



# THE BRIDGE



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### A year like no other!

As we approach the end of 2020, I am sure many of us will have few regrets when we wave it goodbye.

However, before we do so it's worth taking stock of where we are. I am a great believer that adversity can bring the best and admittedly sometimes the worst from people. Therefore, I am glad to say that as a school we have overwhelmingly seen only the best in people, especially our young people during the pandemic.

A case in point has been the amazing collection for the Food Bank this week. One hundred and forty-six bags were collected by our students and delivered to Warrington Food Bank by members of our premises team. Then there has been the exemplary behaviour of students as they stay in their bubbles, stand in their holding zones and crucially apply themselves in lessons with ambition and focus.

Nor should we underestimate the inventiveness and innovation that has been evident this term. Colleagues have worked tirelessly to adapt the curriculum and our many enrichment activities to the restrictions under which schools currently operate. From online careers days involving NASA scientists to socially distanced audiences enjoying a performance of Macbeth, we've enjoyed so much this term, and all executed in a safe and Covid-secure manner. All these things fill me with real optimism for

next year. After all, people make places and because of the students, parents and staff we have here, I have every confidence that Bridgewater will continue to be a great place to be.

Last week I wrote to all parents about the Bridgewater Expansion and it's worth reflecting upon this further. This will have a transformational effect on our school, providing state of the art facilities for generations to come. Without doubt it is one of our most exciting developments to come our way as a school.



Look out for updates on our website: <https://bridgewaterhigh.org/expansion-project-consultation/>

So, there are many great things to look forward to next year. In the meantime, it just remains for me to wish you, on behalf of all the staff here, a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

*Tim Long*

**For a paper copy of this newsletter, please email a request to [p.mcewan@bridgewaterhigh.com](mailto:p.mcewan@bridgewaterhigh.com)**

## CHRISTMAS 2020

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## Foodbank Donations

Thanks to the generosity of our Bridgewater Community, the student leadership team recently delivered 146 bags of both food and non-essential food items to Warrington Foodbank.

It was very humbling to see Bridgewater Pupils bringing so many donations with them this and this will hopefully have a significant impact on individuals and families over this Christmas Period.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Premises staff who supported the initiative by delivering your generous donations to the foodbank.

At times like this, it should make us all incredibly proud of our Bridgewater community. Thanks for all your support

Mr. Roberts



Well done to Mrs. Garry, who raised £345 for Warrington Food Bank from selling hand-crafted Christmas Decorations to staff. (see left)



## **BRIDGEWATER CAREERS DAY GOES VIRTUAL!**

At our recent careers day, students experienced meeting two companies virtually and asking questions. This was instead of the usual Careers Fair. This meant that Year 7 and Year 8 were able to enjoy the experience too.

All students had an hour virtually with the Careers Advisor and she explained what a Careers Advisor does and how our software package START can help students and their families learn about the different career choices that are out there and how to find the relevant information they need. Different colleges were involved in giving information to students on options and on the different pathways after school, to prepare them for the future e.g. A Levels, T Levels, BTECs, apprenticeships.

Older students were shown how to write a CV and letters of application, given a one-to-one mock interview, mentored by industrialists, experienced a live link up with NASA and so much more. This is a really important day in the school calendar and one not to miss. We were pleased it was still able to go ahead, albeit with modifications.





## First impressions of our school from Year 7 pupils

### **Emma 7DT**

The weeks before the first day of school I felt super nervous. Some of my first thoughts were that I wasn't going to make any friends and that I would always get lost in the school especially as Bridgewater is MASSIVE in comparison to my primary school, but eventually I got used to it.

When I first stepped through those gates with my friends I felt happy, shy and nervous at the same time because I didn't know what to expect at all. I could see that there were LOADS of people standing in the playground and it felt overwhelming.

One of the challenges I remember in my first few weeks was when I had to remember the different classrooms and the different teachers and the lessons that took place. We all had a timetable which showed us where to go, otherwise I would have got lost 100 times!

I have now settled in well, I have made new friends and I enjoy walking to school with them every day.

### **Evie 7DT**

The world has massively changed in the past year, especially in our school. We now have to wear masks, go to 'holding zones' before some lessons and only stay in a certain part of school. Even the times we arrive and leave differ throughout the year groups! Our lessons have changed hugely too, for example because we have to stay in our 'zone' Science lessons are now in a French room!

I think I have settled into school extremely well (even in the current circumstances) I have made lots of new friends and managed to keep on top of my homework! But it hasn't all been perfect.....it's quite stressful with all of the crazy things happening in the world and joining secondary school but my friends and teachers have really helped me so much and I really enjoy going to school.



## **Isabella 7DT**

### **Amazing School**

The first few weeks at Bridgewater High School have been amazing. Already I have made so many new friends and learnt so many new things.

At first, I was really nervous. High School is a huge leap away from Primary. As the weeks have passed, High School becomes more and more enjoyable. My form is amazing, I have the best form tutor ever and all of the people in it are really kind as well.

All of the new friends I have met make me smile every day. I feel like I have known them since I can remember.

I thought having new teachers and going to a different room every period was going to be very confusing and hard but it wasn't. It has been really fun going to the same lessons with my form for the first few weeks. It really allowed us to get to know each other more and it has helped me knowing I had others around me who are amazing and will care for me no matter whether I have known them for a long time or not.

The teachers are really supportive and if we were late to some lessons it was ok at the start because they all understood that Coronavirus is making it all slightly difficult.

I already love Bridgewater so much and can't wait to spend more time at this amazing school.

## **Sophia 7DT**

The first day of school was scary because of Covid and because I had never moved school before I came here.

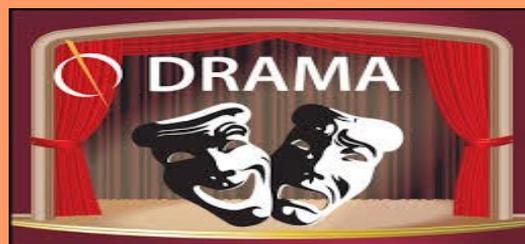
I love it here because it makes me happy. I have had to self-isolate for a bit but I have still had a great time. My form is amazing and my form tutor is really kind. My time here so far has been amazing!!! I love it here.



## **BTEC YEAR 11 MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMED TO AN AUDIENCE!**

The BTEC Year 11 Musical Theatre class performed Macbeth as part of the National Shakespeare Schools' Festival on Friday 27th November after school. Some staff members came to watch it. A small audience of about ten people included the Principal, Headteacher, Assistant Headteachers, Year 11 PAL and PAM and the Head of Drama. The Year 11 BTECs were fabulous! Costume, make up, lights, rock music, classical music, script sections, physical theatre, ballet, contemporary dance, and more. I am very proud of them. They appreciated this as they knew what a privilege it was to perform to an audience in these challenging times. Our Principal, Mr Long, gave a lovely speech at the end, well-deserved by these pupils who had little time to work on this play. It was so lovely to see live theatre again. Well done BTEC students!

Miss Plimmer - HEAD OF EPA FACULTY



## In Loving Memory of Debbie Luty Former Bridgewater Drama teacher



It is with great sadness that we must report the death of a former teacher from Bridgewater High School, Debbie Luty, following a brave and dignified battle with cancer. Debbie taught with us from 1998 to 2011 and was a beautiful person, so kind and so loving. She put everyone before herself and wanted the best for people. She was a wonderful teacher here at Bridgewater. I worked with her as Co-head of Department and then she became an Advanced Skills Teacher, visiting other schools and training teachers to become outstanding in their role. She was, herself, an outstanding teacher. She met her husband through her work at this school with the Fire Service – a group of students called “Smokebusters” who also performed at their beautiful wedding.

Memories and love from current staff and previous staff are in abundance and overwhelming. Our hearts go out to her husband Adrian and their families. Debbie will be remembered by all at Bridgewater with great love and fondness.

**Melanie Plimmer (Head of EPA)**



## YEAR 7 CHOOSE FREE READING BOOKS WITH 'BOOKBUZZ'

This term, some Y7 pupils were able to choose a free reading book from **Bookbuzz**, an initiative run by the reading charity, BookTrust. The aim of the scheme is to support secondary schools in encouraging a love of reading. Every year, a range of titles suitable for Year 7 pupils are specially selected by a panel of teachers, librarians and book experts. Titles available this year ranged from real life mysteries, adventure stories, fantasy, ghost stories, animal stories and a super-hero graphic novel.

