

Newsletter No. 27: 28th February 2022

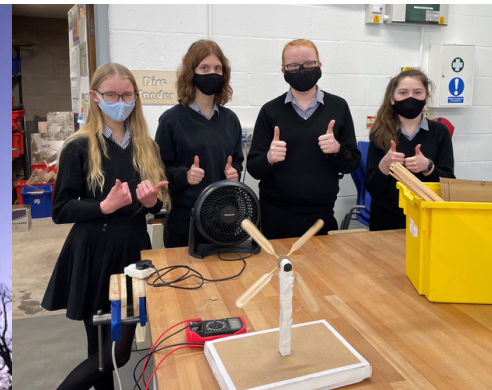
Welcome to Term 4 and what we hope will be a great Spring Term for all our academies.

We are, of course, sorry that Term 3 ended so abruptly, but thanks to Storm Arwen we suffered a number of power cuts on the final Friday of the term, which underlined the decision we made to close the MLP schools and college for the day. I do hope that you were all able to stay safe and that you weren't without too much disruption.

Amid some quite significant numbers of Covid cases at one point last term, there was much activity that indicated a return to 'normal service' in our academies. Pembroke Park Year 6 children enjoyed a residential visit to Shropshire where they took part in many outdoor activities, The Trafalgar School hosted an Engineering Day for our secondary students and at Wyvern St Edmund's a production of a Midsummer Night's Dream was an absolute delight for audiences over three nights. It's wonderful to see these kinds of events coming back into calendars after almost two years of the pandemic. Of course, decisions about scheduled events still have to be made at a very local level; Covid rates have fluctuated and whilst one academy might have seen few cases, another will have experienced an outbreak. We are hoping that the situation will improve this term but we are exercising caution with the relaxation of Covid 'rules' so that we continue to protect children, families and staff. Above all, we want to ensure that children and young people can receive their education in person. Please check your school or college newsletters and social media for updates to procedures.

With all good wishes for a happy and successful term.

Sarah Busby
Chief Executive Officer



Amesbury Archer



It has been good to take part in off-site trips again to really bring some great experiences back into the classroom.

Year Two enjoyed their visit from Gail of Wiltshire Wildlife. They learned how to categorise animals into vertebrate and invertebrates and took a closer look at different animal skeletons, exoskeletons and the different nests animals make. Outdoors, they thought about the hazards presented to British Wildlife, in particular hedgehogs. We constructed shelters for these animals in teams. They then created their own clay animals which was great fun!

Year 6 had a fantastic day at the Army Flying Museum to consolidate their learning about WW2. The children had a great time exploring some of the equipment and machinery and it was an opportunity for them to bring all the information they had learned to life.

Year 5 children loved their time at the Science Museum in Bristol. They took part in many of the interactive activities on offer and particularly loved the planetarium part of the visit.

All the children were fantastic ambassadors for the school and many members of the public made some very positive comments about their behaviour and the respect they showed other visitors at the exhibitions. As always, we are proud of their attitude towards their learning and to the people around them both in and out of school.



