



WOODRUSH
STAR

Issue 44 Summer 2022

Inspire
Achieve
Celebrate

School of Rock



**ROCK
BAND** 

TALENTED SINGER
AND GUITARIST
LOOKING FOR
BAND!!

WANTED

CONTACT DEWEY FINN
dewey@schoolofrock.com



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It has been a fantastic year here at Woodrush High school, especially this summer term which has seen a plethora of enriching experiences, educational visits, trips and events.

The school production of 'The School of Rock' was an absolute highlight with students and staff working tirelessly to ensure it was such a success. It was a pleasure watching students perform and alongside my colleagues, I am deeply proud of each of them. A special mention goes to Mrs Coughlin for bringing the show together.

Invaluable experiences such as Think Tank Birmingham, and the Mandarin experience at Nottingham University and Christopher Whitehead, Duke of Edinburgh excursions and Weymouth Field trips were all unforgettable learning moments for Woodrush students.

This year we have also had the introduction of Eco School where students have identified areas of our environment that we can improve and have been carrying out activities such as litter picking and tree planting. Our Queen's Jubilee, Ukraine fundraisers and Sports Festival have all been whole school unifying events that have captured spirit of Woodrush amazingly.

A thank you needs to be extended to all the staff who have run extra-curricular clubs which have offered students the opportunity to participate in hobbies and interests such as Book club, Textiles club and a range of PE clubs.

Our sponsorship of Wythall Train Station goes from strength to strength, thanks to Mr Reece and our community engagement team of students. Our Youth Centre continues to provide an outstanding out of hours provision for young people in the Wythall community and the team, led by Kay Parker, have provided a vast array of activities, experiences and support for our young people.

Woodrush has also seen sporting success with Year 8 being crowned 9-a-side and 11-a-side champions. Year 7 won the Redditch District Sports Hall Athletics competition and Lucas G, in Year 7, won the Redditch District Cross Country. Our Sports Festival and our first Sports Awards Evening have showcased the strength of character of so many students: their commitment, sense of fair play, team work and personal dedication through sporting competition.

There have been so, so, many more achievements by our students which you will see later in this issue. This edition really does encompass how the people and students of Woodrush have been inspired, achieved and celebrated excellence through endeavour.

Mr J. Barber

Headteacher

Work Experience

Throughout the last week before May half term the Year 10 pupils took part in Work Experience with a huge variety of employers across the country. The students independently sourced their placements and contacted their employer before formally applying and securing their places. The variety of workplaces was impressive going from car garages, nursery's, schools, The Hub, banks, hairdressers and many more.

We are personally very grateful of our employers taking on our students and being so accommodating and providing amazing opportunities for each and every pupil to get a great understanding of the world of work. The quality of these placements is outstanding yet again and one of the first years we got all the placements organised before the week was in commence.

Ralph went to Lloyds Bank

Things they took part in during their work experience:

On different days I got to go to different teams, one where I went and listened to phone calls with clients, another where I looked over a business's statistic and made decisions on loans. I also went to client meetings. On the Friday I visited a personal bank and I looked over employees talking to customers.

Skills I used while I was there:

Communication, note-taking, teamwork, logic

Most enjoyable part of work experience: Being independent and responsible for myself. Trying something new.

Least enjoyable part of work experience: Sitting not doing anything, besides I still enjoyed it very much!

Elise went to South & City College Birmingham-Fusion Centre

Things they took part in during their work experience:

Organising, screen printing, made lots of friends

Skills they used while they were there:

Communication, creativity, logic, problem solving, organisation, independence, perseverance, time management

Most enjoyable part of work experience:

Working with friendly and inviting teachers and students but also getting to create something to take home.

Least enjoyable part of work experience:

Doing office work and having nothing to do however probably overall just having to leave!!!

Artist of the Month



very well done to Keeley H who is our latest Artist of the Month, with her work on display in the school reception area. Keeley is in Year 11 and hopes to go on to study Art at Woodrush Sixth Form.

The Woodrush Queens Platinum Jubilee

On Friday 27th May, all years came together at lunch for an hour and celebrated the Queens Jubilee. There was music and cakes that looked like the British flag!



Everyone was excited for the hour long lunch, especially the year sevens. They were so excited to get out they rushed from the English block to enjoy all that was on offer.

