles and habitats of plants and animals.

A special award for going above and beyond has been given to Rocco Taylor who created a super new Rocco's Bee and Bee Bug Hotel while on holiday with his family. I think you will agree that it will soon be a fully booked Swallows hill Air bee and bee! Watch this space for more bug booking updates. Let's hope we get 5 star reviews.

Mrs H Williams



ECOLOGY STUDIES

The biology department took the opportunity of the nice weather to go to the woods for some ecology practical studies. It was timed to perfection as the bluebells were in full bloom.

Senior 4 students investigated how environmental factors can affect the distribution of plant species by carrying out a line transect. They looked at infiltration rates, light intensity and percentage cover. This ties in nicely with their GCSE specification.

Lower Sixth students looked at the distribution of green algae on trees to investigate if the direction the surface faced affected the percentage cover of algae. They practiced techniques that would be useful to them on their biology field trip later that month.

We are so lucky to be able to make use of this resource as it definitely enhances the learning of the ecology topic.

Mrs C Lauder



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIPS

The Summer term saw a busy schedule of geography field trips from Form 5 to Lower Sixth.

The annual A-level trip to North Norfolk saw the group conduct fieldwork in Leicester and Sheringham, as well as beach profiles at Wells-next-to-sea and a spot of crabbing at Blakeney. The fieldwork links with the A-level syllabus and helps the students gather skills that will help them to complete their individual fieldwork project.

M Beavan



FORM 5 GEOGRAPHY AND BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

Form 5 recently took part in a field trip to the beautiful and historic Bradgate Park, north west of Leicester, where they undertook a geographical and invertebrate survey of the meandering River Lyn which flows through the park.

The river flows into a number of man-made pools which are designed to prevent silt entering the nearby reservoir that provides water for the city of Leicester. The pools provide a safe habitat (until Form 5 come along!) for a number of different creatures including tadpoles, newts, fry and a plentiful number of small leeches. The pupils enjoyed capturing, identifying and examining these before returning them carefully back to their natural habitat under the watchful and expert eye of Mrs Lauder.

The River Lyn provides an ideal opportunity for gaining experience in conducting a field study. Despite very low water levels, due to the dry spring, the pupils were able to consider three hypotheses concerning water flow, water quality and the nature of the river bed and gather evidence to support their conclusions. They also enjoyed getting their feet wet and being careful not to step where the deer had been!

An early picnic lunch was enjoyed by all, despite the close attention of a number of hungry ducks who seemed to have been taking lessons from Padstow seagulls in how to steal food from humans. The afternoon was concluded by the purchase and consumption of delicious fare from Eric's Ice Creams.

Mrs C Lauder and C Perry



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIPS

The GCSE groups went to Leicester and Dovedale, collecting River discharge data and land use data from the different locations. These trips are vital to see geography concepts in the real world and help the students to relate what is in their textbooks to the world around them.

Form 5 visited Bradgate park and Form 4 walked around Twycross Village gaining valuable local place knowledge.

M Beavan



BEBRAS 2024/25

In what has become tradition, this academic year saw the return of the annual BEBRAS competition, this year the format has been redesigned (again) to include a revamped secondary assessment later in the year specifically aimed at programming.

As always, it is excellent that we had many students see success at Distinction level, the full list of students across all participating year groups attaining this level are:



Finbar Millen	Roy Stevens	Jenson Longhi	Barnaby Johnson	Anorrah Antrobus	Alexandra Kilkie James
Lillian Lock	Charlotte Wilson	Logan Fowler	Jude Quenby	Ellena Maher	Cassius Thai
Seth Bowman	Gunes Clarke	Theo Lilley	Grace Bennett	Patrick Conway	Thomas Glenn
Eliza Parker	Arya Gunpath	Keira Holmes	Juliet Thai	Saul Westaway	Edward Woollaston
Justin Lin	Effie Bowman	Jemima de Jongh	Noah Weatherer	Alvin Lin	Evie Knight-Ponticelli
Siddhi Vijayan	George Norman	Emma Tyrrell	Zara Lin	Elliot Gill	Eliza Shaw
Hugo Brothwell	Mira Uker	Charley Shuker	Henry Hardwicke	Eddie Lock	Nathanael de Jongh
Leo Johnson	Tanveer Nijjer	Max Faulkner	Lara Davenport	Vivaan Srinivas	Florence Whitehead
Oscar Thompson	Benjamin Clark	Ryan Lewicki	Matthew Jeffries	Austin Light	Libby-Mae Mullaley
Edward Lauder	Sammy Mobayed	Katherine Thomas	Niamh Daniels	Amelia Carthy	Amelie Ewing-Gerrard
Toby Sanders	Sebastien Gray	Harry Trye	Mya Khela	Henry Thomas	

The next round, though similar in layout, differed greatly in the way problems were posed and solved and all credit goes to all of those that participated. From the above list of students, those that performed in the top ten percent nationally, met the age entry requirements and (ultimately) chose to participate in the coding challenge, these are the worthy winners of the Distinction level:

Jemima de Jongh	Keira Holmes	Saul Westaway	Jenson Longhi	Finbar Millen	Evie Knight-Ponticelli
Edward Woollaston	Nathanael de Jongh	Leo Johnson	Katherine Thomas	Henry Thomas	

Congratulations to all of the students listed on their excellent performance in either or both of the BEBRAS challenges, I am extremely proud of you all.

Finally, one special mention must go to Nathanael de Jongh, who had the highest individual national ranking of any participant from Twycross in the coding challenge, coming 521st out of 13039 National entries in the Navigators category placing him in the top five percent nationally. Well done!

D Westaway



ANTARCTIC EXPLORER

Twycross students were lucky enough to have a visit from polar explorer Adrian Jumper Cross. A truly inspirational individual who has been to the Antarctic thirty times, has been on numerous trips to the Arctic and spent time in the Falklands with more trips to the Antarctic planned. Mr Cross kindly came into school and shared his wealth of experience and knowledge first with our Swallows Hill students and later with our Senior students and the Lower Sixth.

Pupils enjoyed seeing the range of wildlife and hearing about the huge scale of the icebergs and the rather rocky sea conditions through the Drake passage.

Mr Cross was able to describe first hand the changes that are occurring in the Antarctic and explained the impact this is having on the world. He went on to talk about how our students are the future and how their future careers or life choices could help shape the world we live in.



I have no doubt that these talks will inspire projects when we enter our new school year.

Mrs D Vause

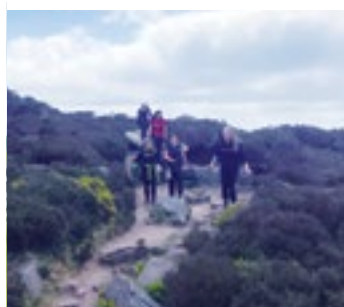
GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Congratulations to Ruby Zala was invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden party earlier in the year to celebrate the achievement of her DofE Gold Award.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD EXPEDITION

Congratulations to members of the Lower Sixth who successfully completed their Gold expedition in Snowdonia in July.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day (March 8, 2025) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.



EGG SMASH!

The annual egg smash resulted in another epic battle! Participants were paired up and given a boiled egg, before being asked to play a game with them that was similar to conkers! The object of the game was to keep your egg intact for as long as possible.

Much like the Euros, contestants progressed through knock-out matches, until only two students remained standing for the final. Congratulations to the winners!



FORM 5 SUMMER FETE

On Thursday 3rd July, Form 5 students held their annual fundraising fete. The students demonstrated fantastic creativity in crafting a range of products to sell, whilst everyone thoroughly enjoyed a wide variety of activities including 'duck tombola', mini-archery, 'guess the difference', and of course sponge-throwing!

Thank you to Mr Buckton and Mrs Shaw for being willing sponge volunteers, and to everybody involved in making the event such a success. Altogether, Form 5 students raised an amazing £743 for this year's Swallows charity - The Max and George Trust.

Miss H Carr and C Perry



EASTER EGG HUNT AND RAFFLE

Congratulations to the Senior 3 students who arranged an Easter Egg hunt and raffle and raised £389.10. This is a fantastic amount of money so well done to the S3 students who worked hard to achieve this. I would also like to thank those of you that kindly donated Easter treats to support this event.

Mrs C Lauder

FORM 5 MYTHOLOGY COMPETITION

Ten entries from Form 5 were selected to be entered into the Classical Association Mythology Competition with schools competing across the UK and beyond. The students had to prepare a creative response to the story of the Trojan Horse and it was lovely to see all their imaginative ideas (some pictured here including Finbar

Millen's Greek Vase and Bea Williams' horse pencil drawing). We received some fantastic comments from the judges and Jackson Beavan won a prize! His entry giving the gods' views of the Trojan Horse was praised for being "an imaginative retelling" and was highly commended.

Mrs S Blake



NO MORE LIVES WASTED — LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE SERVICE

Lower sixth students took part in a workshop delivered by Leicestershire fire service earlier this year.

The workshop is aimed at young drivers and those learning to drive. It looks at the 'fatal four' (mobile phones, alcohol/drugs, not wearing seatbelts & speeding). These are the four most common causes of young people having an accident in their cars.



This was the fourth time the fire service has been to Twycross to educate our young adults on these dangers.

It is a very hard-hitting experience but worth it if it helps to save lives. This year we had the added bonus of the hazard express van to enhance

the VR experience. The van enables students to sit in the vehicle, with virtual reality headsets on, during a collision and feel the impact on the car's movements. The students valued this experience even though it was a tough subject to learn about.

Mrs C Lauder

STIG OF THE DUMP

Form 4 students showed their Stig of the Dump-style skills in building dens. Both classes went over to the woods in the final week of term to create new shelters for the lead character from the last book they read in class.

Stig said he was very grateful for and impressed by the great effort and looked forward to sleeping in the dens over the summer.

J Davies



ISA YOUNG MUSICIAN

The ISA Young Musician of the Year is a National music competition across ISA schools in the UK. Entrants have to record a piece of music that is no longer than 3 minutes in duration and send it off to be judged. After this, the top 10 are selected for each age group (juniors and seniors).

I have been lucky enough to enter the competition and reach the finals three times. The first time I was 6 and came 3rd. Last year I was 4th. This year I decided to go for it again and really up the difficulty of my piece. The finals this year took place at Oxford University. It was such an incredible experience to perform at their school of music. The acoustics in the music hall were incredible. It was really nice to meet other musicians from all over the country and to get feedback from judges with years of musical experience. I love hearing all the different instruments and watching others perform.

For the final, we had up to 4 minutes each. Timings were very strict- alongside the two judges there was a timekeeper who stopped anyone who went over the time limit. My piece was 3:58 so I was a little worried I may go over!

When I enter a competition I like to go first as I get quite nervous waiting. I find I can enjoy being an audience member more once I've finished too as I can watch the others play without worrying about my turn. Luckily I was third to play

so I didn't have to wait too long. I introduced my piece and explained the context of it. The piece I played is one of my favourites - Watching the Wheat.

It is an arrangement of a traditional welsh song by John Watkins, a prolific composer. It's quite a sad song as it tells the story of a young couple who fell in love but couldn't be together. She was from a rich family and he was a farm worker. Her family refused for them to be together so he was left 'watching the wheat' as she was married off to another. She committed suicide and her love was left broken and forlorn. So it's quite a tragedy! The harp music is quite haunting and challenging at times to play but it is such a beautiful piece and one of my favourites. I finished the piece within the time frame and it went really well. Then I had the chance to watch the other competitors play and their talent was so amazing. I really enjoyed the performances.

When the judges came to the stage they announced the results in order from 3rd to 1st. I didn't think I stood a chance once I heard who 3rd and 2nd where as they were all really talented performances. Then they called the winner and I didn't actually realise they had called my name until my dad said. I couldn't believe it. I walked up to the stage and shook the judge's hands and received my trophy and certificate. I was ecstatic!

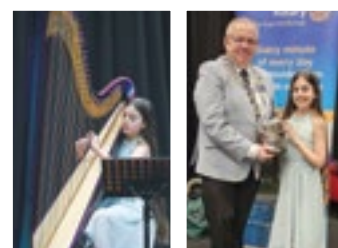


The team at ISA Arts are really friendly and supportive and the competition is made to feel the same. Thanks so much to Mrs Saunders, our head of Music, for her support and for helping me with the submission. It was such an amazing experience and I was so grateful to have had the opportunity to take part on behalf of Twycross School.

