



National Schools Champions 2018!

Congratulations to the Farmor's School riding team on their fantastic results in the 90cm jump height at the National Schools Championships.

Competing against 22 other schools, including both state and private, our Farmor's team rode like winners to become the National Schools Eventing Champions 2018, with an amazing lead of 32 points ahead of the second placed school. The students

in the winning team were Maddie Tapner, Morgan Kent, Mia Reglar and Ben Newman. Other winning students walking away with individual prizes were Sophie Wildern (5th in her section), Morgan Kent (7th) and Ben Newman who won his section.



Hare trail Auction 2018

The Hare Trail finished on Friday 5th October with an online auction. The Farmor's' students' hares sold for a grand total of £5,577!!! The money raised goes to two Cotswold charities - Caring for the Cotswolds and Glorious Cotswold Grasslands.

Here is a breakdown on hare bids:

- Tom Mundy - £651
- Will Axel-Berg - £400
- James Conlan - £350
- Evie Horrell - £350
- Molly Davies - £300
- Debbie Sundaraja & Isis James - £500
- Jasmine Doggett - £300
- Miranda Craig - 250
- Miai Killian - £351
- Jasmine Heppenstall & Grace Lawless - £425
- Maya Evans & Emma Simmons - £1700
- Mrs Dawson painted two hares - Contented Hares sold for £1100 & Moon Gazing Hare sold for £1103
- Many thanks to all the students who took part and for all their hard work.
- Mrs J.Dawson



World on Your Doorstep



In September, Year 7 was involved in our World On Your Doorstep project where we explored Fairford and the local area.

To begin with, the students spent a day walking around Fairford, finding out about local history and the area. They visited the Polish Hostel, St Mary's Church, the Community Centre and the Oxpens and were treated to a fascinating talk from Liz Mackenzie of the Ernest Cooke Trust about the history of the site. Back in the classroom, the students worked on their projects as we followed up in lessons what they had discovered when they were out and about. The standard of the projects this year was particularly high and were put on display by Mrs Dawson, a very proud Head of Year 7.





Y7 Student Runs for Funds

Every year, Nancy Sampson 7T does something for Children in Need (with a friend of hers who goes to another School). This year it involved running 20k each on a running machine on the main road in Fairford alongside a Bric a Brac Stall selling things to raise even more money.

It was a cold day in November but they ran all day from 8.30am to 5.00pm to reach their target – and they succeeded in doubling the amount they had raised last year!

Nancy's hard work both running and selling raised £477.00 for Children in Need and is an amazing achievement.

International Day of Languages

Our annual KS3 International Buffet Competition celebrated on the 26th September was once again a very popular and successful event.

Over 40 pupils participated in this bring, share and vote competition, and sampled foreign delicacies ranging from Brigadeiro (Portugal) to Sushi (Japan).

Our savoury winners were Annabel Skinner (Spaghetti Bolognese), Charlie Fryer-Ward (burritos) and Ciara O'Brian (Sushi).

In the sweet corner, contestants voted in favour of Cleo Clayton's meringues, Jonas Smith's palmier biscuits, Beth Tuke-Hastings' macarons

and James Young's New York cheesecake. A fantastic effort from all our cooks and a great lunchtime spent together tasting all the wonderful creations. Bravo!



School Reunion

In November 2018, we celebrated the 280th Anniversary of Farmor's School with an afternoon of meeting and greeting past pupils and staff. We have a folder of photos taken on the day if you'd like to see who was there – please contact Sarah Watson, Library Manager.



Crochet Club - Dr Crook recently started a weekly Crochet Club during lunchtime and it's proved extremely popular.

Most of the attendees started from scratch and they've come really far in just a few short weeks.

Year 11 Human Geography Field Trip

On Thursday 18th October, GCSE Geography students headed to Gloucester City Centre to carry out their urban fieldwork in preparation for their final examinations. The fieldwork investigation looked into whether Gloucester's Central Business District conforms to geographical models of urban development.

Students learnt valuable geographical skills including how to perform land use surveys, pedestrian counts and environmental quality surveys. Students also interviewed several shoppers along the high street. Pupils were also given the opportunity to visit Gloucester Docks - a site of regeneration - to understand how urban areas have and are changing.