After the long hour lunch, all the school played kahoot as each class enters as one. Some names for the classes were really funny! For example: My class named ourselves: Baddies Grr.

Other events going on as well were in the Library! Going on in there was tea parties and fun games going on in lunch! Talking about the Library, some people in the Library helped with the decorations for the school Jubilee as well. Such as bunting and colouring it the British flag!

Hegarty Maths

As you will all know by now, we've launched Hegarty maths this year as our home-work platform. We have been incredibly impressed by how well you've all been using it. But some have used it far more than others! 12 of you have done over 50 hours this year!

From year 10 we have:

Evangeline H, Ella H, Charlotte G, Max B, Sophie W, Rebecca C, Shayna F, Jack S, Megan C and Lacey D.

Abbie G (Year 8) and Eloise E (Year 7) have also achieved this!

Well done to Evangeline in particular for reaching 89.5hrs at the time of writing.

Keep it up everyone!



On the 4th April, it was the final week of maths club. The left picture is all of members. The one on the right is the winning team, they won by 1 point after 4 weeks, very close!





thinktank

Birmingham science museum

During the last term of year 7, the whole year group went on a STEM trip to the Think Tank in Birmingham! The first thing we saw was an interesting lecture on the science behind sport where we talked about how sumo wrestlers need good balance to stay on the ground longer. There were lots of opportunities to volunteer and take centre stage which many of the year group did! The second lecture was about our universe where we used maths to try to understand the distances between the planets. We also had independent time where we were able to explore the many levels of the museum including the chance to programme a robot and look at some of the biology behind our bodies!





This year we have been working towards becoming an Eco-School. The Eco-Schools programme aims to engage young people in environmental education and environmental action. We have an Eco-Committee who have been taking part in the programme and taking on projects towards achieving Eco-School status. Our Eco-Committee have completed environmental projects such as planting 100 trees on the school grounds, and they have also completed several litter picks to improve the look of our school and to keep our school tidy. Students have been encouraged to improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing by spending more time outdoors and they have been educated on the benefits of physical activity during tutor time and assemblies. A forest school area with a pond is in the process of being built for students to learn outdoors and all of our students are becoming more environmentally aware. The students who are part of the committee have been fantastic this year and are excited to continue with their environmental work next year!



Bridal and Prom Bar

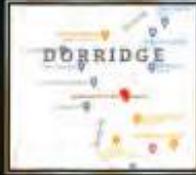
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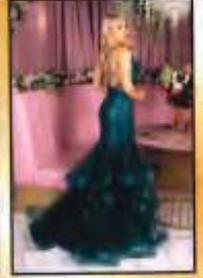
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GOODBYE

Miss Taylor

After 14 years at Woodrush it's time for me to say goodbye. I am so proud to have been a part of Woodrush, particularly having the opportunity to work with such fantastic staff and students over the years. I have so many happy memories of my time here, my top highlight has to be being head of Brindley and us winning the house championship 4 times in 6 years before the pandemic! While I'm moving on to a new challenge at another school I'll never forget my time here and all the wonderful people that I've had the pleasure of getting to know. Keep working hard and make the most of all the opportunities that are available to you. Have a wonderful summer and best wishes for the future.

Miss Taylor



Financial Times Commission



Former Woodrush pupil Harry Jones was commissioned by the Financial Times to illustrate a book review for their Weekend Arts section in June. Harry studied BTEC Art at Woodrush then went on to Birmingham Uni to study a degree in Illustration, which he completed last month. This is an amazing achievement and an insight into exciting things to come for Harry.



CLASS OF 2022

Art & Photography Exhibition

We were proud and excited to showcase the Year 11 Art & Photography Class of '22 work at our annual exhibition on the 4th July. We had a fantastic turnout and parents and students were delighted to view the work and offered many positive comments. Well done Year 11 Art & Photography!

SCHOOL

THE M...

FORGET MCDONALDS...I'M TAKING YOU TO NANDOS!