Effie Bowman

MUSICAL SUCCESS FOR EFFIE

Congratulations to Effie Bowman who won the Ashby round of the Rotary Young Musician at Christmas, and last weekend went on to win the district at Uppingham school. She won vocal, instrumental and the overall title of District YMoY. She's now through to the regional final in Birmingham next month.





LIBRARY NEWS

The students enjoyed slowing down the pace of the school days in the library, with many using it regularly as a place where they can read their books, study, revise and relax with games, crafts and our regular mindfulness practices.



Students felt comfortable to bring to the table issues that worry or excite them, as well as current affairs and other news for reflection and discussion. Our Easter Egg Hunt Quiz was improved and updated with the help of the students. We had fun creating props for the impressive Shrek production in March as well as for the S2 production “Greece” in June.



MANY THANKS TO:

Annabel G., Freya B. Bahaouddin A. and Leo Johnson for their enthusiastic support and for creating a new and improved Literary Easter Egg Hunt Quiz in the library.

Emily and George Norman for the kind donation of books to the library.

Lucy G. and Ellena M. for their wonderful, illustrated quotes!

Prop making superstars: Annabel G., Lucy G., Ruby G., Freya B., Arya B., Martha H., Jess R., Bahaouddin A., Edward L., Emily D., Beatrice P., Matilda S., Barnaby S., Bethan T., Zoe W.

BOOKMARK COMPETITION WINNERS

Thank you for your beautiful entries! Honour marks and a small prize go to:

- 3X:** Aariz R., Rocco T.
.....
- 3Y:** Ellena M., Rupert P., Roy S.
.....
- 4X:** Alexandra K., Charlotte W.
.....
- 5X:** Addison L.
.....
- 5Y:** Kiera H., Lucy G., Jackson B.,
Lauren F., Finbar M.

BEST COSTUME WINNERS

- 3X:** Jesse-Luca A., Annorah A.
.....
- 3Y:** Gunes C., Lillian L., Roy S., Isadora M
.....
- 4X:** Layla M., Arthur M
.....
- 4Y:** Ezra W., Jenson G.
.....
- 5X:** Harriet J.
.....
- 5Y:** Keira H.



WORLD BOOK DAY

What a wonderfully colourful day this was! The Swallows' Hill students had a great time dressing up, and we were very impressed by the effort that went in some home-made costumes! A plethora of brilliant ideas!

We discussed with the students the reasons for choosing their characters and explored which of the characters' qualities and values resonate with them. Enjoy the photos of happy students celebrating books and many thanks for your donations to this charity!



Mindfulness Corner

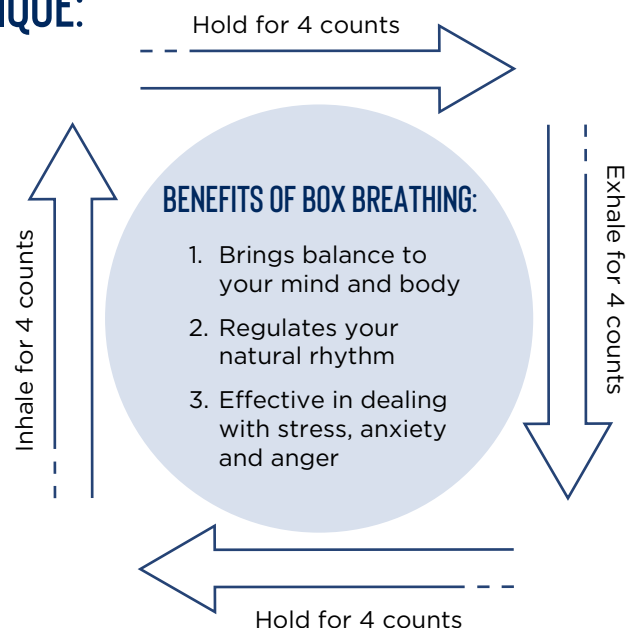


BOX BREATHING ANXIETY CALMING TECHNIQUE:

Box breathing is a deep breathing technique which can alleviate anxiety, panic attacks, even lower blood pressure.

This is how it works:

1. Sitting comfortably with a straight spine, exhale gently all the air out of your lungs.
2. Inhale deeply for 4 counts.
3. Hold your breath for 4 counts.
4. Exhale gently from the mouth for 4 counts.
5. Hold your breath for 4 counts.
6. Repeat steps 2 to 6.



Mrs T Avaraki

Whole School

GREEK PLAYS

In the Easter holidays, a mixture of students from Form 5 to Senior 4 all came together to practice and work on a series of workshops and techniques. We used lots of different styles of acting and presentation such as: mask work, stick work and physical theatre - all of which helped us to widen our acting abilities.

We mainly focused on acting out scenes from a work-in-progress script on Greek myths and that script later went on to become a S2 (mainly) play with guest stars from S1 and S3. We worked towards this from Easter and around our revision and exams, finally performing it on Wednesday 25th June.

It covered the stories of: Athena and Arachne - where the latter gets turned into a spider for challenging a God. Pygmalion and Galatea - where a statue comes to life because of the love of the sculptor.



Echo and Narcissus - where one loses her voice and the other falls into the water forever. Plus, a brief history of everything from Chaos to Olympus.

This was a very exciting and interesting experience as many of us had never used these acting techniques before and it was very fun to discover new ways of expressing ourselves as the characters in the play. The audience all seemed to enjoy themselves and even said that they would have liked to have watched it over again.

Bethan Tombs

THE MOUSETRAP

After a train ride to London, some members of S3 and S4 (who are taking Drama as a GCSE choice) got the option to enjoy a nice educational day out in the West End watching the play 'The Mousetrap'.

This will form part of their GCSE coursework as they can write about it as well as learning more about acting for themselves.

As a group, we loved the experience of trying to figure out who the

mysterious killer was and the reason behind them doing this awful crime. However, as it is a very long tradition, I will not spoil the thrill of going to watch this play for yourselves and we were sworn to secrecy by the cast!

Although we can't give you any spoilers, we all highly recommend you go and watch this thrilling performance.

Oscar Thompson



SWALLOWS SUMMER PERFORMANCE

On the last Tuesday afternoon of term the Swallows choir and some Form 5 drama enthusiasts came together to put on an end of term performance for parents. The Choir sang their hearts out and the drama scenes from Annie were delivered with energy and passion. We were also treated to a brass trio and Grace Bennett delivered a superb singing solo. Well done to all the performers involved!

BRASS CONCERT



SENIOR SUMMER CONCERT

We had a fantastic musical end to our school year with our senior summer concert. Performances from Senior 1 through to senior 5 students, from beginner musicians to GCSE performances, it really was a lovely way to finish off our very busy academic term!

It was great to see the growing confidence of students and for some it was their very first time of performing.

We had such a variety of performances from the Senior Ensemble singing songs from Hamilton and Six, the Jazz band's lively rendition of Sh-boom,

beautiful vocal solos from Darcey, Sophie, Effie, Aviana and Isla, and excellent piano solos by Deon, Rita and Alex.

Our Senior 1 students are a very musical year group with a guitar duet from Hugo and Evie, and a woodwind ensemble with Sophia, Jemima and Emma accompanied by Evie on guitar and also a saxophone solo of "Jupiter" by George.

Finally, a very impressive performance by Effie playing her harp. Well done to all students involved!

Mrs R Saunders, Mrs Z Griffiths and A Taylor



MUSIC AT TWYCROSS HOUSE

2025 has been a busy year so far for the music department at Twycross House School, which all started with the Young Voices concert on Tuesday 14th January, where we took over 50 children from Form 3, 4 and 5 to the NEC to join thousands of other children from primary schools from across the country.

Highlights were songs from the musical Hairspray, Birdhouse in Your Soul and the 'Let's Dance' Medley. We also sang and grooved to a fantastic medley as tribute to Bob Marley who would have celebrated his 80th birthday this year.

MC Grammar & Strictly Come Dancing's singer Tommy Blaize delighted us all with their performances as well as the Young Voices regular dance group Urban Strides. The children's singing and overall conduct was exemplary and a credit to Twycross House School.

On Wednesday 29th January, we held our second annual piano concert in the theatre, where we were entertained by our wonderful, young piano players. For many, this was their first time playing the piano in front of an audience and everybody performed with an impressive amount of confidence and precision.

In addition to the bravery shown by our young beginner players in their early stages of learning, performing in public for the very first time, we were also treated to performances of much more challenging music by some of our older and more advanced students.

These performances were inspirational to us all and especially to those younger players who could see what they could be playing in the years ahead with continued practice.

On Tuesday 18th March, the school once again hosted a session of ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) grade exams and we were delighted that all 14 students (India Bowman, Isabelle Wilson, Beatrice Price, Jemima de Jongh, Adam Harafat, Emma Tyrrell, Jessica Rayson, Freya Brown, Martha Harris, Sofia Centonze, Nathanael de Jongh, Nishita Srinivas, Lily Mary Messer and Georgina Saunders) were successful in passing their grades.

Mr. Taylor's prize for the student gaining the highest mark in their scales was awarded to Beatrice Price with an amazing 20 marks out of a possible 21. In the previous

academic year, we held our first ABRSM session at school with just 3 hours of examining, but this year that expanded to 6 hours in December plus 3 hours in March – such is the growth of musical talent in the school! The next ABRSM session to be held at school is planned for Monday 8th December 2025 and a letter about this will come out in September. Congratulations to all the students in the school who have passed music exams this year!

On Tuesday 1st April, we held our "Spring Concert" in the theatre and were entertained by the school orchestra (performing Pirates of the Caribbean), the jazz band (performing Chameleon) and several soloists. It was wonderful to see such a variety of instruments being played in this concert, including the flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, French horn, trumpet, trombone, percussion, guitar, recorder, voice and even a chanter! Well done to all the soloists and small groups who stood at the front of the stage to perform so well for us.

Due to the exams taking place in the theatre, we have not been able to have school orchestra rehearsals this term. However, Mr. Taylor arranged for two small chamber groups to practise in the dressing rooms behind the stage and these will be performing in concerts at the end of this term. Camilla (saxophone), Seth (trombone) and Finbar (trombone) are working at Little Brown Jug and Emma (recorder), Sophia (flute), Jemima (oboe) and Evie (guitar) are working at The Drunken Sailor.

Friday 13th might be unlucky for some, but not for Form 3X, who at the start of lunchbreak on the 13th of June performed brilliantly outside the theatre on pTrumpets and pBones. The performance started with Smoke on the Water by Deep Purple, was followed by the theme from the film Jaws and then, accompanied by a backing track, this Form 3X Brass Band concluded this al fresco performance with Lean On Me.

With two further concerts taking place in the final week of this academic year, we certainly have had a busy 2025 so far and we are so proud of our young musicians in this school. We would like to thank all the parents of those children who have taken part in musical concerts and/or exams this year for their support, not just by attending the concerts but also with their encouragement to practise leading up to these events.



Whole School

OLIVER!

Congratulations to student Preston Cropp in S2 who has been very busy performing in **Oliver** on the West End, produced by Cameron Mackintosh and Directed/Choreographed by Matthew Bourne.

Preston undertook 4 rounds of auditions to secure his role in Fagin's Gang and has been picking pockets ever since. Preston began rehearsals last May and he started in the show at The Chichester Theatre June-Sept before being offered a transfer to continue his role at the Gielgud Theatre in London.

During this incredible run Preston has also had the highlights of performing two Press Nights, Recording the Oliver Cast Album as well as performing for The King at this year's Royal Variety Performance.

This is Preston's second professional contract, having toured as Rudy in The Book Thief the year prior so we look forward to seeing what is next for him... he works very hard juggling professional theatre life along with all his studies and sports.



A 'SHREKTACULAR' PERFORMANCE!

Our spring musical this year was the heart warming and funny 'Shrek Jr'. 37 students from Senior 1 upwards wowed audiences in their wonderful performance of the entertaining production suitable for all ages. Our talented cast brought the beloved character to life with energy and humour.

We opened with a dress rehearsal for year 3 and 4 children from 'The Hollies' which was thoroughly enjoyed followed by three evening performances with a fully entertained and packed audience. A wonderful achievement by all involved!

Miss K Lees



Whole School

SENIOR 2 TRIP TO THE BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

Senior 2 completed their study of the Industrial Revolution by visiting the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley. With our guides, we visited workers' homes from the 19th century and wandered around authentic shops of the era.