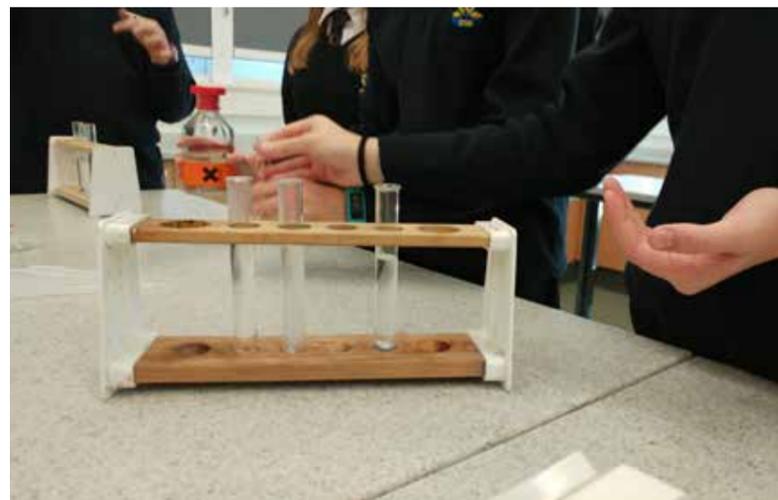
Miss Phillips





STEM CLUB

STEM club has got off to a great start this year with pupils from year 8 meeting in S2 every Tuesday lunchtime to work with Mr Colonna, Miss Lawson and Dr Bettington on Bronze CREST Award projects. Small groups of students have been researching and excitedly working on designing and building Mouse Trap cars to see whose can travel the fastest or the furthest. Another group is researching the chemical reactions that release heat energy and using them to design hand warmers, just in time for the cold weather!



Edible Science

On Thursday 22nd November, Year 7 took part in a joint initiative between the design technology and science departments. The task was to make edible water balloons using fruit juices, sodium alginate and calcium lactate. Students followed a method detailing how best to prepare their balloons whilst trying to find a technique for the most spherical and tastiest concoction.

All students demonstrated great scientific precision and safety with their practical skills and all made great tasting balloons, even if they looked rather strange! Many thanks to all the students who participated and to Dr. Bettington and Mrs Jayakanthan for their support with running the activity. Next year we're hoping to build edible foam towers. I wonder who will be able to build the highest?

And on Friday 19th October the Chemistry department celebrated World Mole Day. Key Stage 3 and 4 students took part in a Whack-a-mole competition whilst learning about Avogadro's number and what we use it for in Chemistry. Considerable mole whacking skills were shown by all who took part.

Dr. Crook



The National Cipher Challenge....

By Millie Thomas, Caitlin Goodman, Issy Crabb and Amy Gibbs

We are representing Farmor's in the University of Southampton's National Cipher Challenge. Two challenges are released every Thursday at 3:00 pm and it is a race to decode them before the deadline of midnight the following day. Sometimes there are even deliberate mistakes, which keep you on your toes.

The most recent challenge was an anagram. But what do anagrams have to do with maths? We noticed that there was a particular order to decoding it. The code was split into chunks of 5, which at a first glance made it even more confusing. To decode the passage, you followed the pattern '2nd letter, 1st letter, 5th letter, 4th letter 3rd letter, e.g. OCNED MAGAE NE!XT' would become 'Code name Agent X!'

Using this method, we decoded the whole text just in time. See if you can decode this message:

**HWDNE CEIDO GNEHT ENMTX
SEGAS WEIWE LLIEB BNGLE UINOM
HTABE TTFEL EISDL RT.PI TILIW
BLVAE REERY LATS! CIPXE RENEI EC.**