For three awesome nights on the 4th-6th July, our amazing cast of 60+ students plus countless stage hands, staff and volunteers, not to mention the sound and lighting team - made up of our fantastic year 9 students, put on a show to remember! Our students really did us proud as they took to the stage with the 132 page FULL west end production of "School of Rock". Audiences were treated to amazing vocals, inspiring characters and truly phenomenal acting from all students involved. Over the past 6 months, students have given up hour after hour after school to rehearse and repeat and perfect the performance that was demonstrated to everyone on the show nights.

We say with heavy hearts a goodbye to Scarlett Taylor, who beautifully portrayed the character of Rosalie and our other amazing Year 13 students as they leave us to move on to the next stage of their education. They have been fantastic role models to our younger students who looked up to them, and now have the opportunity to follow their example, as they have more time at Woodrush to develop in their acting and singing.

Students from across the school were able to get involved, back stage worked tirelessly to help produce a smooth show, front of house were fantastic and the many students that helped create the fantastic set and props which brought the production to life.

We want to thank all parents who have picked up and dropped off students, heard countless renditions of songs being rehearsed in bedrooms and all who came to support our shows, we couldn't have done it without your support! On the final night, students poured out their appreciation for Mrs Coughlin, who took on the role of director and producer, and has put blood, sweat and many tears, into ensuring that the students had the best experience. Which was evident on Wednesday night!

We very much look forward to the next production, but for now, we are just so proud of our Creative Arts students and the incredible collective achievement that was on display and are in very much need of a long sleep – and maybe a Nando's!



LOYD WEBBER'S *of* ROCK MUSICAL





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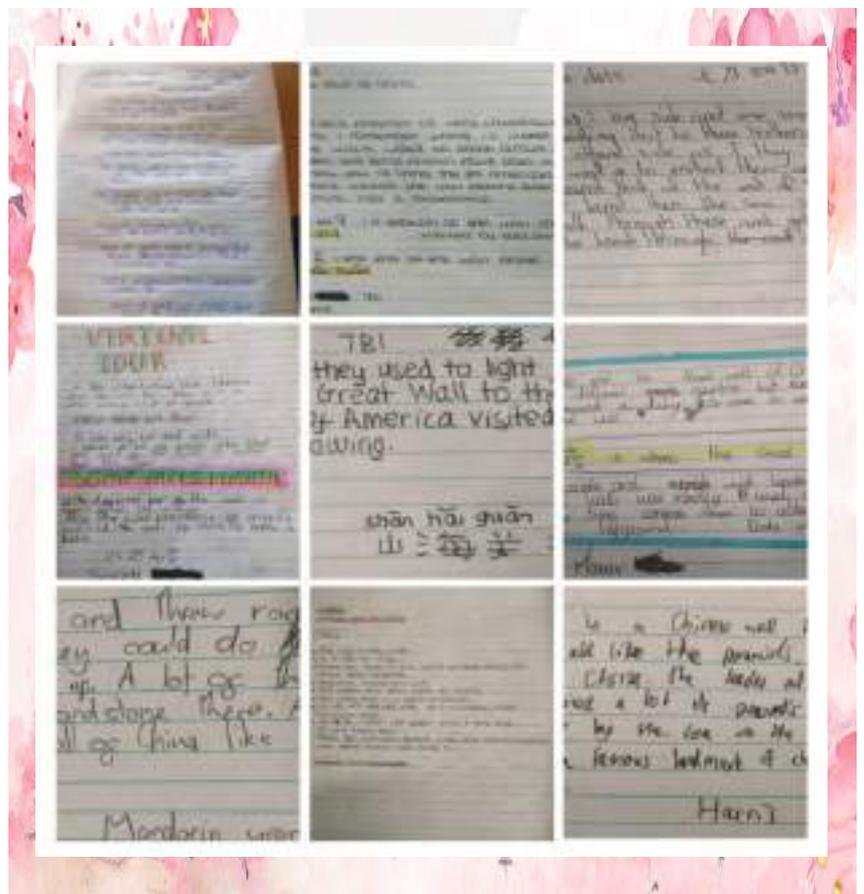
**Woodrush
Training Consortium**

Year 7 Mandarin Virtual live meeting!

On the 4th of July, Year 7 did a virtual live tour of China and got to learn great facts about china and more about its cultural heritage with the Great Wall of China! This involved looking at the sites and walking around the Great Wall of China were a kind Man gave us a special tour just for us. This was all sorted out by the school because they thought Year 7 Mandarin pupils have worked very hard this year. Thankyou.