We enjoyed a canal boat trip through the tunnels underneath Dudley to see how coal was transported through the region. During our coal mine workshop,

the group was shown first-hand the danger posed by gas to the Dudley miners. Throughout the day, the students were fully engaged and asked insightful questions to the volunteers around the village.

Our visit ended with a lesson in the 1912 school room – a memorable experience for us all!

Mrs S Adam



BRADGATE PARK

After a long and successful exam week our Form 3 and Form 4 students had a day at Bradgate Park.

The weather was perfect and the ice creams were delicious! A fantastic way to end a busy week.

L Knight



SENIOR 5 TRIP TO HARDWICK HALL

Senior 5 GCSE students visited Hardwick Hall to prepare themselves for the case study question on their paper 2 GCSE paper. The students thoroughly explored the house and grounds recording information about the architecture of the house and the lifestyle of its occupants.

We found evidence of innovative building techniques and materials, and discovered ways to support the theory that Bess of Hardwick used the house as a marketing tool for her businesses. It was a pleasure to spend the day with Senior 5 in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside.

Mrs S Adam



FRENCH TRIP

This May half term, Senior 3 went on a journey to Maison Claire Fontaine, a French cultural experience centre nestled in the rural heart of Burgundy, central France. We began our adventure with an early morning departure with Malcolm at the wheel. We were excited for the days ahead.

On Wednesday morning, we participated in a French language lesson followed by a delightful cooking workshop. During the session, we prepared a sweet apple tart, using French phrases to request each ingredient. That afternoon, despite the drizzly weather, we set off for kayaking along a nearby river. We donned life jackets and helmets, then took a short bus ride to the river's starting point. Navigating back down to the Centre de Kayak, we battled rocks, branches, and even the occasional spider. It was a physically demanding challenge—but incredibly rewarding and great fun. Later that evening, we took part in a fast-paced competition to see who could complete a map of the French regions the quickest. Congratulations to our champions: Tanveer Nijjer, Matilda Shade, and Keir Fleming!

Thursday morning brought an energetic circus workshop led by a very entertaining instructor who affectionately called everyone “Charlotte.” He taught us various circus skills—from juggling and tightrope walking to climbing ropes and playing diabolo. The balancing and climbing were far trickier than he made them look! It was an enjoyable morning.

After lunch, we attended another French lesson where we sampled regional Bourguignon specialties such as pain d'épices (spiced bread), nonnettes (jam-filled spices bread), and Anis de Flavigny (aniseed-flavoured sweets). Next up was archery, where we took turns aiming three arrows at a set of balloons with a classmate. It turned out to be far more difficult than expected but equally thrilling. In the evening, we dined at a local restaurant. Starters included fresh salads, crusty baguette, and a variety of cheeses. The main course was a delicious chicken suprême, followed by a decadent chocolate mousse topped with strawberries. This was a truly exquisite meal.

Friday morning took us to the medieval town of Beaune, where we explored the Château de Savigny. We delved into its fascinating history through a scavenger-style competition, filling out our booklets as we discovered facts. Our efforts were rewarded with treats from a treasure chest! Afterwards, we enjoyed a picnic in a quaint square down the road, complete with baguette sandwiches and crisps.

Fun fact: Château de Savigny houses one of the world's largest collections of vehicles—including 40 tractors, 20 fire engines, 250 motorbikes, and an incredible 90



fighter jets! Later, we visited the Hospices de Beaune, a historic charitable hospital for the poor and vulnerable. Its stunning roof—adorned with colourful tiles and fluttering flags—was truly breathtaking.

That evening back at MCF, we danced the night away at a lively disco, moving to an energetic mix of pop, rock, jazz, and modern hits. Spirits were high, and it was a joyous night to remember. Afterwards, we had the chance to sample escargots (snails)—an iconic Burgundy delicacy. Many of us hesitated at first, uncertain about trying it, but eventually many put it in their mouths without thinking about it! The taste was surprisingly garlicky, with a soft, slightly mushroom like texture.

Saturday morning, our penultimate day, began with a visit to the Roman and medieval town of Avallon for a unique challenge: to create a healthy French lunch using only 35€! Everyone crafted edible masterpieces using only French ingredients. Afterwards, we played the traditional game of pétanque, where teams competed by throwing metal boules towards the cochonnet (target ball). Precision, strategy, and friendly rivalry made it a highlight of the day.

We packed our bags in preparation for the return journey the following morning. After dinner, we enjoyed a quiz that tested our knowledge of French language, culture, music, and geography. The winning team received sweets, and to end the evening, we held an awards ceremony celebrating the top three ambassadors who displayed outstanding artistic, cultural, and linguistic enthusiasm: Emily Davis, Ben Clark, and Alex Pallett in S3X.

On our final day, we got up before dawn and set off on the long journey home. We travelled through the picturesque French countryside before boarding the ferry and returning to Twycross.

A huge thank you to Mrs Dodd, Mr Buckton, Mrs Conway and Mrs Knight for guiding us through this incredible experience. We also give a thank you to the hosts of MCF—Alex and Mark—and the wonderful staff: Maroua, Charlotte, Mercy, Nadia and Ilana. Thank you all for making this an unforgettable experience.

Alex Pallett, Ben Clark and Emily Davis, S3X

GREEK TRIP APRIL 2025

Day 1: Arrival in Athens

At 4:40 a.m. on a crisp spring morning, 38 eager Classics students and their teachers departed from Twycross for what would become an unforgettable journey through the heart of ancient Greece. With sleepy eyes but excited hearts, the group made their way to Gatwick Airport, bound for Athens.

Upon arrival in Athens, the group wasted no time immersing themselves in the city's rich history. That evening, they dined in the charming district of Plaka, nestled beneath the Acropolis.

As night fell, the students were treated to a breathtaking view of the Acropolis illuminated against the Athenian sky- a magical introduction to the wonders ahead!

Day 2: Exploring Athens

Friday began with an early breakfast before a full day of sightseeing on foot. The group first visited the Theatre of Dionysus, where ancient dramas once captivated Athenian audiences, followed by a climb to the Acropolis itself. Standing before the Parthenon, students were struck by its grandeur and historical importance.

The tour continued through the Athenian Agora and its museum, offering insights into the civic life of classical Athens. Lunch was enjoyed at a traditional taverna with a breathtaking view of the Acropolis.

In the afternoon, students explored the Acropolis Museum, where ancient artifacts are displayed in a modern setting. They were captivated by the Archaic statues, many of which still bear traces of their original colour, as well as the Parthenon sculptures displayed on the museum's top floor.

Before returning to the hotel, students had time to browse the museum shop and pick up souvenirs in the busy area of Monastiraki- silver jewellery was a particular favourite!

In the evening, the group enjoyed gyros and ice cream before strolling through Syntagma Square. There, the students observed the Evzones, elite soldiers in traditional uniform, standing guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, taking in their unique attire and dignified presence.

Day 3: From Athens to Delphi

Saturday's itinerary began at Kerameikos archaeological site and museum, a poignant reminder of ancient Athens' funerary traditions. After lunch, the group explored the National Archaeological Museum, home to some of Greece's most treasured artifacts.

In the late afternoon, the journey continued to Delphi, passing through the picturesque village of Arachova and the slopes of Mount Parnassos. A hearty meal at a Greek restaurant rounded off the day.

Day 4: Delphi and the Road to Olympia

Sunday morning was spent exploring the sacred site of Delphi, once believed to be the centre of the world in ancient Greek mythology and the home of the oracle of Apollo.

Students and staff climbed to the stadium and were rewarded with panoramic views of the unique landscape. The journey then continued into the Peloponnese, with a scenic lunch stop in the coastal village of Itea.

After crossing the Rio-Antirrio Bridge-the world's longest cable-stayed bridge-the group travelled to Olympia.

There, students impressed with their skills during a session of traditional Greek dancing before exploring the town and enjoying a well-earned dinner.

Day 5: Olympia and Nafplio

On Monday, the group visited the ancient sanctuary of Olympia, once the heart of athletic and religious life in ancient Greece.

The students explored the birthplace of the Olympic idea and reflected on timeless values such as noble contest and mental and physical harmony. A standout moment came when several S5 girls reenacted the lighting of the Olympic flame at the Temple of Hera, bringing history to life with grace and focus.

In true Twycross spirit, the visit ended with a lively race in the ancient stadium. Saehj B., Logan E., and Isla R. claimed victory and were crowned with the kotinos, a traditional olive wreath symbolising honour and unity.



Whole School

Students and staff cheered on the winners, deeply moved by the spirituality and ideological significance of the Olympian landscape.

After a lunch packed with delicious Greek flavours, the group headed to the coastal town of Nafplio. With its Venetian architecture, lively old town, and seaside charm, Nafplio was the perfect setting for souvenir shopping and a relaxing evening. A local taverna offered a final taste of Greek hospitality, followed by a gentle stroll and gelato from a beloved local shop. While pistachio was the teachers' favourite, the students explored every flavour from fruity strawberry to chocolate chip!

Day 6: Mycenae, Epidaurus, and the Journey Home

The final day of the tour took students to Mycenae, the legendary city of King Agamemnon and a cornerstone of Homeric epic. While exploring the ruins, they delved into the Mycenaean civilisation, which flourished as early as 1600 BC.

The next stop was the theatre of Epidaurus, renowned for its near-perfect acoustics. Students tested the sound from the stage, marvelling at the ingenuity of ancient Greek engineering.

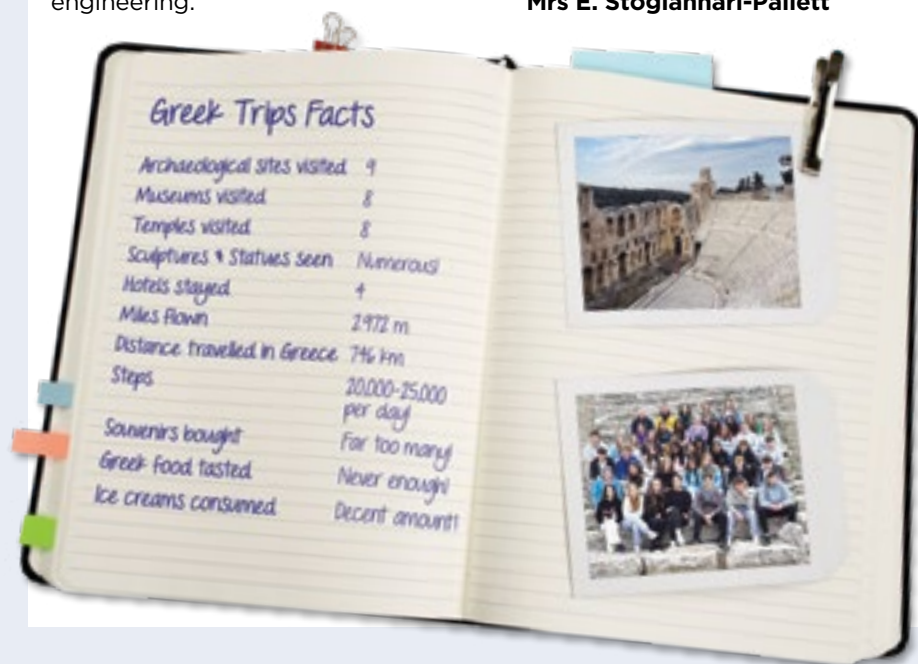
The journey back to Athens included a drive over the Corinth Canal, an engineering marvel slicing through the Isthmus of Corinth. Students made the most of their final hours at Athens Airport with a last round of souvenir shopping!

Far more than a sightseeing tour, each destination offered immersive experiences that transformed textbooks into tangible history. Students returned not only with souvenirs, but with lasting memories and a deeper appreciation of the ancient Greek civilisation they study.

As the trip drew to a close, staff reflected on the exemplary behaviour of Twycross students and their remarkable ability to keep pace with a demanding itinerary. New friendships blossomed, and the care shown by sixth form students toward their younger peers was heartwarming.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the dedicated staff, Mrs Blake, Mrs Beavan, Mr Smaditch and Mr Grattan, and Dr Assinder who accompanied the students on this journey. Without their guidance and support, this unforgettable experience would not have been possible.

Mrs E. Stogiannari-Pallett



Greek Trips Facts

Archaeological sites visited	9
Museums visited	8
Temples visited	8
Sculptures & Statues seen	Numerous
Hotels stayed	4
Miles flown	2,972 m
Distance travelled in Greece	746 km
Steps	20,000-25,000 per day
Souvenirs bought	Far too many!
Greek food tasted	Never enough!
Ice creams consumed	Decent amount!



