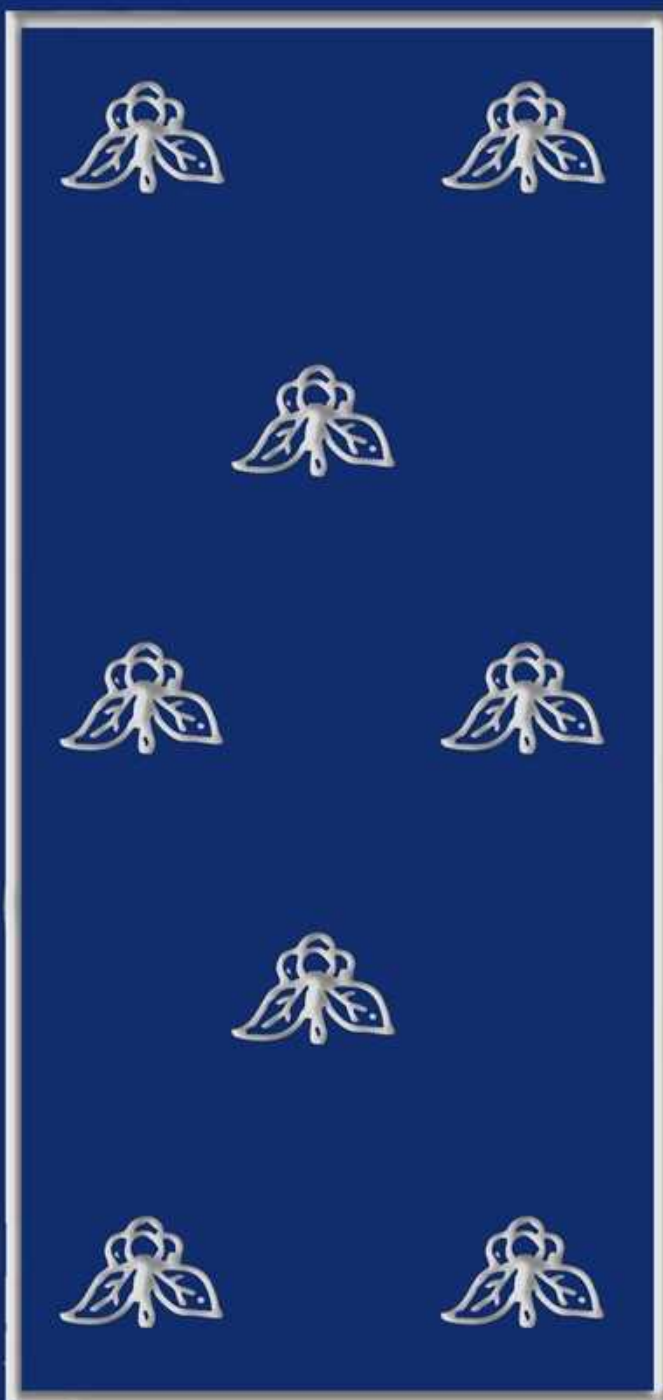


A highly detailed, white, Art Nouveau-style floral border surrounds the entire page. It features intricate patterns of leaves, vines, and various flowers, including what appear to be lilies and peonies. The border is particularly dense on the left side, framing a central emblem.

# THE WORDSWORTHIAN

2024







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# *Headmaster's Letter*

Every week for the past 2 decades or so I have drafted a short summary of what's on in school for governors - and in a somewhat contemplative mood this January, I had a look at what I had written all the way back in September 2002 when I first became Head here at Bishop's. The comments that I wrote at the foot of a weekly diary now constitute an historical archive, allowing a snatched glimpse round the curtain of time to see what was centre stage.

I had inherited a building site, of that there is absolutely no doubt. Pile-drivers were on site in the pouring rain to put the foundations of the Drama Studio in place through the gravels of the floor of the Avon Valley, but the 7 classrooms of the new Paddock Block were already there. Like an outsized lego kit, they had been transported onto site over the summer and lifted into place by an enormous crane. Now they were kitted out with the school's first interactive whiteboards, though access to them was via scaffolded steps on the West face of the block so that building work could proceed on the other side. Tile free they stood, dramatically pale against the greenery of the gardens



and the remaining temporary buildings in their shadow. The rebuild had begun.

Other comments in the diary give a clear picture of the school that I had just taken on. I noted that the school roll was now 805, with a mere 115 boys in Year 12, extracurricular was varied in nature but a bit patchy in coverage and judging by my script sport was almost completely dominated by Rugby. Of course what I was presenting was a particular and somewhat partial view from the top, but bearing in mind that I had already been at Bishop's



for four years as Deputy at that stage I was not a novice. My recollections also suggest that the picture that the diaries paint is a fairly representative one, and that the school now is a different beast, bigger, stronger, more outward-facing and more self-confident.

This magazine will reflect all of that I am sure; lots of stories of what our girls and boys have got up to over the months past as they have brought vigour and life to their school, The Close and Salisbury more generally. Wordsworth Magazine has always provided that combination of the historical and the anecdotal, lots of parochial detail together with occasional profound depth; though the format of the school magazine is different from Volume 1 Edition 1 (1915), it will still give a vibrant impression of school life this year.

Next year's diaries and Wordsworth Introduction will no doubt be written by your new Head, Matthew Morgan. He comes to Bishop's after a decade as Head at Sir Thomas Rich's, another very fine grammar school in Gloucester. As I anticipate new personal challenges after August, I will be leaving behind a school that is in fine form and fine spirit too, full of the most amazing young people that you could ever hope to meet. I wish Matthew – and everyone who is part of the Bishop Wordsworth's extended family – the very best of luck for the future.

As the Celtic blessing would have it; may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face and the rains fall soft upon your fields...

Enjoy Wordsworth 2024.

# Editor's Note.

Between an amalgamation of endless art coursework, messily annotated books (being left-handed, everything is guaranteed to be a bit smudged), a lot of coffee, and university admissions, the development of this magazine has been an ongoing effort. I have been so privileged with the opportunity to showcase the achievements and events of the past year, starting with my own photography of Sports Day 2023 and having concluded with this very article.

This year's magazine, although you may not already be aware, is an exceptional milestone in BWS history. Even since the recent addition of young women to the sixth form, there had yet to be a female student in the role of editor...Until now. In the early days (that being 1915 and onwards) members of staff had directed the magazine, rather than a student. A Miss N.M. Edwards, had stepped in to the role of editor after Mr E.S Davis (the original editor) joined the war effort in 1917. Miss Edwards had assisted the development of the altogether smaller, and quite humorous BWS Magazine. The role was passed down, eventually to the solely male Year 13 students, until myself.

When I joined Bishop's, vaguely knowing how to get here every morning, I was painfully shy. I wouldn't have even been able to



consider sending the myriad of messages to my fellow students, chasing up articles.

When I applied for the role, my leading idea was that I try to involve as many people from across the BWS community as possible. As the first female student to be editor, a large part of this was making sure that the vastly outnumbered population of girls at Bishop's felt as if they were heard. One of the biggest things that stood out to me when I joined this school, was how all the girls joining alongside me were in exactly the same situation. We were all thrown into a brand new and exciting, but equally terrifying, situation, but we had each other.

Whilst it took a few tries to get it right, I finally found my place among some of the most

welcoming and kind-hearted people I had ever met. I quickly joined the many trips to the market each Tuesday, spent lots of time in coffee shops, and all but moved into the art department.

Finally, I had found my footing at Bishop's.

The creation of this magazine has been a critical part of this. From the tedious hours spent finding fonts, to designing the layout you now see, the process of creating this piece of history has been an incredible opportunity. Whilst the bulk of the workload was meticulously organised by myself and the wonderful Miss White, it would not have been possible without the students and staff alike. This year has seen so many wonderful events, from cathedral services to theatre trips, and my note would not be complete without showing my immense gratitude to everyone who has made this dream of a magazine into reality.

Miss White; I will forever be grateful for your guidance, listening ear, and consistent reminders to take breaks and not forget to breathe. Thank you for putting up with me (both in our meetings and in lessons). My successor will be in good hands, and I wish you both the best of luck.

To the brilliant Mrs Mesnard;

being your mentee has been my claim-to-fame, and I have used it to boast on many occasions. Thank you for always being understanding, and for that one time you forgot to put my name on the 'Spinning-Wheel of Doom'.

To my fellow senior prefects, and Year 13s; thank you so much for your help, and you will soon see that my persistent messages were worth it. We've had our highs and lows, but I wouldn't change a thing. I know we will look back on all those awful photos with fondness, and smile. Thank you to Poppy Freer and Olivia Tarr, my fellow bookworms, for helping me with the completion of this magazine, and keeping my sanity relatively intact.

Over the past months, I have slowly compiled, edited, deducted from and added to the wonderful pages beyond this. I am immensely proud of everyone who has played a role in the creation of this piece of history, and I thank you all for your hard work.

It has been a privilege and an honour to give to you, 'The Wordsworthian' 2024.

Devon Batho, 'The Wordsworthian' Editor.

# *Letter from the Head Girl*



Moving from an all-girls' school was always going to be a jarring shift. I had no clue what the next two years would bring, apart from knowing that I didn't want any opportunities to pass me by.

Being, to put it bluntly, a 'nobody' with a terrible haircut in secondary school, making an impact was always my biggest goal, (A-levels were an optional bonus). Step one: changing my awful hair, step two, joining up to as many extracurriculars as humanly possible. My participation in the school play along with my stint in the girls' rugby team are those which I remember most vividly – stumbling blindly across stage in a pork-pie hat and being slammed repeatedly into the ground are not moments you forget. Despite the initial hesitation and humiliation,

however, these opportunities helped me make friends and understand the school community much better. By far though, my proudest achievement at this school was not just becoming a 'somebody' but being honoured with the position of head girl.

Representing this school has been a real joy; Most of all, I've enjoyed the public speaking aspect of my role, having the opportunity to talk in the cathedral on numerous occasions, as well as open evenings and the Year 7 dinners. I haven't tripped over my feet, hiccupped in the mic or accidentally sworn in front of a parent audience (yet), so this role has thoroughly squashed my public speaking fears. Before my term is up, I hope to implement some more changes in the school community, which would not be possible at all without the help of the wonderful senior prefect team.

Despite all this, however, I'll be the first to admit that my term as head girl has not always been a smooth-sailing success. Great Yews for example, normally a highlight for most senior prefects, singlehandedly destroyed my love for

camping. The fire wouldn't light, my tent collapsed, and on the way back to school we all got delightfully soaked. However, I did get to scare a few Year 7s so overall it was worthwhile.

All these experiences have made up the rich tapestry of my time here at Bishop's - a time which I would not have enjoyed to such an extent without the help and support of my peers and teachers. I've grown so much in this school, (most importantly, I've grown out my terrible haircut), and I look to the future with hope - that I will achieve even more in my position before this article goes to print, and that the next head girl will enjoy this experience as much as I have.

Poppy Freer, Head Girl.



# Letter from the Head Boy

Walking into Bishop Wordsworth's School for the first time in September 2019, smartly dressed in uniform, I was aware of this great school's academic track record, its reputation and its successful alumni. However, what I was yet to discover and appreciate was Bishop's amazing essence: the students, the teachers, the support staff - the community.



I remember being thirteen, I had just finished sitting my entrance exam and was leaving the hall, when an invigilator told me that if I were to get in, Bishop's would offer me opportunities that I would not get elsewhere. As I was walking out past the Head Boy board, I could never have imagined that my name would be engraved on there in four years time. As I wrote in my application, my aim as Head Boy has been to commit to enabling future generations of Bishop's pupils to flourish, the same way I was able to. To help strengthen the web that keeps us together and to offer an unsuspecting Year 7 the opportunities and chances I have been given at BWS.

My time in this position has been filled with magnificent events and accomplishments such as Great Yews, Year 7 House Dinners, the Rowathon, Culture Day and a huge amount of Inter-

House Competitions. There was also an event that truly stood out to me. I was invited by Dr Wood to read an excerpt from the Quran as part of our annual Carol Service in the Cathedral to celebrate the holy birth of Jesus. Reading a chapter from the Quran in such a momentous occasion, truly encapsulates Bishop's dedication to inclusivity and is a true testament of what the school stands for. Many of the fantastic achievements that have occurred this year, would not have been possible without Poppy, Nicole and Theon. A huge thank you to the eputies for organising the Winter Formal, one of the most popular occurrences of the year. In addition to that you are to credit for our work as a team running so smoothly and efficiently. I consider myself very lucky to have worked with both of you.

I want to extend a huge thank you to our Senior Prefect Team; your genuine engagement and brilliant contributions

have been crucial to the success we as a team have had throughout the entire year. Whether it has been organising House Assemblies, going on an extra Great Yews trip, - I appreciate the efforts and lengths you have gone to, to make this a year to remember.

To 2024's Year 13, who I have known for five years, thank you for creating a community in which all of us can flourish. Whether we are close friends or we just exchange "Hi"s and "Bye"s, getting to know you all has been one of the greatest joys of my life.

Finally, to the staff. We are infinitely indebted to you for the constant support, advice and guidance you have given us in this vital chapter of our life.

Dr Smallwood, who through our weekly meetings has fostered in us the type of leaders we want to be when we grow up; our mentors who have constantly given us opportunities to stretch ourselves and our knowledge; our support staff who are a critical part of the functioning of the school. To Mrs Jones, whose caring and kindhearted attitude has greeted us since the start of my time here - you have truly helped us become the people we are today.

Every accomplishment we achieve from this day forward, you are to credit for. Serving as Head Boy at Bishop Wordsworth's School has been the greatest honour and privilege and has allowed me to grow personally, academically and as a leader.

The experiences, challenges and accomplishments of this past year have left an amazing mark on my character, and have helped shape me into the person I am today.

It is a chapter of my life I will always cherish and draw inspiration from for the future - wherever it takes me.

I thank you for entrusting me with this great role and I cannot believe my time at Bishop's as a student is coming to an end. Needless to say that this will never constitute the end of my relationship with Bishop Wordsworth's School as I will always be a proud alumnus of this exceptional school, will be cheering on the Bishop Wordsworth's School name and will be honoured to offer any future support to my fellow Wordsworthians whether current students or alumni.

Youssef Elmorsy, Head Boy.



# The Deputies

Being Deputy Head Girl to such an empowering and inclusive school such as Bishop Wordsworth's has been such a privilege. As our time here ends, I wish to reflect on the journey that we have shared together, and our future individual paths. As a student, my time here has been nothing short of swift. Recollecting on the assemblies I attended as a Year 12 and hearing all the messages about A Levels intended for Year 13s, I thought, 'wow, I'm so glad that's not me, I have so much time!' I didn't realise it would go by so quickly.

The journey that has been sixth form has been such a whirlwind, and I'm so glad that as a year group we have been so close, and we'll be sharing and carrying so many fond memories into the future. Although time eludes us, being a senior prefect for this year group and the rest of the school has filled me with such immense gratitude that I have been supported and surrounded by such lovely people.

Coming to BWS for sixth form was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Although I have grown independently as a person, the warm feeling of representing and leading such a diverse community has made me recognise the importance of having a stable and supportive environment to grow. And no matter where we go in the future, we'll all have at least that one person from this community that we can rely on.

I actually feel quite emotional writing this because it reminds me of how quickly time is passing and how it feels quite hopeless sometimes trying

to make it slow down again. Attending Great Yews in July really solidified that feeling for me. Watching the Year 7s make memories in the woods, cooking (sometimes successful) meals and putting up tents, made me remember the simple joy of being a Year 7. It's bittersweet to realize that the very experiences that have shaped us are the ones that seem to have evaporated in the blink of an eye. I hope that when the Year 7s are our age, they will feel this same bittersweet feeling.

To the teachers of BWS, and especially those that have taught me. Your guidance has been a steady hand in my growth as a person, academically and emotionally. To those times where A levels felt like too much for me to handle, I thank you for sticking with me and being so understanding, whilst bestowing onto me the phrase, 'everything will be okay'.

As we go our separate ways, I thank BWS and our community for its hand in our personal development and academic excellence. I want everyone to embrace the speed of time, and although it might feel daunting at times (it definitely has for me!). I want everyone to be able to understand the importance of being present in the here and now, where personal achievement flourishes, relationships are formed, and smiles are shared.

Thank you, BWS, for this gift, I'm glad to have shared some of my time with you.

Nicole Wynn, Deputy Head Girl.



I have really enjoyed being Deputy Head Boy this year. Two of the highlights have been the Winter Formal and the mayor's inauguration. But my duties actually began in Year 12 with the Great Yews camping trip.

Having been to Great Yews in Year 7, going as the Deputy Head Boy brought back a lot of fun memories. I remember being disappointed when playing manhunt because my team got trapped within the thorn bushes. I was determined this second opportunity would be different. I scouted the area several times to ensure that as a hunter, I would have the best chance of success.

Unfortunately, the game was cancelled for one group due to heavy rain. Guttled, I prayed hard about the weather and sure enough, I was granted a second opportunity with 7W.

At night the huge Yew trees are incredible and hunting groups in the forest is disorientating and difficult. With the stars visible overhead and the moon casting an eerie light, it was a brilliant experience

I was responsible for the capture of many groups, which was very satisfactory. I was tracking a team through the fallen branches and



undergrowth, and I began to make spooky noises, with the aim to scare the group, tag them out and move on. However, as I approached, the group all laughed, and the intended horror of the moment evaporated.

The Royal Marines have always inspired me and cheerfulness in the face of adversity is a key value of theirs. Being hunted in the dark, by a sixth former twice your size is not an easy experience, yet this team were able to laugh. With strength in numbers, they understood that they had no reason to be afraid.

BWS has given me many things: one of which is a great group of friends. These friends have been invaluable. We have had laughs and made time to hang out. We have gone through both GCSE's and A-levels together and I am grateful for each one.

So, whoever you are, I would encourage you to build that group of friends. Bishop's is an incredible school and having people who you can lean on and who will support you, will make the harder days a little easier. And remember in those hard moments the power of cheerfulness and laughter.

