

Priory News

Educating Students for Success in Life

HEADTEACHER COMMENDATIONS

Ellie-Mae Spencer and Emily Miller have been awarded their red and bronze badges respectively. They both received their nominations for a Headteacher's Commendation for their school community work.

Congratulations to both students.



100% ATTENDANCE 2018-2019

During the last week of term, Headteacher's Commendations were awarded to students who had achieved 100% attendance for the whole of the academic year 2018-2019.

Well done to all. This is a fantastic achievement!



Dates for Your Diary

Monday 6th January

Start of Spring term

Thursday 9th January

12.30pm Year 10 Drama trip to see 'Beauty and the Beast', Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage

Monday 13th January

ESFA U13 Girls Cup v Hayes School, Bromley, Kent

Tuesday 14th January

- Year 9 visit to Computacenter
- Year 7 Basketball v Marriotts (A)

Wednesday 15th January

- Year 8 Basketball v Highfield (H)
- Year 9 Basketball v Barnwell (A)

Thursday 16th January

- 3.30-5.30pm Year 8 Netball at John Henry Newman

Friday 17th January

All day A-level Music Conference, Hitchin Boys' School

Monday 20th January

Ski lessons ahead of Ski Trip

Tuesday 21st January

- Year 10 Poetry Live! Trip, Cambridge
- GCSE exam visit to London Gallery
- Senior Football v Marriotts (A)
- Year 8 Football v John Henry Newman (H)

APPRENTICESHIP FAIR: 11TH MARCH

TPS is hosting an Apprenticeship Fair on the evening of 11th March. If any companies or training providers would be interested in having a stall at the event, please send an email to: Sally.Emler@priory.herts.sch.uk

Teaching and Learning

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARDS

Congratulations to the Bronze DofE adventure team on collecting their certificates and badges.



TPS STUDENT RAISES MONEY FOR SUPER SERAPH

Well done to Martha Knight and her younger sister who completed a challenge to raise money for Super Seraph. They climbed Tryfan in Snowdonia via the north ridge route. This is a continuous scramble from the roadside to the summit, which stands at 917m.

Here is the link to the Just Giving page where you can find more details:

<https://www.justgiving.com/Gail-Knight2>

Well done girls!



SAINSBURY'S FUNDRAISING CAROL SINGING

The music department and junior choir supported the fundraising for Helping Herts Homeless at Sainsbury's recently. They helped raise a fantastic £683.55 on the day - a record amount for this event! Well done to everyone involved.



Teaching and Learning

THREE YEAR 9 STUDENTS ATTEND LIFE COURSE AT STEVENAGE FIRE STATION

Three of our Year 9 students have attended the LIFE (Local Intervention Fire Education) course with Herts Fire & Rescue Service at Stevenage Fire Station.

The students had to complete an intense week of training, including 1:1 mentoring and team-building sessions.

All three students graduated on Friday 16th November and were excellent ambassadors for our school.

Congratulations to Jack Braddock, Olivia Gower and Harry Reddy who will all receive HTC's for their achievements.



DID YOU KNOW?

Screen Time and Social Media

How well do you know the apps your child uses? Are you aware of the password protected areas within apps like Snapchat? Did you know Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram have a minimum age limit of 13 and that WhatsApp's is 16? However innocent you feel your own child's use of their phone is, it is near impossible to stop it being infiltrated by other people, some of whom will not have the same standards of behaviour as you or your child.

With increasing use of phones among young people, we have seen a dramatic rise in the number of social media related issues cropping up in and out of school. This includes online bullying, sexting and verbal abuse. Schools and parents have a duty to monitor this and ensure appropriate usage. There is a worrying link to an increase in cases of anxiety and depression as young people seek to 'keep up appearances' and be seen to be part of the numerous social circles that are thrust upon them through these apps.

Young people are often far more adept with their devices than their parents are, allowing them to easily hide away content they don't want their parents to see. Do you know what time they are putting their phones down and going to sleep? Please support us in ensuring appropriate use and remember that we do not permit students to carry phones in school at TPS. Those caught with phones are given a one-hour detention and a parent or other adult is asked to come and collect the phone. Those caught with material of a more serious nature on their phones will have their devices handed to the police.

Thank you for your vigilance.