If you would like to know more about **Bookbuzz**, BookTrust has a very informative website with book blurbs, competitions, quizzes, author blogs and a Bookfinder.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/bookbuzz/students/>



by, Lore, Mia and Toby receiving their Bookbuzz books

Ru-



TOP BOOKS REVIEWED BY YEAR 7

**AMELIE Y7  
(Harry Potter review)**

Name: Amelie Elwin  
7KJ

Book Review

**Plot:**  
*How does the story start? What happens in the middle? How does it end?*  
The story starts with Harry being in a passage way with his cousin Dudley and Dementors. Dudley gets hurt by the Dementor and they go home. In the middle, Umbridge comes to Hogwarts and it's not going very well. In the end, Sirius Black Dies.

<p><b>Characters:</b> <i>Who is in the story? Describe what they are like (personality and appearance).</i> My favourite character is Ginny Weasley because I feel she is a lot like me and I love the way her appearance and personality is described in the book. Ginny is the youngest of 9 Weasleys who are: Arthur, Molly, Bill, Charlie, Percy, Fred, George then Ginny.</p>	<p><b>Settings:</b> <i>Where is the story set?</i> The story takes place in a lot of different places. These include: The Dursleys, the park, the alleyway, 12 Grimmauld place, Hogwarts, The Ministry for Magic etc.</p>
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**Your opinions:**  
*What was your favourite part and why? Would you recommend this book to anyone?*  
My favourite part of the story was when Harry and Hermione take Professor Umbridge to the Forbidden Forest to find Dumbledore's 'special weapon' which wasn't actually there. Instead, they took Umbridge to Firenze the centaur and his friends. Umbridge then got taken away by them and that was the last of her. I would definitely recommend this book for anyone because it is very action packed and is amazingly written by J.K Rowling.

Give the story a rating out of 5 ★★★★★



I have read many books since October but here are my three top favourite books and why:

1) **'The hat full of sky' by Terry Pratchett**

I really enjoyed reading this book because it is a fantasy novel about a girl who is learning her place as a witch. Early in the novel, Tiffany Aching leaves her home in the chalk country to act as an apprentice and maid for the elderly witch Miss Level. Later in the book she discovers magic and what it is used for. My rating for this book would be 8.5/10.

2) **'Coraline' by Neil Gaiman**

While exploring her new home, a girl named Coraline discovers a secret door, behind which lies an alternate world that closely mirrors her own but, in many ways, is better. She rejoices in her discovery, until Mother and the rest of her parallel family try to keep her there forever. Coraline must use all her resources and bravery to make it back to her own family and life. This book was a bit creepy but overall I enjoyed it. My rating is 6.5/10

3) **'Life of Pi' by Yann Martel**

'Life of Pi' is the story of a young man who survives a harrowing shipwreck and months in a lifeboat with a large Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. The beginning of the novel covers Pi's childhood and youth. I found this book very touching as he develops a good bond with the tiger. My overall rating for this book is 9/10.

**ANASTASIA**





Name of the book: *Young Bond, By Royal Command*

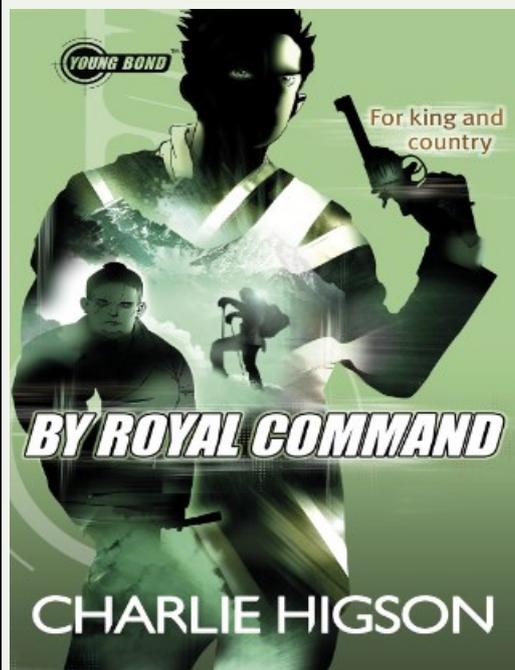
**JACK Y7**

Why do I like it? I like it because it has a lot of action in it all throughout the book. The book kept me entertained when I had nothing to do.

What is the book about? The book is about Bond but in his early stages of life, so in other words James Bond as a child. James is in his teen stage of life and is on a skiing trip when he meets a bully who gets lost. But then James goes after the bully and then James gets lost too. He finds himself into a spot of trouble but eventually saves the day.

About the author: His name is Charlie Higson. He is a children's author and was born in Britain. His most popular series is The Enemy.

He mainly writes action books.



This is the book cover of *By Royal Command*. I would definitely recommend it for children my age. I like the book because it is a very exciting read and keeps you on your toes. I think that the book would be better if it explained more of the story at the beginning of the book.

Other than that, it is a great book.



The book that I read was **'Doctor Who: Time Lord Fairy Tales'** I really enjoyed this book because instead of reading just one big book it was split up into mini books. I enjoy mini books as a nice reading break sometimes. All of the mini stories were completely different and no two felt the same. My favourite was the first one because it had a deep sense of fear and unease when you find out about the missing children. All in all I would definitely recommend this book because I really enjoyed it and I think others will too.

**JACOB Y7**

## **'All The Bright Places'**

Overall Rating 4 Stars.

I chose this book due to its high rating and it looked unusually interesting. The story is based on two main characters, Violet and Theodore and both of these characters have issues that bring them close together. Violet has family tragedies and Theodore has had a troubled past and is bipolar. They form an unusual partnership that allows them to talk and support each other but the book also deals with some of their mental issues.

Overall, I didn't get as emotional as expected but the book was very interesting and really unusual. There were tears and passion and it talked around sensitive topics well. I really enjoyed it.

**MOLLYANNA Y7**





## Bridgewater Remembers...

Bridgewater High School students experienced a thought-provoking Remembrance assembly, delivered virtually on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November. The theme of the assembly was 'Lest We Forget'. We were encouraged to remember all those who had made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in conflicts by remembering some local individuals.



**BRIDGEWATER, ERIC. Reg. No. 41949.  
Rank, Private, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers,  
8th Batt. ; killed in action, France, August  
16, 1917 ; born Stockton-Heath, Warrington.**

FERNLEY - BOWDEN :  
ERNEST - E. BRADSHAW  
CHARLES - BRERETON :  
ERIC - BRIDGEWATER :

The first was Eric Bridgewater, a young man from Stockton Heath, whose name appears on the war memorial outside St. Thomas' Church. Eric was a local man, born in our town in 1897. He lived in Gaskell Street, Stockton Heath and was a spade-maker by profession.

His parents were Harry and Elizabeth Bridgewater. Perhaps somebody reading this is a distant descendent? We'd love to hear from you if this is the case. Eric enlisted with the Royal Fusiliers and was sadly killed in action, on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1917, at the age of just 20. He has no known burial place but is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium, as well as on one of the Stockton Heath memorial panels.



The second name Bridgewater students remembered in our virtual assembly was Private Ernest Bennett. Ernie had joined the 6th Battalion South Lancashire Regiment shortly after war was declared, having formerly worked as a rope-maker. He lived with his family on Bewsey Road. News was received from the War Office that the 31-year-old had died while in action in Dardanelles, Turkey. A letter of condolence was sent to the parents, describing the 'fallen' soldier as 'very popular among his comrades'. Imagine the shock and then delight experienced by his parents when they received a letter from their son dated two weeks after they thought he had been killed. It turned out that there had been a mix up at the War Office and, in fact, Private E. Bennett was alive and well. He actually lived for another 40 years and is buried in Warrington Cemetery.