Bemerton St John



'Mabel' our School Dog

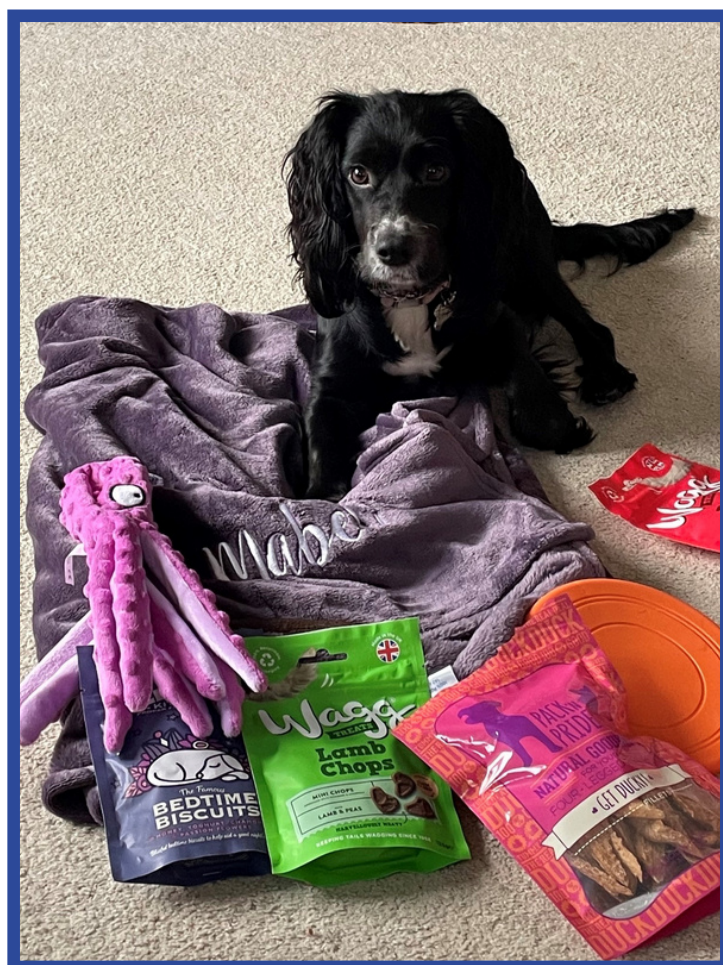
Mabel has been at Bemerton for nearly a year now and celebrated her 1st birthday on the 22nd of February. Since she was 8 weeks old, Mabel has spent the year becoming familiar with the children and parents at the school, as well as staff.

Every morning, Mabel welcomes staff with her waggy tail and enjoys walking with the children during break and lunchtimes. Mabel's biggest impact has been around improving individual's attendance in school by spending time with them when they have been in all week. One child's attendance increased from 85% to 96%.

Children also spend time reading to Mabel. This has had an impact on some children going from not reading at home at all to reading 5 times a week; their reward is then being able to read to Mabel. We recently organised a reading bookmark competition and Mabel is having her own bookmark made. Children will receive this as a reward when they manage to read over 400 times.

Over the year, Mabel has also helped children emotionally when they are feeling sad.

We look forward to seeing Mabel help more children during the rest of the academic year.



Pembroke Park



It was a very busy term for us at Pembroke Park!

Children's Parliament, led by Mustaqeem and Tori, worked on our new behaviour and anti-bullying policies and are already putting plans together for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

We introduced our new school dog, Tabbo, in the last week of term. The children can't wait to share their work, read their books and spend time with him.

Year 6 had an exciting week away on their residential to Culmington Manor participating in climbing, abseiling, kayaking, canoeing, an obstacle course, zip wire, archery, high and low-level rope courses and shelter building. The children were polite, supportive of each other and ambitious. We are very proud of you all!

Years 3 and 4 enjoyed a trip to the Ancient Technology centre learning about Viking games, houses and crafts. A fun day was had by all.

Hot Chocolate Friday remains a success with our "always" children being celebrated each week and treated to hot chocolate, a kit-kat, extra play and a round of applause in assembly. Well done to these fantastic role models.

And finally a big thank-you to our wonderful PTFA for putting together our rainbow display in our reception area, created by the children sharing positivity and love on their own love hearts.





The wellbeing of students and staff is always a big focus at S6C.

Our Mental Health Lead, Catherine Pennington, explains how students are supported to overcome barriers in their academic success and how to work towards being the best version of themselves.



I feel incredibly privileged to be in a position to provide direct support to our students who experience difficulties that may cause them to occasionally slip off track. I am part of a qualified team of professionals who work at varying levels inside and outside college to deliver support, from drop in emotional support sessions to longer term counselling.

Students can access support for pastoral issues, Mental Health support, physical wellbeing, safety and study. Getting early help is so important for our students and we try to encourage them to talk to us.

Catherine Pennington - Mental Health Lead



The Power of our Pup...

Our college dog, Fern, is 15 weeks old, she's a labradoodle and loves people. She started to attend college a few weeks ago to meet staff and students. There are many benefits our students will gain from having Fern around such as anxiety relief, help with socialisation and an increased general feeling of wellbeing. She will soon be a familiar friend in college for everyone to care for.

Yoga - Working on Body and Mind

Every week during enrichment, students have the opportunity to take part in yoga and it's proved to be a popular choice. This activity helps with sharpening concentration, encourages self-acceptance, promotes sound sleep and magnifies motivation.