Here are some pictures of some of the pupils writing that they produced throughout the lesson and what they have learnt about the Great wall of China:

Here is a piece of writing that a class pupil, Emma Year 7 Mandarin course, has made and what she has learnt about throughout the tour:



I really enjoyed the virtual tour to china. I learnt that they used to light fires along the wall to send signals and that there were small holes in the wall to fire arrows out. I have also learnt that the Queen and Boris Johnson have visited the Great wall of China. The Great wall of China is very tall and wide. President Nickson and his wife visited the Great wall and built a friendship between America and China. The Great wall is one of the 7 wonders of the world. The Great wall is a spirit of peace and is where most tourists go. People host traditional parties and concerts along the wall. They also do Kungfu and dance.

Year 10 University of Nottingham Trip!

Our Y10 Mandarin group had a day trip to the University of Nottingham on the 16th of June. We had a tour around the campus, a seminar with the Mandarin Post-graduate students, and we also participated in a few workshops that included Beijing Mask painting, Chinese Calligraphy, Traditional Chinese costume, and porcelain plate painting! Before the trip, the Year 10 students produced tourism campaigns for Birmingham. These were presented in the afternoon together with the campaigns created by five other secondary schools from the West Midlands. All of the campaigns produced by our students were excellent and a huge well done goes to Tilly, Ella, Sophie and Lacey whose very impressive video was voted the best 'Mandarin Excellence Programme 2022 summer tourism campaign'.
'Congratulations! 做得好极了!'



I really enjoyed the Mandarin trip to Nottingham University because we got to try out a range of activities to do with Mandarin that were really interesting. I also liked when we got to take a tour around the university. Also, at the end of the day we all watched the different schools video projects and it was very cool to see everyone's different cities and the different styles of video. Charlotte G



We had a lovely trip to Nottingham University with the MEP. We started the day by having a tour of the lovely university and the picturesque grounds. Then we had a few lessons, in which we got taught the meanings of colours, as well as the correct way to greet a person. We ended the day in the lecture room, watching the videos we created during the virtual learning we had done a week before. It was very fun and interesting, as well as a way for us to see how we could use our Mandarin skills in further education! - Charlotte V

Year 7 and 8 Christopher Whitehead School Trip!

Our Year 7 and 8 Mandarin groups recently went to Christopher Whitehead Language School. We did many fun cultural and language activities with their year 7 and 8 Mandarin students and we were treated to a delicious Chinese meal together!