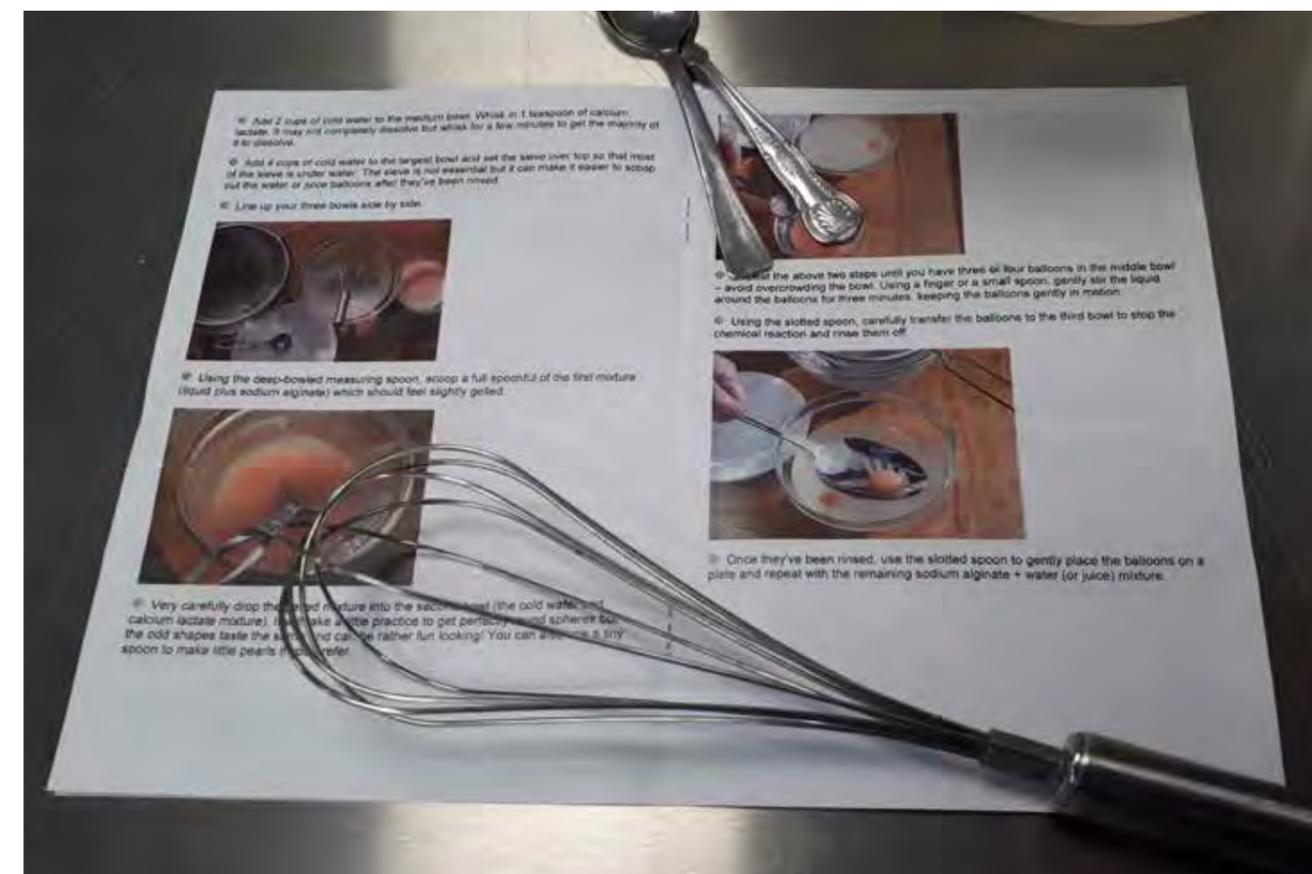
.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



Art meets Science

CELL-EBRATION

Week Oct. 29th – Nov. 2nd

This was a cross-curricular project where Art met Science with Year 7 students looking at microscopic cells in a variety of ways.

In Science, the structure of different types of cells was studied and how they are adapted to carry out different functions. Many students used their creative abilities at home to design and build a model cell out of a range of materials such as lego, plastic, fabric and even cake!

Over in Art, the Year 7s started their cell projects by looking at zoomed in images and recreating them through drawing a range of media including charcoal, oil pastel and ink.

During the cell-ebration week, we went one step further by inviting students to participate in lunchtime clubs where they could create crocheted red blood cells, alongside experiencing techniques such as bubble printing, needle felting and large scale oil pastel and ink resist drawing.

As the week progressed the club became busier and by Friday was positively buzzing with activity.

Clay tiles have also been made in Art inspired by the patterns and shapes within the cell structures. A group of Year 10 students worked together to complete a colourful mosaic of a leaf section which they had learnt about in their GCSE Biology lessons.