Teaching and Learning

YEAR 10 HISTORY TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC

On 8th July 2019, 19 excited Year 10 students became the first members of The Priory School to brave the perilous journey over the Atlantic Ocean. The destination? The Harrington Hotel, Washington DC, America! Arriving early in the morning, while their classmates were heading to their usual subjects of the day, these ambassadors (accompanied by Mr Wright and Ms King) prepared to say their final goodbyes to parents and peers, home and county, before stepping onto the coach that would begin their journey halfway across the world.



After the students disembarked at London Heathrow Airport, the race was on to board the IcelandAir Boeing 767 so they could travel on the eight-hour long flight, including a short two-hour detour to Keflavik Airport in Iceland across the pond. Eight hours later they arrived at Dulles Airport in Washington, prepared for a further five days of entertainment in the foreign city they would soon learn all about...

But first we needed to fill our stomachs with the oh so famous American cuisine. Luckily for us, the Hard Rock Cafe was only a five-minute walk from the hotel, so once we had offloaded our luggage brought with us from our far away homes, we set about the streets of Washington to find our first meal. Once full, we returned to our rooms in



the dusk of the American sun and settled down, hopefully not affected by jet lag, for our first night's sleep in the capital.

Tuesday morning soon arrived and we prepared for our first full day in this new country with a full buffet breakfast including anything you can think of - don't worry, it was only Dominic who ate a worryingly large amount of bacon.

Now full up with food, we set off to the National Mall, where we were shown around every single monument and memorial to be seen in the park: The Lincoln,

Jefferson and WW2 memorials to name a few. After having our lunch, we then attempted a visit to the National Archives. However, due to the weather problems the day before, we were turned away from entering, so we took the journey back to the hotel and got ready for another meal out, this time at a delicious sports bar which took us past the White House. Full again with food, we wandered back to the hotel to sleep for another night in America.

The next days followed the same routine, with equally enthralling activities to get up to - we visited the Ford Theatre, where President Abraham Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth, then explored the incredible African American Museum of History and Culture, shortly followed by the National Museum of American History and the Archives this time seeing the historic founding documents of America. Thursday contained an uplifting (no pun intended) visit of the National Air and Space Museum, and then a tour around none other than the US Capitol from a guide who couldn't stop cracking cringe worthy jokes. We then journeyed around the Museum of the Native American and finished the day at another restaurant to celebrate the trip and also Emma's birthday.



Cont'd...

Teaching and Learning

YEAR 10 HISTORY TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC Cont'd...

Then the final morning of our adventure in America came around. Sad to leave, we all had our final, and probably largest, breakfast and took a trip to the White House visitor centre where we had a charming video of Donald Trump played to us (however we did also have a magical encounter with a charismatic Vietnam War veteran).

Arlington Cemetery was our first stop back to Dulles Airport, where we paid our respects to those who had fallen and given their lives in combat, and also other important American figures such as President John F Kennedy and his family.



To lighten the mood, we then stopped off at Tyson's Corner shopping centre where we picked up trainers and cosmetics, along with clothing and gifts for our loved ones. Then came the airport, and 8 hours and 4000 miles later we were back at Heathrow Airport.

The Year 10 trip to America was probably the biggest, most exciting, and most influential adventure of my life, and I'm sure I can speak for others when I say this. It was an experience I won't forget in a long time, and it wouldn't have been possible without The Priory School, Ms King and Mr Wright. Thank you from all of us who took the first Priory School steps into the West.

William Box 11TV

PERFORMING ARTS TRIP TO SEE 'KINKY BOOTS'

On Thursday 7th November the Performing Arts students went to Milton Keynes Theatre to see the acclaimed West End production of the musical 'Kinky Boots'.

With amazing music by Cyndi Lauper and fantastic dance routines, the show is about discovering your passion, conquering prejudice and surpassing stereotypes. These themes are familiar and certainly still real issues because we still have yet to accept the message and these continue to be issues in society.

The students had an amazing time!



Teaching and Learning

NEWS FROM OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Following the news back in April that The Priory School had the third highest completion rate in the UK for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, there has been a series of really exciting expeditions.