First day!- 4th of July



We made some panda masks!- 5th of July

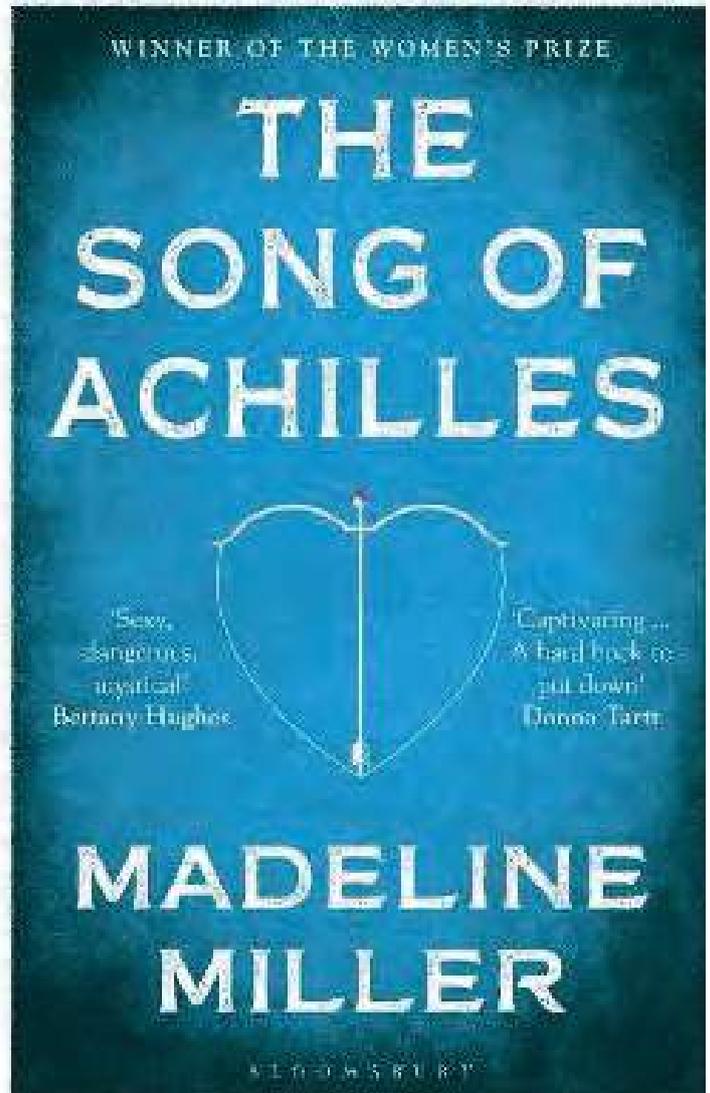
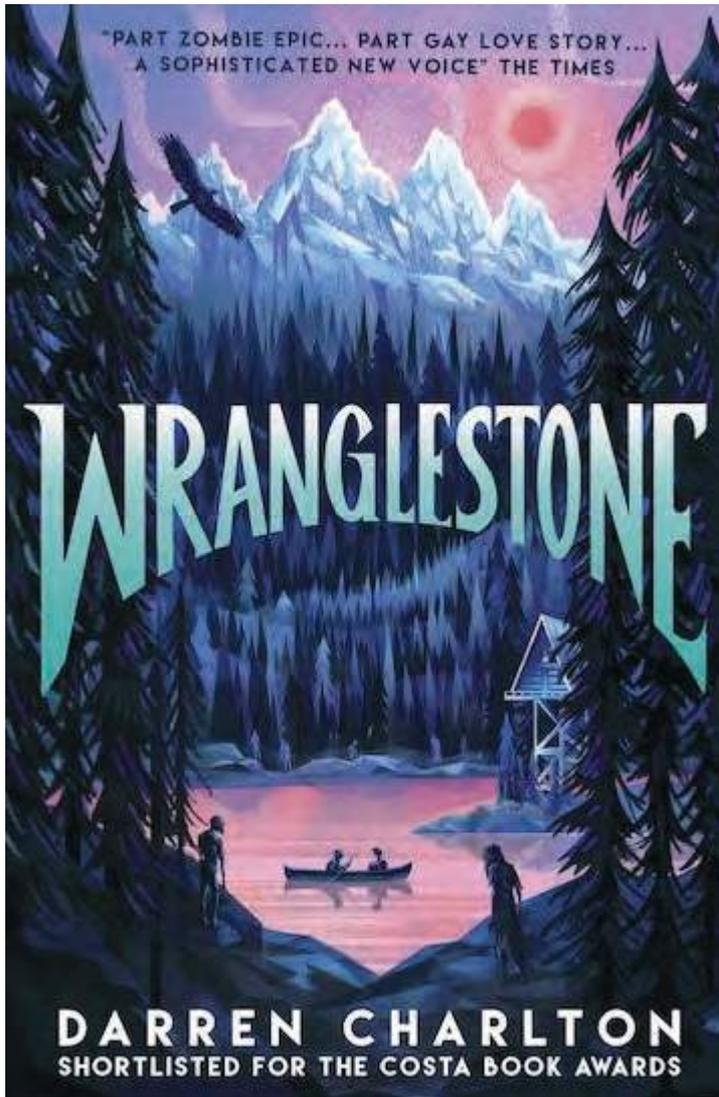