ICELAND

Ding dong! In July a group of 56 A Level and GCSE geography and geology students had the most amazing trip to Iceland, filled with all sorts of exciting adventures.

On day 1 we visited the Bridge Between Continents and the Gunnhver Hot Springs. We also drove through Grindavik, an area that has been impacted terribly by recent volcanic eruptions and lava flows. It really was a spectacular sight to see and looked like something out of a Sci-Fi movie. It highlighted just why Iceland is known as "The land of Fire and Ice". 3,800 residents have now been evacuated, despite the creation of protective walls and the re-routing of the main road as several homes were damaged by seismic activity. Some fissures were almost 4km in length. It really was amazing to see. We then made our way to our first hotel in Reykjavik and finished a very long day with a walk and a surprise dance around Reykjavik.

Day 2 began with an early start! We saw our first 2 waterfalls and experienced the lovely scent of the eggy geysirs. This was followed by a relaxing bathe in the Secret Lagoon, Gamla Laugin, which is the oldest swimming pool in Iceland. It was opened in 1891 and is a beautiful thermal pool where the naturally occurring water has an all-year-round temperature of 38-40 Celsius.



After a short drive to Gullfoss Waterfall we saw the impressive view from above, it really was spectacular.

After eating some delicious ice cream from the dairy farm while watching the cows we made our way to Thingvellir National Park where we walked through the most spectacular countryside and saw the rift between the European and North American plates. Mrs Dent also got excited because this was also the site of the world's first democratic Parliament, the Althingi, created in 930!

Day 3 began with a visit to the Hellisheiði Geothermal Power Plant, a particular highlight for Mr Sampson, before taking beginning our amazing super jeep tour, which included a hike up a mountain and a look at the tongue of a glacier, before finally dropping us to see the stunning Seljalandsfoss Waterfall, where we walked on a path that led behind the falls and got soaking wet!

The jeeps took us off road and through rivers and provided spectacular views of the effects of the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull eruption. It was a brilliant afternoon and the highlight of the trip for many of the students despite Mr Sampson's singing and Mr Beavan's questionable choice of music!

Day 4 started with a trip to the Lava Centre and saw the 60m high Skogafoss Waterfall with its beautiful rainbows! We then headed to Reynisfjara Beach with its black sands, arches, stacks, and stumps, where we enjoyed collecting rocks before finally heading to our Sólheimajökull Glacier Hike where we adorned our crampons (spike shoes) to head up onto the ice where we drank water straight from the glacier and some people even attempted a Viking push up to do so. This really was a once in a lifetime opportunity and though some students were apprehensive, everyone completed the glacier hike and really enjoyed the experience.



Whole School

On our last day before heading home we visited one more geothermal area, where, as we viewed the boiling hot springs Mr Buckton and Mr Beavan took an unscheduled dip in a mud bath much to their travel companion's delight!

Finally, we arrived at our final activity, a trip into the 5000 year old Raufarhólshellir Lava Tunnel, where our guide made the tunnel go completely pitch black as absolutely no natural light had access.

We would like to reiterate our massive thanks to all the teachers involved, Mr Hudson our dedicated bird spotter, Mrs

Fellows our motherly figure while we were away, Mr Buckton who we're sure broke a record for the length of time he sat in the ice bath, DJ Dent keeping us entertained on all the long journeys, even through her tragic, life threatening finger injury, Mr Sampson for making sure we remained up to date with all things rocks, and finally Mr Beavan our incredible organiser, without whom this trip would never have been possible.

Thank you all so much for such an amazing experience, it really was such a fantastic way to end the year.

Mrs J Dent



CLASSICS DEPARTMENT FORM 5 VISIT TO LUNT ROMAN FORT

Form 5 pupils visited Britain's only reconstructed Roman cavalry fort. Guided by costumed Roman experts, the pupils explored fascinating areas of the fort, including the circular wooden gyrus, used for cavalry training, and the museum, which houses remarkable artifacts. Through hands-on activities, they uncovered the daily routines of Roman soldiers, handling authentic relics and gaining insight into the armour and weaponry that once protected the empire's forces.

One of the most thrilling moments of the day was the battle drill, where the pupils, under the command of a Roman officer, stepped into formation and learned military tactics used in ancient warfare. With shields raised and voices loud, they marched in unison, experiencing the discipline and precision that made Roman armies so formidable.

The trip proved to be both educational and thoroughly enjoyable. Both staff and pupils had a wonderful time, and many left with lasting memories and a newfound appreciation for Britain's Roman heritage.

Mrs E. Stogiannari-Pallett



SPANISH TRIP

Bright and early on Sunday we headed to Birmingham Airport at 4am to depart to Malaga where greeted by our personal tour guide Ignacio and we were introduced into our hosts' homes and had time to unpack.

From there we had a whistle stop tour of Malaga seeing all the beautiful sites and embracing the culture with some original churros con chocolate and relaxed by the beach. That evening we returned to our rooms and tried some homemade local specialties made by our hosts. ¡Qué sabroso! (how tasty!)

Up and early we went to Córdoba to see the unique World Heritage Mezquita-Catedral de Córdoba, which was incredible, followed by some delicious ice-cream!

In the evening we visited the beach where we basked in the early evening sun, whilst enjoying playing volleyball and swimming in the cool sea which made our trip!

On Tuesday we met up early for some Spanish lessons. We had the pleasure of authentic Spanish tapas and Moroccan tea tasting at lunch, followed by visiting Malaga's Cathedral and the Alcazaba. There was lots of fun to be had at the Pizzeria for dinner after our trip to the beach. Seeing the city at night on our late stroll back to our hosts allowed us to appreciate the city and get us ready for the last day.

We spent the last day visiting the IES Martín de Aldehuela school where we met some local students, had the opportunity to speak to them and learn about their life in Spain. In the afternoon we had some more spanish lessons before returning to our hosts to pack our clothes and say goodbye to the beach and Malaga. Everyone loved the trip, there were lots of amazing activities planned for us and the free-time to enjoy ourselves at the beach and to shop in the old town. Thank you Mrs Pound, Mrs Sanganee and Mr Gratton for taking us!

Ella Walker and Hari Sarveson



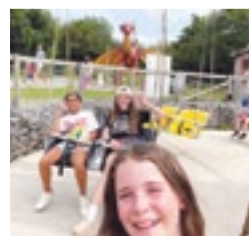
TWIN LAKES

On the Friday at the end of exam week, we went to Twin Lakes and had so much fun! There were lots of rides to go on and we got to go on most of them.

We travelled there on a coach journey filled with laughter. When we got there, we had four hours to go on the rides with a lunch break half way through.

Sayvie really enjoyed having fun with her friends on the log flume. Annie said, "We went on the Tower of Terror loads of times. It was great fun". Hugo B. really enjoyed the drop slides. Twin Lakes was amazing and so much fun! Thank you Mr. Knight for arranging it and for the members of staff who came with us.

Esme Anderson 5X



SIXTH FORM TRIP TO PARIS

In mid January, the A level students of French lead Mrs Pound and Mrs Fellows around Paris.

From stepping off the plane at Charles de Gaulle airport, the team of lower and upper sixth francophones bought all their own train and Metro tickets, planned our routes across the French capital, chose restaurants, cafés, bakeries, museums and monuments and ordered all meals and drinks until we boarded our return flight four days later.

They spoke, read and heard French everywhere we went and proved themselves as confident and able travellers in Paris and their good company and enthusiasm was wonderful!

We visited all the top sites of the capital including the Eiffel Tower, Centre Pompidou, Les Invalides, the Louvre and its glass pyramids, the Tuileries gardens, Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Élysées and we were amongst the first visitors to Notre Dame cathedral after its huge renovation due to the fire.

It's was incredible to see it reinstated to its original glory.

Our accommodation was a simple youth hostel near to the Gare du Nord, with some great DJs playing in the attached club, so evenings were spent dining and dancing. Based on its huge success, this trip will most certainly run again. It was a delight to travel alongside such mature, appreciative and ardent francophiles!

Mrs J Pound



S3 TRIP TO ROMAN BATHS

On Thursday 26th June, we set off early for a trip to Bath. Our first stop was the Clore Learning Centre of the Roman Baths, where we translated Latin tombstone inscriptions—some unusually dedicated to women—and learned Bath is home to the UK's only natural hot spring. We were also told that the natural spring's water would fill up a bathtub every 8 seconds!

We began the tour in the gymnasium, then visited the terrace, which overlooks the Great Bath and is lined with statues of Roman emperors carved in 1894.

We were amazed to discover that only part of the site is visible from this point, and that the baths extend beneath the modern streets!

Inside the museum, we saw the reconstructed ornamental pediment featuring the Gorgon's Head, symbolising Sulis Minerva. We also saw the Beau Street Hoard, which contained over 17,000 Roman coins discovered in 2007. Other exhibits used film to help visitors visualise what the site looked like during Roman times. Further on in the museum we saw the gilt bronze head of Sulis Minerva, one of the most well-known artefacts from Roman Britain.

Reaching the Sacred Spring, we discovered that over 1.17 million litres of water still rise daily at 46°C (114.8°F). The spring was believed to be divine and attracted people from all over the Roman Empire.

The Great Bath was a highlight of the visit, as we learned it was the

centrepiece of the Roman bathing complex. Fed by hot water from the Sacred Spring, it offered a luxurious and relaxing experience for Roman bathers.

In the East Baths, we observed how the bathhouse evolved over the centuries, reflecting changes in architecture and bathing practices. The Western Baths included advanced heating systems and a cold plunge pool, complemented by life-size film projections that vividly recreated the lively atmosphere of Roman times.

At the end of the visit, we tasted the famous bath water, containing 43 minerals, historically believed to have healing properties. Afterwards we enjoyed some free time around the nearby square, treating ourselves to ice cream and other traditional delights.

We ended the day with a walk to the famous Royal Crescent; a stunning row of 30 Georgian terraced homes designed in the 18th century by John Wood the Younger. Today, the Crescent comprises 120 residences. Its elegant façade and sweeping views of the surrounding parkland perfectly embody the '*rus in urbe*' ideal bringing the countryside into the city. It's no wonder this iconic setting has featured in many period films.

A huge thank you to Mrs. Stogiannari-Pallett, Mrs. Blake, Mrs. Beavan and Mrs. Avaraki for organising such a memorable trip!

Alexandros Pallett S3X



BELGIUM 2025

It was a very early start on Friday for those in S2 who were heading to Belgium! After the bus left at 4:10am we settled down for a long coach journey to Dover.

When we got to the port it was a smooth sail across the Channel and we were in France. After a short drive we spent the afternoon in Vimy Ridge, a French and Canadian memorial which was of great military importance during the war.

We also had a look in a restored trench which was very narrow and we saw some shell holes that remain to this day. After another long drive we arrived at our hotel in Belgium for a much needed rest.

Thankfully, Saturday was a slightly later start and after a delicious breakfast by the hotel staff we were on the road again headed to Tyne Cot which is a WW1 commonwealth cemetery.

It houses over 11,000 buried soldiers including lots of unidentifiable soldiers whose graves simply read, "A soldier of the Great War", and the countless soldiers missing in action whose names are inscribed on the walls at the front of the cemetery. Seeing them really brought home the amount of people who died for their countries in the conflict.

Later, we saw one of the German Cemeteries which are very different to the British ones. After a visit to a chocolate shop with delicious chocolates and sweets and a look round the town of Ypres (where we got amazing waffles) we headed to the In Flanders Fields Museum, named after the moving war poem by John McEnroe in May 1915.

In the evening, we saw the very moving Menin Gate remembrance ceremony which attracts lots of tourists every year. Inscribed on the walls of the Menin Gate are the 54,000 troops who died during the Ypres battles. We then enjoyed some excellent music and karaoke by DJ Dent (Mrs Dent) on the coach journey back to the hotel.

After departing the hotel on Sunday morning, we arrived at Hill 60 and got our wellies on to go into an authentic British trench. Even though it was May the mud and water were constant with some particularly deep bits which almost went over some peoples' wellies! We also went through an underground trench tunnel which was very dark and damp and really helped us to understand the intense hardship that these soldiers, lots of them only 18 or 19 (average age 25), lived in for 4 years.

We then had a look around the museum at Hill 60 which contained the cross section of a WW1 shell and lots of other interesting artifacts. After a slightly bumpier ferry trip home we arrived back at Twycross in the evening. A big thank you to Mrs Hitchin, Mrs Dent and Mr Buckton for taking us to Belgium, our tour guide Alanna who really helped us get a full understanding of what happened, our coach driver Hal, and all the staff at Hotel Hinterland for looking after us. We all had a fantastic time!