The final name we remembered in our assembly was Arthur Naylor Ellison. Arthur was born on 20th December, 1893 and grew up in Stretton village, the son of the school master. He enlisted as a soldier and fought in the First World War. Whilst he did not die during the conflict, he suffered severe shell shock or what we would call PTSD these days. At the time, this was a condition that was not really understood. When Arthur died in 1970, at the age of 77, he was buried at St. Matthew's. It was felt strongly by the people of Stretton, that he had given his life for others. Consequently, he is commemorated on the war memorial in St. Matthew's churchyard. The inscription on the memorial commemorates "men connected with the Church and Parish who gave their lives in the Great War or through the hardness then endured".

We heard three very different stories in our virtual Remembrance assembly, all about local men, one who died, one who survived and one of who lived, but with the terrible shadow of shell-shock for the rest of his life. In remembering these three men and their families, we feel we are remembering those everywhere who made the ultimate sacrifice.

*Lest We Forget*



## REMEMBRANCE DAY COMPETITION



The History department recently ran a Remembrance-themed competition. The aim was to redesign the poppy to create something inclusive that all could wear. Jasmine in Year 7 was the winner, with this beautiful design representing the sacrifice made by soldiers and animals on the front line.

Well done to our winner, Jasmine.

**Miss J Parsons**



## Since 9/11 Student Summit: Why is 9/11 relevant today?

The 'Since 9/11 Virtual Student Summit' was a very poignant and powerful event that our Year 10 students participated in as part of Human Rights Day. ITN footage from both the 9/11 attacks, and subsequent terror attacks, was shown. Students were left in no doubt about the devastating consequences of these attacks, as keynote speakers illuminated key issues and the damage that extremist ideologies can have. The message of the summit was however one of hope and the power of education in combating such views. Below is an account of the summit as written by two students who took part:

"9/11- Humanity at its worst.

Last Thursday around 30 people, who opted for GCSE History, were invited to attend a live online session about the importance of 9/11. We were spoken to by four fantastic guest speakers, each with their own view on the importance of 9/11 and its long-term effects. We all knew this was a highly sensitive topic and that the family and friends of casualties faced the consequences head on. However, beneath all the sadness, grief, and despair, we considered whether there was a positive aftermath.

Firstly, we listened to the heart-breaking story of a woman whose husband was killed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2001, leaving behind three young children. This showed the scale of trauma that these families faced, both at the time and during the aftermath, and brought home just how awful the attacks were for people directly affected.

Afterwards we listened to two guest speakers who spoke about extremism and how to combat it. They taught us some valuable lessons, such as: If someone says something with an extremist viewpoint, then tell them and talk to them about it. One person can make a vast difference!

Finally, we listened to renowned historian Sir Simon Schama speak about the subject. He was in New York at the time and he told us about how he vividly remembered that day. We also had the chance to ask questions to the speakers.

The session allowed us to understand the impact of 9/11 and feel for all the people who were affected. However, it also allowed us to look at possible positive outcomes of that dreadful day, for example how more people are now speaking up and combatting extremist views.

Overall, the session was insightful and made us think carefully about extremism."

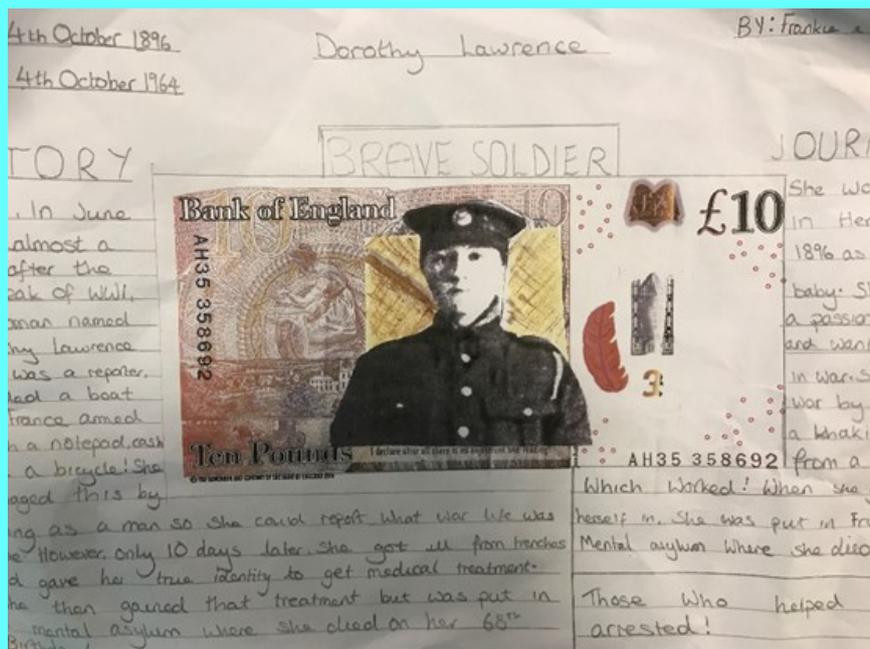
**Anna and Kavita (Year 10)**



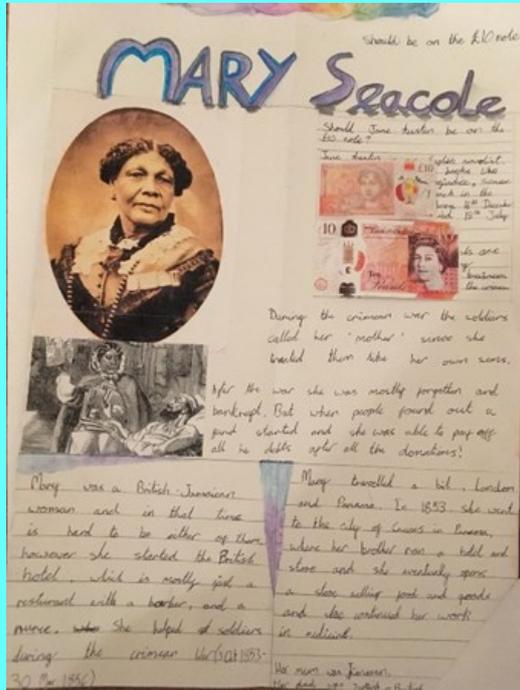


## Year 8 History Project: Jane Austen – the right choice?

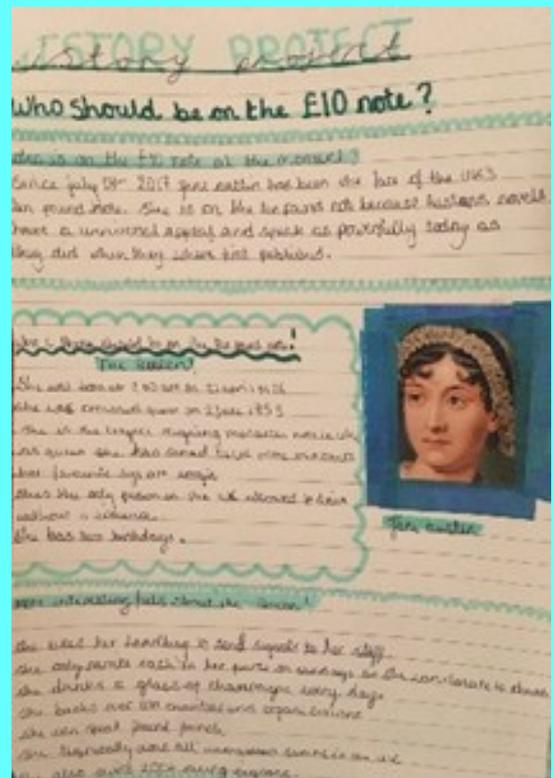
**‘Should Jane Austen be on the £10 note’?** This was the question posed to our Year 8 History students this term. Jane Austen, an English novelist, whose works include, ‘Sense and Sensibility’ and ‘Pride and Prejudice’, was chosen as the historical figure to be on a £10 note in 2017. Undoubtedly, Austen’s wit and social observation made her one of the world’s best-loved authors. Her novels give us an insight into life in the early 1800s. However, Austen was only the third woman ever to be printed on an English banknote and was the only woman on the short-list. Was this decision the right one? Students were tasked with studying historical figures who were both English and female and deciding who, if anyone, was more deserving than Austen for their place on the £10 note. A female focus was pre-designed; students can often name male (and predominantly white) historical figures who are significant but this time the focus was unashamedly ‘her story’ not his-story! As a department we were not disappointed. Achievements of a vast array of women were celebrated by our students. Student selections included, Margaret Thatcher, Emmeline Pankhurst, Boudica, Mary Seacole and, very originally, Cecilia Payne. Undoubtedly, the favourite pick seemed to be Florence Nightingale, with students showing a clear understanding of the importance of nursing in the current context and the significance of ‘pop-up’ hospitals being called the ‘Nightingale hospitals’. Below is a small selection of some of the very impressive work produced. Well done Year 8!