Theon Evans, Deputy Head Boy.

# *Letter from the Chaplain*

I am writing this article on a particularly wet late February day. As I look out of my window from my eyrie in Chapel block, the Yard has a lake spreading from the Sports' Hall to the Sixth Form Study room and the table-tennis tables stand like bleak islands in the midst of the waters. Year 8s are walking through the waters rather than around them and classrooms will soon have the inimitable and unmarketable scent of warm, wet teenage feet.

Back in the Yard I suspect that I shall shortly spy Dr Smallwood take up his

broom in time-honoured fashion to start the thankless task of sweeping the water away. Up in the Golding Study Room, Year 13s are still waiting for university offers for courses they applied for 6 months ago. In the Chapel with Year 7s we have just lit the peace candle that has been lit every school day since Ukraine was invaded two years ago. Parliament has fallen into chaos over amendments to a call for a ceasefire in Gaza and politics on both sides of 'The Pond' feels aggressive, dislocated and determined





to root its identity in ‘wedge’ issues which it perceives will resonate with the voting public. I have heard the term ‘overwhelming’ in media and in school, reflecting a sense that we are helpless, that there are things bigger than us that we cannot change.

Ordinarily that could feel depressing. But I’m also writing the day after our annual school Eucharist in the Cathedral and as over 40 students begin to kick-start the Alabare Big Sleep campaign for our uncomfortable overnight stay in the Cloisters of Salisbury Cathedral. There too, you see, and we see, that there are things bigger than us, but that is a source of deep hope. It’s taken us 5 years to get back the tradition of the full

Eucharist, but that service had a palpable atmosphere of a whole school coming together and enjoying being the sum that is greater than our individual parts. Daniel Harpwood defied gravity with his incense bowl that swung 360 degrees; the Choir sang through their entire repertoire and more as the queues for blessings and Communion stretched down the Nave. For just over an hour we rested in the truth that there is something bigger than each of us individually that gives us meaning. With the Big Sleep campaign that raised over £4000 last year, and with the incredible Rowathon for Children in Need, we recognise that we cannot change things individually, but together Bishop’s is an incredible force for good that shouldn’t be under-estimated. I remain very proud to be Bishop’s Chaplain. Time and again outside speakers at ‘Big Questions’ have commented on how impressive you are, how deeply you think, how perceptively you listen. Don’t give into the general mood of helplessness, there are things that are bigger than us and that should give us hope not engender fear or disengagement. Together you can – and do – make a difference.

Dr. Rev. Wood, Chaplain.



# *Letters from the Cathedral Prefects*

Looking back at my time at Bishop Wordsworth's School brings me much joy- these past two very short years have probably been the most influential and important years of my life, and certainly my favourite years in education.

Despite joining Bishop's in Year 12 knowing only two others, I managed to find many places to fit in through the impressive array of clubs and societies. Though all of them proved very charming, my favourite is undoubtedly my shenanigans in the dramatic arts. I started off Year 12 by signing up for the school play 'Around the World in 80 Days', opting for a less important role to soften the blow of A Level studies- a move that was made in vain when, a week before curtain call, I was called to take on the role of female lead. Learning all the lines proved challenging, but apparently possible.

More importantly, rehearsals (and show nights) proved to be some of the most hilarious times at the school – even now I struggle to find laughs like I had in drama- most importantly it taught me to choose the things that make you happiest, you'll be very grateful to have something in your life that you can go to simply for some fun.

Cathedral prefect is a role I had had my eye on since the very first Cathedral service last September, and something I had been working towards for some time, which is why I was very pleased to get the role – “the best job” as Mr. Lloyd assured me. I feel very blessed to have been able to work with Dr. Rev. Wood, Olivia, and Mr. Lloyd- I really couldn't have asked for better accomplices. Even in the chaos of hundreds of swarming boys, I felt real pride, seeing, and hearing the services I'd helped to put together was truly rewarding,



it is a privilege I shall never forget and one I will cherish for a long time. Leaving such a great school behind will be difficult, so many memories in just two years! One of my fondest memories is my times at Great Yews, both with the senior prefects and with W House- getting to know people so much more closely and getting outside and having a good time under the stars. Despite moving on, I know that the community at Bishop's will persist, and the friends, acquaintances, and connections I've made will last.

I think where we are when we're 16, 17, and 18 years old really matters. It's such a crucial time of our lives, and I am glad that I got to spend it with all the beautiful people at this sixth form. I encourage everyone to be kind to others and more importantly, themselves.

When our lives are knocked off-course, it's easy to imagine everything as lost, but it is only the start of something new and good. As long as there is life, there is happiness. There is a great deal still to come. May God bless you all.

Daniel Harpwood, Cathedral Prefect.



Galatians 3:28 says, 'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'

This is one of my favourite verses, written by Paul for the church in Galatia. It is a simple reminder; you are all, always, welcome in God's house. Whether it be the Cathedral, a home church, a local church, your chapel, wherever; you are welcome. There is life, there is joy and there is peace in Jesus' name, and there is no distance that you can stray from him that he will not be waiting for you to come back with open arms.

Olivia Wordley, Cathedral Prefect.



# Senior Prefects



**Poppy Freer**  
Head Girl



**Youssef Elmorsy**  
Head Boy



**Devon Batho**  
'The Wordsworthian' Editor



**Theon Evans**  
Deputy Head Boy



**Nicole Wynn**  
Deputy Head Girl



**Homam Khasreen; Chair of  
Charities & Student Representation**



**Daniel Harpwood**  
Cathedral Prefect



**Olivia Wordley**  
Cathedral Prefect



**Oscar Gale**  
Societies Prefect



**Ben Phillimore**  
Chair of Lower School Council



**Luke Payne**  
Chair of Middle School Council



**Yingying Zhao**  
Chair of Sixth Form Council

# 2023-2024



**Will Pischel**  
J House Captain



**Millie Gurney**  
J House Captain



**Otto Jenner**  
M House Captain



**Edward Klein**  
M House Captain



**Matilda Jeffery**  
O House Captain



**Alex Facey**  
O House Captain



**Victoria Herbert**  
P House Captain



**Will Durrant**  
P House Captain



**Anna Hayakawa**  
W House Captain



**Patrick Dulong**  
W House Captain



**Tim Blackburn**  
Senior Library Prefect



**Gianpiero Greatorex**  
Committee Prefect

# Jewell

My stint as house captain kicked off at Great Yews, where tasked with the challenge of setting up tents and lighting fires. The lack of expertise amongst us proved to be a source of enjoyment for all. However, a 10-man teepee, forbidden ethanol gel and a fair few entertaining hours later J house 'masterchef' was underway.

Returning to school, I was presented with the less favourable task of conducting house assemblies. Thanks to Mr Green, they have taken a more structured form this year, focusing on important themes like respect and resilience. We've had our fair share of awkward silences and some questionable improvisation, but I hope you've caught the vital messages amidst the chaos. Nonetheless, we tried our best to maintain house spirit and unity through multiple quizzes, a suspenseful game of split or steal and plenty of freddos (apparently a trait that we've become known for).

House competitions have also taken a step up this year with one almost every week, an abundance which is mostly thanks to M house captain, Ed K, who never missed a chance to propose yet another event during our Monday house meeting. But I'm proud to say J house has truly outdone itself, reigning champion at the top of the leaderboard as I type this. Persistence and involvement has been our greatest trait, participating in every event so far. Special shoutout to 7J for their unwavering commitment.

However, it is just not participation keeping us on top. J house has been racking up gold medals left and right. From excelling in photography to owning the Year 9 rugby and breezing

through the senior maths challenge, we're in the running the first time in many years.

On the topic of competition, the Year 7 skittles evening proved to be a huge success. Aside from the heated competition my highlight was witnessing how both individuals and the form as a whole had united since our first encounter at the form supper. It was great to see the evolution from awkward introductions, to shared laughter and camaraderie over strikes and spares. Another shoutout, to Joe whose brilliant scoring rendered me and Will job-less and free to watch the event.

Now, as we wrap up this memorable year, I hope you'll take away some of the lessons, laughs and team spirit we've gained throughout. Here's to more great memories and victories still on the horizon!

- Millie Gurney, J House Captain.





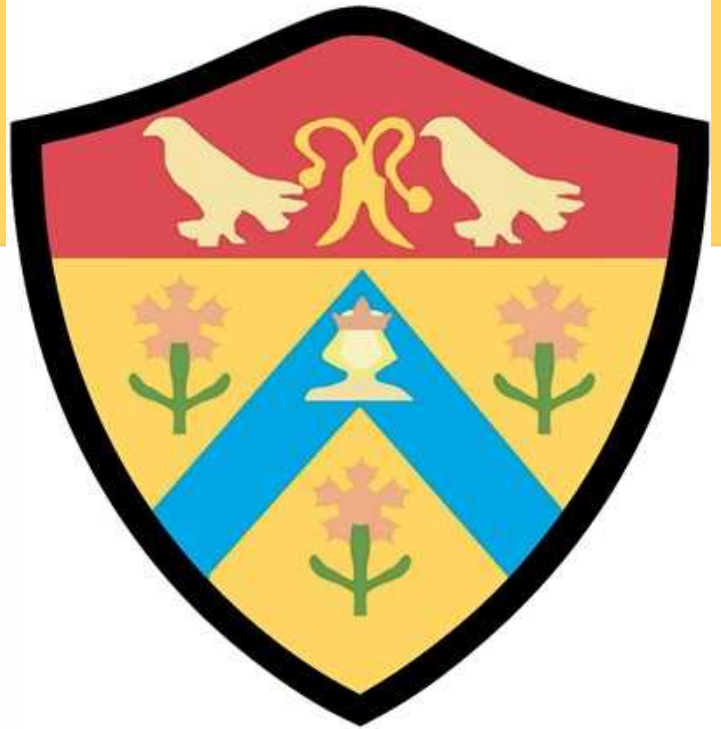
If I were even remotely close to being compared with those that stood where I am now, then I would be more than proud. Like most of us, I have aged and matured with this prestigious school. From watching with awe as Sam Higson ate a pasty whilst putting on an iconic stone-soup assembly, to Jon Samuel performing the greatest Africa by Totto this school has ever seen, Jewell house has always provided another dimension to school life. Unfortunately, I have not managed to defeat a pasty mid-assembly, nor can I orchestrate a band, however I hope that the time Millie and I have had in charge was not in vain.

Between the time I spent doodling in Religious Studies, Year 7, I heard my RS teacher tell my class: 'You don't need to be special to be a part of Bishop's'- it is the most relatable quote I heard through all my years here.

In truth, Bishop's is what you make it. The atmosphere and culture at BWS are unparalleled to our neighbouring schools and the opportunities here are as good as you will ever get!

Within two years of being at BWS, I was propelled into the gauntlet of some of the most competitive sports at BWS. Captaining the national athletics team, running in two national cross-country competitions and being a starter in the rugby A-team all by the end of Year 8, I grasped hold of as much sport as I could.

Any description of BWS sport being less than a thrill is completely and utterly wrong. Last year the



development of our sixth form football team was massive. Competing deep in the national ESFA cup was crazy, being a starting midfielder aside some very competent players was a privilege and despite going out in the 5th knock-out round, it was an honour. It has been amazing to see how far the football at Bishop's has improved from effectively being a second-tier sport in previous years to starting to make the front page of BWS sports socials.

If I could give any piece of advice for younger students, it would be to take every opportunity available. My first trip in Year 7 to Great Yews will forever be a great experience, we left on one of the hottest days of the year which naturally made our tiresome 3-hour walk more of a pilgrimage.

Great Yews is a tradition upheld since a time before many of our teachers were even students and I can only ask and wish the annual manhunt game where prefects would dress up and chase Year 7s in the dark with masks and firecrackers will forever continue.

- Will Pischel, J House Captain.

# Martival

Attempting to feign a basic knowledge of how to light a fire during our Great Yews experience with the Year 7s, it dawned upon us just how much we'd changed since we were in that position. Six years ago, we were sat in that very same clearing in the woods, crunching on some not-quite-cooked spaghetti, having a fantastic time with our friends. While our bushcraft and adventure skills seem to have remained somewhat limited, our involvement in Martival house has allowed us to develop skills we wouldn't have dreamed of before, like participation and leadership. Having sat through countless assemblies of our predecessors – some a lot more organised than others – it seems difficult to believe that we now have the opportunity to lead our own house, Martival.

Throughout the year, Martival house has epitomised important values such as participation, resilience and respect. We started our roles with a house assembly which involved attempting Guinness World Records. While our Lego-stacking or jelly-eating isn't

record-breaking (yet), M house learned to value the importance of having a go and the value it can add to the house competition and our personal Bishop's experiences. In fact, as a house, we have participated in every one of the house events organised by prefects this year. Participation was evident last summer at Sports Day, where the sportsmanship and teamwork displayed by all set a very high standard, which will hopefully one day be matched by our athletic success. Our accomplishments extended far beyond the sports themselves. In true Martival spirit, we stepped in for peers when needed, pushed ourselves out of our comfort zone and consistently celebrated each other's involvement, irrespective of the outcome.

To our benefit, our introduction of the Y7/8 Get Active competition has given M house the opportunity to be rewarded for our commitment, rather than relying too heavily on individual talent. Over October half-term students in M house submitted a very impressive 15 days of activity. The Philosophy Competition and Psychology Murder Mystery were both won by Martival in admirable team performances. We are confident that there will be plenty more of these with the vast number of competitions still to come next year.

Martival to us is not just about winning the house cup. It's about building a sense of belonging and community, which we think is something unique about Bishop's. October saw the renowned Year 7 skittles evening take place and, six years on, it remained the welcoming environment which we remember so clearly as one of





We are confident that this is a quality of Martival which will continue when we sadly have to pass on our roles this summer.

We are excited to see what the rest of the year has in store for us and to celebrate M house's return to its former greatness at sports day and beyond.

- Edward Klein and Otto Jenner, M House Captains.



# Ward

We couldn't have asked for a better start in our role as house captains, collecting the house cup on behalf of Ward and rewarding all efforts from last year. Seeing Ward's name engraved on the house cup for the first time proved to us that while we may lack the history of the other houses, we have a strong foundation to build upon.

The introduction of the new house system has presented a wide range of competitions from a myriad of subject areas. Whether this be a maths challenge, or photography- as a house we have put our best foot forward. The much-anticipated interhouse rugby competition saw Ward take top spot in Sixth form and in the Year 7/8 table tennis competition Ward once again came out on top in a win captured by the BWS houses Instagram account. The clip that has since had over 100k views encompasses the values of the house system and reflects our view on what it means to be in Ward. The crowd of supporters and cheers once the final point had been won showed the sense of belonging and community that it means to be in Ward.



We hope that this sense of community has been reflected in our house assemblies. Our attempts at creating a sense of togetherness have been varied, whether this be by the singing of the new house hymn, 'Love Divine all Love's Excelling', playing a game of split or steal - to show the values of respect- or having each year play each other in a game of 'Killer'. Our aim was to bring Ward together, gaining newfound respect for one another all while learning we may have a basketball prodigy in our midst.

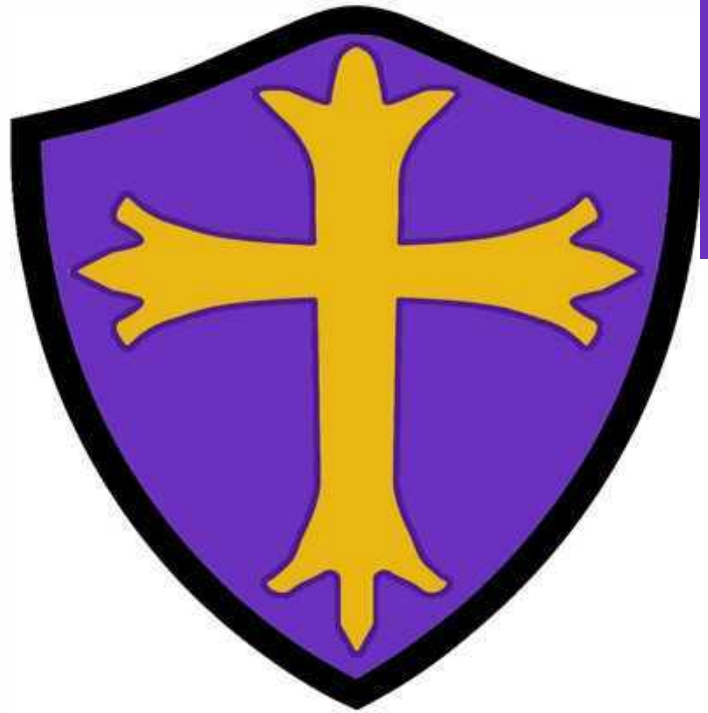
Year group visits from our Lower and Middle school prefects engendered house spirit, and created familiarity, integrating sixth form and lower school and making role models for members of Ward to look up to. A significant part of our time as house captains was devoted to the integration of the new Year 7s as they embarked on their journey at Bishop's. It was amazing to see the growth and bonds formed by the new generation of Ward and we have no doubt in the future, Ward will continue to flourish. We had a great opportunity to experience a long-standing tradition through Great Yews. The trip taught many people





the values of teamwork as well as new skills including putting up tents, lighting a fire and most importantly, playing the game of manhunt. This ended an excellent year for the future of Ward, with their return to school being met with the lifting of the house cup.

It has been a privilege leading Ward house this year and if there is one thing that being House Captains has taught us it is the value of taking steps outside of your comfort zone. Many of you have done so this year and through this will have discovered talents you didn't know you had.



As we embark on our paths beyond Bishop's, we hope you continue to put your best foot forwards, taking part and jumping at every opportunity offered. Continue to raise the roof with the house hymn and we hope to see the Ward name engraved once again. "OnWards and UpWards"

- Anna Hayakawa & Patrick Dulong, W-House Captains.



# Poore

We don't quite know where to start. It is not a lack of noteworthy achievements, but rather an abundance of them that makes our task so difficult.

Attempting to whittle the accomplishments of our house over the course of the year to just one snappy line or phrase is near to impossible, and we believe that in attempting to do so, would struggle to do justice to the house and the feats of its members.