We did some Kungfu today, too!- 6th of July



Year 9 Virtual Mandarin Experience

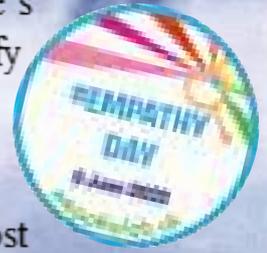
Book Club



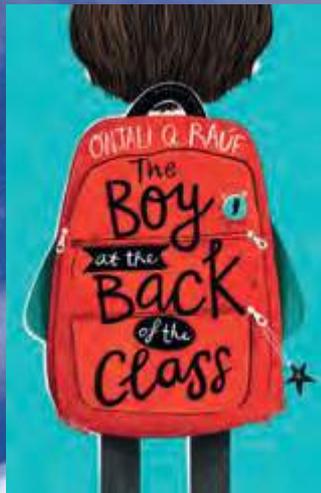
Year 10 book club has been meeting once a week in the library at lunchtime. A talkative and open-minded bunch of students, we have loved getting together in a relaxed environment to chat about the diverse books we have been reading. It is great to be able to compare our personal responses to the books with a supportive group of people; we frequently end up having fascinating discussions about wider life issues. We recently finished reading *Wranglestone* by Darren Charlton, an apocalyptic tale with characters we could relate to and were rooting for throughout the book. Over the summer, we will be reading *The Song of Achilles* by Madeleine Miller. We are looking forward to getting together in September to see what everyone thought about it.

Empathy Day

Empathy is a superpower. Being able to understand and experience someone else's feelings, builds stronger, kinder communities. When we read, and when we identify with book characters, we learn to see things from others' points of view.



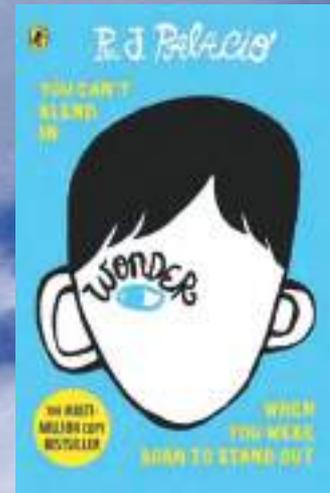
This year to mark Empathy Day, students thought about which books to boost empathy they would give to the people who make decisions in their lives. These are just a few of their recommendations.



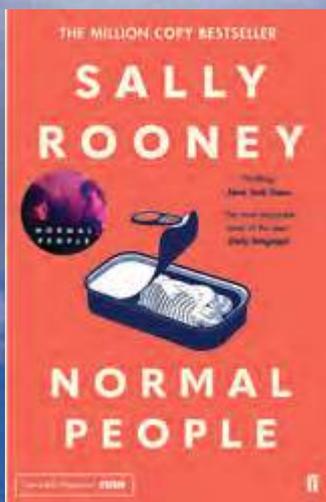
Recommended to the Prime Minister because "he needs more empathy for refugee children".



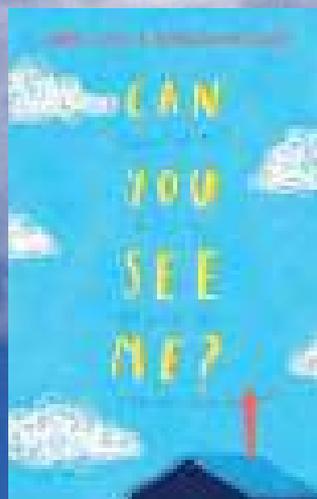
Recommended to teachers because "it has good representation of LGBT+ people".



Recommended to bullies "so they can know how it feels".



Recommended to people in a position to vote in elections because "it provides an insight into class divide".



Recommended to heads of year "to help them understand teenagers who want to build confidence".

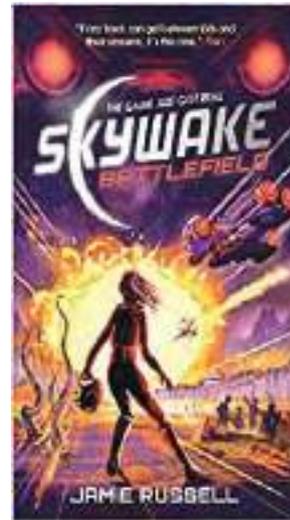


Recommended to parents because "it talks about self-identity and body image, it will help them understand their teens better".