By Annabel Gibson & Freya Brown



BASKETBALL

With the basketball season drawing to a close, this means only one thing if we are lucky....playoffs! With the JR NBA team working hard to develop into a seamless team, we played local rivals Bosworth Academy in our pool game, the other two teams having conceded to us due to unforeseen circumstances.

Bosworth were a tall well drilled team, sadly dominating us 50-27. It was with some surprise therefore that we got the nod that we had advanced to the playoffs to play Northampton School for Boys, historically a very strong basketball school with strong ties to the England team pathway.

I can only say we were out run completely by a team who would later go on to win the whole competition. Our boys did well considering the depth and talent on the other team with strong performances from Alvin, Max, Barnaby, Justin and Robert to name but a few. Hopefully next year will see us return to the finals!

G Assinder

ARCHIE CLARK – THE RACE SEASON TO DATE!

This is the half way point of Archie's race season. So far his results this season have been outstanding and he is working very hard to continue this.

17 x Race Starts
9 x Race Wins
4 x 2nds
3 x 3rds
1 DNF (Broken car)

He is currently leading both championships in the Ginetta GT Championship and the GT Cup driving the Aston Martin Vantage GT4. Archie has been invited to join the Aston Martin Racing Driver Academy which is a global organisation and is one of only 3 British GB drivers.

He is the youngest driver to be included in the squad. He now has a short break for a month but rest assured he will be keeping up with his fitness, diet and SIM training, as well as his other Academy commitments.



TABLE TENNIS ISA

Well done to the U13 girls and boys who took part in the ISA Table tennis tournament. The girls team came 1st and the boys team came 3rd. Individually we got 2 silver medals and a bronze medal. It was a great day, everyone played in lots of matches with the opposition coming from all over the Midlands. Well done everyone.

W Grattan

U12/13 RUGBY

Another excellent year boys, well done. Undefeated for the season against teams from all over the Midlands. We entered a mini tournament over in Stafford and won that convincingly.

The tackling and rucking has improved a great deal, we have some very strong runners and good support within the team. Most improved players this season go to Jayson and Ralph. Harry E is improving and getting more confident every game. Preston is always a presence on the pitch and Brody dominates games.

Everyone works hard for the team, Robert will always win us the scrum and he is always seems to come up with the ball at the break down. Well done everyone!

W Grattan

U9 CRICKET

It has been the best U9 Cricket season throughout my time at Twycross. The boys (and girls) have represented the school well. We have been devastating with the bat - special mentions to Daniel and Jesse. We have 2 incredibly capable wicket keepers in Austin and Ethan who have terrified batters all season.

The team was captained by Lucien who stepped up to guide the team when they needed it most (even fielding with his throat on one occasion!). The season ended with an incredible result - our best ever finish - at the U9 ISA Cricket, 3rd place!

Well done to all of the boys who played on the day (Lucien, Jesse, Daniel, Austin, Ethan, Eddie, Josh, Roy and Patrick).

L Knight



U14/15 CRICKET

The boys have taken well to our more aggressive batting style and we have scored over 100 runs per game. There is still a little to do with regards our bowling - a few too many extras cost us matches.

I have been pleased with the attitude and approach displayed by the team with the bat and I hope we can build upon this next season.

L Knight

U10/11 CRICKET

Well done to the year 11 cricket teams. We had a very mixed season with some close defeats and the odd win. A few too many wides cost us a few games, but we are improving. Looking at the positives we have some very good fielders. Those who consistently played well in the field are Hugo B, Dan M, Oliver Hand Jenson G. Batting varied each game but the same boys held the team together. Our bowling did improve, Ezra got us some vital wickets and Alvin was threatening. I have been pleased with everyone's attitude, well done boys!

W Grattan

U12/13 CRICKET

A tough year against some very good opposition. Although we didn't have any victories there were definite improvements. Edward had some very good games leading from the front. He captained very well and was the highest scorer in most of our games. As we played more matches our fielding and bowling really improved, we just couldn't quite score enough runs to defend. On the positives the lads were all prepared to have a bowl and were really enthusiastic in the field. Well done everybody.

W Grattan

CROSS-COUNTRY

Our House Cross-Country was run in good spirits again this year, with all students taking part. Well done on our individual winners on the day and final House results were as follows:

	1st	2nd	3rd
Junior	Johnson	Hillary	Scott
Inter	Hillary	Johnson	Scott
Senior	Scott	Johnson	Hillary

Our THS Annual U9 & U11 Cross-Country also didn't disappoint this year with all runners doing the school proud. Special mentions go to Sam for winning the U11 boys race, U11 boys for winning team silver and U11 girls for winning team gold, Daniel for coming runner-up in the U9 boys race and our U9 boys for winning team bronze. Well done cross-country runners!

H Blencoe



U9 FOOTBALL - KIRKPATRICK CUP

We hosted our annual U9 Football tournament this summer, the Kirkpatrick Cup. The standard was incredibly high with an impressive Birchwood team winning the competition. Our U9s managed to finish in 2nd place. Every player played their part - Charlie making some excellent saves. Ethan, Austin, Patrick and Oscar all played their part in defending the goal and some vital counter attacking passes. Lucien, Daniel and Jesse created opportunities, scored goals and pressurised teams into making mistakes. Finally, Xavier completed the team with important goals. A fantastic success to build upon next year.

L Knight



U10/11 FOOTBALL

A good season for the U10/11. Winning most of our games, we managed to get A and B teams out when the opposition allowed it. We have had some very impressive performances with players like Joseph and Jenson playing key roles. Hugo, Ollie and Dan worked hard for the team all season.

Players taking it in turn to play on goal to help the team out. Ezra and Ioannis making some excellent saves. Alfi would always make a difference on the pitch and Jenson G would always take the opportunity to express himself with the ball.

Well done to all the lads who played for the school this year.

W Grattan

U12/13 FOOTBALL

Well done boys, a very good season. With only one defeat against The Market Bosworth School who are a very strong team. Some great performances from Preston and Brody throughout the year, they were always backed up by a strong defence, a special mention to Harry B and Edward W who were always very calm under pressure. Some of the boys played in the ISA tournament in Stafford.

We were up against some very skillful sides from the Midlands. We managed to win our league to get through to the final. The game ended 0-0 and went to penalties and then sudden death. Unfortunately luck was not on our side and we finished runners up. Great performances from all the lads, Casey scored some very good goals with Jayson having a good tournament and Tom making some excellent saves. Well done lads!!

Will Grattan

CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

Congratulations to Jessica Salt who ran in the Leicestershire and Rutland Schools Cross Country Championships Senior race for Years 12 and 13 girls at Ratcliffe College in January and she won the race.

This qualifies her to run in the Leicestershire and Rutland team of 8 at the National English Schools XC Championships on March 15th in West Sussex.

She has qualified twice before, but this is the first time that she has won the Leicestershire Championships.



Whole School

U14 GIRLS FOOTBALL

This year, the Twycross girls U14s football team have played extremely well. At the start of the year, we entered the girls ESFA football tournament with 125 other schools and we made it to the last 32 and lost a tough game against Repton but then went on to beat them in a friendly match later in the year.

When playing in the U13s ISA tournament we were undefeated and went on to win the plate, we played in the U14s ISA tournament we didn't concede all day but the finals came to penalties and went home with second place and we also came second in the School Games Girls football tournament.

Special mentions to Captain Amelie E-G for driving the team with enthusiasm, to Scarlett W and Emily G for some incredible goals, Siddhi for some strong defense and Savannah for some amazing goalkeeping even though she came late in the year. Well done to all the girls, it's been an excellent year, can't wait to play again next year.

Eliza Gilman and Jasmine Price



BRITISH ROWING GOLD MEDAL

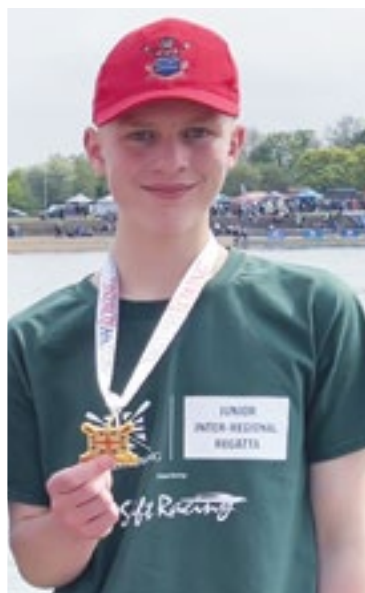
Henry Hardwicke, S3X, has won gold medal in the Boys J14 Double Sculls at the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta in April, representing the East Midlands.

The British Rowing event, held at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham, is for junior rowers aged 14-16 from the 14 rowing regions of the UK.

After finishing first in the 1000m heats, East Midlands crossed the 1500m finish line in the final just 0.14 seconds ahead of West Midlands in the closest race of the day!

Henry has been rowing for Burton Leander Rowing Club for the last three years and has been successfully racing in both single and double sculls but this is his greatest achievement so far.

His next challenge is the British Rowing Club Championships in July.



PONY CLUB SUCCESS

Congratulations to Lara Davenport who qualified for the Pony Club Spring Festival in Show Jumping and Dressage in back in January. The Spring Festival is a national competition hosted by the Pony Club.

The finals were held in March at Addington Equestrian Centre in Buckinghamshire. On the Saturday, Lara competed in the 90cm Show Jumping Final. There were 95 combinations entered, 47 jumped clear in the first round, Lara and her pony Fizz (Aphrodite's Echo) were one of them. A speedy clear round in the jump off saw them secure the win to become the 90cm Champions.

On the Sunday, it was the dressage final. Lara was competing on her pony Joby (Newoak Truffel) in the Novice dressage. They produced an accomplished, accurate test and won on a great score of 76.15% making them the Novice dressage champions.



U9 NETBALL

Our U9's have made a good start to their netball careers this year, picking up the new rules and tactics used in the sport quickly and putting them into game situations early on in the term. We started off the term with a round robin tournament against a very drilled Crescent team - we learnt a lot but unfortunately came away without a win. The same happened at Highclare, who also had a very strong U9 team. Our final match was against Pennine Way, where we played some of our best netball and with Ellena leading the way in defence, we managed to hold them to 0-0 until the final few minutes of the game - a 1-0 defeat but a great match to end the term on. Well done to all the girls!

H Blencoe

U10/11 NETBALL

I could not be more proud of our U10 and U11 netballers this year. Both teams completed undefeated seasons, averaging 11 goals a game and conceding very few in return.

Big wins against Crescent and Notts High (schools known for their high netball standards), being highlights of the friendly fixtures.

The ISA tournaments then brought along yet more success - our U10s played some outstanding netball (the best I've ever seen them play!), to win all matches very convincingly - the standout team by far on the day and finishing the day beating St Dominic's comfortably in the final - gold medals for our talented bunch of U10s.

Special mentions go to our rock at GK - Robyn, our centre court playmaker - Charlotte and our consistent, reliable GS - Summar - well done girls!

Our U11 'dream team' also represented the school well at their ISA event, however, the day wasn't as straightforward as the U10s. After a rocky start and a 1-1 draw in our first game against Ashley Manor, we had to rely on our shooters (Harriet and Bea) to get us through the group stages with a huge goal difference - this they did convincingly. Then came Arnold Lodge in the semi - an easy 2-0 win. Crackley hall had been the standout school on the day and they were to be our opponents in the final.

With spirits high and nerves jangling, the match went something like this - 1-0 down, 1-1, 2-1 up, 3-1 up...3-2, 3-3...final whistle.

After throwing away a 2 goal lead, we headed into extra time and a golden goal situation (I'm not sure who was more nervous - me, parents on the sideline, or the girls themselves!). After what seemed like an eternity of end to end, shots missed from both sides, not so pretty netball, our opportunity came - a free pass or shot half way inside the D. Up stepped Harriet, not a care in the world, and swish - goal scored, match won! An outstanding day, gold medals and a place booked for the National Finals - well done to all girls!

National Finals were a different ball game completely and with the reigning champions (Bowdon) in our group, it was looking to be a long day ahead. Not the case, however - our girls really stepped up to the occasion, playing some seamless, clever, high standard netball. After 2 draws, 2 wins and 2 losses, we progressed through to the 'shield' event where we eventually won the 3rd 4th play off to come away with bronze medals and a brilliant position of 15th in the country.