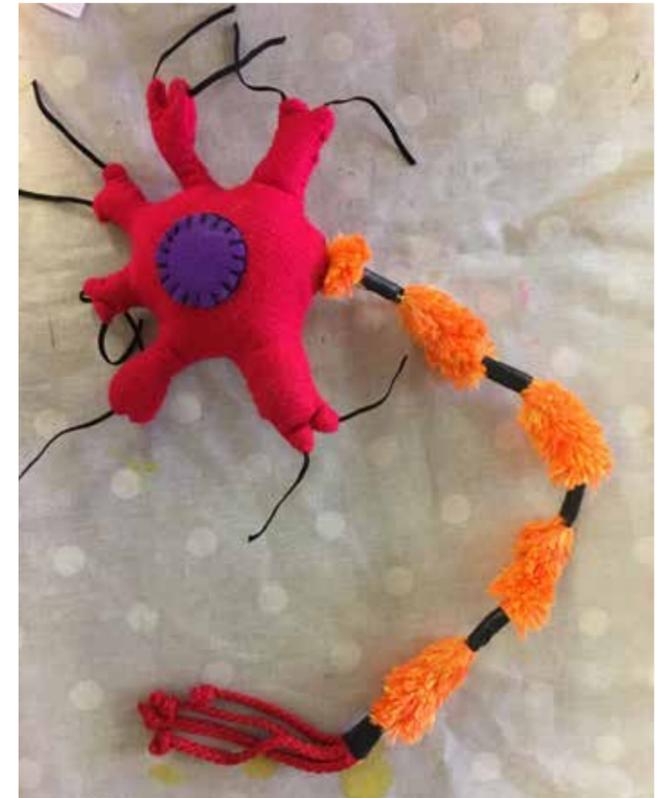
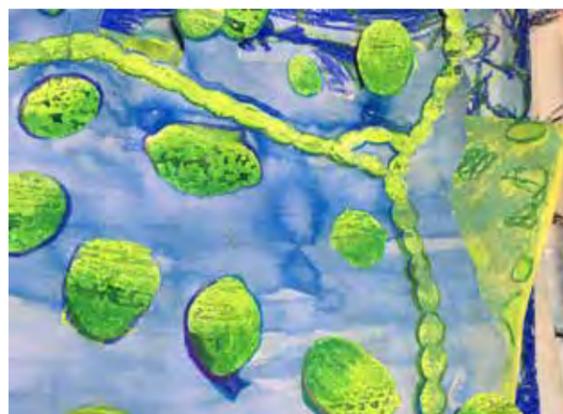
A selection of cell-ebration work produced is on display in the school library alongside some of the model cells which were entered into a competition.

The winners were:

Katie Rodgers
Madi Bindon
Amy Gibbs.

Congratulations to them! And a huge thank you to Cath Smith for helping us with the needle felting.

Mrs Badger



Year 9 Battlefields Trip



On the 22nd-23rd November, half of Year 9 went on the Battlefields trip to Belgium. It was an early start (we had to be at school by 5am) but thankfully everyone got there on time. When we finally arrived in Belgium, the first stop was the Passchendaele Museum. In the museum, there were lots of different exhibits, ranging from whole rooms full of bullets to a display of prosthetic limbs for injured soldiers. Outside, there were some mock up trenches and dugouts, which you could walk through over teetering planks. There was also a box with packets of poppy seeds for you to take home and plant yourself.



At the Tyne Cot Cemetery, there were 11,965 soldiers buried/commemorated. Over 8,000 bodies are unidentified, and there are massive walls with names of missing soldier's names carved into them. It is a chilling sight to see so many graves spread out in front of you. Tyne Cot also possesses the largest 'Cross of Sacrifice'.

Essex Farm Cemetery commemorates 1,200 WWI service men who died during the war. There are also some preserved dressing stations. In one of these dressing stations, it is believed that John McCrae composed his famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. Amongst some of the many graves, there lies the body of Rifleman Valentine Joe Strudwick, who, at just 15 years old, was one of the youngest British soldiers to die in action. The last time his mother ever saw him was when he walked out of her house to secretly enlist.