Creative Careers visit with Wiltshire Creative

The Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form Music students went to Salisbury Playhouse for a set of workshops and a Q&A about the different roles within the Performing Arts industry. They took part in workshops with sound and lighting engineers, producers and stage construction experts, opening their eyes to behind-the-scenes roles that people don't normally get to see.

They were given tips and advice on how to get into the industry - work experience, asking for opportunities, apprenticeships and more - as well as specific advice in each of the areas they looked at during the day.

Our thanks go to the practitioners for giving us their time, and our partners at Wiltshire Creative for organising the day.

The New Forest School



Living and working in The New Forest is a privilege. Many of our children grow up on small holdings and farms in the local area and their families have worked in the forest for many generations. To understand how the forest is run and how this shapes the local landscape we need to understand how it works.

Our weekly 'Forest Friday' not only helps us learn outside the classroom but also helps us understand the workings of the forest. Each week a class spends a few hours engrossed in a variety of activities with their class teachers. These can range from geographical studies, science investigations and team building games. This term has seen this re-activated after a lull due to the pandemic. The children love it, and it is an important part of the curriculum for them.

We also invited The New Forest National Park rangers into school to deliver an assembly about the work they do to ensure we continue to protect the traditions and unique culture of the local area. The local community work with us to help our children understand the way commoners look after the animals, as well as speed awareness projects with Landford Parish Council.



The Trafalgar School



The Trafalgar School
at Downton

Term 3 was full of achievements across the curriculum and we are continuously proud of the dedication of our students and staff.

Cricket Success at Trafalgar

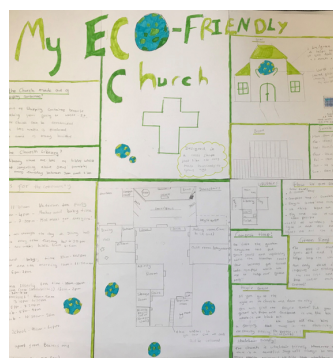
Congratulations to our Under 13 Girls cricket team who won the County Championship on Friday, 10th February and will head to Cheltenham for the regional finals in April.

Magna Engineering Challenge Trophy

Congratulations to Wyvern St Edmund's on winning the inaugural Magna Engineering Challenge Trophy. The competition, organised and hosted by The Trafalgar School, pitted teams of Year 9 students against each other in a number of engineering problem solving challenges. Our thanks to DSTL in supporting the event.

Cross-Country Success

Well done to Milly R and Fin R in being selected to represent Wiltshire at the National Schools' Cross-Country Championship in Kent. This is a great achievement, congratulations both!



Church Design

Year 7 were given the task of designing and building a modern Christian Church. Their criteria of having activities for the whole community, being environmentally friendly and include Christian Church features, brought a great range of vision.

0-5K in PE Lessons

The PE department are finding inspiring ways to motivate from picturesque runs off-site in Downton to taking the rowing machines outdoors on a sunny day.

Lego Club

Mr K brought his trademark enthusiasm to a new lunchtime Lego Club for which we have happily received many boxes of unwanted Lego from students/parents.

Wyvern St Edmund's



Wyvern St Edmund's
Learning Campus

We had a very busy term 3 at Wyvern St Edmund's with the highlight for many being our school production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' which combined the magical whimsy of this Shakespearean comedy with 80s musical classics, costume and styling. Productions provide life-long memories for those who take part; the commitment and talent of all students involved (including those working hard back stage) was impressive. We are so proud of everybody who played a part in bringing such a high-quality show together.



During the term we were also visited by The Right Reverend Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury, who oversees the Wiltshire Churches in the Diocese of Salisbury. Bishop Andrew led an engaging session with year 7 students that they found incredibly interesting and informative. It was fascinating to hear that there has been a Bishop of Ramsbury since the 10th century – even before William the Conqueror arrived!

Having met with senior staff, our chaplains and Head of RS, Bishop Andrew was really encouraged by the WSE vision for Christian formation which focusses on developing the whole person as well as their contribution to society. He was also really impressed with our wonderful year 7s.

Throughout the term, final refurbishment work was completed on our PE area. We are very much looking forward to students being able to enjoy these new facilities.