Special mentions go to our excellent defenders on the day who really kept us in the games - Eliza and Addison and our playmaker in the middle, Annie. Well done on such a fantastic achievement girls - 15th in the whole country!!

H Blencoe



Whole School

U12/13 NETBALL

Well done to our U12 and U13 netball teams this year. Our U12s have had good wins against Derby High, Pitsford and TMBS, scoring lots of goals in each game and conceding very few, special mentions go to our ever reliable Centre, Emilie and rock in defence Arya.

Our U13s have had similar success, with the addition of a win against Rawlett to add to the list. They had a tough day the ISA regional event, just missing out on making it out of the group stages by 1 goal at the very last minute but the team performed well and will be back ready to go again next year, bigger, faster and stronger!

Well done to all the girls who have represented the school in our U12 and U13 netball fixtures this year.

S Beavan



U14/15 NETBALL

Our U14 netball team has had mixed success this year, with some close friendly fixtures against local rival schools.

The team also performed well at the Nuneaton schools tournament, with standout performances in the attack from Tilly and a special mention to Rose for switching from attack to defence for the tournament and doing a brilliant job there.

Well done to all girls who have represented the school in the U14 netball teams this year!

Our U15 girls have had another superb season, winning the majority of their friendly fixtures with some big scores and a very competitive and close game against Rawlett's U16 team. We went to the Nuneaton schools tournament as defending U14 champions and managed to retain the title in fine fashion, winning all games comfortably and keeping our unbeaten record against the notorious Higham Lane with this group of outstanding girls.

Well done to our defence - Nomonde, Harriet and Tabitha, Centre court players - Romy, Bertie and Haney, and goal-scoring machines (playing up a year group!) - Tilly and Rose. Roll on the U16 ISA tournament next year!!

Well done also to all the girls who have stepped up to play in our U15B team games this year - there have been some standout performances in these games from Ria, Nishita, Ella and Grace S.

S Beavan



U12/13 ROUNDERS

The U13 A&B Rounders season has been an incredible success with strong wins against Stoneygate School, Pitsford and Derby High. The teams are now unbeaten all season. The bowling from Eliza G has been consistent and with Amelie at backstop and Phoebe at second post they haven't let teams get near them. Alongside that Jasmine batting has also been very strong scoring a rounder with the majority of her bats.

The girls finished the season with the ISA competition. It was a round robin and in our first match against Tettenhall College we put up a great fight but lost our best batter first ball and we couldn't quite win only losing by 1 rounder. We then went onto to

win the rest of the matches easily, with outstanding batting from Jasmine and Eliza. The fielding was also great to watch and special mention goes to Phoebe on second post and Savannah outfield. Well done girls on winning a silver medal, you should be very proud of all your hard work this season.

The U12 have also played some games and are unbeaten with strong bowling from Emilie with great fielding from Arabella and Scarlett. They ended the term on a high with a victory in the Higham Lane tournament, scoring highly in each game they played (12 rounders off 16 balls in their first game!). Well done to all the teams on a great season.

S Jelley



U14/15 ROUNDERS

The U15s have had a very successful rounders season. They were unbeaten throughout the summer term with some strong batting and fielding performances from the whole team.

They won all their games at the Higham Lane tournament with great work from Tabitha at backstop and Amret on first post, getting everyone out in each game before their innings had finished! Special mentions go to both Amret and Tabitha for their consistency both batting and in the field.

The U15s finished the season with a great performance at the ISA tournament. On one of the hottest days of the year, we travelled to Stafford Grammar, sadly one player short but ready for a great day of rounders. After winning our group games comfortably, we progressed to a semi-final against Dixie.

Another good win meant we were through to the final and set up with a rematch against Stafford Grammar who we had beaten convincingly in the group stages. Sadly it wasn't our day.

Stafford scored well in the first innings and with a gap in the field from only having 8 players, we conceded 9.5 rounders (the most anyone had scored against us all day).

We put up a good fight with the bat, but with a few key players caught out early, we couldn't quite get the win and came away as ISA silver medalists for the second year running!

Special mentions must go to Amret for some sensational batting in every game and to Rose for stepping up as bowler and for her batting consistency throughout the day.



The U14 girls only had one tournament at Higham Lane and it was a tough one with some skilful rounders on display. They got to the final but came away with second against a very strong Higham Lane team. Well Done to all the girls.

S Jelley & S Beavan

U9 ROUNDERS

As with both hockey and netball this year, our U9s have picked up the rules and tactics used in this new sport quickly (and there are lots of rules involved!). We have had 3 games throughout the term, losing 2 (Stoneygate and Pennine Way) and winning 1 (Derby High). In all 3 games we have batted well and scored some good rounders, we now need to work on the fielding side of our game! Special mentions go to our consistent bowler, Dora and our 2 guest players, Gunes and Kairo, who have been consistent 'big hitters'. Well done U9s!



U10/11 ROUNDERS

Our U10 and U11 rounders teams have continued their winning streaks from the netball season this term, but this time with a smaller ball, 9 players rather than 7 and a bat in hand!

The friendly fixtures were good practice for the girls and an opportunity to hone our skills and practice our batting. Winning all but one fixture (against a strong, mixed OVS team!), we went into the ISA tournaments undefeated, confident and with spirits high.

Our U10s made the (long!) journey, up the road to Dixie and after conceding very few rounders all day and scoring well (over 40 rounders in 4 games!), we ended the day undefeated and with gold medals around our necks!

Special mentions go to our incredible bowler, Summar, and our huge, consistent batter, Robyn. Well done to the whole team - Summar, Delilah, Camilla, Charlotte, Robyn, Grace, Layla, Gracie, Theya and Alexandra.

Our U11s then completed the golden year with a slightly more tense ISA tournament.

After losing to Birchfield in the group stages, but still managing to top the group with a huge 'rounders for' score, we played Stafford Prep in the semi final and beat them convincingly, with the hedge helping out on more than one occasion! Then came OVS in the final and after already having beaten them in the group stage, we were confident that we could win the game. With a score of 8 rounders (mainly half rounders scored) to defend, we went into the field with high spirits.

After a great catch from Bea to get their opening batter out, things started to get tense and with 5 balls remaining, OVS only needed 1 rounder to win! Some fantastic, consistent bowling from Eliza kept them from scoring well and with Harriet's throws from backstop to second post being perfect, we managed to keep them from scoring again - Gold for our u11s!

Well done to the team: Eliza, Annie, Addison, Harriet, Mira, Bea, Elba, Emily B and Lauren!

H Blencoe



RUNNING SUCCESS FOR SAM HAYWARD

The 2024/2025 Cross country season has now finished with Sam having his best season to date as he now moves into the Athletic season.

Sam has run in all weather and ground conditions this season and has gained much experience over the last 6 months and is thrilled with his results.

Many of the races have been for the Under 11 which means he still has another year in this category. He has been proud to represent Twycross House in some races and most recently representing Warwickshire.

The main highlights this year have been....

- Winning the U11 Northern Warwickshire Primary Schools Cross Country League.
- Winning the year 5 boys Warwickshire inter-regionals race.
- Coming second in the Year 5 boys Warwickshire County Championships
- Winning the year 5 boys central Warwickshire schools cross country

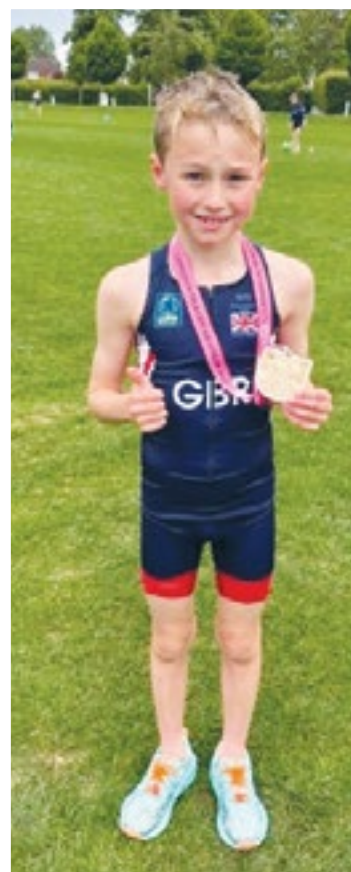
- Coming second in the U11 Midlands ISA Cross country qualifier at Bedstone College and qualified for the National Finals.
- Taking 5th place in the U11 National cross country final representing the Midlands. Sam was also the first Midlands boy over the line.
- Winning the U11 Derby runner league.
- Winning the schools U11 cross country at Wollaton Park
- Winning the schools U11 cross country at Crackley Hall

Sam has also really enjoyed running with his school friends at some of the races and cheering everyone on. He was thrilled to be asked to be the hare for the U9 boys race at Twycross and enjoyed helping the younger boys.

The Athletic season has also started well with Sam being crowned Leicestershire and Northamptonshire U11 boy 1200 country champion and qualifying for the 600m ISA National Finals held at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham.

Finally Sam has also gained his qualification to represent Team GB in the European Biathle (run, swim, run) which will be held in Turkey in November.

Congratulations Sam!



NETBALL MARATHON

Congratulations to Rose Redfern and Lauren Garland who participated in the 75 Hour Netball Marathon held from in February at Ivanhoe School in Ashby de la Zouch. Players took on the challenge in 3 hour slots to contribute to the 75 hour challenge, raising over £55,000 for The Kids Village Charity, which is building the UK's first respite holiday village, in the Midlands, for critically ill children and their families.

TENNIS

This year, we entered 3 teams into the LTA Schools Tennis Competitions and had mixed success, with all fixtures being decided by a ‘tiebreak shootout’ after splitting the singles and doubles rubbers - good fixtures to watch for the neutral supporter!

Unfortunately we didn’t make it out of the group stages in any of our age groups this year - fingers crossed for next year! Well done to all those who took part and special mentions to Jasmine, Edward, Emilie and Scarlett for playing up a year (or two!). Our junior and senior in-school tennis tournaments were very popular again this year, with over 20 entries in the senior event!

After weeks of Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime matches, the finals were set up - Summar v Ollie in the juniors and Toby v Saehj in the seniors. Ollie defeated Summar in a very close fought match to be crowned junior champion and Saehj Bisel as Senior Tennis Champion. Well done to all those who took part!

Our U9 and U11 girls and boys who took part in the ISA competition at Leamington Tennis Club represented the school admirably and we came away with a hat full of medals - the most successful we have ever been at this event! Well done to the team and special mentions to our Hollies 4th year children who played up a year group (Ethan, Zara and Isla).

H Blencoe



- Ethan - U9 1st seed - gold
- Zara - U9 1st seed - silver
- Austin - U9 2nd seed - silver
- Isla - U9 2nd seed - gold
- Uhvraaj - U11 3rd seed - bronze
- Summar - U11 1st seed - silver
- Addison - U11 3rd seed - silver

ULTIMATE

It has been another successful year for Twycross Ultimate teams. The year started with the Girls' Indoor National Championships with girls representing from Form 4 all the way to the U6. The U20 Girls' team, the U17 team and U14 team all finished as Silver medallists in each of their divisions. Well done to all the girls that competed!

Then it was the U20 National Indoor Championships which saw a mixed team of the sixth form and Senior 4 reaching the quarter finals of the National Championships and a top 8 finish. The U20 team has also played friendlies against Nottingham, Loughborough and Warwick University teams with strong performances in all games.

At the U17 Indoor National Championships, the Senior 4 boys team won a bronze medal with a thrilling comeback victory in the third-place game after narrowly missing out in the semi-final. The U14 division was a chance for some of our younger players to attend their first tournament and was a great experience for all the teams.

More recently, Twycross hosted the annual U12 ISA Ultimate tournament. With a mixture of Form 5 and Senior 1 boys and girls competing in mixed teams, there were some very close and competitive games and our Senior 1 teams came away with the gold medals and an ISA National title. The final tournament of the year was the Junior National Outdoor Championships. The U17 boys team cruised through their pool games with some strong performances and only conceding 3 points. They came up against much harder opposition in the knockout stages, eventually losing out in the bronze medal match to finish the tournament in 4th place.

The U14 boys team improved throughout, with 2 great wins to finish the day. There were some great performances from all the players throughout the tournament and there is so much potential for this team in the years to come and as they are all in Form 5, they can compete in this division for another 2 years!