Sports day was a particular accomplishment from our house, as we breezed past the competition to a comfortable win. Many individual athletes collected a considerable number of points for Poore house and of course their achievements need to be recognized.

However, we are particularly keen to praise the unsung heroes of the house, those people who were put into an event that they didn't necessarily want to do, but did it, giving it their all and earning us points. Often, these points can be the difference between houses, and will have played a crucial part in our success.

This serves as a testament not just to the sporting prowess of our house (although it obviously shows that we are the sportiest) but to our house's camaraderie and team spirit.

One of the things that we have most

enjoyed doing as house captain was accompanying the Year 7s on their Great Yews trip. It was refreshing to be outside around campfires, disconnected from the hustle and bustle of school life. Some questionable choices of food were brought, although ironically it was the sixth former's who came least prepared, with a couple (including Will) having to go to bed hungry. After a slow start to the house competition in September, with a slightly embarrassing almost 0% attendance rate to any house competitions, Poore house rallied together. We collected points in every single house competition through October and did really well in the interhouse touch rugby tournament with Year 7 coming second.





Throughout this academic year, we were thoroughly impressed by all of our house's achievements and involvement in all different co-curricular competitions and activities. Ranging from Year 7 Great Yews in the summer of 2023 to interhouse music competitions to interhouse touch rugby, not to mention sports day! Needless to say we had lots of fun and could not be more proud to be the House Captains.

- Will Durrant and Victoria Herbert, P House Captains.



# Osmund



Whilst neither of us have been with BWS for long, we hope the impact that we have on the community of the school does last for a long time. Within the house this year we have highlighted the importance of taking part and putting yourself forward for things that may be out of our comfort zones. Our house assemblies haven't always been perfect and whilst neither one of us (one more than the other) feel particularly comfortable presenting to the entire house- it's our example of what you can do to make a community stronger whilst still putting yourself out there.

Whilst our position within the house system wasn't brilliant when we first gained our captaincies, we as a house have made a brilliant start the academic year, getting points on the scoreboard. Whilst we've been fairly successful on placements, this hasn't always been the case, however, it has been shown that

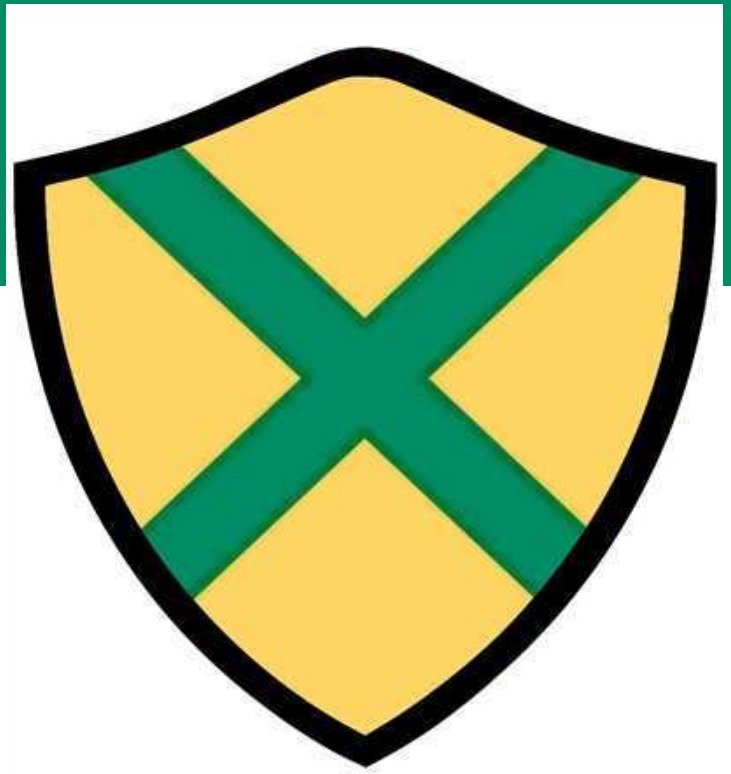
when we needed to, we can act well as a team and put in the hard work to get things done. Whilst neither of us could reflect on our O house supper in Year 7, a few of the other prefects could and even though we flooded half the canteen and dropped our dinners on the floor, everyone enjoyed themselves and it will be something remembered by the Year 7s when they do a full circle moment and realise they are now the prefects attending another O house dinner- hopefully making successful speeches and not washing out all the new starters! During that evening, we, along with our team of prefects, worked hard and worked together to make things run semi smoothly even if it did not always seem that way. Whilst we mopped up the floor, others would be distracting the new parents making everything seem fairly under control, although they saw straight through the shields and discovered the



panic in the face of the staff on duty with us, they saw the fun and laughter in the turn of events and saw us for what we really are- students that are trying to help and better the lives of their children.

Our Great Yews wasn't the typical trip that everyone talks about, we didn't get to play the midnight game in the dark, we didn't get to stay up super late, and we couldn't even walk there to begin with. We got absolutely drenched from the get-go. I don't think it's anyone's favourite activity- camping in the pouring rain and yet we did it, and we did it together. The trip was slightly hectic with tents being soaked before they even got put up- fires not really staying alight and not many knowing how to put up their own tents that they had brought with them (although that part is deemed to be the norm for the trip).

It was a great experience to boost everyone's confidence around one another- it showed many of the Year 7s (now 8s) as brilliant leaders in the making and will one day make fab prefects. As they didn't get to stay up late, we got a lovely morning call at 5:30 to get up and get on with our day- although not many of the prefects were thrilled about the early start, the boys were full of energy. Whilst some of us had a catered breakfast- a healthy smore, others had to help start take down the tents we spent so long putting up the night before. The morning showed great comradery within



of teamwork going forward and getting home.

Coming into this year and our captainships, we hadn't got a lot to go on for what our roles would entail and what to expect when we got offered the positions. It is safe to say there has been challenges along the way but hopefully we have done at least an alright job- we have both thoroughly enjoyed being Osmund house captains and we hope that we can lead the house to success this year!

- Alex Facey and Matilda Jeffery, O-House Captains.



# A Look at the Lower School

## **Induction Process.**

From day one, we had the new Year 7s busy with different activities, aiming to welcome them into the BWS family. It all started back in June, with the house suppers, where the house captains and prefects gave speeches introducing themselves and the school to the new year group.

This was followed by different games and activities, including football, rugby and basketball—all whilst the parents and prefects very much enjoyed the evening and the students were looking forward to starting life at BWS. Furthermore, students participated in a team building day where they learnt team building with their form, spoke to different people, and learnt new skills. The induction day was designed to help welcome students into the school, familiarise themselves with the school and start to learn the way of life at BWS.

We encouraged the students to make new friends, in the hopes of making the transition period easier as they settled into school. Shortly after the October break, Year 7 students were asked to complete a questionnaire about their transition period. For the majority, the favourite event was the team building day.

With this helpful feedback, the lower school team will be able to improve the



transition for the next roster!

## **Get Active House Competition.**

The Get Active house competition ran from the 16th October to the 31st of October 2023. It was open to all Year 7s and its main objective was to get students active and competitive. The more time students spent active, the more points they would earn for their houses and the greater chance their house had at winning the competition.

Students would need to get active, doing any sport or activity that they enjoyed, then they would need to report their activity on a form that was designed by Ed Klein (Year 13). Small prizes were presented to the winning form and to those who showed particular participation were also rewarded. At the start, M house started off pretty impressive leading the Year 7 leader board.

By the 23rd October, Year 7 alone had recorded over seven days of activity – with J house (4073 minutes) overtaking

M house (3179 minutes), with W in third (2451 minutes), O in 4th (2211 minutes) and P last with (1449). As of 26th October, J house was still in the lead with 5308 minutes, M house following with 5010, O house next with 3301, P house with 3265 and finally W house with 3072. On Tuesday 31st at 21:00, the contest closed and the results were in! In first place was J house with 20307 minutes, followed by M house, with 11538, third was P with 8355, O had 7735 and finally W managed to record 5106! There were over 178 students in Year 7 who submitted results, with over 1353 responses and 11.5 weeks overall submitted. Finally, we would like to congratulate those who recorded the most minutes: 1st Christopher W 7M (4065), 2nd was Benjamin S 7J (3716) and 3rd was Carlos C 7O (2597). Very well done everyone!

### **Sports Day 2023**

In May, the Year 7 (now Year 8) was divided into two groups, A+B and C+D, where they competed in many different sporting activities such as the hurdles, discus, relay, long jump and so much more. Poore were the winners with a total of 151 points and the majority of these points came from the long jump, javelin and the 200m race. Up next was Martival with a total of 148 points and their main contributions were the 1500m race, 20m race and the discus. Ward followed on 145 points, then Jewell on 113 with Osmund having 108. Up next was Ward, with 416 points and their majority coming from the 800m race, discus and long jump. Following

was Martival with 341 points, then Osmund having 308 points and finally Jewell with 295 points.

I would like to congratulate all of the athletes who participated in sports day and I would like to thank everyone who was involved with making the day a huge success! Now finally, the final results...in first place of the 2023 BWS Year 7 (now Year 8) Sports Day were Poore with, in second was Ward, then Martival followed by Osmund and finally Jewell. Congratulations to Poore!

- Ben Phillimore, Chair of the Lower School Council.





On the 6th of July 2023 me and the rest of 7P set off on a 6 mile walk to Great Yews. I had quickly found some common interests between me and some of the six formers and had some debates on some of the current upcoming F1 drivers. Once we had got to the camp, I set up our group's tent. Then it was time to start cooking dinner. We cooked some delicious burgers, and we had some fun competing with the group next to us on who made the best food - it was after decided that Douglas Grill (our team) won. After the dishes were washed, it was time to play manhunt in the dark. My group won and then Mr Loughlin took us stargazing. We saw many constellations. Then it was time to get some sleep. In the morning, we woke up and cooked breakfast, which consisted of

bacon, sausages, and beans. We washed up and then packed up the tent. The walk home was tiring and long and after Great Yews we got back to school.

- *George C 8P*

We set off on a cloudy Monday afternoon, everyone buzzing with excitement.

Surprisingly the two-and-a-half-hour walk to Great Yews flew by - maybe because of our eagerness – and before we knew it, we arrived.

After this, we started making food. I had a gourmet meal of instant noodles waiting for me to devour. Lighting our fire was the trickiest part, as we either smothered the embers with wood or left them with not enough of it. Despite being challenged by Mr Oldham to use one match, our cooking group burned through (pun

intended) around 20 of them. Eventually we were able to put our water to a bit of a boil and poured it into our noodle pots: even this did not seem to go to plan, so we survived off of snacks for the rest of the night.

My favourite activity of the trip was the game of manhunt. We went into groups, were assigned a sixth former and were guided into the forest. The aim of the game was to last 10 minutes without being caught by a prefect or teacher. As it was so dark in the forest that I could not see in front of me, I was lucky that I did not bump into one of the towering trees around me! Unfortunately, we were found and jumped but it was incredibly fun, nonetheless.

Before going to sleep, we gazed up at the stars and the night sky. We could notice a

lot more stars at camp compared to home because there was a lot less light pollution at Great Yews.

- *Muaz T 8M*



Last year I took part in Great Yews and had great fun with all the activities that we did along the way. My favourite part was easily the manhunt, where we were sent out into the darkness with a sixth former per group whilst the remaining sixth formers hunted us, and my group being the only successful one to escape their capture. We also learnt skills like pitching tents and re-packing them. It brought together a real sense of teamwork and community. It was a great opportunity for me to make new friends and get to know some of our house representatives. Overall a great experience and I hope that sometime in the future I will be able to use some of my new found skills

- *Vladislav S 8J*



# Religious Studies: A visit to the Gurdwara.

Bishop Wordsworth's School organised an enriching trip to a local Gurdwara in Southampton. This opportunity was like no other and provided us with the ability to immerse ourselves within the Sikh faith and culture and have a deeper understanding of the religion which we are studying for GCSE exams.

During our visit we placed coverings on our heads and entered the Gurdwara where we removed our shoes and washed our hands to show respect and follow the Sikh traditions.

After this we walked into the main hall of the Gurdwara where we were greeted by Granthi's who kindly read part of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji for us and provided us with Karah Prashad. We were also taught about what festivals and ceremonies take place, such as the Amrit (Initiation) ceremony, as well as being able to have the chance to learn how to properly wrap and place a pagri (turban) on our heads. Afterwards we were provided with an appetising vegetarian meal in the Langar Hall, and then completed Sewa (selfless service) in the kitchens of the Gurdwara.

Throughout the visit we were taught and informed about Sikhi creating an enlightening experience which has helped



in our personal understanding of the religion. This was a first-hand example of the faith and the Sikh way of life; giving us an unforgettable experience which reinforced our understanding of the practices and beliefs that are upheld within this relatively young, major world faith.

- Sam Saneie and Thomas Sheeley.

# YEAR 9: PENCELLI TRIP

In mid-January, 50 of us, accompanied by a handful of teachers, embarked on a journey by coach to a spacious house nestled in the remote Welsh village of Pencelli. Throughout the week-long excursion, we embraced the winter chill, scaling Pen y Fan, the tallest mountain in Brecon, amidst bone-chilling  $-12^{\circ}\text{C}$  temperatures. Despite the cold, the clear skies offered breathtaking views of the neighboring peaks and surrounding landscape. In addition to conquering the mountain, we engaged in thrilling activities such as canoeing, where many of us ended up soaked and shivering, as well as rock climbing and cave exploration, the best activity which involved clambering through tight spaces and being submerged neck-high in cold, fast flowing water. The highlight for many was the exhilarating "Dingle Descent," where we were tethered together and sent down a dark valley river, relying on teamwork to navigate the rushing waters. However, the

memorable moment was our unguided hike, which took an unexpected turn, leading us astray to an industrial estate an hour away from Pencelli, resulting in a call for the minibus. Overall, the wintry conditions provided a unique and memorable experience, distinct from the summertime adventures typically associated with such trips, adding an extra layer of challenge and excitement to our activities.

- Charlie Whitworth.



# A message from the Sixth Form

As the Chair of our school's Sixth Form Council, I am honoured to play a pivotal role in representing the voices and concerns of all sixth formers. This position has allowed me to receive valuable feedback to actively contribute to the improvement of our school environment.

One of the fundamental aspects of our council's success lies in the dedication and active participation of our members, including myself leading alongside Homam as the Head of Student Representation. This year the Sixth Form Council is an entire team of Year 12 students, allowing the Year 13s the space they need to focus on their demanding schedules.

As the Sixth Form Council, regular council meetings are held along with the open forum to provide a platform for everyone to express their thoughts, share concerns, and propose ideas.

Our goal is not just to address concerns, this year I have made it our priority to actively contribute by resolving issues and implement ideas for the positive transformation of our school experience.

One concern that was raised in the council was the state of the common

room. Listening to these concerns, we initiated a project to transform the common room into a more communal and inviting space. This undertaking involved the removal and replacement of broken tables and collaboration with our talented A-Level Artists to create vibrant murals. Not only will this brighten up the space but also create a welcoming and well-kept common room space.

Another issue we addressed was the lunchtime queues. Recognising the time constraints of our busy schedules, sixth formers are now permitted to access the canteen 10 minutes before the rest of the school. This small adjustment has had a significant impact, allowing students to efficiently get their meals and reach their commitments promptly.

Being the Chair of the Sixth Form Council has been a rewarding experience, allowing me to witness the positive impact of our collective efforts on the daily lives of our fellow sixth formers. The projects we have undertaken so far are just the beginning. Together, as a united council, we will continue listen, innovate, and advocate for the betterment of our sixth form experience.

- Yingying Zhao, Chair of the Sixth Form Council.

# STUDENT REPRESENTATION



A new role that was created this year, Head of Student Representation is a role that I was so excited to get stuck in to, as I was sure there was a great amount of work to be done to enhance the student voice, and to ensure that students' thoughts and ideas were being heard.

Creating a bridge between the three councils has done wonders this year, as we have now created a cohesion between them that allows us to aim for change that is positive for all students, rather than just a certain section of the school. Of the main achievements we have had this year are re-instating the trust in students to use their form rooms during lunch, which had previously been something that wasn't considered. We have also managed to introduce a more reformed and just Positive Rewards

System through Bromcom points, as well as beginning to tackle the use of Negative Behaviour Points in different scenarios. All of this couldn't have been done without the three Heads of Councils: Benjamin Phillimore (LS), Luke Payne (MS), and Yingying Zhao (SF).

It is also without a doubt that this couldn't have been done without all the students who take part in the councils, and show up to meeting regularly to share their thoughts and voice how they are feeling about the school. I truly hope this role will be carried forward, as it has proven this year to make a great difference to the student body and their time at school.

- Homam Khasreen, Chair of Charities and Student Representation.





# GeoSoc

Geography is not just colouring in!

This year has been filled with many activities without the colouring pencils from Years 7-13 and in between. First of all, we had the Geography Bee, the first house competition and arguably the most advertised, with a record 25 posters or maybe 50?

It was inevitably very successful and got Years 7-9 tackling human and physical place name terms from metropolis to tsunami to the likes of Djibouti, Mississippi, Liechtenstein and the surprisingly difficult Severn. Many did well, with the best score of 27/30; well done! Geography club have similarly enjoyed learning and teaching each other about the world, with flags being a favourite feature. Their knowledge is outstanding, with many out-competing the sixth formers... I am sure they will flourish with the GCSE and A Level course, which I recommend for everyone.

All of our talks this year have been insightful and beneficial ways to read around the subject covering geography's socioeconomic, political and environmental aspects. To start, we had Professor Piers Ludlow (yes, politics society he was yours). Still, his lecture was incredibly interesting for geography students as it focused on post-Brexit Britain and the future, something we should all be aware of. With the political side of geography ticked off, we moved on to the environment with oceanographer Damon O'Brien, who covered climate change, land reclamation, geography in university and everything in between. Following this, many interested biologists joined us for Dr Wiedenmann's talk on coral reefs and bleaching. Next was the economy, specifically the economic impact of sustainability with Dr Frost, who uncovered his work with wind farms in Scotland and gave insight into the financial cost of saving our planet, planning and the obstacles faced by local conflict.