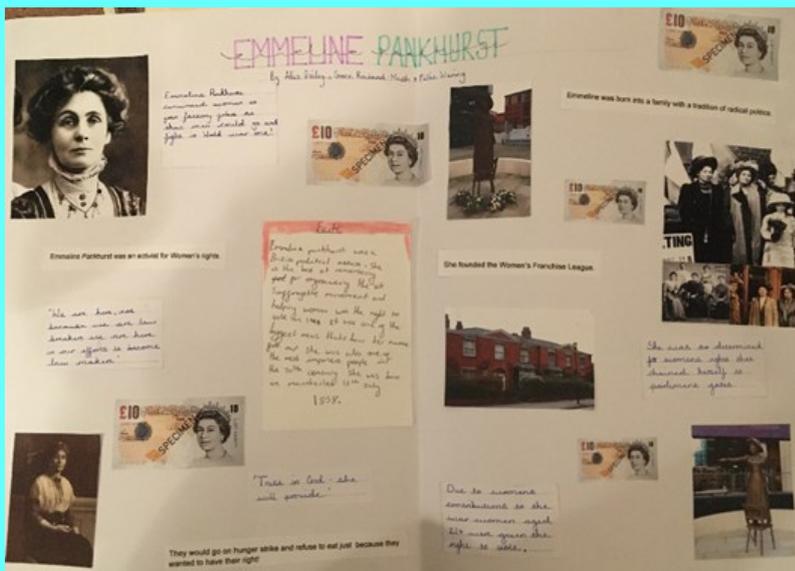
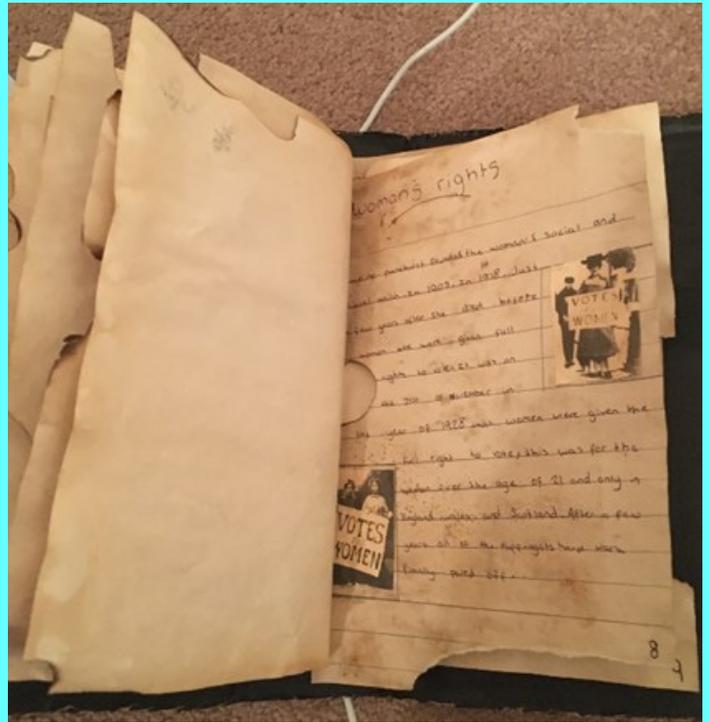
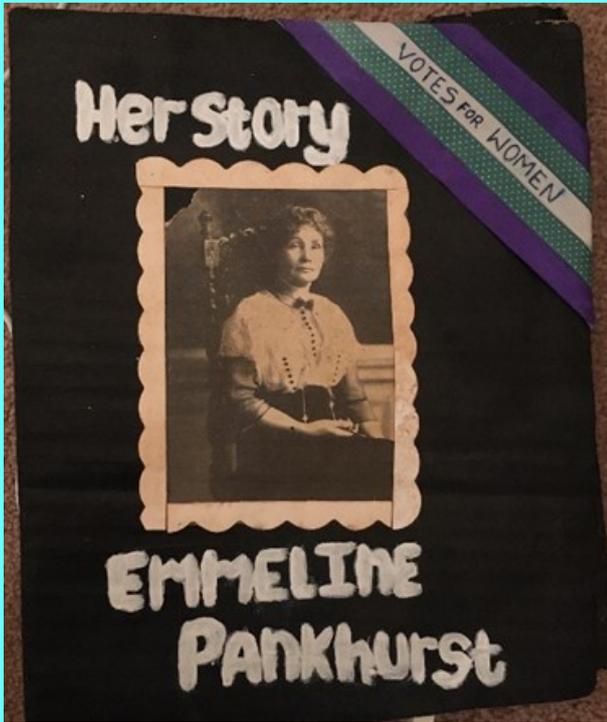
Dorothy Lawrence was the choice of this student – a journalist who pretended to be a male soldier to report from the front line of the trenches in WWI.



Mary Seacole was the choice of these students. A British - Jamaican born nurse who treated soldiers on the front line of the Crimean War at her 'British Hotel' - built with entirely her own money.



Students presented their work in a variety of ways; they designed their own £10 notes - painting, drawing and printing their designs. They presented their work in project books, as posters and as spoken presentations. Some students even made cake figurines - although they were eaten before pictures could be taken!



Another popular choice was Emmeline Pankhurst – one of the founding members of the WSPU or the Suffragettes. She was Manchester-born and a key figure in the fight for female suffrage.



## MUSIC MATTERS

There has been some excellent work done in Music this term and some brilliant enthusiasm shown for the subject. Highlights have included the Film Music module in Year 9, which has seen students make music with electronic and orchestral instruments, as well as giving stunning performances of film score tunes such as Hedwig's theme and Jurassic Park. Year 8 pupils have produced some brilliant performances of 'Stand by Me' and 'Valerie' on the Ukulele. In normal circumstances our Year 7s would have started the term on African drumming. However due to restrictions with sharing instruments across years, we adapted the curriculum so that they were learning rhythms using Body Percussion. (*See article by Mr. Teixeira below*). This led to some very interesting performances to the tune of "In the hall of mountain king" by Greig. Year 7 pupils have played ukuleles for the first time and it is brilliant to see their enthusiasm and interest grow. In Year 10, we have been working towards a whole class performance of 'Africa' by Toto, as well as producing stunning solo performances. Year 11 students are now working towards their final exams and coursework. It is so rewarding to see their musicianship grow and we are all excited for their futures.

Mr. Watts

Body Percussion – the art of striking the body – is the oldest form of human communication used in celebrations and gatherings for thousands of years. Some established dance traditions include Clog Dancing (UK), Step Dancing (Ireland), Flamenco (Spain), Armpit music (Ethiopia) and Gumboot Dancing (South Africa) with virtuosic performances from Steve Hickman and Keith Terry. Year 7s began their year at Bridgewater High School exploring this art form by clapping, tapping, turning, clicking and dancing to the music of James Brown's "I Feel Good", Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King" and Tchaikovsky's "Russian Dances" before creating their own body percussion compositions. Our students have gifted us imaginative and inventive compositions that demonstrate the talent and creativity in the new cohort!

MR. TEIXEIRA



KS3 pupils were challenged to create a 3D festive decoration. The winners are....