Among the many British cemeteries, there lies Langemark, a cemetery just for German soldiers. The headstones are incredibly different to the British ones. They do not stand tall and white, but lie flat on the ground as grey squares. There are up to six names on a single headstone, and there are lots of mass graves. Trees are a massive part of remembrance in Germany, and the ground covered in golden leaves which have fallen from the oak trees above...

At the Sanctuary Wood museum, we explored the preserved trenches and tunnels. It was getting very dark by then, so we had to use our torches. The tunnels were like a maze, and only a couple of smaller people could stand up in them. The soldiers would have had to stoop constantly to avoid hitting their heads. The trenches had lots of the features we'd already learnt about in, such as bolt holes and revetments. On the land surrounding the trenches, there were lots of craters where shells had been fired at the trenches. One tree was kept as a stump to show what the whole forest would've been like during the war.

After visiting a chocolate shop, we went to the Menin Gate. The Last Post has been played there every night since 1928 at 8pm. It has only been interrupted briefly during WW2. Amy Gibbs and Dominic Norman had the honour of laying the wreath for Farmor's School. It bears the names of more than 54,000 soldiers who died before 16th August 1917 and have

no known grave. The crowds of people who came to the ceremony were silent as the Last post was played and the wreaths were being laid. It was a once in a lifetime experience which nobody will forget.

In Sheffield Memorial Park, we re-enacted the soldiers going over the tops of the trenches in WWI. The site is a memorial to the British Army's 31st Division who served with the Pals Battalions. A Pals Battalion is when men from the same football team, factory, street or village sign up to fight in the war together. The men fought (and often died) in the war side by side. Unfortunately, this often meant that whole towns were left with barely any young men after the war.

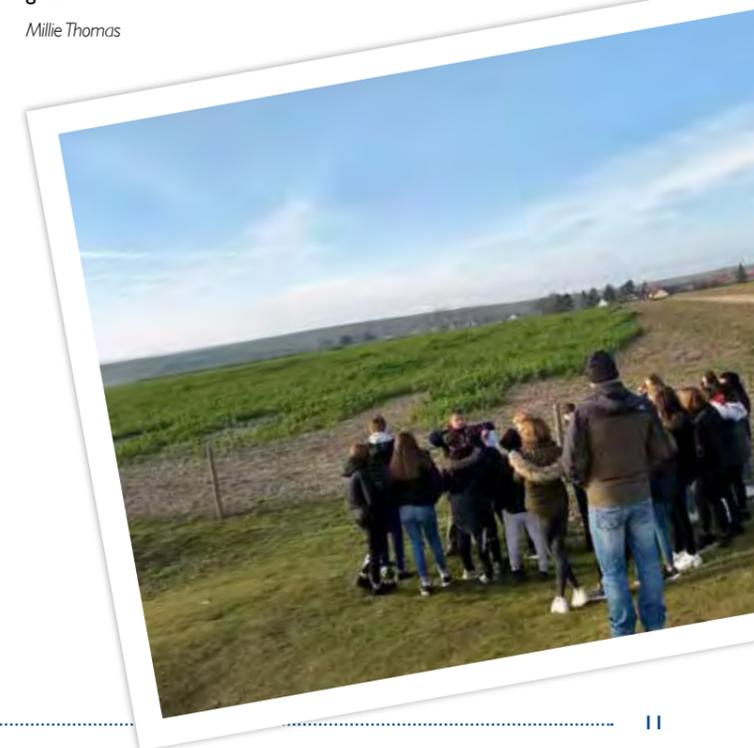
On the second day, after staying at the Messines Ridge Peace Hostel, we visited the Lochnagar crater. It is the largest man made mine crater from the First World War on the Western Front. It was laid by the British Army's 179th Tunnelling Company Royal Engineers underneath a German strongpoint and detonated at 7:28 on the 1st July 1916.

On one of our last stops, we visited the Newfoundland Memorial Park. It is a system of trenches, grown over with grass, which belong to the Canadians. During the war, the trenches were occupied by the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, who provided a Battalion of 800 men to serve with the British and Commonwealth armies. Almost all of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment died, leaving only a few men to return home.

We finished our trip by seeing the Thiepval Memorial. It is the largest Commonwealth memorial to the missing in the world. It has over 72,000 names on, commemorating the soldiers who died and have no known grave. We even saw the wreath the French President had laid on the altar in the middle.