Following this, Geography club and some lucky members of geography society learnt about Salisbury's River Park and its economic and environmental costs and benefits from a talk by Andy Wallis. Finally, the social aspect of geography was touched, a lovely end with a link to our regeneration topic with Dr Kashreen's talk on the dimensions of sustainable architecture. So, big thank yous to all the speakers and everyone involved. Thank you, politics, society and BAYS, also...

Evidently, geography covers all aspects of society; it covers people's lives, living situations, the economy and its fluctuations (Tesco meal deal?!), politics and the environment. So, before you let out your geography stereotypes, we are all geographers at heart and should be more like geographers. We act and endeavour to improve lives and our world, with the absolute truth being that action is key.

Before I end, I would like to provide an inspirational story about action. Anna, Jules and I competed in a competition run by the Chamber of Commerce on climate change; we were on a time crunch and had two months less than people from other schools, so it wasn't looking great from the start. But we put our heads together and remarkably ended up winning with our idea of reducing local food waste. So, this is evidence that you should just try things, and on a geographical note, try things that will help yourself, the world, and others; you never know if you will be successful. So, we don't just colour; we find solutions, take action with the aim of making our world better and brighter.

Some final advice to the next Year 13s: Use ranging poles in the next open evening. Please, thank you, and never give up on your dreams.

- Charlotte Abbott.

# HistSoc

History Society, it turns out, is not history (figuratively, the talks are still History).

With four talks already and another talk coming up next month, it's been a strong start to the year that we're ready to build-on. Even the Society Committee has grown from 5 members to 7! With a budget, a (fairly) organised Excel spreadsheet, an Instagram (@bwshistory) and a resident graphic designer, the committee has been able to organise and advertise a range of talks and, more importantly, secure the biscuit supply.

To kick off the year, our first talk was in collaboration with the PolSoc for a talk by Professor Ludlow, head of International History at LSE, on the EU. Since, we've had a talk by Professor Mark Bailey, from the University of East Anglia, – who turned out to be a Historian one of our Year 13s had



examined for their History Coursework - on the Impact of the Black Death, a talk by Professor Steven Gunn, from Merton College, Oxford, on the Causes of Tudor Rebellions and a talk by Professor Bryan Ward-Perkins, retired professor at Trinity College, Oxford,

– who also turned out to be another Year 13's Coursework Historian. We've been really pleased with the turnouts, averaging around 20, and the quality of questions students have asked. We should also probably reiterate that there are biscuits.

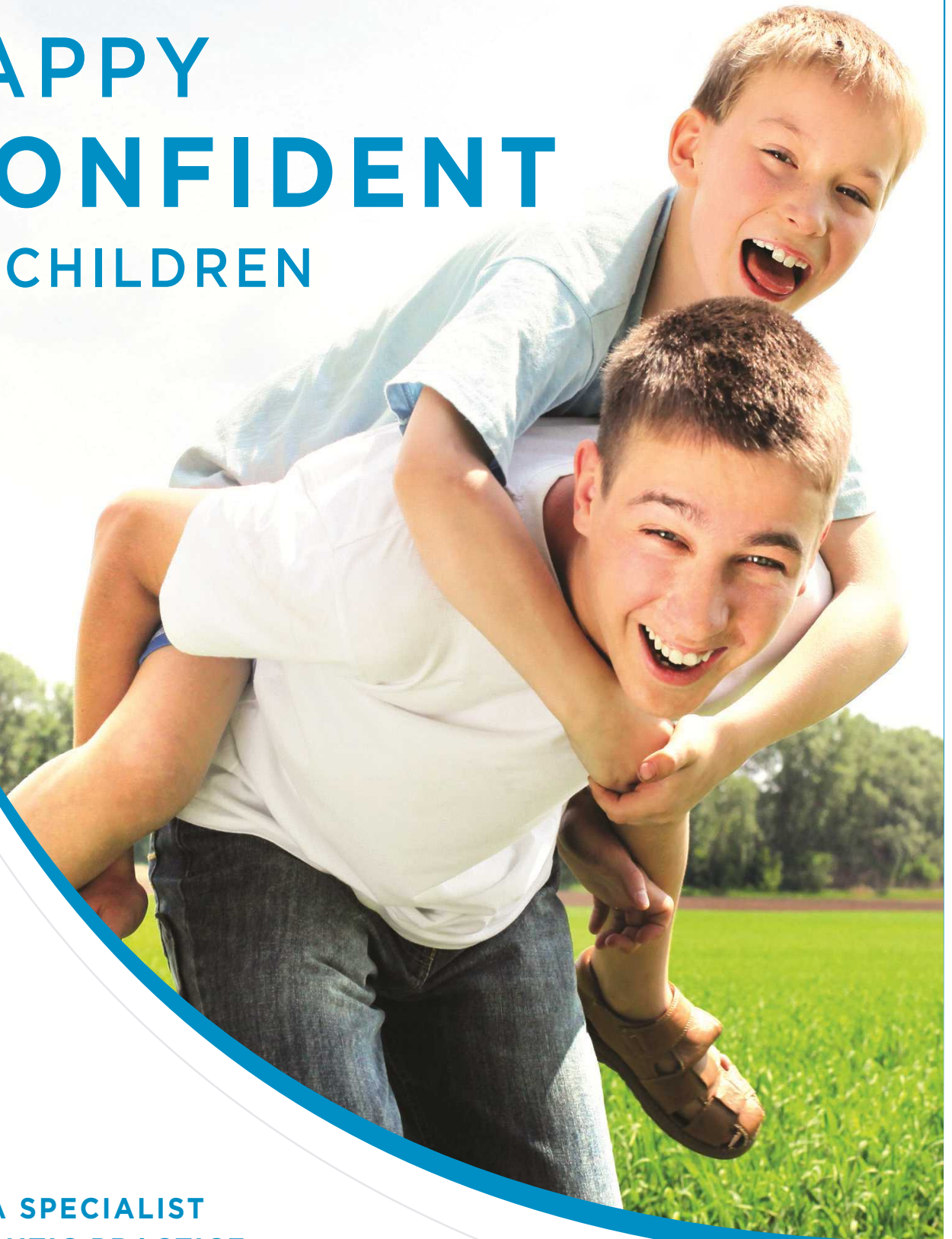
It's been a similarly great year for History Club, taking place in E3 every Thursday lunch. It has a dedicated core membership and is open to and attended by students from all years with student-led presentations on topics including the space race, Rome and the history surrounding the situation in Gaza.

Looking ahead, we're looking forward to a talk by Professor Ellie Woodacre (the day after this article's due or we'd say how it went), Professor at the University of Winchester, on Global Queens in December and another joint talk by Iain Duncan Smith, former Conservative Party leader between 2001-2003, with the PolSoc also in December.

Moving forwards, we're hoping to keep up the range and quality of talks (if we can keep the Excel sheet organised). With great speakers, a variety of periods and topics, cool posters and lots of biscuits, everyone's welcome, all the way from Year 7 to Year 13.

- The History Society Committee

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# DebSoc

**“This House believes that the world is ending.”**

So far this year in the BWS debating society we have had huge success (whether that is sending two British Parliamentary teams to Cambridge to debate at nationals last year, or our MACE team last year once again going to nationals at London, and receiving medals for being the top team in the southwest). Unfortunately at the time of writing this argument I cannot foretell the results of this years BP tournaments, however, hopefully, we would send at least one team to both Oxford and Cambridge.

We have moved our weekly debates to a Tuesday lunchtime (instead of the prior day of Thursday lunchtimes), with a good level of success (even if a few debaters forgot which day to turn up for). There have been a huge range of topics that we have discussed, and I can announce that **This House does support: The death penalty, the right to bear arms. This House does not support: The armed police, animal testing, The message and means of PETA and that This House would continue to use criminal records.** Our Christmas debate motion of “**THW prosecute Santa**” (This House Would) looks to be a promising discussion.

My personal favourite debate that has been proposed since the last issue of The Bishop Wordsworth School Magazine is that “**This House believes that the world is ending**”, this motion was proposed twice last academic year, it was both the first and last debate of the year, the findings of both debates were very different. In the first debate we heard arguments about how doomsday tales had been about since the beginning of the press and the world had not ended yet, and we had a summary speech purely based on the idea of a “swim economy” (where those in countries flooded by climate change would eat algae and would teach others to swim in order to earn waterproof money).

In the second debate we heard arguments

about the instant heat death of the universe, and the existence of the doomsday clock (said to be able to predict how far we are from nuclear warfare and the end of the world as we know it). It should be no surprise that as these debates both had very different characters. Opposition won the first and Proposition won the second (maybe it was the end of the new academic year optimism and the wish for the summer holidays which shifted the vote rather than the arguments put forward by either side).

The Debating Society is always looking for more members, whether that’s current Year 12s who want to take a leadership role next year, or if they just wish to compete, or lower and middle school pupils who want to hone their presentation and research skills. We do a weekly debate which is open to all who



wish to participate (obviously we can only have six debaters for one motion though). There are always opportunities to get involved, whether you do or don’t have prior experience. It is very complementary to those wanting to do discussion-based degrees, or just to put on your CV.

- The Debate Society.

# MedSoc

The question of what you want from life is an elusive one.

We have questions like, 'Why am I putting in all this effort?' 'Is any of what I do really worth it?' 'What is the point?' These are questions that may take years to answer or ones you may already know the answers to. It is necessary for us to answer these questions at some point in our lives and it is one of the hardest things we will ever do.

Being a doctor is a mix of problem-solving and human engagement. It requires a thorough knowledge of the subject and the delicacy of treating life in an empathetic and humane way. There is so much variety in the career between clinical/lab-based research, teaching opportunities, the many speciality pathways and so much more. Medicine is a service to the people so even after a difficult day you can return knowing you've made a difference in someone's life – whether it be saving their life or simply making their day-to-day a little easier. It helps answer those big questions and gives meaning to your everyday. These are just some of the

reasons you may want to choose medicine. If you would like to explore this further, make sure to join our medical society! This is not the career for everyone. Our goal at Medsoc is to help you navigate your medical journey. For a better understanding of the career, I would recommend 'This Is Going to Hurt' by Adam Kay. It is a classic that delves into the challenges of medicine but also provides insight into why it can be such a wonderful choice. Other lesser-known medical books to read would be 'The Prison Doctor' by Dr Amanda Brown, and 'Better' by Atul Gawande.

What Medsoc does:

Deliver presentations to help guide your medical journey. Have speakers for various aspects of the profession. Lunchtime sessions to discuss medical ethics and current issues

Insight into what medicine is actually like  
Support with the UCAT/BMAT  
- Aarv Paul

# PolSoc

From MPs to the King of Camelot...

The long-running Politics Society, one of BWS' most prestigious institutions, has continued to provide a programme of excellent talks this year. We have welcomed a wide array of speakers, including MPs, councillors, Lords, former MEPs, professors and even former Conservative Party leader Sir Iain Duncan Smith.

With the US having prepared for another unpopularity contest between Joe Biden and Donald Trump, and British parties gearing up for a general election due this year - in which many of our sixth-formers will be eligible to vote - politics is especially important in

2024. With that in mind, we had talks from independent candidate Arthur Pendragon and the MPs for Salisbury and Meon Valley, as well as Brian Chick, a recently-elected Lib Dem councillor in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area. PolSoc sessions invariably include informative talks and lively discussion, with refreshments kindly provided by the excellent canteen staff. We have loved running the Politics Society this year and are grateful to our hardworking Committee for helping to make such a great range of talks possible.

- Caleb Richter and Finlay Dow, Co-chairs of the BWS Politics Society

# IGeo (International Geography Olympiad)

IGeo felt like a distant dream; being advertised as something 'for the best geography students in the world' was undoubtedly intimidating. But we knew that it was something we had to strive for. Previous Year 13's Jack and Toby inspired us as they themselves participated in the 18th IGeo in Finland. Their achievement motivated us to give it a shot.

So, we worked hard on our application for the national

competition for the best geographers nationwide. We wrote an essay on the tectonics involved in creating island arcs in the Lesser Antilles and the socioeconomic issues citizens faced from the geohazards created in these island nations. These topics were exciting and interesting, and we thoroughly enjoyed the process. Then came the long wait... we were concerned as we hadn't found out as rapidly as Jack and Toby.

But late one evening, we scrolled through our emails and shining out was an email titled 'Team UK'; we opened it, and to our surprise, we were two of the successful applicants who had managed to get into the International Geography Olympiad and would be going to Indonesia in August. We were and still are elated. Throughout the weeks leading up to it, we did numerous Zoom calls, which allowed



us to get to know our team members and leaders, made our competition poster (more on this later), bought gifts for the other countries and sorted travel logistics such as receiving three vaccinations, ouch! This was just the start of our exciting journey to Indonesia, somewhere we had always wanted to go and now had this incredible opportunity to experience its nature, cultures, languages and people.

The flight totalled 17 hours, and with little sleep, we arrived in Jakarta two days before the opening ceremony. We met other teams and their leaders, took in new sights, smells and sounds with the heat being almost unbearable - changing to Crocs and sliders helped, becoming a trip staple. We travelled from Jakarta to Bandung by bus with other teams from the

likes of Tunisia and Canada to Nigeria and China. Learning about their application process was also intriguing, with some countries using this competition as a gateway into university or for scholarships. The journey totalled 4 hours, but the beauty of the rainforest and Indonesia's highlands made it fly by. We arrived in Bandung and settled into our hotel, enjoying a delicious Nasi Goreng with many more to come! The following day was the 'Olympic' style opening ceremony, with each country being announced and a wave of the flag totalling almost 50 countries.

The ceremony continued with Indonesian dance and music. During the subsequent days, we completed three exams: one written response test, a fieldwork test in the rainforest and a multi-media test on computers. One evening, we also presented our poster on

the theme of 'creative inclusive urban environments'. Reflected by four UK cities, including Bristol, Brighton, Manchester and London (Croydon...).

They encapsulated the UK's art, food, music and architectural scene. We also had the opportunity to see other posters, with Australia's and Belgium's being favourites. The tests and poster competition were interesting. But the real highlight was meeting people from around the world with different experiences, ideas and outlooks. It was amazing to learn about different countries and gain further appreciation for Indonesia and its vibrant culture by watching traditional dance and music, learning to play the Angklung and partaking in cultural games.

Going to the rainforest and the volcano - Tangkuban Perahu, allowed us to see what we always thought would remain in a textbook - truly bringing geography to life. The culture evening, sculpture park, police escort, night in the geological museum (with a dance party) and the closing ceremony also enriched us deeply. All the experiences IGeo provided further fuelled our love for geography, allowed us to form friendships with people worldwide, and gave us memories we will treasure for a lifetime. Therefore, this is a testament that you should just go for things. It felt impossible initially, but this seemingly far-flung achievement ultimately became our reality, something we will never forget.

- Charlotte Abbott & Anna Hayakawa.





# DUBAI 2024





**Our inaugural girl's sports tour to Dubai in February half term certainly did not disappoint. Despite experiencing Dubai's worst rain in 20 years, spirits remained high from start to finish. With boat trips,**

**camel rides, water parks, matches and much more. Thanks to all the staff for making it happen and enabling BWS girls sport to go international.**  
- Poppy Egerton



# A Piece of History.

By Toby Tavener.

My late grandfather was particularly proud that my brother and I are both students at BWS, as his 'Uncle Cyril', who has plaque in the cloisters, had a very close association with Salisbury Cathedral.

Cyril Vincent Taylor was born in 1907 in Wigan, Lancashire, to the son of a Church of England priest. He was a schoolboy chorister at Magdalen College, Oxford, attended Christ Church College to study Theology, after which he continued his theological studies at Westcott House in Cambridge.

His life was destined to be dedicated to the Church.

He was ordained in the Church of England in 1931 and after a period as a curate in Hinckley, Leicestershire and then Kingswood, Bristol he was appointed precentor (leading songs or prayers and generally facilitating worship) at Bristol Cathedral before being appointed one of the BBC's producers of Religious Broadcasting at the start of World War II, where he contributed twenty hymn tunes to the BBC Hymn Book (which he also edited).

In 1953, when the Royal School of Church Music moved from Canterbury to Addington Palace near Croydon (the former summer residence to the Archbishop of Canterbury), he became its first Warden before moving to Cerne Abbas, Dorset in 1958 as the parish vicar covering five villages until 1969 when he

became precentor at Salisbury Cathedral for six years.

While serving at the cathedral he was very lucky to stay in a grace & favour house in The Close, but his home with his wife Audrey was in the village of Abbot's Leigh, where he composed his famous hymn tune of the same name.

The music was composed as an alternative version for the hymn 'Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken' written by John Newton (a former slave trader turned abolitionist and minister who also wrote 'Amazing Grace').

The hymn was originally sung to a composition written by the famous Austrian composer Franz Joseph Haydn, a tune which later became the German National Anthem. Today 'Abbot's Leigh' is generally regarded by many people as being the "Rule Britannia" of hymn tunes.

For many years he served as a proprietor of Hymns Ancient & Modern, playing a major editorial role in compiling two supplements and The New Standard Edition, as well as being Chairman of the Hymn Society of Great Britain & Ireland from 1975 to 1980. In retirement, he moved to Petersfield where he died peacefully in 1991. He is interred in the Salisbury Cathedral Cloisters and a plaque can be found on the wall nearest the refectory, recognising his achievements as its precentor, and to the life he dedicated to the church.

Obviously I never met Cyril, but when walk past or sit in the cathedral for a service, it is always interesting to consider the history and I am proud to know that a family relative from three generations ago had such a strong connection to the cathedral.



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Dr Tamara Khayatt; Oral Surgeon and Clinical Lecturer BDS Brist 1993 FDS RCS Eng 1999.

Dr Antonios Glynis; DMD (2013) Msc Endodontics (Kings College London, 2020).

Dr Jayanth Kunjur; BDS, MDS BM (Soton), FDS RCS (Eng), MRCS (Eng), FRCS (OMFS).