## 3D Christmas Decoration Competition

Year 7—

Joey, Sophie & Zach

Year 8—

Lucy, Janet, Faye & Matthew





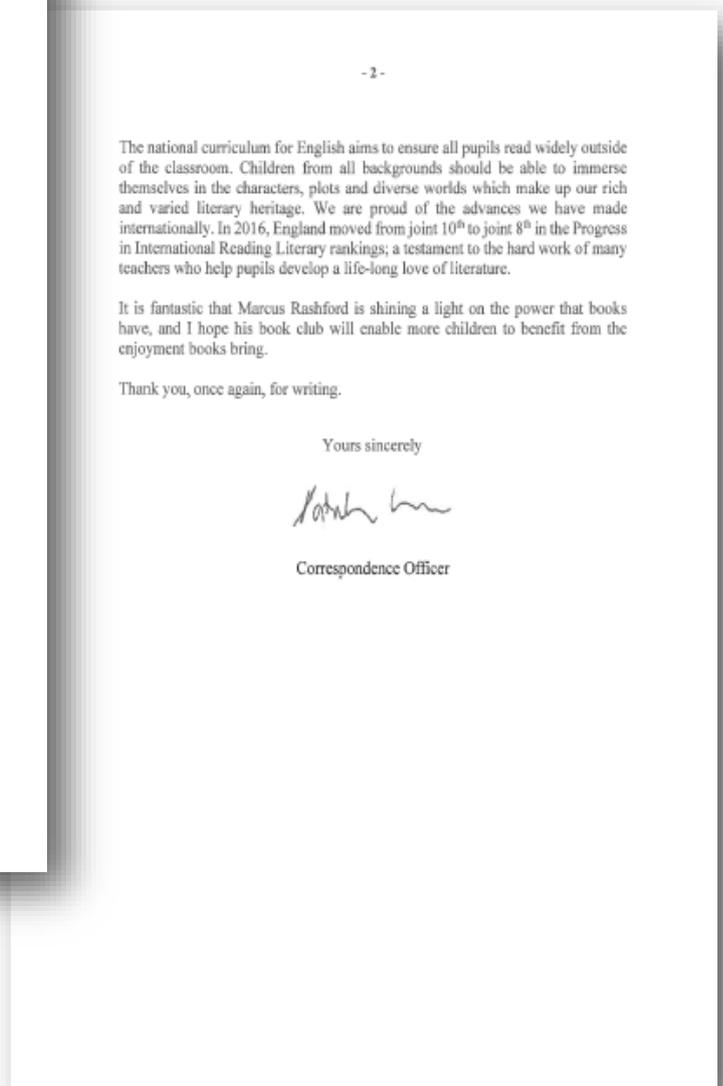
## LETTER FROM NUMBER 10!

We did some work with 9aEn2b on the importance of reading and decided we should write to persuade Boris Johnson to invest more heavily in reading and Marcus Rashford's book club.

It was good to see that our students' work was appreciated at Number 10!



## Mr C Yates





## Safeguarding

Christmas can be the most wonderful time of year. Many families will be enjoying the extra time together but it can also bring about additional strains and household tension (particularly in the current climate) due to economic stress, fears about Covid, limited contact with those outside the household and limited access to support services. Please find below some services and resources that you may find useful to help keep you and your family safe and well.

### Online Safety

Many children will be looking forward to receiving the latest gadgets such as tablets, phones and games consoles this Christmas. Here are some ideas to ensure your child is able to enjoy all the internet can offer whilst keeping safe.

Set parental security and privacy settings on their device (most stores will do this for you)

Regularly have open and honest conversations with your child about staying safe online

Report any online concerns to CEOP at [www.thinkyouknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk)

### Emotional well-being

We recognise mental health doesn't take off over Christmas and with the additional pressures that can come with the festive season, it is very important we all care for our emotional wellbeing. Encourage your child to:

Keep Active

Stay in touch with friends and family (even if this can't be in person)

Always ask for help

[www.happyoksad.warrington.go.uk](http://www.happyoksad.warrington.go.uk) has lots of local and national resources to support young people, adults and their families.

[www.kooth.co.uk](http://www.kooth.co.uk) offers free online counselling to young people aged 11-18

If situation is more urgent contact **CAMHS on 01925 575 904**, visit your GP or contact the mental health crisis line on **0800 051 1508**.

### Domestic Abuse

Emerging evidence has emphasised the increased risks of domestic abuse during Covid, with Refuge reporting a 25% increase in calls since lockdown. Similarly, evidence shows reports of domestic abuse increases significantly during the Christmas period.

If you need any further support or advice regarding domestic abuse you can contact the 24 hour **Domestic Abuse helpline on 0808 2000 247** or visit [www.nationalhelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationalhelpline.org.uk) or [www.safelives.org.uk-staying-safe-during-covid-19](http://www.safelives.org.uk-staying-safe-during-covid-19)

For local services and support, visit;

[www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk](http://www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk)

Evidence has also highlighted an increase in reporting of violence by teenagers towards parents & carers. If you have been affected by this or want further information and support contact **Family Lives on 0808 800 2222** or

Email – [askus@familylives.org.uk](mailto:askus@familylives.org.uk)

Website – [www.familylives.org.uk/advice/teenagers/behaviour/teen-violence-at-home/](http://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/teenagers/behaviour/teen-violence-at-home/)

[www.mylifewarrington.gov.uk](http://www.mylifewarrington.gov.uk) also offers lots of local information about services available to support you and your family.

If you have a safeguarding concern regarding a child, contact MASH on 01925 443322

Keep Safe & Well  
The Safeguarding Team



We were delighted that Year 8 Bridgewater student, Eimear, was happy for us to share her poem 'Vision' with 'The Bridge'. As you will gather, Eimear is blind.

## **My vision**

My cane is my vision  
It guides me along the way

It helps me and protects me  
From the dangers every day

It tells me where doors are  
And when to turn left or right

Exactly the same as another person  
Who has the gift of sight

But my hearing is enhanced  
To make up for me being unable to see

I am impressed with my talent  
For it is unique to me

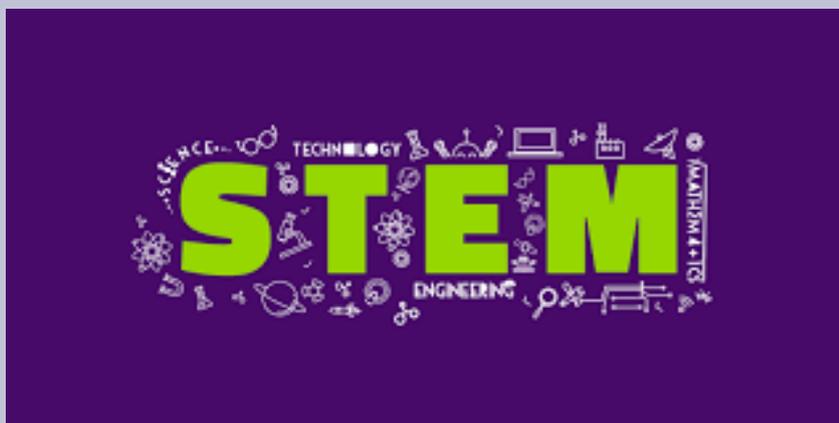
My cane is my vision  
It guides me along the way

It helps me and protects me  
From the dangers every day.

**Eimear, Year 8**



KS3 pupils in our Designated Provision have been getting crafty as well as festive this week! Here's a selection of the Christmas crafts they have been enjoying!



## Bridgewater Wins £100 in Unilever Competition

A group of Bridgewater High School's Year 9 students recently participated in a competition run by Unilever against 30 schools in the Northwest and came third place after presenting their amazing projects virtually via Zoom. This was an outstanding achievement considering the level of competition (almost all of the other contestants were a year older than this group).

The students enjoyed a wide range of interactive activities that introduced them to processing, packaging, the environment and more. Following their visit, students were given three months to design their own environmentally-friendly/sustainable product. All entrants delivered sensational concepts and the competition was extremely difficult to judge.

Bridgewater's team designed and developed sun-protection wipes that are sustainable and biodegradable.

Judges' comments were as follows: "I loved the level of thought they had put into keeping the product sustainable, yet being pragmatic by including a small amount of recyclable plastic in the packaging to ensure product stability and cost-effectiveness – it showed a real level of maturity in their product design. I also think they handled the pressure of having the call drop out at the start of the presentation very well – it would have been very easy for the technical issues to be disheartening, but they did an excellent job of composing themselves and delivering a great presentation."