In the girls division the U17 team played brilliantly all day and were really unlucky losing their semi-final in sudden death in the last seconds of the game but they came away with a well deserved bronze medal. The U14 girls exceeded expectations, with some fantastic performances and wins to reach the final. They put up a good fight but lost out in the end, coming away as silver medalists. Again, most of the team will still be able to compete in this division for a further 2 years so there is lots more to come from this team.

Several of our older players have been successful in trying out for the Great Britain National teams this year. Mollie Williams, Sophie Whitehall, Daisy Whitehall, Emily Bewsher and Ruby Dufour-Tasker have all been selected for the U20 team competing in Slovenia this summer.

A final special mention to ex-Twycross and Flux players Keeva Morrell and Leo Burton who have just won Bronze medals with Great Britain at the U24 World Championships, a huge achievement, congratulations! Another great year, well done to all the players. And a big thank you to all the parents who have come to support at all the tournaments and have helped get the teams there!

M Beavan and Mrs S Beavan



SPORTS PRESENTATION 24/25 - SENIOR

BADMINTON

Female MIP - n/a

.....

Female POY - n/a

.....

Male MIP - Samuel Wolferstan

.....

Male POY - Austin Light

RUGBY

MIP - Huan Tan Yong

.....

POY - Flyn Eddy and Reuben Mills

BASKETBALL

Male MIP - Leonidas Geston

.....

Male MVP - Joseph Harrold

FOOTBALL

Female MIP - Maddison McLean

.....

Female MVP - Amelie Ewing-Gerrard

.....

Male MIP - Max Thornton

.....

Male POY - Oscar Carley

.....

Golden Boot - Rudi Carr

ATHLETICS/CROSS COUNTRY

Female Senior XC Champion - Amret Nijjer

.....

Male Senior XC Champion - Adeson Hanson

.....

Victrix Ludorum - Matilda Shade

.....

Victor Ludorum - Brody Varden

NETBALL

MIP - Liberty Walton

.....

POY - Tabitha Adams

ULTIMATE

Female MIP - Lauren Garland

.....

Female MVP - Ruby Dufour-Tasker

.....

Male MIP - Archie Potter

.....

Male MVP - Shane Gordon

HOCKEY

MIP - Ella Walker

.....

POY - Darcey Gibson

ROUNDERS

MIP - Rose Redfern

.....

POY - Amret Nijjer

OTHER AWARDS

Female MVP - Ruby Dufour-Tasker

.....

Outstanding Contribution to School Sport - Tabitha Adams

.....

Ben Cosgrove Trophy - Zoe Wolferstan & Ella Walker

.....

Hornbuckle Plate - Leonidas Geston

.....

Best Year Supporting School Sport - Senior 2

.....

Team of the Year - U12 Rugby

CRICKET

MIP - Taylor Adams

.....

POY - Edward Woollaston

TENNIS

Senior Tennis Champion - Saehj Bisel

Whole School



SPORTS PRESENTATION 24/25 - JUNIOR

HOCKEY

MIP - Addison Loke

.....

Most Promising - Annie McKenzie

ATHLETICS/CROSS COUNTRY

Female Senior XC Champion - Summar Bisel

.....

Male Senior XC Champion - Samuel Hayward

.....

Most Promising Female Athlete - Eliza Shaw

.....

Most Promising Male Athlete - Samuel Hayward

NETBALL

MIP - Bea Williams

.....

Most Promising - Eliza Shaw

ULTIMATE

Female Most Improved - Camilla Greenall

.....

Female Most Promising - Annie McKenzie

.....

Male Most Improved - Daniel Morrell

.....

Male Most Promising - Oliver Hopkins

BASKETBALL

Most Improved Player - Alex Middle

.....

Most Valuable Player - Alvin Lin

RUGBY

MIP - Alfred Winfield

.....

Most Promising - Albie Nuttall & Tayyib Ahmed

CRICKET

Most Improved Cricketer - Alex Middle

.....

Most Promising Cricketer - Hugo Brothwell

ROUNDERS

MIP - Harriet Jeans

.....

Most Promising - Mira Uker

OTHER AWARDS

Male Games Player of the Year - Hugo Brothwell

.....

Female Games Player of the Year - Eliza Shaw and Annie McKenzie

.....

Junior Team of the Year - U11 Netball

.....

The Thomas Trophy F3 boy and girl who have shown great commitment and enthusiasm in lessons, practices & matches - Isadora Mann and Austin Saywood

SWIMMING

Most Improved - Zia Stevens

TENNIS

Junior Tennis Champion - Oliver Hopkins

FOOTBALL

Female MIP - Amy Douglas

.....

Female POY - Annie McKenzie & Eliza Shaw

.....

Male MIP - Jackson Beavan

.....

Male MVP - Oliver Hopkins



SPORTS DAY

Sports Day 2025 did not disappoint. With lots of parents and supporters in attendance, our students ran, egg and spooned, gutter shuttled and relayed their way through 60 races in the sunshine, showing their speed, concentration and teamwork skills throughout. Final results on the day:

1st	- Johnson
2nd	- Hillary
3rd	- Scott

New records:

Junior girls 75m	- Eliza S
Junior girls 100m	- Eliza S
Junior boys 200m	- Ollie H
Inter girls 400m	- Eliza G
Inter boys 100m	- Brody V
Inter boys 200m	- Brody V
Senior girls 200m	- Matilda S

Junior girls relay	- Johnson
Junior boys relay	- Johnson
Inter girls relay	- Hillary
Inter boys relay	- Hillary
Senior girls relay	- Scott
Senior boys relay	- Johnson

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First Year - The Hollies

COOKING

In the First Year we have been busy cooking. We have learned how to follow a recipe, mix things together but the best thing is eating what we have made!



POLAR REGIONS

We have been finding out about the polar regions of the world. We know where penguins come from and where you can find polar bears.



BIRDWATCH

We took part in the Big Schools Birdwatch. We made bird feeders and put extra feeders in the garden. We found out about the different kinds of birds who visited the feeders. As part of our prep we had bird feeders at home - it was amazing what we saw in our gardens.



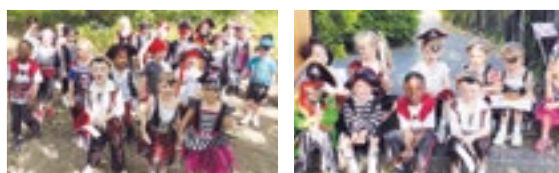
MATHS

Maths is important and it can be fun. We do lots of practical activities and games to help us to learn and remember maths concepts.



PIRATES

We had our annual Pirate Treasure Hunt in Orton Woods. The weather was amazing as we searched for Captain Teachum's treasure and our chocolate coins!



CHINESE NEW YEAR – LUNAR FESTIVAL

We found out all about the Chinese New Year and transformed the Discovery Room to support our learning.



First Year - The Hollies

(EXPERIMENTS/FORCES) - SCIENCE

Being a scientist is very exciting. We have been learning about dissolving materials in water, how some materials absorb water and about freezing water and melting ice. We have started to predict what happens in experiments and record the results on a simple table. We have been finding out about forces. We know that for things to move they need to be pushed or pulled. The wind pushed the pinwheels round. It was exciting to go into the garden and see it happening.



BEE BOT

We learned how to programme Bee Bot to follow different routes on a mat.



Second Year

BAKING

Just before the Easter holidays we had great fun in the kitchen making chocolate Easter nests!

Then in the summer term, following our visit to Busby's Strawberry Farm, we decided to make some delicious scones to go with the strawberries that we brought home.



OUR TOWER

As part of the National Storytelling week the second years joined in with the National Literacy Trust's project to 'Reimagine your world'. We started the week by reading and enjoying Joseph Coelho's book 'Our Tower'.

Then we explored our school grounds, letting our imaginations run wild while searching for magic doors to transport us to new worlds! We also joined in with an online workshop, with schools across the country, and wrote our own setting descriptions for our exciting new world.



Second Year - The Hollies

WEATHER EXPERIMENTS

During the first half of the Spring Term our science topic was all about weather. We learnt about different types of weather and set up our own weather station in which we measured rainfall and temperature each week. We also had a go at making our own anemometers to measure the wind direction.



BUSBY FARM

This half term we have been learning about growing!

We have been naming the basic parts of plants and talking about the different parts that we eat.

To explore how fruit is grown locally we visited the Busby Strawberry Farm!

Here we got to explore the strawberry and raspberry plants, we saw baby plants right up to the adult ones bearing delicious ripe fruit.

We were able to sample some raspberries and strawberries and were shown into the packing house to see how the fruit is prepared and packed ready to go to the supermarkets.

We even got to go into the fridge - a lovely treat on such a hot day!

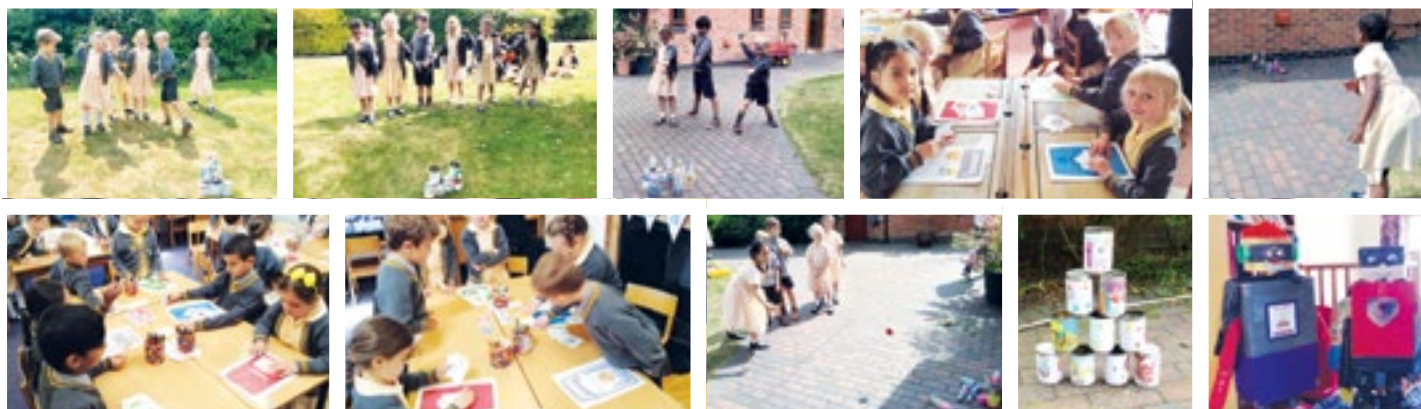


Second Year - The Hollies

RECYCLING

To combine our new knowledge of materials, and our discussions about looking after our planet, we spent lots of time learning about recycling. We discovered which materials could be recycled and practised sorting different waste items into their various recycling bins. To celebrate our learning, the children brought in unwanted waste items from home to use for junk modelling.

First we made some simple games by creating 'skittles' from old cans and plastic bottles. We thoroughly enjoyed getting competitive playing them in the sunshine. Then 2y joined together to create a recycled superhero, whilst 2o worked together to create his nemesis! The children were very proud of what they managed to create together.



TESTING MATERIALS

Our science topic for the second half of the Spring Term was 'Everyday Materials'. In this topic we learnt about all the different materials that we come across everyday and investigated their properties. We planned and carried out experiments to find answers to questions such as 'Which is the best material to keep Teddy dry?' and 'Which materials are best for wrapping presents?'



CHINESE NEW YEAR

To celebrate the 'Year of the Snake', 2nd years spent an afternoon completing a carousel of activities. Together we read the story of 'The Great Race' before splitting into small groups. We completed lots of activities including making our own paper fortune cookies, decorating hanging snakes, playing snakes and ladders, and most importantly – eating Chinese food!



Second Year - The Hollies

TRANSPORT

Throughout the Spring term we learnt all about the development of different types of transport. We explored the creation of bikes, cars, trains and aeroplanes. We had a special visitor from Rolls Royce. Mr Pope the engineer came to talk to us all about how turbine engines worked. He brought some exciting models with him and we got to ask lots of questions. To bring our learning to life, we visited the Coventry Transport Museum.

There we had a lesson about the history of the bicycle and its significance to Coventry, where some children were selected to help act out the story. We then explored the various vehicles in the museum, and were particularly excited to see the Thrust SSC – the word record breaking super sonic car!



Third Year - The Hollies

BOTANICAL GARDENS

For our end of year trip and incorporating our study of rainforests, the third-year children boarded a coach for a day of adventure and exploring in the Botanical Gardens Birmingham. The children experienced the humid glass houses, exotic plants and even got a chance to hold some exotic animals! Isabella (3y) commented on how she "really liked all the plants" a comment repeated by Arun (3o).