In May we took 12 Year 8 students to the Peak District for an introduction to Outdoor Education. Over three days, the students trekked, climbed and kayaked in the south of the national park, getting a great taste for all things outdoors. This was followed by our qualifying expeditions at all three levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Forty Year 9 students completed their Bronze award, tackling the Dunstable Downs and having a chance to showcase the skills they had spent a year learning. All teams completed the expedition and over half moved up to start their Silver Award.

In July we took our Gold and Silver participants to Cumbria, where again we saw a 100% success rate in qualifying expeditions. The Silver participants explored from the coastal town of Maryport, inland to Keswick, whilst the Golds tackled some of the most challenging terrain in the Lake District, including summiting both Skiddaw and Scafell Pike, England's highest peak. We are overjoyed to say that most of the Gold participants have now confirmed their presentation ceremonies at the palace to receive their award.

This was swiftly followed by another Introduction to Outdoor Education, this time for a group of Year 10s who would soon be enrolling. These five students spent the day at Henlow Boyd Field, where they learnt the basics of fire lighting, backwoods cooking, kayaking and stand up paddle boarding. They also joined us for the Silver DofE practice weekend expedition in the Southern Peak District.

We were also lucky enough to send two groups off on World Challenge Expeditions. A group of Year 9 students flew to Morocco, where they spent two weeks doing project work in the stunning walled city of Taroudant, trekking in the High Atlas and exploring the coastal city of Essouaria. Their experience was made all the more special by a successful summit of Jebel Toubkal, North Africa's highest mountain. Standing at 4167m this is quite some achievement and hopefully the start of some fantastic mountaineering careers!

Our other World Challenge team, a group of Year 12 and 13 students, flew halfway around the world to the remote but beautiful country of Mongolia. Here they spent a month exploring one of the world's last true wildernesses. They again completed a mix of project work, horseback and foot trekking and exploration, truly getting a chance to get to grips with a unique and ancient culture. This included the chance to stay in traditional Gers with nomads. The whole experience was rounded off by a trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway and three days in Beijing, which included a visit to the great wall.

Since September we haven't been resting either. This academic year we have completed our largest ever sign up for DofE, with 60 students at Bronze and 28 at Silver. We have also launched World Challenge Nepal 2021 for students in Years 11 and 12 and Morocco 2021 for current Year 8.





UK MATHS CHALLENGE 2019 RESULTS



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JUNIOR CHALLENGE Y7 & 8 2018-9

- Gold:** Alex Reed, George Cook, Alice Rowlands, Jessica Drakes
Silver: Frances Peace, Alessandro Gaboardi, Eleanor House, George Watt, Finn Scourfield
Bronze: Matthew Reed, Omar Aboushaeshae, Grace Aldridge, Francesca Preston, Ella Dent, Ryan Woodcock, Dylan Kelly, Lola Mellor, Lauren Anderson
 - Parrot, Leo McKenna, Zoe Cooper, Charlotte Woodhouse, Martha Knight, Joseph Henley-Waters, Tommy Cropley, Ruby Deane, Dylan Brett, Daniel Gill, Keira Masters, Charlie Cropley, William Toffa, Chris Gadsen, Buba Jarjue, Maddie Woodcock, Michael Li, Uju Okenwa

JUNIOR KANGAROO (BY INVITATION ONLY)

- Certificate of Merit:** George Cook
Certificate of Qualification: Jessica Drakes, Alex Reed

INTERMEDIATE CHALLENGE Y9, 10 & 11 (2018-9)

- Gold:** Bill Reason, Michael Howes, Thomas Bannister
Silver: Alice Blackford, Daniel Baverstock, Isaac Rabel, Patrick Byrne, Tom Skuse, Alfie Baxter, William West, Zac Hammacott, James Henley-Waters, Briony Arnold
Bronze: Sam Bevan, Dominic Band, Sam Johnson, Holly Long, Eren Ozaydin, Jesse Knox, Elise Budd, Elliot Mainwaring, Daniel Lucas, Jacob Starkey, Luke Matthews, Lauren Sloane, Harry Critchely, Felix Austin, Katy Roberts, Emily Grieves, Tian Morley, Charlotte Smart, Chloe Moriarty, William Box, Emma Dodd, Gracie Bridge, Anna Wills, Jason Cooper, James Campbell