# New Year 7 Induction Day – the best of the haikus!

Back in July, Year 7 visited Bishop's for their induction day (whilst still being in Year 6). In their form groups, they had English lessons on writing in the haiku form. Here are the best haikus from each of the five houses:

## **Spring Sadness**

Spring is passing by,  
The endeavouring warmth, gone;  
Relentless sunbeams.

Lukas G 7W  
(West Tytherly Primary)

## **Feranmi's Haiku**

How the breeze breathes,  
So peaceful, tranquil, quiet.  
Then it blows: hard, cruel.

Feranmi D 7O  
(Highbury Primary)

## **Falling Leaves**

The last of the green leaves fell.  
I try to grasp it closely;  
It fell beneath me.

Ben S 7J  
(Amport Primary)

## **Dusk of the Sky**

Autumn is calling,  
The cotton floats, sheds its tears  
As leaves shall plummet.

Isaac S 7P  
(Bemerton St John Primary)

## **Typhoon**

The storm is coming,  
The bleak sky is darkening.  
Seagulls have turned tail.

Zack P 7M  
(Collingbourne Primary)

With themed afternoons in the library,  
and biscuits a dozen as bribery,  
the poets did group  
like some famous troupe  
to read verses of the utmost finery.

## POETRY CORNER:

### **Paving Stone by Olivia Wordley**

I wish I were a paving stone stuck in  
cement on the ground.  
I wish I were a paving stone safe secure  
and sound.  
Not a kerbstone to be kicked or  
bumped,  
Or a wall to be knocked down.  
I wish I were a paving stone to survive  
that's around.  
As I would stand for generations, lying  
in the mud  
I'd withstand drought and famine, not  
even crack within a flood  
I would be a perfect paving stone, I'm  
already almost there  
You walk all over me, lie and scheme, I  
know you do not care.  
I have always trusted you, and OH I  
know! That I am in denial.  
But I would rather take this pain each  
day than miss out on your trial.  
How don't you see that? How don't you  
mind? To you I never try.  
I have always done more than I'm asked,  
and I work hard every-time.  
If I were a paving stone yes, I'd be  
pummelled into the ground,  
But I'd still be strong and smooth and  
real and to the concrete bound.  
And I know I'm not a paving stone, I  
support you even more.  
I'm not safe with you. I know that yes,  
you only want me in your storms.  
I don't have safety or security, no  
cement to catch my fall.  
I know without a doubt that you'd  
ignore my desperate call.  
You know I'm not a paving stone,  
although I wish to be.  
You know what you're doing is wrong  
and you see how it hurts me.  
But you still treat me like a pavement: I  
pretend to be one too,  
Because if I hide my cracked stone long  
enough perhaps, I'll become like you.

### **Marigold by Solomon Jeffers**

I love my flowers. They're my closest  
friends.  
No matter the situation I'm in, they're  
there for me.  
I lift my watering can, a rose-gold glint  
reflecting from the sunlight.  
On my windowsill, a row of marigolds  
is planted in a ceramic pot.  
The water from the can falls on them  
like glistening rain, the newly formed  
droplets scattering tiny rainbows  
across the walls.  
I smile, and the flowers seem to  
smile back, rising back to their usual  
positions from the mildly bent over  
ones they took from the sudden  
weather change.  
I turn around, staring at the sage green  
wallpaper of my room, and taking a  
seat on my bed, simply admiring the  
small colour bursts of the droplet  
refractions, turning the room into a  
natural disco.  
It was strange:  
such a simple thing was appeasing me  
to such a great degree.  
The halcyon feeling of watering  
flowers in beaming daylight was so  
blissful, it simply made the room seem  
enclosed in calm.  
It was something I had never  
experienced, and wanted to over and  
over again.  
I wanted to seclude myself in this  
feeling of peace and quiet for hours,  
letting the colours on the wall  
make shapes for my imagination to  
interpret.  
My flowers are the reason this is  
happening, too. My closest friends  
painting pretty pictures on my walls in  
shapes of indescribable things.  
The whites of their petals contrasted  
greatly, but also matched, with the  
greens and yellows of their stems and  
middle sections, creating a serene  
colour palette.  
Combined with the drapes of hues on  
my walls just made it all so surreal.  
I thanked myself. I thanked my flowers.  
I was thankful in general.  
Thankful for such simplicity to make  
me happy.  
I love my flowers.  
They're my closest friends.



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Rotary is an international organisation with over 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs. We have cultural and educational programmes spanning the globe.



Meet like-minded people and make new friends at social events ranging from charity black tie dinners, quiz nights, cheese and wine tasting and many more.



Help support our local community through environmental projects, fundraising activities, youth leadership projects, community events and volunteering.



Learn new skills working with others helping to raise money to support local and international charities or organising social and business events as part of a team.

#fundraising #fun #social #community projects #new friends #youth activities #humanitarian projects  
#volunteer #fellowship #international #networking

Find out more about getting involved

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

[hello@salisburyrotary.org.uk](mailto:hello@salisburyrotary.org.uk)

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# Music at BWS

Bishop's Gate, September 2017. To this day I can still vividly remember the terror I felt as I sat in the BMR, anxiously awaiting the audition I had dreaded so much. Initially, I didn't want to join the choir, but after some mild 'encouragement' from my parents it dawned on me that I had no say in the matter.

However, this was where my love of choral music developed and I can safely say I don't regret joining. Learning to sing in such a large group was novel and at first a challenging, somewhat arduous process.

Contrary to my frequent reminiscence over the 'green leaves of summer', actually being able to decipher pieces like this as a 12 year old treble was certainly no mean feat! The 4 part harmony and accompaniment often bamboozled me and it took the best part of a year until I began to feel a sense of accomplishment when I was able to master most pieces.

I was also fortunate enough to receive the WORT music scholarship through Years 7-11 in recognition of my violin playing. The only caveat being that I was obliged to perform in the Autumn concert for the school in Year 8. As this day drew closer, I was unfortunate enough to get shot in the head by a stranger with an air rifle (yes, it's a long story), disabling me from being able to play. In my opinion I arguably 'dodged a bullet there' and when I had to play in the following year's concert, I found it pleasantly rewarding.



There is no doubt that the music department here at Bishop's has experienced great change since I have been at the school (well, definitely not the building itself) but through these difficult times due to the Covid epidemic and a change of hands from Mr Fay to Mr Edney, I think it's an area of the school that has excelled. Mr Edney's 'takeover' was seamless and the whole department played an impressively proactive role in organising virtual rehearsals and even full concerts throughout the lockdown.

We now have a school big band, full school orchestra and a strong chamber choir. Although to me, the large scale, multi-school projects have been the most awe-inspiring. I have particularly relished the opportunity



to sing with and be taught by professional singers in various Gabrielli consort projects and perform Vivaldi's 'Gloria' and Mozart's 'Requiem' in Wilton church.

These kind of opportunities are simply unimaginable to the majority of schools and I think it is part of what makes our music department so special. We also have an annual house music festival, which, being open to all, is a great source of excitement and community in the school.

The variety of music is incredible, ranging

from a classical string quartet through to soloists singing from the latest musicals. An event like this where people who wouldn't usually dream of performing in front of a crowd become charismatic 'rockstars' or pianists is what makes the event so special and the rivalry between houses only adds to the anticipation.

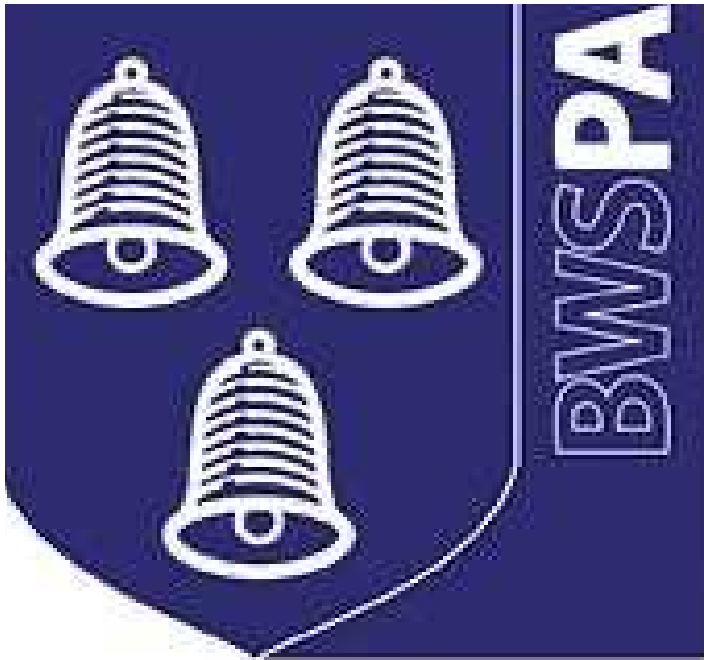
Through my time here the department has also conducted 2 major trips abroad, providing us with the opportunity to visit Amsterdam and explore the beauty of Utrecht in 2018 alongside the contrast in culture in Prague earlier this year.

It was a fascinating experience to sing in a beautiful variety of historic churches in Prague, the lengthy journey being an easy trade off for the chance to be able explore a place that not many of us had visited. Next on the horizon for the department is the Bishop's singers (chamber choir) trip to Cornwall in the summer and most notably, they will be singing in the world renowned Exeter Cathedral en-route.

Overall, it is the music department here which makes this school more than just a staging post on the road to university and the world of work.

Taking an amble across Exeter Street to the dilapidated remains of the music department provides a solace from the exigencies of the academic western side of the pelican, such as my role of canteen 'senior' prefect. So many of us owe Mr Edney and his team a debt of gratitude.

- Tom Wood.



## Who are the BWSPA?

The BWSPA are the Bishop Wordsworth's School Parents' Association. We are a registered charity, led by a committee of willing and enthusiastic BWS parents whose main aims are to help raise money for the school. We meet socially twice a term - to which all parents are welcome to join us - and we organise and support various social events at the school to help fund various projects to directly benefit the students and enhance their education and school environment.

## How can you help?

It is thanks to the generosity and time of the school parents that makes this all possible. Please support us by coming along to our events and meet other parents whilst helping raise funds. If you can volunteer, please get in touch. Please let us know if your company matches charity fund raising activities, and easiest of all ensure participating retailers contribute to the fund raising every time you shop on-line via 'easyfundraising' and at no extra cost to you ensure we can help continue to benefit the children. Please sign up at our website to the 1000 Club 'lottery prize draw' to raise funds and a chance to win cash each month!

### Fund Raising 2024:

This year we are fund raising for a new school minibus and equipment for the refurbished Bishopgate classrooms. Please help us and donate generously. Thank you!

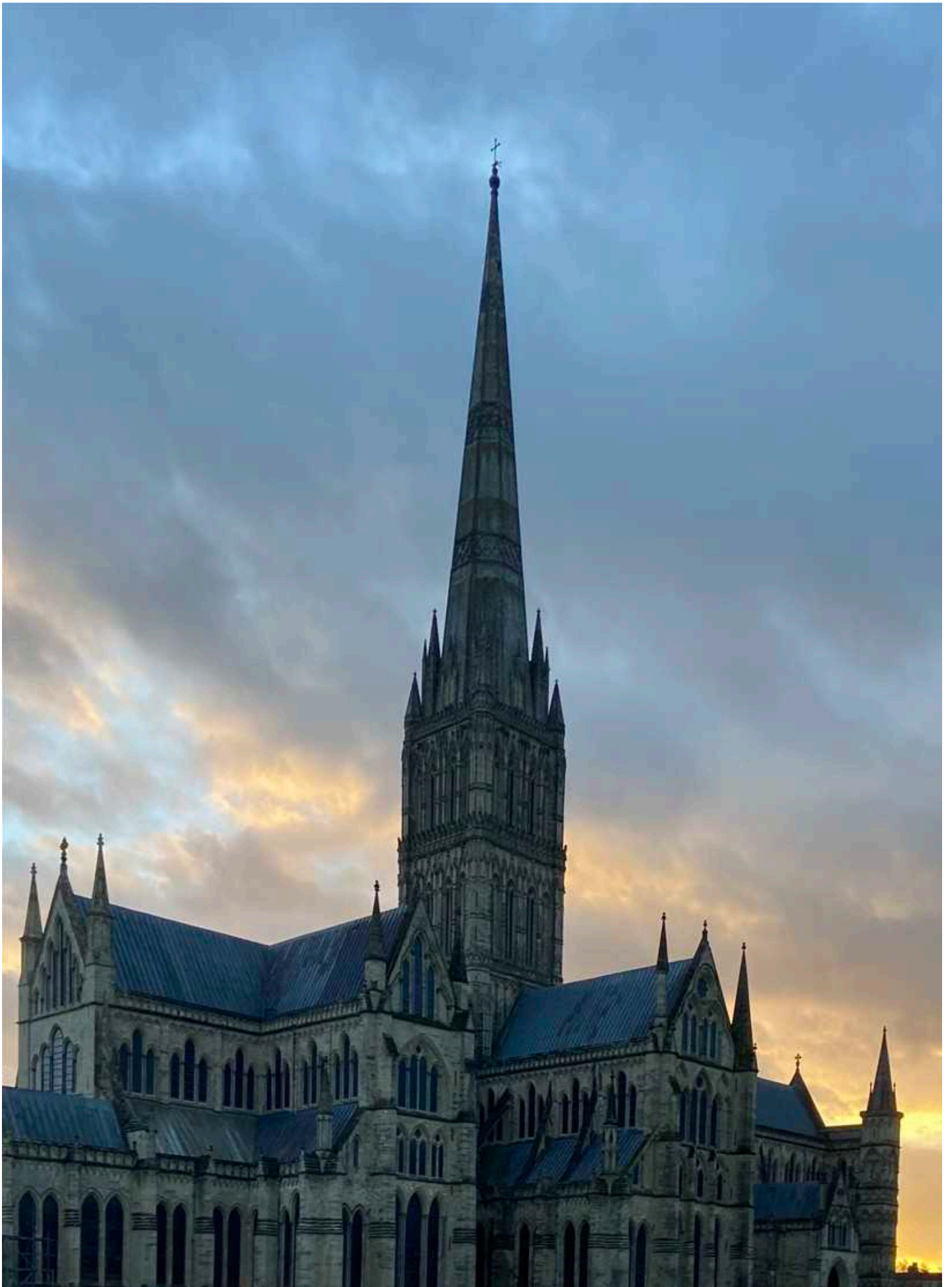
Find us at [www.bwspa.org.uk](http://www.bwspa.org.uk), on

facebook @BWSParentsAssociation or get in touch with the committee via [info@bwspa.org.uk](mailto:info@bwspa.org.uk)

In recent years, with the generosity of parent involvement and donations we have helped fund a new school minibus, table benches, books, outdoor table tennis tables, basketball hoops, school prize giving awards - and so much more!

Throughout the school year we promote social events for pupils and parents including Year 7 skittles evenings, the Open-Air Theatre on Number 11 lawn, a Quiz Night and the Christmas Market and Fair. Additionally, we support the school Welcome Evenings and various events, as well as manage the second-hand uniform shop with a sale each term.





# Charities



This year has been an amazing year for charity, with a variety of events taking place to fundraise for and support as many charities as possible. When taking on this role, I knew that I wanted to make the most of it by doing as many different and unique fundraisers as possible - things that Bishop's had never seen before. I'm hoping this will be a great inspiration for many more years to come, and that charity becomes an even bigger and more substantial role in the Senior Prefect team. So here is what I like to call a small wrap-up of this past year, in charity events!



## Fundraiser for Papyrus UK & Mosaic Family Support

For this event, it was evident that we had to go all out to support an amazing cause that was held very dearly to the school, in memory of Erin Lauder. With this spirit, we managed to get a variety of teachers involved for a day filled with fun, laughs, and lots of water! When proposing the idea of sponging a lineup of teachers and students from the Top 6, it was met quite equally with excitement as it did apprehension. "There's no way this teacher will agree to getting water-filled sponges thrown at them" was the common phrase I heard over those weeks of planning. Albeit, when it came to posing the idea, teachers were more than willing to take part in the lineup, as were the students approached. The day came around and the air was full of excitement, but with the hope that enough students would show up to donate to throw a sponge. I can now truly say that was one of my most memorable days at Bishop's, seeing sponges hurtling down at the lineup of teachers and Top 6, while a crowd of students wrapped around, cheering and supporting. The turnout was unbelievable, with students pouring over the stand to throw a sponge and buy their raffle tickets - which itself was also very successful. With exciting prizes ranging from Indoor Skydiving, to a Surf Lesson, and an opportunity to Drive a Racecar - a large number of students took part for a chance to win one of the prizes on offer. As the first event I took charge on as Chair of the Charity Committee with my wonderful committee, I am more than happy to say that I wouldn't change a thing with how that day went!



### **Fundraiser for Alzheimer's Wiltshire**

Having been approached by Alzheimer's Wiltshire to support their Denim4Dementia campaign that was taking place, our student and staff body sported their jeans articles of clothing, ranging from trousers, to tops and even denim jackets. It was once again amazing to see the school coming together to support a local cause that can be held dear to many people. We were also lucky enough to have the charity bring in their two therapy dogs, which spent a lunchtime in the Sixth Form Common Room saying hello to our students and teachers!



### **Supporting Father Christmas**

This campaign was one that we launched to support Paul Gazzard, OW, who has been gifting presents in the festive period to a variety of ages of children at the Salisbury Foodbank, Salisbury Hospice, and Salisbury District Hospital for the last 30 years. Working with Paul gave us the opportunity to hold a Culture Day that saw a plethora of students holding stalls, performing their culture's music, and wearing their cultural clothes to support a very fitting cause in the weeks running up to Christmas. Seeing everyone pull together to organise this spectacular day was truly outstanding, as myself, Shiv Padiyar, and Gianpiero Greatorex organised this day with the hope that as many students would take part as possible. Having the opportunity for a group of us to also go out and help "Father Christmas" at the Salisbury Foodbank party was amazing, as we helped to sort out the presents from van after van - as well as helping to get the grotto and decorations up in time for the party. All-in-all, it was once again fantastic to support a local cause that had been started by one of our own old students, Paul Gazzard.