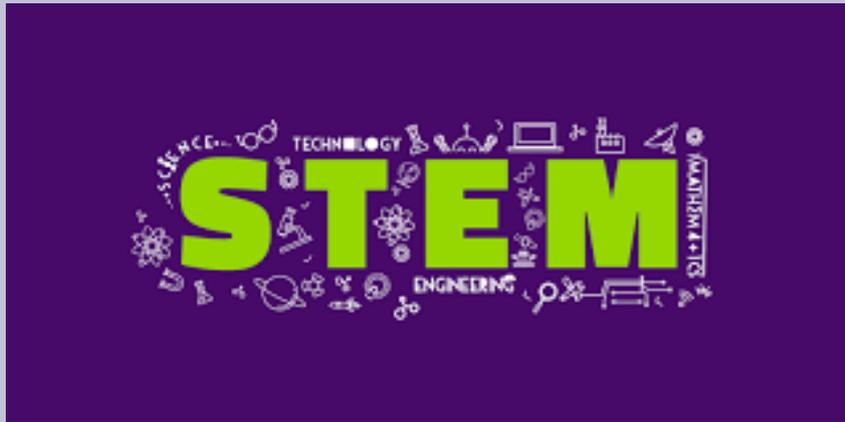
Team Bridgewater:

"I was going to work in the medical world but this has actually changed it, and I am liking and really enjoying working in STEM now."

"I'd definitely take part in a Unilever/All About STEM project again. It was really fun!"

Thanks to the talent and efforts of our amazing Bridgewater team (pictured right) we won £100 to spend on STEM equipment! Congratulations to group members Amelia, Habibah, Isaac, Hannah and Ishaq.





## Judges Blown Away!

Four groups of Bridgewater pupils recently presented their models for a Mars settlement, which they had completed just before half-term, to a panel of judges who were absolutely blown away by some of the ideas they saw.

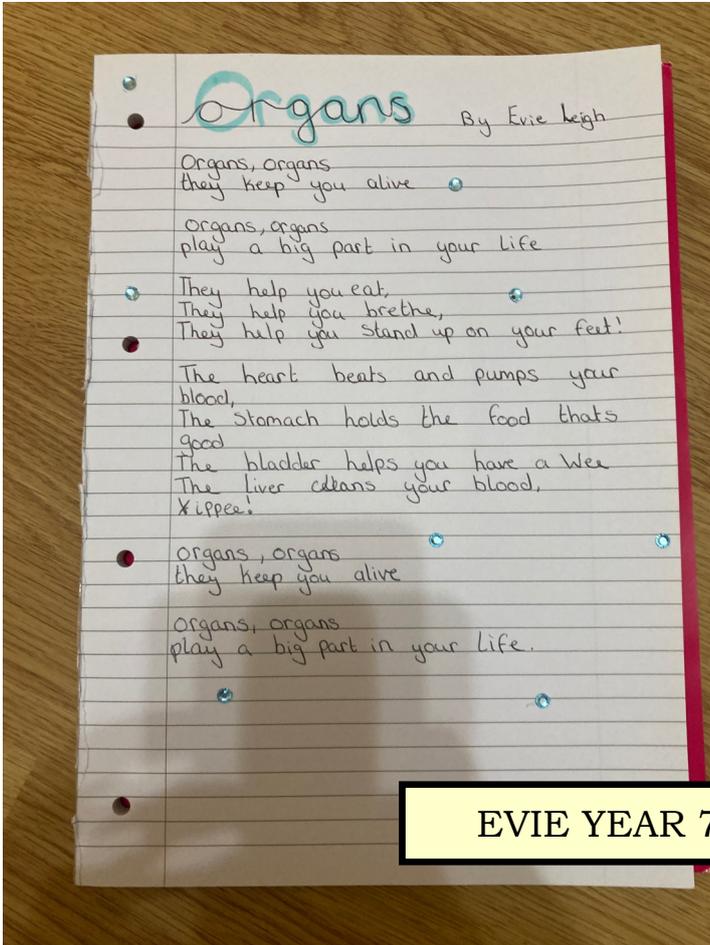
This multinational panel of judges included a NASA scientist in Texas, a food scientist from Holland, a scientist in the UAE and several more! It was certainly a daunting line-up! However, I can honestly say that, after hearing some of the students' ideas, the judges were even more excited than our youngsters! For example, a five-minute presentation from Aylin's group turned into an excited twenty-minute discussion amongst the judges after hearing of her ideas to shield the inhabitants of the colony from radiation.

Not to be outdone, Millie's group had the judges debating with each other about how to establish greenhouses on the red planet after showing their model Martian greenhouses.

The judges were eager to offer some future ventures to one group immediately on the spot, including an Anglo-American-Dutch project on growing plants in hostile, Mars-like conditions!