INTERMEDIATE KANGAROO (BY INVITATION ONLY)

- Certificate of Merit:** Bill Reason
Certificate of Qualification: Alice Blackford, Michael Howes, Thomas Bannister

SENIOR CHALLENGE Y12 & 13 (2019-20)

- Gold:** Thomas Bannister
Silver: Simran Minhas, Giorgia Mocan, Isaac Gianfrancesco, Maria Lenton, Harry Critchley
Bronze: Aoife Brooks, Lauren Wyatt, Max Thomas, Harry Huckle, Aidan Leigh, Ella Hughes, Veer Thandi, William West, Lily King, Lauren Sloane

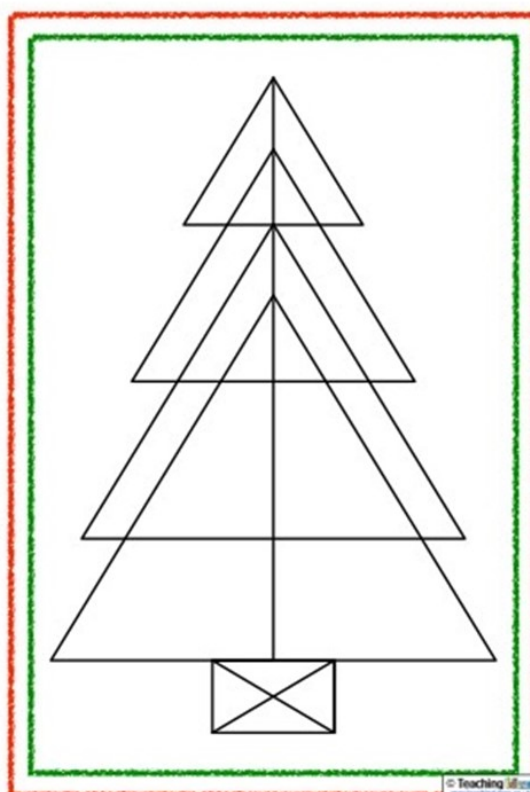
SENIOR KANGAROO (BY INVITATION ONLY)

- Certificate of Qualification:** Thomas Bannister

NUMERACY PUZZLE

How many triangles are there in the image below?

Please send answers to 13tantony@students.priory.herts.sch.uk stating your full name and form group. All correct solutions will receive an R1!



Teaching and Learning

5 WAYS TO WELLBEING

During their first PSHE lesson of the year, TPS students were tasked with learning about the 5 Ways to Wellbeing.