Worcestershire Children's Book Group

Members of book club attended the annual Worcestershire Children's Book Group end of year event. Along with other schools in the region, we spent the morning in the central library. We enjoyed exploring all five floors of the library, discovering some recently published books and joining in with the activities that each school had planned. The highlight of the day, however, was meeting the author Jamie Russell. Jamie started writing books for children after making up stories to entertain his daughters on the way to school; they wanted adventure stories where girls get to do all the exciting stuff. Jamie's talk was cool. He became hooked on video games when he first played Space Invaders in an arcade on holiday. Although his mother was worried that playing games would stop him reading, he explained that it actually encouraged him to read more! He read The Hobbit because when he was stuck in the early stages of the game, he realised that if he read the book it would give him the answers he needed. He also read a lot of science fiction based on the games he was playing; this is still his favourite genre today. In Jamie's latest books, Skywake Invasion and Skywake Battlefield, Casey and her teammates must use all their gaming skills to unite against an alien threat.

WCBG





Year 7
Art
Hoops

Textiles



Year 9 Child's
Dresses

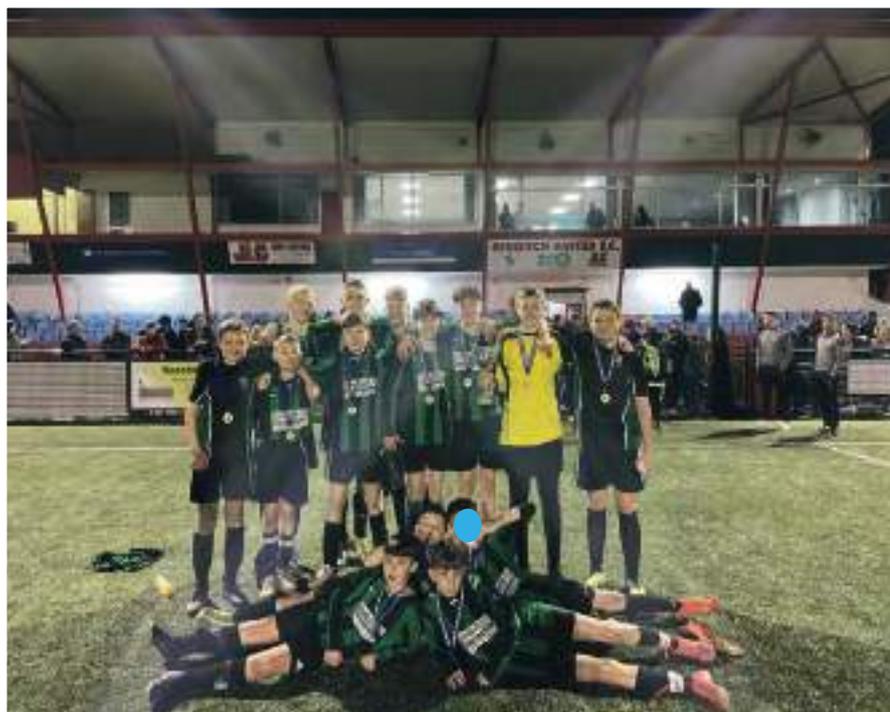




Year 8 Scrappy
Animal Cushions



**Association Football Year 8
Redditch District 9 a side and 11 a side Champions**



**A, Tyler
B, Jamie
D, Mikey
F, Finlay
G-O, Reece
H, Joseph
J, Thomas
M, Benjamin
M, Jacob
P, James
P, Billy
P, Owen
R, Max
S, Leo**

**Association Football Year 9
Redditch District 11 a side Champions**

**A, Ethan
B, George
B, Harry
B, Cohen
C, Ryan
F, Harry
F, Jake
K, Jackson
L, Jimmy
M, Kaelen
M, Joseph
N, Preston
P, Dylan
R, Harvey
S, Christian
S, Oliver
W, William
W, Liam
W, Kian
W, Nathaniel**