I'm sure there are many other charity events that have happened this year, from Crisis Funds to support natural disasters in Morocco and Libya, to wearing moustaches for Movember, that I haven't had the chance to mention in here.

All of these events were truly spectacular, and couldn't have been done without the help of my amazing Charity Committee - who were always there to support, take part, and pull through where necessary. All of this couldn't have been done without the support of every student, teacher, and member of the wider school community. I can only thank every single one of you, for all the support this past year to fundraise as much money for charity as we possibly could.

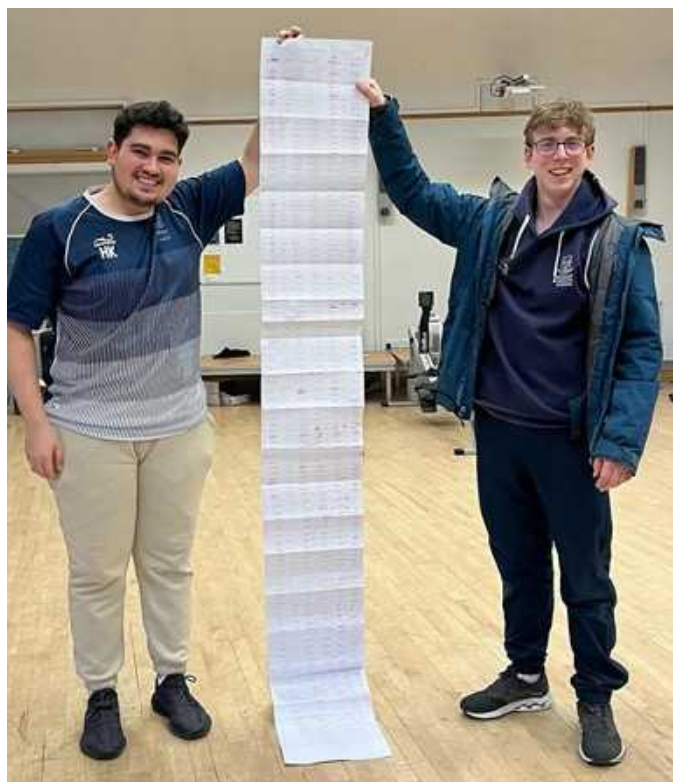
- Homam Khasreen.

# Pulling Together: The 24-hour Charity Rowathon Event 2024

On Friday 26th January, over 400 students and staff joined forces for the 24-hour Charity Rowathon event. Held in the Drama Studio and starting promptly at 8:00 am, students were timetabled to row in 10- or 15-minute shifts throughout the day to support our fundraising efforts for the fantastic charity BBC Children in Need.

Our aim for the Rowathon was twofold: to generate significant excitement and interest in fundraising for Children in Need, while also tying it into our thriving house competition. With five rowing machines – one for each house, we meticulously tracked the distances rowed by each house over the 24-hour period to generate total distances for each house, with significant house point rewards on offer. Each year group had a 70-minute slot within the school day, with open sessions also available before school, at lunchtime and after school.

From 8:00 pm our fantastic team of 50 sixth form students took over, with some students rowing upwards of six times throughout the night! As the 8:00 am target approached, a combination of house pride, adrenaline and pizza saw the night team through the event to Saturday morning, as participants pushed themselves to their limits in





support of this worthy cause.

The results were truly staggering: between the five houses, an astonishing 1451.8 kilometres were rowed, a testament to the teamwork, motivation and resilience displayed by all involved. In fact, this incredible distance almost takes us from Salisbury to Rome, looking beyond the absence of a direct river route!

The competition between houses was fierce, with Martival initially leading the pack with what we thought to be a very solid lead. However, with the arrival of the night team and new energy, a determined Poore house managed to surpass Martival's lead. The eagerness of the school community to support this idea and row for their house was remarkable – students stepped in for others, encouraged each other, and celebrated all rowing contributions. There was certainly a special atmosphere that lasted throughout the entire event.

Thanks to the generosity of our community we were able to raise over £3000 for BBC Children in Need through various channels of charity collection, including JustGiving sponsorship, non-school uniform day donations and kind contributions to a staff charity fund. This significant sum will undoubtedly have a very positive impact on the lives of those supported by Children in Need. Our personal thanks must go to Mr Green for his unwavering support in facilitating this very successful event and to all participants and supervising staff who made continuous rowing possible. We are immensely grateful to everyone who donated or contributed to the initiative in any way.

We hope that a collaboration between the House System and Charity Committee will continue in future years, and we eagerly anticipate hearing about the exciting events that will happen next year.

- Edward Klein and Homam Khasreen.



# Tuck in your T-shirt: The 2-day experience at a Thai School!

Originally, my idea of experiencing a Thai school was another whacky idea I thought up whilst trying to wind down from the chaos at Heathrow.

I stayed in a hotel in central Bangkok for a few nights, just to familiarize myself with the weather and shake off jet lag. Once my family had adapted to the new climate, we zipped from the south up to the northern province of Sukhothai in a short span of 7 hours. Here, my previous thought evolved into serious consideration.

We stayed in the central part of Sukhothai which was also nearby my mother's side of the family. One evening, I decided to edge my idea into the dinner conversation. It turned out a close relative of ours was a close friend with the local school's head teacher, thus securing me a spot for school on Tuesday.

6:00am wake up. 7:50am arrival time.

Graciously, one of the school council members lent me his uniform for the day to give me a professional look, just in time to sing the national anthem and listen to student announcements. I was then escorted to a classroom where I was greeted with physics as my first lesson. I was given the seat next to a fluent English speaker named Max. It turned out he took a trip to America once, hence his brilliant pronunciations and desire to expand his linguistic knowledge. We became good friends and still maintain online contact to this day.

One key aspect that I found to be unique was writing down notes off the board. To my surprise, a large proportion of the class used their personal electronic devices, allowing them to access



teachers' notes via Line or Facebook group chats. However, their content was congruent to the A-level course I worked through in England, therefore understanding the topic was much easier.

Our class worked thoroughly up to the lunch break: one of the most unique and influential parts of my experience. Never had I ever seen such a broad variety of food at unbeatable prices. Everything from omelettes to noodles, chicken satay, and bubble tea, for a practical price of  $\approx 50p$  per portion. Aside the resplendent display, the fried chicken was the winner.

After lunch, there was gossip about an upcoming test for one of the chemistry classes. Ambitiously, I asked the class if I could take the test alongside them. Fortunately, the chemistry teacher agreed to let me work alongside his class. The fact that the whole test was in Thai rattled my confidence. However, I persuaded the teacher to give me a translator. Next lesson was English which, unsurprisingly, was easy for me. As a result, I spent the lesson assisting others who wanted to familiarise themselves with pronunciations and any new vocabulary.

The final lesson of the day consisted of non-calc maths alongside another fluent English speaker named Unun, who was very intelligent. I am thankful for

her guidance through topics, in which I usually work through with the aid of a calculator in England. Throughout all my lessons, I realised every teacher taught through a microphone, rather than contesting with their raw voice against exasperating students for their silence and attention, as well as ensuring everyone could hear and understand the lesson. At the end, every student gave a traditional Thai 'Wai' (A slight bow, with hands pressed together in a prayer-like fashion) as a token of gratitude towards the teacher. This was then followed by a refreshing trip to the school shop before some football. Luckily, this school took a relaxed approach to sports, so competition did not play a major factor. Despite the sun relentlessly beating down its blazing inferno upon us, we were not prevented of a short match. At the end of the day, I changed, returned my uniform, and left.

A week later, when I returned to Bangkok, I thoroughly reminisced on my experience. It felt as if I still had a large spectrum of activities to explore before being satisfied with my experience. It was to my luck that my mum needed to return to Sukhothai to sign off declared land,

giving me an opportunity to auspiciously tag along. I promptly rang up my close relative again, who told me to be ready for 7am on Thursday. In my second experience, I borrowed their version of a sports kit: A mauve-coloured t-shirt and tracksuit. Vividity dominated the outfit. I was so struck by its bold look that I later purchased my own personal kit.

I met my previous chemistry teacher, hoping to hear back from my recent test. Unfortunately, hubris caught up to me after finding out I was just below the 'pass' mark. On the other hand, I still stood above class average, meaning, there was still a positive to take back. After a polymer-based Chemistry session, it was time for a physics practical on fluid density. To my surprise, it was incredibly analogous to an experiment I did in year 12, only much simpler and less accurate. I advised the teacher about improvements to the test (e.g. Adding rubber bands to the tube for more obvious markings), which deemed useful for her next class.

For my final class, I decided to spectate a biology lesson, which was much more advanced than my GCSE knowledge. Thankfully, my classmate next to me could speak enough English to translate the teacher's notes. After a post-school game of badminton, my friend, Max, insisted we took a jog around the school block. Since I had my BWS kit, there was no reason to refuse such an infallible way to wind-down from class. Despite a humid afternoon, the experience itself was rather refreshing. Once we reached our classroom again it was time to wave everyone a final goodbye.

Personally, this experience gave me a more profound view of education outside England, along with hundreds of overseas friends. As a result, I strongly encourage the idea of foreign exchanges between schools, since it prevents students from having a one-point perspective on education. I was introduced to unique classroom standards and behavioural etiquette, leaving a memory that is reminiscent of positivity. I hope to revisit classmates from Sukhothai in the near future, who are all eternally framed in my mind.

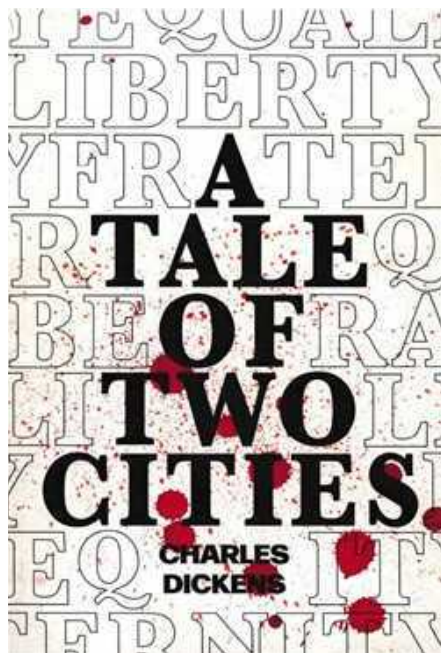
- Anthony Amos.



# A LEVEL ARTISTS 2023-24



Olivia Tarr



Tim Blackburn



Tom Wilson



Devon Batho



Poppy Freer



How can I  
move on when the  
past still haunts me?



Homam Khasreen

# Rotary Young Writer Competition 2023-24. Rebuilding

## Sam Saneie 11M - First Place Senior

(Rebuilding of society after a war).  
From the echoes of shattered dreams  
Ruins lie beneath the streams  
Of life less and desperate feelings  
Pleading from within the families.  
At the hush of dawn the sirens sound  
Echoing booms coming from above ground.  
As we wait in patience for those who decide  
Whether we are to live or die.  
Thunderous cannons paint the sky  
Whilst sounding like a symphony of deathly  
beats.  
Echo violently across the streets.  
Not knowing, whether we are to live or die.  
Shadow chapters within the past  
Caused a sense of the death that pasted  
For he had the strength at heart of soldier  
But never knowing whether he were to live or  
die.  
As many years go by  
We are left in the dark  
Over the scorching deserts  
Where spider tail vipers trick our hearts.  
Awaking from the past  
Morning no longer with thick black smoke  
With the church bells ringing  
Now knowing that we were to live instead of  
die.  
From the ashes of conflict  
As they gather the city uproars  
Tens of thousands flood the streets  
And those in battle stagger home single file.  
Crumbling walls that witness the battle ground  
Surround syncing of drumming heart beats  
As the new anthem rekindles the people  
A new desire for rebuilding a lost fire  
Society begins to roar  
And the economy cog turns faster than ever  
before.  
Through the rubble spouts of green  
Nature reclaiming what war had beat  
As days turn into months and months into years  
Education begins to grow  
Preparing the generation of architects  
Who build bridges in the harmonious space  
However those closest in our hearts  
Who fought with tremendous courage  
Will never be forgot for what he did for us  
And he forever will be in my heart.

## Joel White 12M - Second Place Senior

Dawn and dusk come creeping closer,  
Crushing light between.  
Living things are stripped of life,  
Frayed at the seams.

Thunder clouds our minds,  
As verdant turns to grey.  
Time passes without event;  
Nothing moves. Nothing stays.

All that reaches out is caught,  
Shrivelled in the chilling air.  
Occasional apricity  
Reminds them of what was once theirs.

The darkest night begins a hum,  
A welcome for a life that burns.  
A glowing chant, a ritual sung,  
Anticipation of some grand return.

Perhaps it hesitates at first,  
Peering through a blanket dense.  
Yet every drop it can provide  
Is taken now as recompense.

So follows the chain of hunter and prey,  
More life springs up, light dances through.  
Foundations are spread to-and-fro,  
Warm wind casts seeds to start anew.

All creatures great and small awake;  
They dance in trees or grassy quilt.  
Colour reforms the wasteland past.  
Once more, a world rebuilt.

## Matthew Locke 7P - First Place Junior

I once lost my way,  
Found myself in a mess,  
Tripped and stumbled,  
I had no hope in the next day  
But I found strength within,  
Picked myself up and stood,  
And rebuilt my life,  
With a family like mine anyone could!  
The sky was a gloomy grey,  
But I knew the sun would shine,  
I rebuilt my hope,  
And I kept trying to be kind.  
I made mistakes,  
But I learned from them and grew,  
And I know that I can rebuild, and so can you!  
So I thank my family,  
For doing what they do,  
So be nice to others,  
And they'll be nice to you!

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# How are the lives of past students relevant to the school around us?

*Buried in the school archives stored in the Carpenter Room there's a wealth of untold stories...*

It is easy, when thinking about past students, to forget that they lived complex, intricate lives in the same school we attend. It is easy to see these students as moments, side characters in the school's important moments. It is somewhat more difficult to remember the simple similarities between them and us, both the broad, sweeping experiences that students of Bishop's past, present, and future share, and the individual lives we all lead within the one school.

## **A secret clubhouse in Bishop's Gate**

Those fun, carefree breaktimes spent breaking rules that seem mildly pointless when you're 14 and in your last year before you have to really knuckle down are shared by everyone in some way, although the actual incident is unique for everyone. For some it will simply be entering those areas supposedly only for use by the Sixth Form, only to discover that they haven't been hiding anything particularly exciting. For others it will be exploring the twists and turns of Bishop's Gate or Number Eleven. Before health and safety existed, in the eighties, one student found a locked room at the top of Bishop's Gate, and upon realising that it was simply 'where old instruments went to die' created a small clubhouse of sorts for him and his friends.

A place that many, if not most of us, use almost daily, canteen, seems to be one of those places that is constantly creating problems. It seems almost a daily occurrence that Dr. Smallwood

has to wade through the crowds, demanding two orderly queues. The issue of the school canteen, and the way it is organised, is one that comes up regularly in Sixth Form Committee meetings. The reason I have brought this to your attention is that this mildly irritating, but otherwise insignificant everyday experience is one that is deeply ingrained into the Bishop's culture. During a review of the school in the early 1960s it was found that the Bishop's canteen, and the way it was laid out, was not truly able to support the students moving through it in the allocated lunch time. The canteen, as seen through a photo from the school archives below, has not physically changed since the report, and while this is something that students may not be thrilled to hear, it is also worth drawing comfort from the ways in which the school has remained



solid and unchangeable for decades.

It remains true that one of the most easily identifiable traits in the school is the determined nature of Bishop's students. Certainly the level of commitment to extra-curricular involvement has not decreased with time. Students'

engagement with charity work, for example, is very high, as modern students participate in home-clothes days and events such as the BIG Sleep for Alabaré follow in the footsteps of boys like Julian Solotorovsky and the Jouens brothers (see opposite right), who championed school fundraising for the Nyafaru Farm development scheme in Kenya. In 1965 the trio raised £200 for a new tractor.

Similarly, there is still a flourishing commitment to the Arts, as students get involved in the school play, whether it be Shakespeare's 'Henry IV' in 1966 (also photographed, right) or an adaptation of Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days* in 2023. Those of us lucky enough to be able to sing might find themselves shivering in the Cathedral at all times of year for the various wonderful concerts, but can take comfort in the knowledge that generations of Bishop's students have succeeded in their musical pursuits without catching hypothermia.

### **A midnight marathon - from Britford to Shaftesbury**

As well as their more creative hobbies though, Bishop's students have maintained a love for more sport based activities. Anyone who has participated at any level in either of the DofE or Ten Tors challenges may well be able to sympathize with the 30 boys who set out on the Midnight Marathon of 1965 - although only six made it to the end! This year's adventurers stressing over what to pack may even feel some relief knowing that at least they do not have to walk 50 miles in a nighttime storm. There is also always incredible participation in general sports competitions, whether it be for house or school, the modern Sports Day or the more traditional



Founders' Day, rugby or swimming (see above). Students struggling to find their place in the world know that the school itself is one thing that will remain fundamentally untouched throughout the bumps and hurdles of our teenage lives.

- Lia Cowan-Deyes

# SPORTS DAY 2023

Sports Day 2023 really highlighted the enthusiasm that lies at the root of not only our sports but our community. With nearly all of year groups down at Britford over several afternoons, covered in an array of house colour paint, meant it was a last sports day to remember. It was a great success, a well organised event with an invigorating sense of competition, but most importantly, a lot of fun.





It was an immensely exciting few days for all the year groups. Regardless of whether pupils took part in competing in track or field events, or through cheering and supporting their friends from the side-lines; there was no doubt that everyone had fun! A day filled with house spirit, fun and enthusiasm- the atmosphere was phenomenal. Competition between houses was apparent yet pupils were extremely supportive of each other, showing the true nature of BWS.  
- Victoria Herbert, P House Captain.