It was an emotional trip for all, especially for those visiting family members. After seeing just some of the graves left behind from the war can we even begin to understand the devastation of the 'War to end all wars'. I really recommend going to visit the Battlefields, as seeing them is completely different to seeing the photos or hearing the stories. The Lochnagar Crater was so big that it cannot be properly photographed from the ground.

Millie Thomas



Year 13 Geography Fieldtrip to Fairford

As part of their 'Changing Places' topic, A-Level Geography students have spent two separate days collecting data to build two contrasting case studies – Cardiff Bay and Fairford. The aim of these field trips was to enable students to understand how places have changed over time and how they will continue to change due to current challenges.

Students visited Cardiff Bay before the end of the last academic year. More recently (Tuesday 13th November), Year 13 students visited six different sites across Fairford including the High Street, new housing estates and East End.

Primary data collection included environmental quality surveys, place profiles, clone town surveys and interviews with members of the public. Students were also lucky enough to have the opportunity to speak to John Reed (Founding member of the Fairford History Society) and Andrew Doherty (Town and District Councillor). They learned about the history of Fairford and understood the socio-economic and political factors that have driven, and will continue to drive, change in Fairford.

Miss Phillips



Racing Ahead

On Sunday November 25th my parents took me to an RAF base to have a go at driving racing cars. I drove a Nissan skyline and a fabulous yellow Lamborghini up to speeds of 140 kms per hour - it was an experience that I will never forget.

Nyle Seabrook, Year 8



Art in Cornwall

We set off on a wet Thursday afternoon in late September for our Art & Design experience in St Ives, Cornwall. The minibus held 15 students, Ms Badger and our very patient driver, Farmor's School Chair of Governors, Mr Joslyn.

After a long drive and some poor directions from Ms B, we arrived in torrential rain at the wonderfully welcome Cohort hostel in the centre of St Ives. After sorting out our rooms and unpacking, the Pizza delivery turned up and we tucked into our delicious dinner.

On the Friday, we headed off along the sunny coastal road stopping for photo shoots and ending up in the tiny village of St Just to visit the Kurt Jackson Foundation; Jackson is a Cornish painter who produces large scale paintings of the coast, his current exhibition was a response to the Scilly islands where he videoed himself painting large canvases on the beach. We then returned to St Ives and walked out of the town towards the island, where we spent time drawing and taking photos of the harbour and surrounding coastline. Our Friday evening meal was fish and chips in the really friendly Balancing Eel café. Back at the hostel, there was no rest as the students were required to create an oil pastel study on wood, of St Ives harbour in the style of Kurt Jackson or local artist Alfred Wallis. Some complaining occurred, but once they started the exercise, the moaning stopped, and the concentration began.

On Saturday, we woke up to another

day of true Cornish weather; rain and wind! The morning was spent searching out the small local art studios and exhibitions and talking to the artists themselves: the weekend coincided with the end of the St Ives festival, which showcased local Art, music and performance. In the afternoon we had a sketchbook workshop at the Barbara Hepworth museum, where we learned more about the sculptors' work. We then headed up to the Tate gallery for a couple of hours, browsing the collection and the Patrick Heron exhibition.

Our Saturday evening meal was in the "Surf shack" where we ate artisan hotdogs and large slabs of cake! The staff there were very friendly and welcoming.

We packed up on Sunday morning and headed home, again in rain, with a stop off at the amazing Eden project. We spent about three hours exploring the Biomes and the invisible world exhibition, taking photos, drawing and getting inspiration for our Art and photography work. We could have easily spent another three hours but needed to get back to school. After a long day and a long drive, we arrived back at school ready for a good sleep and a hot shower.





Rotary Club

Public Speaking Showcase

In the very final week of term in July, three students from Years 8, 9 and 10 represented Farmor's at the Cirencester Rotary Club Public Speaking Showcase event at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester.

The three speakers: Eris Brown (then in Year 8), Harrison Darley (then in Y9), and Jemima Merrington (then in Year 10), had come through class and year group heats to win their places at the showcase event. Along the way they had faced tough competition from a number of very accomplished speakers.

On the night our three speakers shared the stage with champions from Kingshill and Deer Park schools in Cirencester. The audience were treated to very polished speeches on a range of topics.