**Athletics Year 7
Redditch District Sportshall Athletics Champions**



**B, Lara
C, Dolce-Ann
E, Millie
H, Megan
H, Naomi
N, Keeva
W, Evie**

**Athletics Year 8
Represented Herefordshire & Worcestershire
(Sportshall Athletics)**

K, Elsie



**Badminton Year KS3
Redditch District Champions**



**H, Lewis
N, Preston
W, Nathaniel
B, Cohen**

**Badminton KS4
Redditch District Champions**



**C, Jacob
S, Charlie
S-P, Thomas
D, Tristan**

**Badminton KS4
Redditch District Champions**



**T, Lucy
D, Emma
H, Neve
T, Millie**

**Badminton KS4
Represented Redditch District**



**C, Billy
H, Douglas
G, Harry
B, Finlay**

**Basketball Y11
Redditch District Champions**



**A, Kai
C, Samuel
G, Denao
G, Lleyton
L, Terrell
S, Charlie
S, Mason**

**Basketball Y9
Redditch District Champions**

**A, Ethan
L, Terrell
M, Dylan
P-F, Damien-Chase
R, Lucas
R, Malachi
R, Bailey**



**Cross Country Y7
Redditch District Individual Champion**



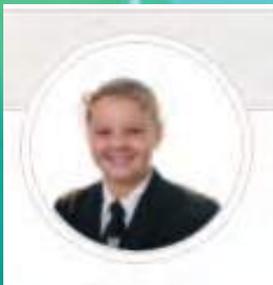
G, Lucas

**Cross Country Y7
Redditch District Team Champions**

**G, Lucas (1st)
W, Nathan
Q, Callum
N, Daniel
F, Samuel
F, Lewis
P, Zachary
G, Jamie**



**Cross Country Y9
Redditch District Team Champions**



**Ayla G (2nd)
Lily S
Emily D
Abi C
Katie E**



Rugby
Redditch District Y7 Champions

B, Lewis
C, Zachary
C, Vinnie
F, Lewis
G, Lucas
H, Evan
H, George
H, Harvey
P, George
S, Jude
W, Oliver
Y, Zaid



Rugby
Stourbridge RFC (U17) Community Rugby 10's
Invitational Rugby Champions



B, Harrison
D, Stephen
D, Alfie
F, Eddie
F, Leo
G, Denao
G, Louie
M, Joe
M, Luke
S-P, Thomas-Alexander
S, Charlie
S-S, Tyler

Y7 Stratford Tudor World Trip

The English Department were delighted to offer Year 7 the opportunity to visit Stratford Upon Avon and take part in a walking tour led by Shakespeare himself! We had the most wonderful weather, and Mr Deare and the other staff on the trip could not have been prouder of the courtesy, engagement and behaviour of all of the students who attended. It was fabulous to be able to take 78 students to Stratford, having just completed study of *The Tempest* in Y7.



This will help students to embed their knowledge of Jacobean and Elizabethan culture, links to the work they have recently completed in history lessons on the Tudors, and will help to prepare them for study of *Romeo and Juliet* in Y8, and *Macbeth* for GCSE. It was lovely to be joined by Miss Finlayson, Mr Deare, Miss Osbourne, Ms Robertson, Dr Burrells and, especially, Miss Smith, whose incredible organisational skills made the whole trip possible.

On our walking tour of Stratford we learnt about the history and importance of The Royal Shakespeare Company, as well as learning contextual details about Stratford in the Tudor and Stuart periods, the importance of Shakespeare's family to the town, and the anecdotes and historical details that inspired some of the most famous moments in his plays, including the ending of *Romeo and Juliet*, a spooky story which was accompanied by an eerie breeze as we heard it in the churchyard Shakespeare attended, and the significance of the plague to Shakespeare's life.





We began our walking tour at Shakespeare's childhood home, considering the origins and connotations of the Shakespeare family's coat of arms: a long pen styled like a spear. We visited Shakespeare's 'New House' which he built to show his status, and the school which he attended from 6am to 6pm every day except Sunday as a boy.

We finished our tour discussing some of Shakespeare's key plays and their impact on the steps of the Royal Shakespeare Company, before heading to the Tudor World museum to smell the plague, see the costumes, and learn a little about Tudor life. Students were thrilled to write their names with ink and quill pens! Finally, we had a go at acting some of the Bard's works, analysing Shakespeare's insults and complements, and acting out some scenes from Romeo and Juliet, as well as being coached in a Pike Drill and swordplay. We had such a great time that we hope to take our next year 7 on the same trip next year!



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We often use pictures, names and videos of students for publicity purposes in our newsletter 'The Woodrush Branch' and our magazine the Woodrush Star, we like to acknowledge and celebrate our students' achievements, resulting in photos and names of students being printed. If you prefer your child's name/image not to be used for such purposes, please contact the school and the necessary arrangements will be made.