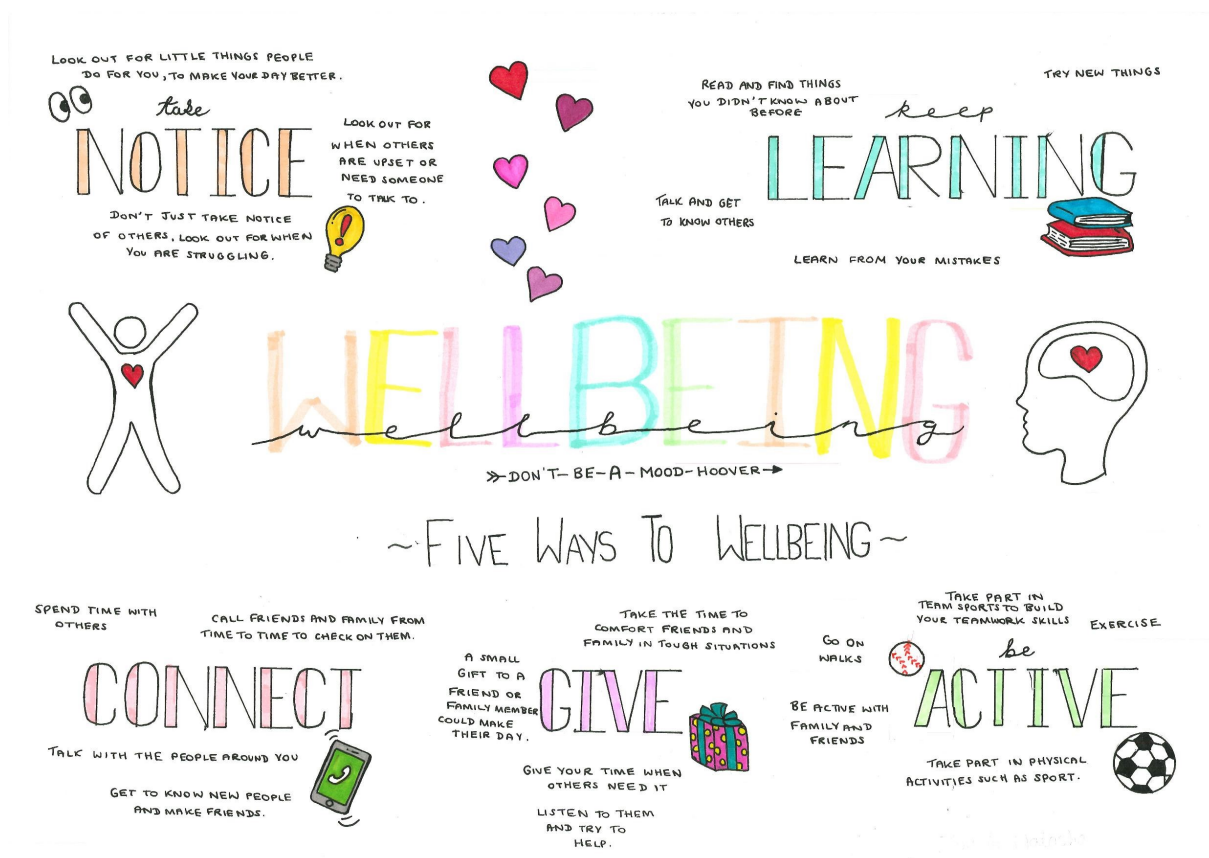
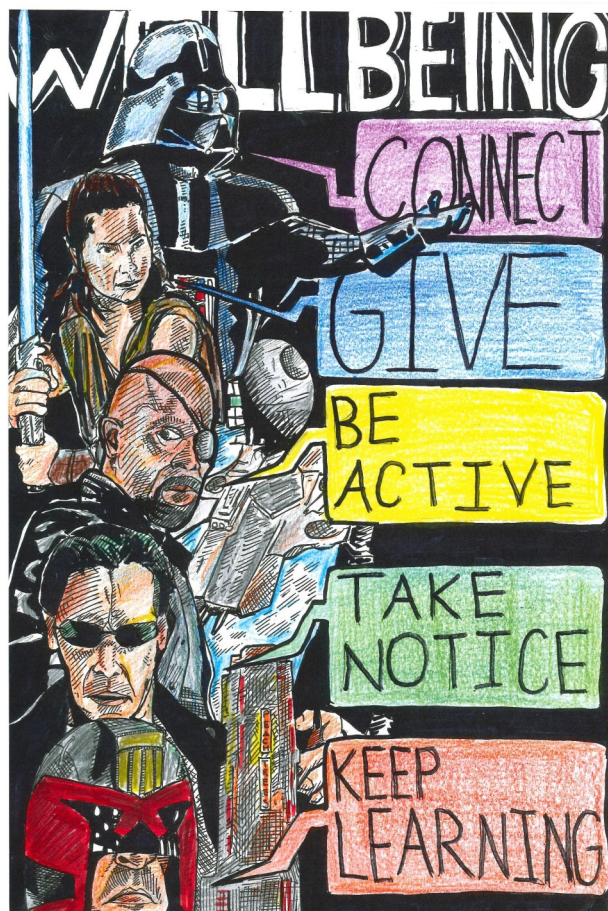
Following their learning, students competed in creating a school poster to represent this Public Health initiative.

We were overwhelmed by the efforts that students put into this competition from across the school but particularly in Year 10 where we had so many to choose from. Originally we were only to have one winner, but we could not decide so we ended up with two winners!

Charlie Sanders' poster is incredibly eye catching and his message clear - that everyone can be a hero and everyone can be strong.

Natasha Pulham and Zoe Burgess' poster is exceptionally informative and they have used images well to capture attention and give suggestions of how to achieve each of the 5 Ways to Wellbeing.

Our winners' posters were put in all classrooms, and Charlie, Natasha and Zoe all received a certificate and chocolate prize. They will also receive a Headteacher's commendation for their hard work.