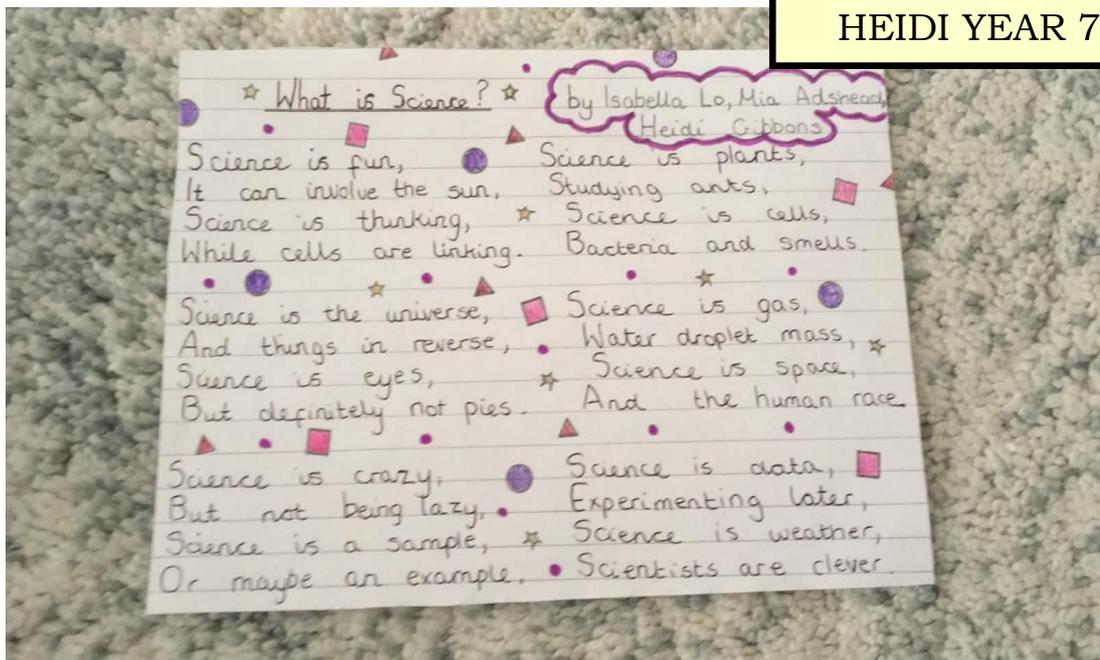


**Mr M Shaikh**

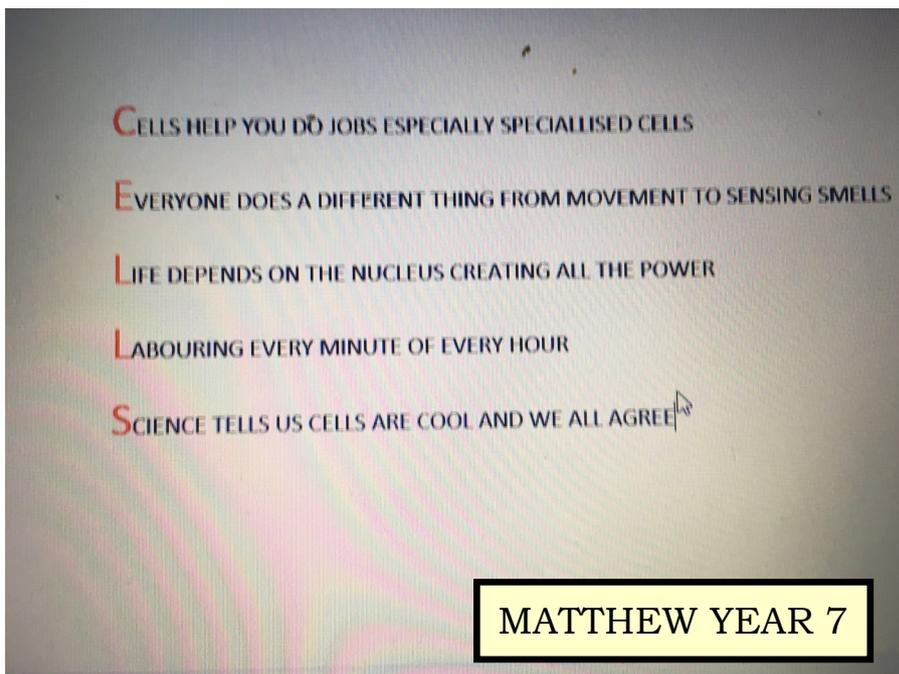
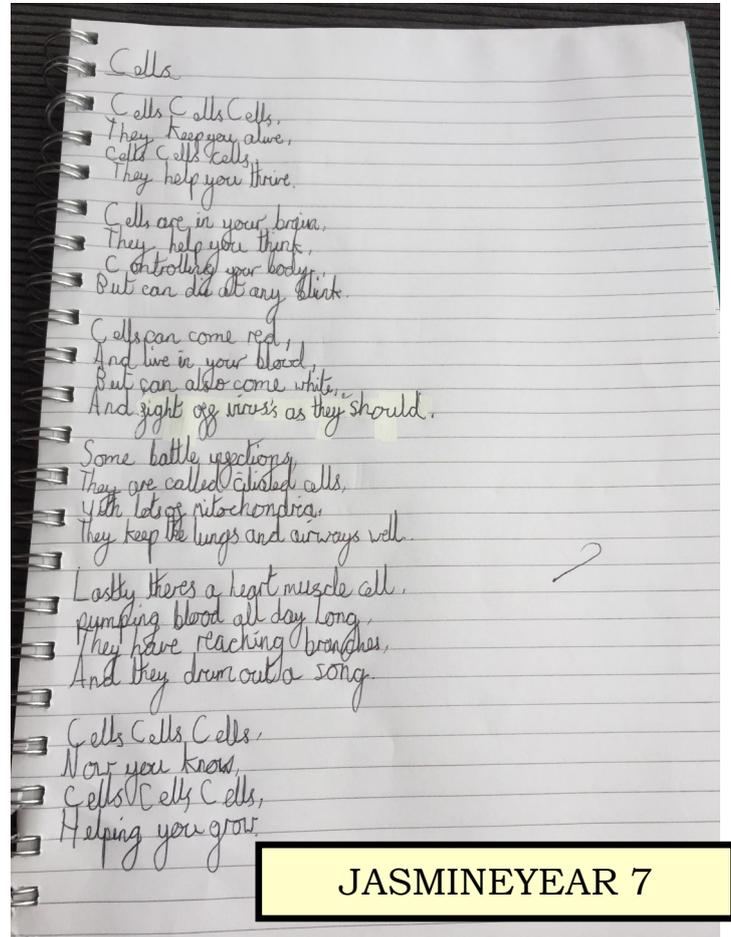


7DT wrote these Science poems for their Science teacher, Ms. Shaw, as part of a mini competition.

EVIE YEAR 7



HEIDI YEAR 7





Spotlight on...  
Ben, Year 8



**WELL DONE**

A big WELL DONE goes to Ben in Year 8 who spent his day off from school, working really hard at the local food bank. He has been creating activity packs for children.





## Forest School Success

As part of Bridgewater’s commitment to deliver inspiring and enriching educational opportunities, 17 students were selected to participate in a Forest School programme on Lower Site.

### **What is Forest School?**

Forest School is all about getting pupils outside in nature, creating a pupil-centred environment that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a programme that nurtures social and emotional development through appropriate risk-taking and exploration within a natural setting. Sessions are delivered in response to the individual needs and interests of students – encouraging independent thinking, problem-solving and developing intrinsic motivation.



### **What have we been doing?**

Some of the sessions have included: creating natural sculptures – using what’s in the woodland to create art; tree ID – thinking about the different ways we can identify trees; nest making – linking with the Science curriculum for ecosystems and biodiversity; and den building – using communication and teamwork to reach an end goal. The Forest School sessions have been delivered in conjunction with literacy lessons – broadening language skills through new vocabulary, story-telling and written diary reflections.

### **What did the pupils think?**

‘I was invited to go to Forest School and it makes me feel free from doing work. Forest School is amazing. My best moment is when we made the bird nests.’



Natural sculpture of a tree



Pupils making a chair and bed using natural materials



Mini den made by a pupil



## Dance: what has been going on this term?

In what has been a very different and challenging term for everyone, we have tried to find ways around Covid so we can still dance as much as possible, albeit with differences. We think we have managed it and we have been so impressed by all students adapting to our new way of working so quickly and easily.

Check out some of our lovely Year 7s in rehearsal for their WW2 dance which they have worked hard to create this half term for their first Dance assessment.



## Key stage 4 Dance

Our Year 10s started the BTEC dance course with energy and excitement and it has been lovely to watch them grow this term in their dance knowledge in both theory and practical. Here they are in rehearsals for their forthcoming take on Christopher Bruce's Rooster.





We also want to congratulate our Year 11 dancers on completing their recent mock performance. They created a three-minute dance piece in four hours as well as completing two written exams, which mirrors what their real exam experience will be like in the new year.



To say that I was proud of their performances last week is an understatement!

A big well done to all for your commitment and hard work.

Coming soon... Virtual performance by Year 10 BTEC. Be sure to check out our Instagram for details!

## Children in Need

We enlisted some help from our lovely teaching staff to get involved with the Strictly Come Dancing Children in Need challenge. With everyone really throwing themselves into it, we were proud to present our video on our Instagram page, showcasing some of our wonderful staff and Year 10 dancers.

Check out our Instagram page for the full video and see below some of us in action!







## Instagram and Twitter

We like to showcase our students and celebrate success where we can. Please check out **BwaterDance** on Twitter and Instagram for regular updates as well as **BWHS\_drama** on Instagram to see what the Drama team have been up to. We show a snippet of what we do in and out of school with our lovely students as well as post opportunities that our students may wish to take up.

On both pages we have showcased what our ex-students are up to after studying at Bridgewater to help our current Year 9s make informed decisions ahead of their options decisions in January.

Be sure to follow us to check this out!



## CHRISTMAS BAKING WINNERS

Congratulations to these creative KS3 winners of the Food Technology Christmas competition! Students were challenged to make creative gingerbread biscuits. As you can see from these illustrations, they rose to the challenge magnificently! They look delicious. Well done!

# Year 7 Competition Winners



MAX



HARRISON



SOPHY



OSCAR



OLIVIA



MATILDA



ALFIE



SEBASTIAN



LILY



# Year 8 Competition Winners



LUCY



HARRY



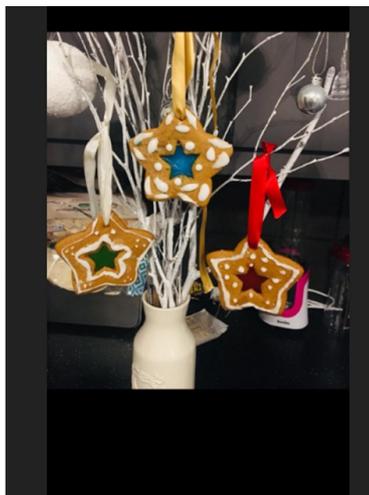
FLEUR



# Year 9 Competition Winners



THOMAS



SOPHIE



EMILY



### Odd Socks Day

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November, Bridgewater High School and all of the TCAT schools came together to participate in 'Odd Socks Day' which is an annual event that takes place during Anti-Bullying week. The idea behind the Odd Sock's day is to provide an opportunity for pupils to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique. The day itself was fantastic and it was great to see pupils and staff getting involved and there were some great examples of odd socks on display!!

We also used this day as an opportunity to raise funds for a local charity and pupils were asked to make a small contribution. Working alongside the TCAT Parliament, it was agreed that the money raised from the Odd Socks Day would be used to support Warrington Foodbank during these difficult times. I am delighted to say that Bridgewater High School raised £280 and over £1000 was raised by the other TCAT Schools. This money will be donated to the Foodbank in the build up to Christmas. It shows an enormous amount of generosity and support from all of our pupils and we know that this money will go a long way to helping many of our young individuals and their families over the Christmas period and beyond.