# Public Speaking 2024

The Year 10 and 11 Public Speaking Teams have been working hard in their ESU Churchill competition. The first round took place via Zoom on Wed 6th December and saw both Teams progress to the next stage. This took place on Wednesday 7th February here at Bishop's where we hosted several teams from other schools. After an evening of presenting challenging topics and responding to some very tough questions again both teams progressed to the next stage. The SW Regional Final was held on Sunday 17th March where the BWS Speakers delivered on the topics 'Money cannot solve all our problems' and 'Is the pen still mightier than the sword?' On this occasion both Teams were knocked out of the competition. Congratulations to all competitors: Year 11 Team Ed Amoama (Chair), Aryan Sharma (Questioner), and Jack Lamont (Speaker), Year 10 Team Haroon Qureshi (Chair), Ethan Hemming (Questioner), and Noureldeen Swelam (Speaker) It was a tough Final with the Judges taking over an hour to make their decision and name the winning team. Well done to Ethan Hemming who was awarded Best Questioner on the day.



On the 23rd January 2024 BWS took pride in hosting the Salisbury Rotary Club's Youth Speaks – a public speaking competition which provides the challenge for students from various schools to voice their arguments, culminating in a scale of fascinating topics, teams of three eloquently and passionately presented points for the audience and panel of judges to ponder. This year we enjoyed some very relevant and absorbing subjects.

Bishop's' own intermediate team worked their way to second round, held on the 30th January. Shreesaya Jha (chair), Charlie Whitworth (proposer) and Shiven Kumar (opposer) brought forth a strong ethical argument to answer the subject, 'The colonisation of other planets is the way forward for humanity'. This team impressed the panel with thought-provoking statistics combined with their compelling points, allowing them to pass the first round. Shiven Kumar, as opposer to the subject, made a remarkable reference to Bishop's own William Golding; "man produces evil as a bee produces honey", reflecting on the infectiously corrupt nature of mankind that has punished our earth, expressing the threat to be further exploited on another planet.

Bishop's had two senior teams battling against SWGS and two Warminster School teams.

The first senior team, with their strong, emphatic arguments made an impressive opening for the other teams to follow. Shivam Padiyar (chair), Zayan Siddiqui-Raja (proposer) and Aicha Balde (opposer) disputed their question: ‘Should criminal trials be televised?’ Their personal experience in viewing a mock trial marked their impassioned speeches. Thoroughly researched points really left the audience with a lot to think about: Is it better to have the “courtroom transformed into a classroom” or would it “tilter on the edge of turning our court into a reality show”? Although slightly running over the time limit, the audience were too transfixed in the court room simulation to pay notice. This group received a well-deserved second place.

Following on from the first team, BWS’ second senior team continued to set the bar high with speeches on the topical question: “Should religious clothing be banned in schools?”. The chair, Joseph Pratt befriended the audience with his witty remarks and fluency in pondering the strong points of both sides. Hari Chowdhury (proposer) and Maeve Gee’s (opposer) empowered debate on ‘school community cohesion’ and total equality through uniform, flipped like a coin onto the breaching of the right to freely express religious identity - to call it a moving speech would be an understatement. Regrettably not going through to the second round, they were neck and neck with the other top two in



swaying the judges, and nonetheless left us in the audience with an interesting discussion to be brought home.

In spite of BWS’ senior teams’ remarkable feat, the Warminster boys’ team went through to the next round. Their subject: ‘It is time for the NHS to be privatised’, skilfully transformed a mundane topic into a hilarious one that sent ripples of laughter through the whole audience. The chair’s words- “don’t be fooled by their matching ties they have strong opposing views”-stood out, making even the judges snigger.

- Amelia Bielby and Jenna Richards-Taylor.

# Shakespeare's Folio

On Monday the 13th November we were lucky enough to have a copy of Shakespeare's First Folio brought into our beautiful chapel along with many other books such as a quarto. Students were invited to take a closer look and examine the historicity of these original pieces of literature. This was accompanied by an educational ear gripping talk from outside visitors who taught us about the contrast between the original and modern interpretations of classic books and gave details about the books that were in their possession, highlighting interesting aspects such as original handwritten annotations and the age of the pages.

Students were enthused by this incredible opportunity as we were able to experience forms of literature first hand that we had all only ever read about. There was an excited aroma of chattering excitement as we all discussed details of the folio and linked it to the books we study on our English course and have read in our own time.

- Olivia Tarr



# *„The Tempest“ at Stratford*

In February 2023, a group of A Level English Literature students visited Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace, and gathered at the theatre, to watch „The Tempest“. The production's cast was made up of the brilliant Royal Shakespeare Company, and was a delight to watch. The set was absolutely incredible, and so incredibly detailed and effective in creating Prospero's island, and setting the scene for the brilliant cast. The performance was thrilling, the cast being so meticulous in their performance, and bringing the entire production to life. 'O brave new world' indeed...

- Devon Batho



# Society:

Society. We live in it. And, as Societies Prefect, it has been my job to ensure it does not collapse into a state of disrepair. Cambridge defines society as ‘a large group of people who live together in an organised way, making decisions about how to do things and sharing the work that needs to be done’. This definition, however, bears very little relevance to the society I work everyday to protect, especially seeing as ‘organised’ is certainly not a word I would use... On the other hand, Oxford describes it as ‘an organisation or club formed for a particular purpose or activity’ which I guess is a little closer to what we’re after.

But how about a quote rather than just a definition? ‘We live in a society’. What a meaningful, revolutionary and truly inspirational quote and I have selected this particular quote because I feel it acts as a great example for the point that I want to make. We do live in a society. Society is all around us and it’s extremely important to us as functional human beings, which I suspect most of you reading this are. And it’s no different at BWS either. Throughout my time at this school, I’ve been a part of bucket-loads of clubs and societies... well, quite a few, but I feel they play a truly fundamental role in giving you a full experience of BWS has to offer. That quote is, of course, from the Joker. But not just any Joker, it’s from quite possibly the worst iteration of the Joker in any media ever (apart from that weird Scooby-Doo crossover), so lets completely disregard that quote and use another much better quote: ‘Societies are like a box of quality streets’. And I like this quote so





much because it's my quote that I came up three minutes ago. I've already forgotten what I meant by it but it definitely had something to do with toffee fingers. It was probably something around how there's loads in that box that you might not like (and that no one likes (small questions)) but there's always one that you'll try and become utterly addicted to.

There's really a society that I'm sure everyone can enjoy. They can be thought provoking and inspire friendly debate, such as the Debating or Politics Societies. They can be a bit of fun, like LEGO club or juggling club, and some of them can even be unbelievably educational, exemplified by the one and only Small Questions, although that was fortunately put out its misery long ago.

Now, I'm sure that some of you are actually quite interested in at least some of the words I've just painstakingly typed out and sent to Devon way over the deadline, so thank you for reading. I've probably missed something vitally important but some of you will of course be getting pretty bored of my drab sense of humour, so I'll wrap it up. Basically, what I'm trying to say in an extremely long-winded manner is: get involved. Find a club that interests you, whether it's something you already do or something brand new, and go along one week and give it a go. And if you hate it, never return.

Thank you for reading it all if you actually did and best wishes for the future to almost all of you,  
Oscar Gale (the best societies prefect (joint only with Adam Rojas-Hindmarsh (from last year)))

- Oscar Gale



# Departing Staff 2023-2024

**Nicky Cook (2020 – 2023)** Mrs Cook's idea of a relaxing retirement plan started just a few weeks after she departed BWS. She was aiming to arrive in Athens by November having cycled the distance between! For her many GCSE students who will be keen to know if the adventure was a success I am very pleased to report the answer is a resounding yes! The Science department received photo-updates of some of the more dramatic (floods in Croatia) and less dramatic (drinks with stunning views) moments making us all thoroughly jealous. To those who Mrs Cook such adventure and high energy will come as no surprise whatsoever and remain hugely grateful for her 3 years with us bringing oodles of experience and knowledge.

## **Yvette Quirk (2016 – 2023)**

Yvette began working at BWS initially in the SEN department, providing one to one support to students in the classroom environment. When she joined the science department as a Biology Science Technician, she split her working week between these two roles. The first half of the week, you would find her in a white lab coat preparing potatoes for Year 8 food tests or preparing agar plates and sterilising apparatus for microbiology practicals. Later in the week she would often be seen in wellies, gloves and a woolly hat as providing that one to one student support was also required during winter games sessions at the Britford Lane playing fields. Over time, Yvette was able to increase her hours in the Science Department. Although she predominantly supported Biology, she also had a keen interest in all things Physics and took on the responsibility of PAT testing all of the Science Department electrical equipment, ensuring it was safe and fit for purpose. During her time at Bishops, Yvette embraced the school community, and was an incredibly supportive and thoughtful colleague, always there to provide an ear to listen or a dish of something hearty and warming to eat. These

skills and attributes are now being enjoyed by a different school, as Yvette left BWS to start a new chapter as a Science Teacher at Grateley House School in Hampshire. In Yvette, her students will find a committed, dedicated and caring teacher who has the technical skill and experience to bring science to life.

## **Liz Williams (2010 – 2023)**

Liz began her career at Bishop's as a Cover Supervisor, but when an opportunity arose for her to use her science qualifications and join the Science Department as a Chemistry Technician she took it. A role that she clearly enjoyed and one that she became extremely good at, as is evident from her eventually becoming the Senior Science Technician and latterly Technical Advisor. Liz enabled the team of Science Technicians and the Science Department as a whole to run smoothly. Her love of precision, accuracy and research ensured that science practicals stayed current and adhered to all health and safety requirements. She especially enjoyed supporting the Chemistry A level students and their teachers during their big practical sessions, particularly 'Organic Day'. The Chemistry students definitely benefitted from her practical expertise. Liz was very adaptable and creative which served her well, as during her time at Bishop's she worked with 4 different Science Department Heads and experienced many incidents of building work within the Department. Outside of work, Liz loved travel and food and particularly loved to combine the two, often bringing back to school edible treats to share with her colleagues. She would always remember the birthdays of the Technician team, presenting each one with a celebratory homemade cake on the appropriate day. Whether the cake contained all of the correct ingredients was often doubtful, however, as she was a big one for 'substituting' upon discovering the absence of a vital component from her kitchen cupboards! Liz left Bishop's in December

2023 to take on the exciting opportunity to set up the practical side of science at a relatively new school in Bournemouth, to where Liz and her husband had relocated the previous year. Her gained experience and knowledge will definitely serve her well in her new role.

### **Paul Brooks (2023 – 2023)**

Paul Brooks roared in covered for two terms and roared out..... Why so quick and why the roaring you ask? Well With Mr Beal leaving at Christmas the Technology department was in a bit of a fix, Technology teachers are a bit thin on the ground (as are many teaching staff) so in a short space of time we had to find someone to cover many of the KS3 groups. I've known Paul for years and he had recently retired, which I felt unfair! So I asked if he'd cover some Tech lessons even though he was a "mere" physics teacher and deputy head! He couldn't resist the challenge so duly filled in for two terms. Arriving on his first day in his red Jaguar XJS then on subsequent days and weeks used the school car park as a classic car show arriving in a Rover P60, MGB roadster, Range Rover and as the weather improved his Harley Davidson. Most of you won't have met him but you may have seen his array of cars, and he did get us out of a hole for a while. He has now fully retired and obviously we wish him all the best and many thanks for helping us out..... Hopefully he is enjoying miles of trouble free classic motoring.

### **Jo Campling (2021 – 2023)**

Jo was a fantastic member of the MFL department, joining in 2019 and leaving in 2023. Jo taught A Level French and GCSE Spanish and was well-respected and highly-valued by students and staff alike. While we always feel sadness when our staff move on to other schools, it was for all the best reasons that Jo decided to leave Salisbury, as she has since got married and settled in the Midlands. We wish her all the success and happiness in the world!

### **Gail Walster (2022-2023)**

Gail joined the English Department in September 2021, replacing Mark Birkett. She taught classes throughout the year groups, including A level. She immediately established herself by demonstrating an original and creative take on teaching English language and literature: classes were never far away from a set of glittery gel pens and some glue sticks! Her considerable knowledge and experience also paid dividends, though, as did her generosity and time when feeding back on students' assignments. She was quick to learn the department's methods of work, and the first to ask questions when systems were unclear or over-complex. Gail was kind with her charges, especially her Year 7 tutor group, with whom she was very popular. In the English Office, we will miss tales of her exploits in far flung and exotic locations; her gradual besiegement of shelves with piles of paperwork and spare shoes; and we wish her well in the future with her son and daughter in the South-West. We hope that her next place of employment spares her of the 'nightmare commute' that this one necessitated!

### **Gabriella Burchell (2022 – 2023)**

Gabriella joined the RS department as a breath of fresh air. She was keen, enthusiastic, and raring to go with ideas spilling over each other! She had an amazing rapport with her lower school classes. As a department we have her to thank for the wallpaper on the walls in W15; she fought tooth and nail for the interior makeover to the portacabin classroom! However, she wasn't a fan of the stairs in No.11, but loved all things stationery, especially hole punches! We miss her eclectic suggestions about anything and everything!

### **Alexa Bellingham (2022 -2023)**

Alexa stayed with us for just one year at BWS, but can feel satisfied that she made a big contribution to the department throughout her time here, leaving a wealth of GCSE resources in French and Spanish. Alexa has settled in Dorset, where she has taken on a Head of MFL position. We wish her all the best as she settles in her new home and her new role.

# Departing Staff continued

## **Mel Gordon (2003-2023)**

Mel became part of the English and Drama Department in September 2003, where she initially joined Pip Shingles in delivering the creative arts. During this time, Mel also taught English to Years 7 and 8, whilst taking on responsibility, after Pip had retired, for a litany of highly-successful school productions.

Mel's infectious personality and sense of humour have always shone through everything she does, and this was always the case during her time at Bishop's. Even when the school decided to drop Drama as a GCSE subject, Mel's classes were infused with creativity, humour and an immense experience of theatre and drama technique and disciplines.

More importantly, Mel's enthusiasm and commitment often gave more cautious students a confidence that they could take from the Drama Studio and try out elsewhere. This extended to her role as sixth-form mentor – her mentees loved her. I know that she felt that this was an integral reason for her being there.

Mel was as skilled, effusive and ambitious as she was diverse in her approach to school productions. She ranged between comedies and tragedies, from Shakespeare through to Gogol; and the resulting performances were never less than thoroughly entertaining. Mel's charges during these times became tightly-knit teams where everyone, from lighting engineers to lead roles, felt involved and worthy. It is testimony to Mel that, right up to her last days here, she was frequently visited by ex-students who were all equally delighted to see her as her them.

We wish her the very best with Tobin, Tilda and her beloved hounds, as he pursues a new career (and such a well-suited one) as a celebrant. We also trust that she will continue to enjoy her many jaunts to sunnier and icier climes! Mel – as colleagues, teachers and friends – we will sorely miss you.

## **Alex Mihai (2014 – 2023)**

### **Inma Gea-Neff (2022 – 2023)**

Inma was a bright and bubbly character throughout her year at BWS, and made a big impact on all of her classes with her creative teaching and cultural knowledge. She was a highly popular member of the MFL department, but she decided to swap Salisbury for the bright lights of London as she continues her teaching journey. We wish her every success in her new school!

### **Lucinda Kimberley (2014 – 2023)**

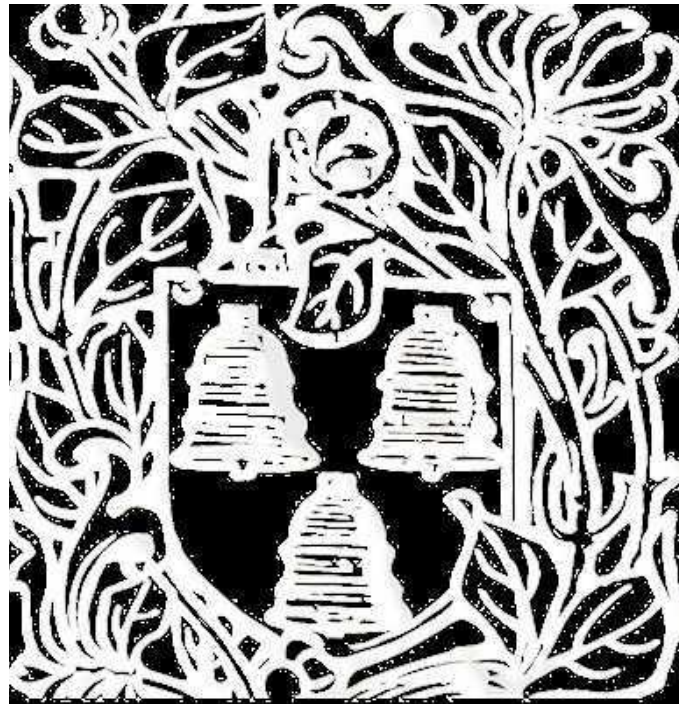
How will Mrs Kimberley be remembered by the students at BWS? A quick poll around the science block and the answers were torn between “possibly the kindest and most caring teacher” and “material science, material science, material science”! Mrs K taught Physics at BWS for 8 years but regrettably had to step back from the classroom following illness in 2021. In the summer of 2023 she formally left BWS and has since emigrated to the US with (most of) her family in tow – former Cathedral Prefect old boy Marcus remains to finish his Material Science degree (must run in the family!) – and I am pleased to report she is now able to get back into the classroom, albeit near Washington not Wiltshire. Mrs K was a superb colleague and teacher and those who benefitted from her lessons have universally positive stories to tell, she was the inspiration for over a dozen sixth formers to go on to study Material Science at university and many of these are now in employment across the UK, creating the new technologies and refining composites we all rely upon daily - a wonderfully fitting tribute to her efforts. Her love of physics was something to behold and she carried that passion with her into every lesson, from electricity to elastic collisions. Mrs Kimberley

was also a tremendously nurturing mentor and ran Big Questions for many years, attendees at the Christian Union speak of her reflectivity and deep-thought which were her trade marks and she was never one to shy away from tough debate. Her mentees speak of support and her wonderful listening skills and many of our first cohort of girls say she was one of the very best things about joining BWS. We wish her the very best of luck on the other side of the world!