Teaching and Learning

NETBALL RESULTS

Senior Netball

TPS vs Meridian	Won	18-0
TPS vs HGS 'b'	Lost	19-5
TPS vs JHN	Lost	17-5
TPS vs Barclay	Won	17-1
TPS vs Highfield	Won	14-9
TPS vs St Francis	Lost	13-8
TPS vs Highfield	Won	14-9
TPS vs KTS	Lost	10-7

Year 10 Netball

TPS vs JHN	Lost	13-8
TPS vs Barnwell	Won	11-5
TPS vs HGS	Lost	17-11
TPS vs Nobel	Won	8-1

Year 9 Netball

TPS vs Barnwell	Lost	12-3
TPS vs HGS	Won	8-5
TPS vs SFC	Lost	10-7

YEAR 8 BASKETBALL RESULTS

Priory 21-9 Nobel:

Corey Moulton – 16 points

Mark Reid – 2 points

Lucas Summers-Pritchard – 2 points

Joseph Henley-Waters – 1 point

YEAR 8 FOOTBALL RESULTS

1st October 2019 – Hertfordshire County Cup Game

Priory 1-1 Roundwood Park (Priory lost on penalties; see match report on next page)

9th October 2019 – District League Game

Priory 2-1 TAA (scorers were James Herbert and Max Rogerson)

17th October 2019 – ESFA Cup Round 2 Game

Priory 5-1 Simon Balle (scorers were Chris Gadsden (2), James Herbert, Max Rogerson and Zac Burns)

13th November 2019 – ESFA National Cup Round 3

Priory 0-3 Emerson Park Academy

Teaching and Learning

MATCH REPORT: PENALTIES REQUIRED TO SEPARATE PRIORY AND ROUNDWOOD

The first of October meant County Cup time for TPS' Year 8s, who had reached the final of the competition. This game also meant the step up to 11-a-side football for Mr Omar's side, who lined up for kick off in a 3-5-2 formation. Roundwood had a red stripe, so they had to wear blue bibs to avoid clashing with TPS' kit. There were a few chances early on, the first chance was a shot over the crossbar from a corner and then the game started as it meant to go on, counter-attacking football. The first real attack came from TPS with Harrison Donnelly set up by Szymon Pochodaj, but his shot couldn't find the target.

Roundwood Park, from Harpenden, really matched the Priory in all areas of the park, good on the break but a good, pacy defence stopped TPS getting through on many occasions. Roundwood had a few corners but TPS defended them well, with goalkeeper Frank having to claim the ball on a few occasions. Fifteen minutes in it was still 0-0, with a midfield battle starting to develop. On a wet and windy afternoon it was always going to be a bit of a scrappy game, but both teams looked strong on the break and this made for an entertaining game. Seven minutes later, striker Chris Gadsden went up the other end to force a TPS corner after Roundwood scuffed a shot wide. The shot from the corner was going in but it was deflected, a great chance for the Priory. At the other end Priory were defending excellently, with Finn Scourfield playing out from the back really well into the midfield. Twenty four minutes in, the pitch became wetter and the chances dried up for both sides.

At half time the teams were locked in a goalless deadlock, but it was TPS who were the quicker team out of the blocks in the second half, with Joseph's long shot forcing a save from Roundwood's keeper. However, it was Roundwood who eventually took the lead in the 42nd minute (each half lasted 35 minutes). The ball was worked out onto the right flank, and the low cross was slotted in to make it 1-0. The goal triggered a change in formation for TPS, switching to a 4-2-3-1 in the hope of an equaliser. The Priory were certainly knocking on Roundwood's door, with Chris Gadsden providing the attacking pressure on the defenders. Despite Chris' energy, Roundwood certainly defended well and continued to try and play out from the back. With the cold worsening and rain coming down, I was convinced that an equaliser would bring 15 minutes of extra time, so when TPS finally found an equaliser I wasn't the happiest person there! It was James who finally found the net with a great finish into the bottom corner with only seconds to go.