We would like to thank everybody who took part in the day. We are already planning further fundraising events in the new year to continue to raise awareness of key local issues.

Mr A Roberts





**FESTIVE MATHS PUZZLES**

				£6
				£8
				£8
£4	£4	£5	£6	

Find the cost of each

Maths dingbats



**(ICE)(ICE)(ICE)**

ANSWERS ON PAGE 43



## Initial Teacher Training

Twenty five Associate Teachers began their teaching careers with TCAT in September, having enrolled on our School Direct Initial Teacher Training course based at Bridgewater High School. As part of their course, the students teach in 2 placement schools with 14 currently being mentored at Bridgewater and 11 currently placed and mentored in Beamont Collegiate Academy, Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School and Penketh High School. All our students return to Bridgewater every Friday for lecture sessions and all are proving to be highly effective classroom teachers. They completed their first PGCE assignment in November and have until the end of January in their current schools before experiencing a second TCAT school to complete their training. We are proud of how they have risen to the challenge of training to teach in these exceptional circumstances and would like to congratulate them on the progress they have made over the term.

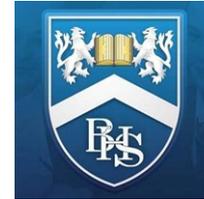
If anyone would like to know more about the School Direct ITT course here at Bridgewater High School, please email [j.hodgson@bridgewaterhigh.com](mailto:j.hodgson@bridgewaterhigh.com) for more details. There is information on our website but we are always happy to talk about the TCAT course and the opportunities we can offer.



## TCAT Collaboration with Oxford University

This term, the TCAT Oxplore collaboration has delivered sessions to our Year 5 pupils in TCAT Primary Schools as students focus on the big questions of “Can we end disease?” and “Should we all speak the same language?” The project aims to raise pupil aspirations during their time in school. For MFL, each school worked with the language they learn in school (French, German or Spanish) and took part in activities linked to an imaginary trip abroad. They had chance to practise speaking in the target language as well as learning new holiday vocabulary. In Science, the pupils conducted an experiment, gathered data and produced graphs in school and were then encouraged to run an experiment at home with their families.

Our Secondary School delivery days will take place in the Spring term and Year 10 STEM and MFL students from Bridgewater and other TCAT Secondaries will be involved in sessions led remotely by Oxford University researchers and TCAT teachers. These sessions will support our students with valuable skills that will be useful for their GCSE studies. We are also planning to extend the project to our Year 7 and Year 8 students in the new year.



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## Rivers of the World Part 2

If you visit the school website regularly, you may remember seeing this fantastic piece of work earlier on in September.

This year, the Rivers of the World project took place remotely during lockdown. Co-ordinated by Mrs Silver, we had 14 really dedicated KS3 pupils from year 7, 8 and 9 who gave up their time to create an art piece that went towards the final outcome.

The pupils had a choice of design briefs that were created by local artist Kirsty Rae. She also made a video for the pupils to watch, that introduced the project and showed examples of how to get their own ideas flowing and start a piece of work.

The theme for this year was the River of Life, focusing on the River Nile and the inspiration came from Ethiopian artists who used pattern, colour and collage in their work.

Once the pupils had submitted their work, Kirsty set about selecting sections of each pupil's work to create a large digital banner that represented the theme.

The work was on display in an outdoor exhibition on the South Bank, London, during the month of September, alongside all the other schools that took part in the project.

Fingers crossed, we will be able to see the work on display in Warrington soon, COVID-19 permitting.

All the pupils who took part have received a certificate from the Thames Festival Trust. Mrs Silver would like to say well done and a special thank you at all those involved. Without their hard work, creativity and dedication, none of this would be possible

**Mrs A Silver**





**Answers to Maths Puzzles. Page 39**



$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ =17 \end{array}$$



$$=12$$



$$=26$$

**Maths Dingbats:** Trigonometry, Ice cube



## SPORTS NEWS

### RUGBY LEAGUE NEWS



Former Bridgewater student, Cole Oakley, who progressed through the Academy ranks when he left Bridgewater, recently made his debut for Warrington Wolves which was televised on Sky Sports in November against Salford in Super League Live.

Cole said he was so excited to "get out there" (albeit experiencing some slight nerves as well) and has shown incredible determination and commitment throughout his training. He richly deserves the chance to showcase his talent on the big stage.

I am sure you will all join the PE Department in wishing Cole the best of luck in his career.

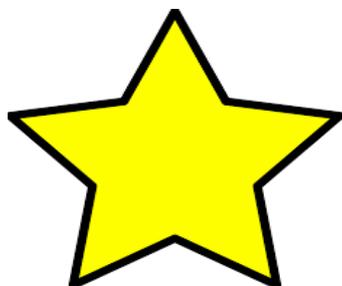
**Mr M Smith**



## PE Faculty

The PE department is very proud of the overall commitment, engagement and positive attitudes displayed by our pupils during the first term. We've had to adapt and change our curriculum due to restrictions and therefore pupils started the term on Athletics and Health and Fitness activities. The pupils have shown true grit and determination when performing activities such as Interval, Farlek (a form of speed training) and Continuous training.

PE department colleagues have selected pupils who they feel have made an outstanding contribution to their lessons this term.



### KS3 PE Stars of the term

#### Year 7 Appleton

Jacob	7 CZC
Daniel	7 DT
Ethan	7 CZC
Fred	7 SSH
Nicole	7 GM
Shelan	7 DT
Emma	7 DT

#### Year 8 Appleton

Lewis	8 RGD
Ali	8 LH2
Lewis	8 LHW
Bella	8 RGD
Lucy	8 AWA
Emily	8 RLT

#### Year 9 Appleton

Harry	9 JB
Samuel	9 JB
Joseph	9 SRG
Erin	9 MSM
Ruby	9 SRG

#### 7 Stockton

Dylan	7 LC/CJB
Aaron	7NF
Adam	7KHA
Daniel	7NF
Zoe	7 JMJ
Matilda	7 JMJ
Kimberley	7LC/CJB

#### Year 8 Stockton

Lois	8 JY/MR
Charley	8 NXH
Harry	8MSH
Quentin	8MSH
Isabelle	8 JRB
Kyra	8 MSH

#### Year 9 Stockton

Ben	9 JD
Teddy	9 BA/ACA
Isaac	9 EP/JR
Lucy	9 GC
Katie	9 TW



## KS4 GCSE PE

Congratulations to GCSE student Luke on his excellent work ethic and commitment to PE during lockdown.



Congratulations to Elizabeth on achieving the highest score overall on her GCSE December mock paper.



## Year 10 GCSE Stars

Imogen 10 SZM/JT

Emily 10 LJT

### Cambridge

Kyle 10 LJT

## Year 11 GCSE PE

William 11 ME

Aleesha 11 ME

Elizabeth 11SJC

### Cambridge

Keith 11 PH

Millie 11 SEC



## Girls PE successes

### Cross Country/Beep Test Results

#### Year 8 Stockton Girls

Eva 8MSH

Esme 8 MSH

Roisin 8NXH



#### Year 8 Appleton Girls

Emelia 8OG

Gabriella 8AWA

Lucy 8AWA



#### Year 9 Stockton

Sienna BA/ACA

Lucy 9GC

Holly 9EP/JR



#### Year 9 Appleton Beep test

Poppy 9 AES /Lily 9AES

Harriet 9 DAS

Keira 9MSM





*The Principal, Staff and  
Governors would like to take this  
opportunity to wish all our  
students, parents, carers and  
friends,  
a very happy Christmas  
and a peaceful New Year*



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---

**Principal**

Tim Long BA (Oxon)  
MA Ed, P.G.C.E, N.P.Q.H

**Headteacher Lower School**

Tracey Hatton  
BA Hons, P.G.C.E, N.P.Q.H

**Headteacher Upper School**

Keiron Powell  
BA Hons, QTS

**Registered Office.** Bridgewater High School, Broomfields Road, Appleton, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 3AE **Company No.** 9286883