Evie's favourite part was petting the animals whilst Axel's memorable moment was "holding the snake". Dexter (3o) would have liked to have been bitten by a Venus fly trap, thankfully that did not happen. Roman (3o) and Jacob (3y) also liked the venus fly traps whilst Sofia's (3y) favourite moment of the day was playing in the secret playground.

The overall consensus from the children was that they thoroughly enjoyed the day and would love to return again.



CONSTRUCTION SITE VISIT

We visited the newly constructed art block at Twycross House School to learn about the materials used and why they were chosen. The children prepared questions for the construction workers and Rob the builder answered them all. We then explored the school buildings, learning about construction and history.



EXPLORING ORTON WOODLANDS

We brought our 'Living things and their habitats' topic to life with a visit to Orton Woodlands. The children identified items that were living, dead or never alive, discovered various microhabitats and minibeasts and found evidence of food chains.



Third Year - The Hollies

HEATH SMITH KARTING LEGEND

Karting enthusiast Heath Smith treated his class mates to a Q & A session about his hobby. Completely kitted out in his gear, Heath answered a multitude of questions from "how many races have you competed in?" to "why is there an apple on the back of your suit?"

Thank you, Heath, for the treat, you are certainly a fount of knowledge on karting.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

During the spring term topic work the 3rd years looked at a variety of places of worship and religions. We were lucky enough to go on a trip to visit the Nagarjuna Kadampa Meditation Centre in Leicester on 12th March. Whilst we were there, we were taught lots of different aspects about Buddhism and the children even performed a play about the prince Siddhartha Gautama.

Then on 18th March we had a visit from a representative from Leicester Cathedral who told us all about the Easter story and also the recent renovations to the building. During the renovations they dug up the floors and uncovered all sorts of archaeological treasures. The children were excited to be able to touch roman pottery that was nearly 2000 years old!



MOONS

We have been learning about the moon and the different phases in the lunar cycle. We made moon sliders and created our own moons using paper mâché.



RAINFOREST IN A BOX

Many thanks to all the parents and helpers for their sensational creations over the half term break. The children were asked to produce a rainforest in a box and to include the layers of the rainforest, plants and animals. The work was stunning and the children of The Hollies thoroughly enjoyed viewing the boxes and asking questions about the designs. We were even lucky enough to have a rainforest cake!



Third Year - The Hollies

RECREATING THE SOLAR SYSTEM

We worked in groups to recreate the solar system using a variety of food.



SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

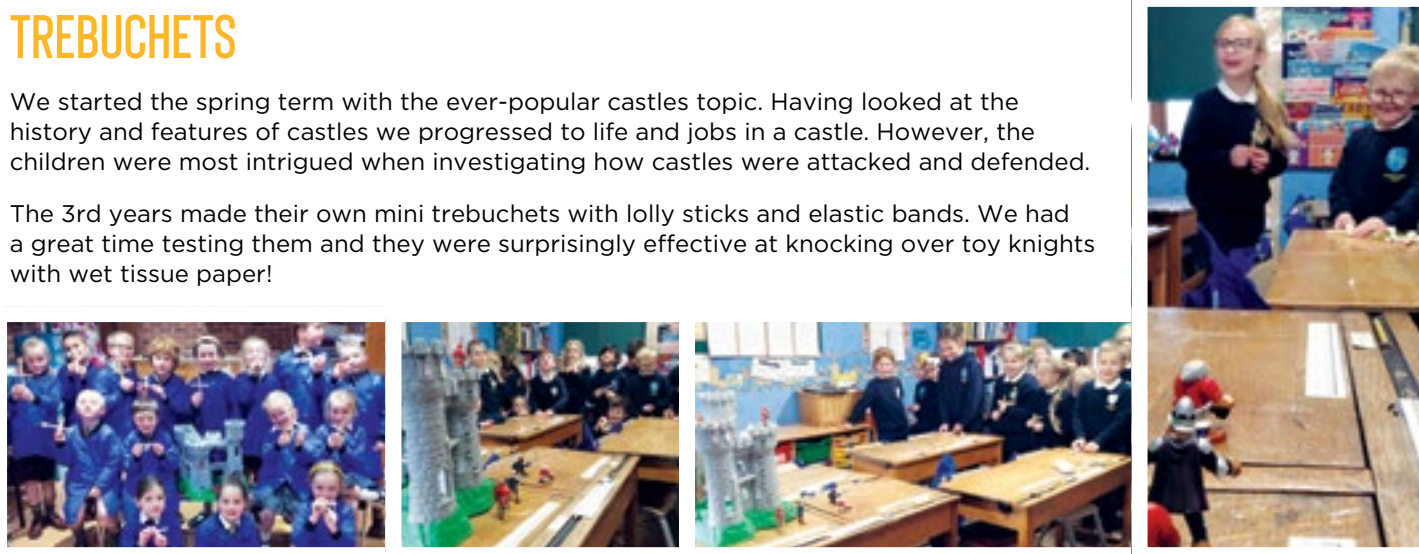
In our science lessons on materials, forces and plants, we conducted several investigations. The children made predictions, observed the outcomes, recorded their findings and analysed the results.



TREBUCHETS

We started the spring term with the ever-popular castles topic. Having looked at the history and features of castles we progressed to life and jobs in a castle. However, the children were most intrigued when investigating how castles were attacked and defended.

The 3rd years made their own mini trebuchets with lolly sticks and elastic bands. We had a great time testing them and they were surprisingly effective at knocking over toy knights with wet tissue paper!



Fourth Year - The Hollies

BLIST'S HILL VISIT

The sun shone as brightly as the 4th year's magnificent Victorian clothes as we boarded the bus to Blist's Hill Victorian village. Our young Peeler was delighted to meet another Victorian officer!

The children, and staff, were treated to a wonderful, if slightly terrifying, visit to the Victorian school room where Miss Mc Callum put us through our paces with the 3Rs and stressed the mantra that children should be seen and not heard! The 4th year staff were tempted to adopt some of her techniques!

After lunch we then had a free afternoon to visit the many authentic homes, shops and work places at the museum bringing to life areas of Victorian life that we had learned about at The Hollies. The children's behaviour was impeccable and we hope they had a thoroughly enjoyable day.



READING IN THE SHEPHERD'S HUT ON A SUNNY, SUMMER AFTERNOON!



QUEEN VICTORIA CHARCOAL PORTRAITS

The children have worked hard to try to capture the formal poses of Victorian portraits!



Fourth Year - The Hollies

SCIENCE LIGHT AND SHADOWS

On a sunny day, the 4th years went outside to investigate shadows as part of their science topic Light and Shadows.



4TH YEAR LEAVERS' CONCERT

The 4th year children have been perfecting their skills, working towards a musical extravaganza as their farewell concert at The Hollies.

There was a huge amount of joy from the audience watching the children perform as well as a few tears! They sang and signed and played brilliantly!



LOOK AT OUR FABULOUS EASTER ARTS AND CRAFTS!



WILLIAM MORRIS TILES

As part of our Victorian study the 4th year have tried to recreate work by the famous artist William Morris.



NIGEL'S BEARD

Nigel went from a very clean shaved young gnome to a very hirsute one when the 4th year followed the growing instructions on a packet of cress as part of their science topic.



Whole School - The Hollies

DAILY MILE AND MINI MARATHON

This year in addition to the daily mile, the children of The Hollies participated in a mini marathon!

The children spent several weeks building up their jogging skills and stamina. Eventually we set off and over the course of 3 lunchtimes we completed our challenge and met our target of 2 miles.

The results have been submitted and we await our trophy, medals and certificates.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT THE HOLLIES!

The children at The Hollies had a wonderful assembly marking St. Patrick's Day! Kitty wowed everyone with her toe-tapping Irish dancing in a lovely green sequin dress.

Mrs. Morrell read the legendary tale of St. Patrick and the snakes!



WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE HOLLIES

In March, we celebrated World Book Day. Teachers from The Hollies visited different classrooms to read their favourite stories, with some staff members even dressing up as beloved book characters — much to the delight of the children. In preparation for World Book Day, the pupils were asked to decorate a potato to resemble their favourite characters from books they love. The creativity and imagination on display were truly impressive! It was a wonderful day full of fun and excitement for both staff and pupils.



Whole School - The Hollies

NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK

What an exciting week we had for National Storytelling Week 2025. The theme this year was to re-imagine your World. The 3rd year children made a "special" looking glass, through which, they were able to discover their very own fascinating new world. During the week, 2nd and 3rd year children held a virtual lesson with author Joseph Coelho. Mr Coelho was able to ask questions of the pupils and vice versa. To conclude the week, all the children produced brilliant independent writing. A selection of stories were submitted to the National Story Telling Committee at Amazon and the following feedback was received;

Evie 3y	This was such a creative and imaginative story! The vivid description of the setting truly transported me to a magical world filled with fairies, unicorns and rainbows. I especially loved the ending - that final sentence was truly memorable!
Axel 3y	Such a fun and creative story! I loved the square world idea and how the hero defeated the boss. The ending was a great twist - well done!
Fran 3y	What a fantastic story! It was so funny and creative, with a really original plot. You grabbed my attention right from the beginning and kept me hooked all the way through. I also loved the ending - super memorable.
Philippa 3y	What an amazing story! You used such brilliant imagination to describe the magical world! I loved how you included unicorns, fairies and even a picnic under a cherry blossom tree. Your words painted a colourful and exciting picture and it was so much fun to read.
Leo 3y	What a wonderful story! I loved how you described the magical world with happy bunnies, smiling clouds and a hot chocolate pond - so creative and fun! You made the adventure exciting and full of surprises
Freya 3o	This is a really exciting story, full of adventure and imagination! I loved how the Tardis travelled through space and time - the places you described were so vivid, the plot kept me hooked from start to finish. I especially liked how your main character explored each place with curiosity and courage
India 3o	This is a really creative story with an engaging plot. The adventures of your character kept me hooked! I especially liked the ending - it was memorable.
Esther 3o	Your dream world sounds really fun, I am glad that you made the monster and everyone happy!
Arun 3o	I loved your description of your sandy beach, it sounded really lovely and I really liked that you saved the puppy! You were tired but you managed to save the puppy and get home

We are delighted to tell you that two pieces of work have been chosen to be published in the National Story Telling Anthology. Huge congratulations to India Bowman and Evie Pope who both received a copy of the book containing their published work.



Whole School

GCSE RESULTS 2025

12% of all student entries achieved grade 9.

28% of all student entries achieved grade 9 and 8.

44% of all student entries achieved grades 9, 8 and 7.

We are delighted to announce a superb set of GCSE results for the 2024/25 cohort. An impressive 28% of all results were at grades 8 or 9. In total, 7 students achieving grades 8 or 9 in six or more subjects and 13 students achieving grades 7, 8 or 9 in seven or more subjects.

Special congratulations go to Katherine Thomas (nine 9s), Lily Messer (eight 9s), Scarlet Tombs (eight 9s), Mya Khela (seven 9s), Harry Trye (five 9s), Amelia Carthy (five 9s).



A LEVEL SUCCESS 2025

We are delighted to announce an excellent set of A-level results achieved by the 2025 cohort. In total 116 A levels were taken across 20 subjects by 38 students who achieved a superb 43% A* - A.

Congratulations to all of our students for their successes this year, some of which deserve a particular mention, Steven McHale, achieved an outstanding A*A*A*A* and will take a place at King's College studying Computer Science. Elliot Lewis (A*A*A*A) will study Mechanical Engineering at Leeds, Taylor Forman with A*A*A* will study Dental Surgery at Sheffield. and also attending Leeds is Harry Sanganee (A*A*AA) to study Economics and Finance.

Students achieving 3 A's or higher include Henry Thomas (A* A* A A), Evie Callery (A*AA), Isobel Corby (A*AA), Thomas Blackwell (AAAB) and Ava Downs (AAA). We would also like to congratulate Ruby Zala (ABC) for securing her degree apprenticeship in Nuclear Engineering with Rolls Royce.

Headmaster Steve Assinder said: "We are extremely proud of these results, which are a credit to the students, their supportive parents and of course our teaching staff. The Upper Sixth students have shown immense self-discipline, commitment and hard work to achieve these results. We wish them every success in the next stage of their educational journey and look forward to celebrating their achievements at the Presentation Evening in November."