Moments later it was full time, and it was decided that penalties would have to separate the sides, with extra time appealing to nobody. Roundwood scored their first two with two good penalties, but goalscorer James had his shot saved before defender Jaden hit the back of the net. Roundwood scored again to make it 3-1, and then Harrison Donnelly stepped up and fired wide. However, it was clear for all to see that the ball was moving due to the blustery conditions, so Harrison was forced to retake it. The pressure is always on more the second time of asking, and the goalkeeper saved the retake. Roundwood's final penalty was in the bottom corner, 4 out of 4 meant they would progress into the next round of the County Cup. However, the game was closely fought between two excellent sides and it was probably a shame that penalties had to declare a winner and a loser.

By Freddie Cardy 11AR

YEAR 8 RUGBY

Congratulations to the Year 8 rugby team for committing to training and playing in several festivals. We are really pleased with their attitude and with how they are representing the school in such a positive way. The students have shown a great deal of responsibility in organising themselves, respect for each other and their opponents, and resilience when faced with very tough competition.



Teaching and Learning

TRAMPOLINING NEWS

Well done to the TPS students that represented the school at the East Region Trampolining Championships on Sunday 24th November at the University of Hertfordshire. The students were an absolute credit to the school. Congratulations to the following students:

Zoe Cooper – 4th place in the Elite competition; Lauren Davis – 18th place in the Intermediate competition

The following students qualified for the team competition that will be held in January in Cardiff:

Lily Manning; Elin Appleton; Ella Dent; and Emily Halford

The following students finished in 1st place in their competition and will be representing the school in Cardiff:

Emily Halford; Hari Henderson; and Harry Emler



HITCHIN RUGBY CLUB

mnp
mason navarro pledge

Kelly Group

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ENJOYMENT
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Raising Aspirations



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Find out more and apply online from September 2019

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*Only applies to students in Years 10/11 and S3/5/4 in Scotland.



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- Aerospace Engineering at University of Liverpool
- Marine Biology & Oceanography at University of Southampton
- Chemistry at University of Manchester

Plus many more!

Visit our website for the full list of courses.

Find out more and apply online from November 2019

www.etrust.org.uk/headstart

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A career in construction

Willmott Dixon are a Hitchin-based construction company that have been in business since 1852. Whether you are just leaving school or looking for graduate positions, they have many different opportunities within all sectors of the business. They have roles based in both the office and on site and offer opportunities ranging from work experience and apprenticeships to its management trainee scheme.

Examples of job roles are:

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Architect

<https://www.willmott Dixon.co.uk/careers/early-careers/job-roles>



OPEN EVENTS

Come along to one of our open events at our Hitchin, Stevenage and Engineering & Construction Campuses.

Monday 18th November | 5pm – 7.30pm

Monday 3rd February | 5pm – 7.30pm

Saturday 21st March | 10am – 1pm

Saturday 20th June | 10am – 1pm



www.nhc.ac.uk | 01462 424242

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Local Events/News

TREK AND COMMUNITY PROJECT IN AID OF GARDEN HOUSE HOSPICE

Farah Thompson, as part of a team of people, is trekking 88 kilometres through Cambodia in October 2020 for Garden House Hospice.

Garden House Hospice is a local charity that provides specialist palliative care to those facing a life-limiting illness to enable them to have the best possible quality of life by providing care and support in the setting of their choice, without discrimination.

These services, including a vast range of life-enhancing treatments, therapies, support networks and end of life care, are provided for free, however, last year it cost a massive £4.3 million to run the Hospice (as well as many, many hours of time from wonderful volunteers).

For further details of the trek, the Garden House Hospice and the option to donate online, please follow this link to Farah's Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/Farah-Thompson>



Creatives Cafe

FREE ENTRY

WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

FROM 3.30PM-6PM

chill out, listen to music, play pool or table tennis, PS4 with giant screen, board games

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MUDDY MAYHEM

5K Obstacle Course

Garden House Hospice Care

Saturday 29th Feb 2020

Knebworth Park, Stevenage, SG1 2AX



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www.ghhospicecare.org.uk

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Do you and your partner or ex-partner see eye to eye?



Disagreements are normal, but if they are getting in the way of family life support is at hand.

For advice on relationships and conflict visit:
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parentrelationships

If you need more in depth support, speak to your local Family Centre
www.hertsfamilycentres.org



Children's Services
Hertfordshire County Council