### **Andy Harmsworth (1998 – 2023)**

Andy Harmsworth arrived at BWS shortly before the turn of the last century having already accumulated valuable teaching experience in the UK and abroad. He made an immediate, positive impact and was quickly helping to develop the Geography Department into a powerhouse of academic excellence. His keen eye for detail and his ability to plan for any eventuality, quickly marked him out for promotion. Consequently, it was no surprise when he was promoted to the post of Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for the school's assessment and reporting procedures. More latterly, he was also entrusted with the onerous task of putting together the school's timetable each year. In this role, Andy's skill set quickly developed and his ability to manipulated Excel spreadsheets (particularly pivot tables!) soon reached legendary status. Like a chess grandmaster, Andy always seemed able to see further ahead than anyone else when assessing the impact of any change on the timetable. His ability to squeeze so many lessons into so few classrooms often surprised even him. However, he always managed to produce a successful timetable even when it initially seemed nearly impossible to do so.

Andy's impact on Bishop's went much further than just the timetable. There will be generations of students who have been inspired by his enthusiasm, expertise and infamously, dry sense of humour. Many will have gone on to study a Geography related subject, while others will simply look back with fondness on their lessons with an excellent teacher.



Dr. Smallwood joined Bishop Wordsworth's School from Sir Thomas Rich's School in Gloucester in 1998 as Deputy Headmaster and teacher of Geography and History, helping to establish Geology as a new subject at BWS. He was appointed Headmaster in 2002. He has steered the school through its expansion plans, the change to academy status, the challenges of the Covid pandemic, the welcome return of girls to the school and two successive outstanding OFSTED inspections in 2006 and 2022. Dr Smallwood has also been responsible for major changes to the school site over his tenure including the construction of the E Block (2002), The Sports Hall (2004), The Sixth Form Block (2010), the addition of the new Maths block (2017) and the purchase of Bishopgate (2022). The students and staff would like to thank him for his enormous dedication and contribution to the School over the last 25 years. We will miss his presence around school and his unwavering support. He leaves a lasting legacy of which he can be justifiably very proud and we all wish him a very happy retirement.

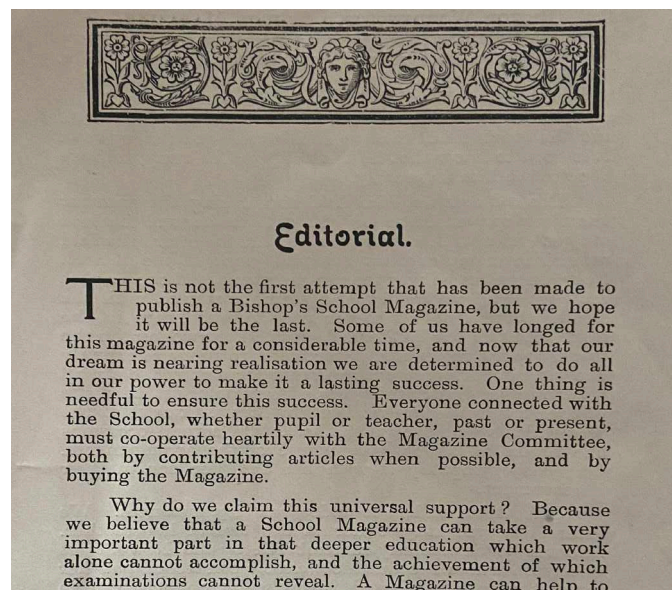
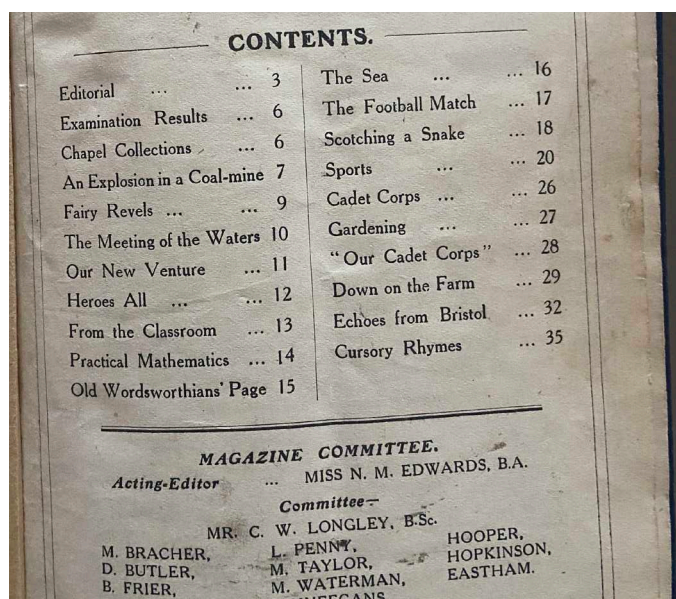
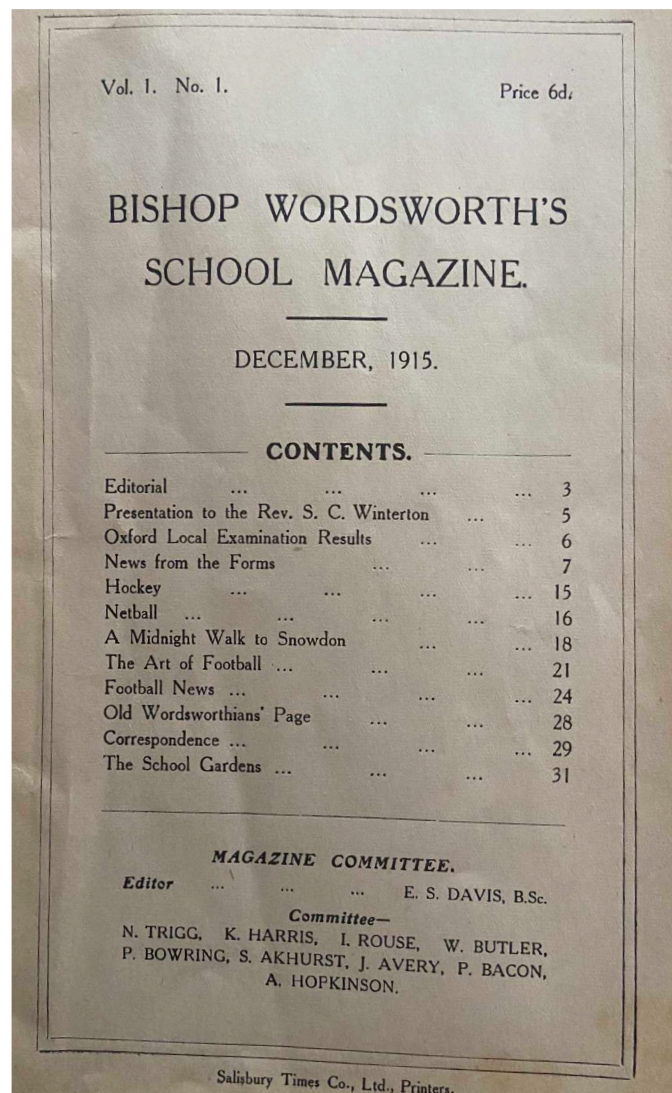


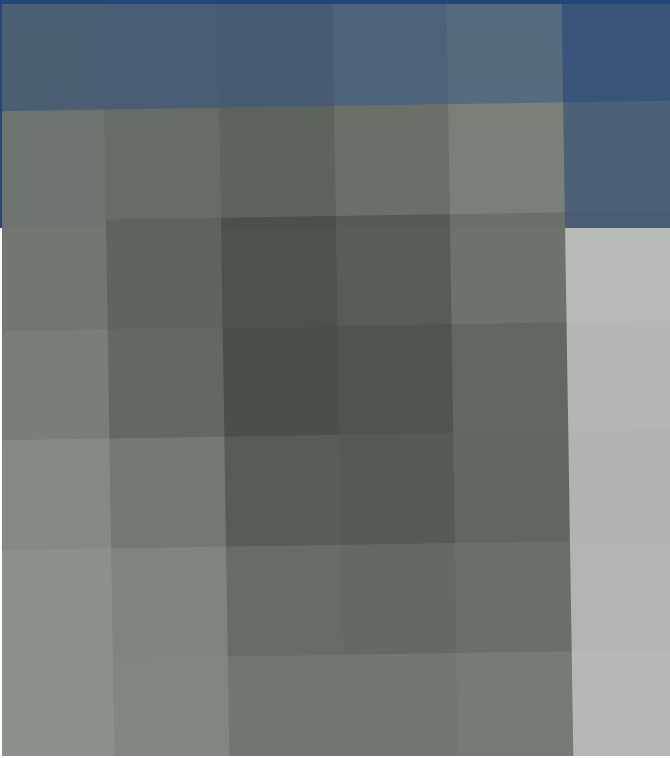
# 'The Wordsworthian': Stepping back in time.

Bringing the elegance of the past, to the convenience of the present, was my main goal with this magazine.

I am a bit of a collector of very old things; a typewriter, a complete Dickens collection (this holds a very special place in my heart) and several slightly moth-eaten Poe's. Anyway, when I first recieved my role as editor, I really wanted to research what those in my position in the past had done. Keys to the Carpenter Room in hand, I set about rummaging through the school archives.

As an English Literature student, my initial aim was to look though the years in which William Golding taught at Bishop's, and point out every single mention of him in awe. I quickly learned to subdue my enthusiasm and suprise, and set about my original goal: to investigate the origins of the magazine.

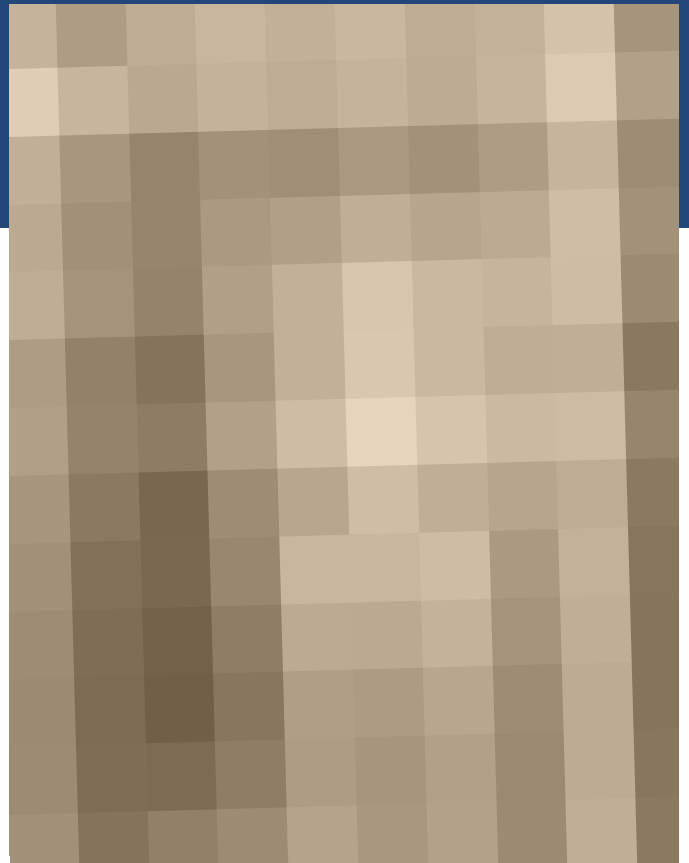




Here, I found the original December, 1915, Vol.1 No.1. as shown, and the original cover, as shown above. This, digitalised, became this year's back cover (many thanks to Zee Ross and her artistic talent).

In regards to this, I myself digitalised and designed this year's front cover, pulling in the modernity of the crisp blue of the Bishop's uniform. This same colour, as you have hopefully noticed, is used as a motif throughout the design of the magazine. The decision to emboss the silver-grey text, for elegance and a touch of the past, is a nod to Martival (each year, the magazine features one of the house colours, on rotation, this year being M).

However, it was only as I gathered photographs for this very article, that I discovered that the design itself was created in 1924. As my personal favourite, and having been used a century ago, it only seemed fair to revive the artistry of the predecessor- giving me the very



cover of this magazine. So, it seems only fair to credit Beatrice Patrick and Violet Fry, for the creation of this very magazine cover, 100 years ago. I hope that editors in years to come will have the same creative drive that I have instilled into this ongoing project. I, and hopefully you too, feel we can learn so much from those who have come before us, and I think maintaining and appreciating the origins, and the history behind BWS, can tell us more than we would otherwise hope to know.

- Devon Batho

# An Interview With Dr. Smallwood.

By Poppy Freer,  
Head Girl

## **Was it your initial idea to have remained headmaster at Bishop's for such a remarkable period?**

No, it's just a difficult place to leave. I was told by the previous deputy head, who's a man called Joe Newman, (who was my successor), and he said "welcome to Bishop's"; he called it the "graveyard of ambition", because once you're here it's such a nice place to work you don't want to go anywhere else, and if you do go anywhere else - and I have been to various interviews over the years - the places that you go to aren't as good. So, I didn't intend it, it just sort of happened.

## **What differences do you think you've added to the school? What do you wish to be known for?**

I think the school's different now to what it was when I started, and the question for people who do jobs like me is have you made a difference, and I hope that's the case really. Because you know other people do jobs which are more obvious, like sports teams, and art teachers produce wonderful work and mathematicians have Olympiads, and it's all very tangible, but if you're doing a job like mine, it's not very tangible. I've probably made a difference because the schools' much bigger now and does a lot more; it's pretty successful and that's not what I've done, but I've kind of oiled the wheels.

If I'm known for anything it's probably that. It's a really difficult question to answer because so much of what I do is kind of influencing things rather than actually doing things, and that's a simple fact of life for people who do useless jobs like the one I'm doing.

## **What does a typical day as a headmaster consist of?**

It's just talking to people; doing lots of unpleasant things that people don't see and that's absolutely fine - it's doing the

duties no one else wants to do, it's talking to people who are generally either very, very happy or very, very upset, and just talking to lots of adults and students all the time. I don't do anything else really.

## **What year was the most influential on your career?**

It would have to be that year that I decided to go into teaching, and I'm not talking about Bishop's here, I'm talking about pre-Bishop's, so that would have been 1988. Because at that point I decided I wanted to be a teacher, and I also decided I wanted to be a head. I told my wife I'm only going into this if I'm going to be a head by the time I'm forty - and bear in mind I was only twenty-eight, so I've got twelve years to become a head - and I just did it, so that's the Smallwood drive. If you think about your life having signposts on it, that was probably the most important signpost, because at that point I went off in a different direction and I knew where it was going, or I knew where I wanted it to go.

## **If you were to have taken an alternative career path, what would it have been?**

The obvious answer to that is I would have been a professional geologist. When I came out of doing research, after my PhD, I then went into the civil service for about two years and absolutely hated it. Really hated it - I worked in the tax office and I knew geologists tended to work in pretty unpleasant places a lot of the time, if you think about where oil is - Russia, Iran; the Middle East.

## **Which department have you seen the greatest progress in since you joined?**

Probably PE in terms of things going on. It's huge now - it always was big, but it used to be wholly rugby; now it's not and that's progress, I think.

**Where did you get the inspiration for reintroducing a mixed gender sixth form?**

It was two things really: one was seeing other schools that had gone that way already, and I thought the atmosphere in the school was much better than this place was when it was just full of boys; so it's partly seeing other schools, but it was partly also I think, a sense of frustration, and I wanted what we have here to be available for both sexes, because I think opportunities should be the same and I couldn't see that, and I couldn't see any other way of that happening.

We linked with South Wilts for a long time, and it started in 1999 and it finished in 2017 when we took girls in here - so nearly twenty years, and I could see generations of those girls going through, and not getting what I thought they should get. And I just thought, we've got so much to offer here and so much to gain, why don't we do it. And that was my kind of thinking; it was a long time planning; probably about 2015, 2014, that I finally decided to go for co-ed - persuaded the governors, persuaded the staff - and then it happened from 2020, so you see it was five or six years in the planning, because I wanted to get it right.

But it was those two things I think, one was seeing how well it worked elsewhere, and secondly this frustration that I thought we could offer something much, much better here than anywhere else, and I still think that's true, and I think it's vindicated by the numbers: This year we've had over 470 applications in total for next September; 230 are from girls - it is crazy, but that says to me that girls see what's on offer here, and they know it's good and they know it's actually incomparable to anything else in the local area, and that's how I want it to be - to be able to come here and just think, okay, you know, what do I want to do next - where do I want to go - and you have the support and the ambition and the ability to get to do what you want to do, and have a really good time while you do it; I think all the girls here, so far, have felt like that's been the case.

There are bumps in the road for

everybody, but overall, it's been extraordinary I think, better than I had hoped, so yeah, I'm really pleased and that's a supplementary question, I guess - what are you most proud of? - it's that, because that's changed this place, and on its own, just making that decision and then doing the change management has changed Bishop's for the better. It's bigger and much better balanced as a school - it was unbalanced when I took over; it was all boys, testosterone, very full-on, and I didn't think that was right.

**Do you have any plans for the next steps you will take in your career?**

No not yet - I just want time and space to think about things and do the things that I want to do, because I've had no time and space for at least two decades and probably longer. I've still got most of my marbles left, so I want to use my marbles productively somehow, but I don't know how yet.

**What is your final message to the students before you leave?**

I think two things really: one is a place like this only exists because people work at keeping it that way - you've got to work at it, because it's somewhere pretty special; You can't take it for granted, you've got to work, you've got to throw yourself into it, and do everything you can to make the place as good as it possibly can be; it won't happen by accident.

And the second thing I'd say to everybody, all the students, is just what do you want - because anything that you want is possible. I think that's true, anything you want is possible; it might not come to you immediately, but this place enables it. It's a launchpad and that's the way to think about it.

It's a launchpad for the students, and the way you test that is to just go get a copy of the prizegiving program, and look at where that lot went last year; it's just amazing, so exciting; so that's the big message, but the other one is don't take it for granted, because there's only 160 grammar schools left throughout the whole of England and there's nowhere else like this, I guarantee it.