For Farmor's Eris Brown gave a very personal and poignant speech about living with chronic conditions, finding confidence and poise amongst her nerves. Harrison Darley amused his audience with an entertaining speech about

some less well-known superheroes and their often bizarre powers. Jemima Merrington spoke with her characteristic aplomb on the topic of social media and was both amusing and thought-provoking. All of the speakers are to be congratulated for their courage and commitment – they truly did Farmor's proud and were rewarded with prizes and Rotary Club hospitality.

The speakers were well supported by runners-up Amy Gibbs, Jessie Paton and Sammy Cartwright (who were also awarded certificates for their achievements), and their parents.

The search for more public speaking talent will resume in the spring term with students in Years 8, 9 and 10 giving speeches in their English lessons. It is planned that the Showcase event next July will be a competition with the three schools competing for a trophy. Last year's winners have set the bar really high and we look forward to seeing what this year will bring.

Sue Simmonds

Head of English





focus on sport

Netball

Y7 The Cross Country season was upon us almost as soon as school started, and thanks to the diligent efforts of the PE team and Mr Eckersley we once again put out some strong teams out at the relay cross country event. Ruby Hellewell and Kian Dee gained selection for the District Cross Country team and will now go on to represent the District at the County Meet in Newent.

Y8 The Year 8's Netball season has unfortunately been thwarted by our delightful British weather but of the matches they have played we have seen some excellent performances. Most notably in a cup game against Colston's School all the way from Bristol. We had home advantage for this one but it is always difficult playing a team you have no prior knowledge of.

The match went goal for goal in the opening quarter and it was clear this could be anyone's match. The Y8 squad held their own with some great interceptions from our defence pairing of Bliss Chapman and Rebecca Cornell. Meanwhile Eliabeth Mills scored some fantastic shots under a great deal of pressure. We also played two of our Year 7's to give them some experience and to give the squad a greater depth at either end of the court.

Zoe Thomas and Hannah Easton came on and instantly made an impact. Zoe moved brilliantly around the court and played with confidence and ease in a high pressure

situation, as did Hannah at the defensive end. Ones to watch for the future! The game ended 13-16 to Colston's but it was a great team effort and the girls were pleased with a competitive game. Well done Year 8's!

Y9 The Netball team had an important tournament at the beginning of November; their first foray into the County tournament structure. The girls had a tough start to the season playing both teams who have been their nemesis since year 7 – Pates in week 4 losing 22-29 and Stroud in week 6, which was a 29-29 draw.

Both matches were fabulous preparation for the tournament even though the girls may not have felt that at the time. They also played against our own Year 10's in preparation for their tournament and really raised their game. The U14 County Tournament is always cold, always wet and certainly involves battling the elements as well as your opponents! This was as true this year as always. Group stages were a challenge as you can see from the results below but then the heavens really did open just in time for semi finals.

The girls were transported to the Cheltenham Ladies College sports hall where they faced another rematch with Pates, but this time on a show court in front of rows of rain drenched parents, teachers and coaches. Shell shocked for the first half the girls went 5-0 down and it wasn't looking good. However, they found their feet in the second quarter and pulled themselves right back into contention. A nailbiting last few seconds ensued and sadly we lost 7-6 but WHAT a performance.

Reaching the semi finals is a brilliant result for this team and we are proud of the way they handled themselves.

A real test of maturity.

Y9 U14 County tournament results:

- V Chipping Campden 8-6 won
- V St. Peters 9-4 won
- V Chosen Hill 7-7- draw
- V Wycliffe 4-7 lost
- QFV Kings 12-4 won
- SFV Pates 6-7 lost

Y10 The Year 10 Netball girls have had a great start to the season. We have been able to field three teams in this age group which is testament to the strength and depth in this year group and the enthusiasm of the girls who continue to commit to training and matches whenever there are opportunities.

It has been really pleasing to see new faces attending practice and other committed members getting their first representative matches under their belts.

The A team continue to dominate on a District level and will hopefully show their form when we compete for the District title on the 10th of December at the end of season Festival. However, our B team have played many matches this term against the A teams of other schools and should be congratulated on their performances and team spirit which has shone through.

Many of those games have been won, again showing the quality of these players.

The A team had a very tough draw in the Sisters in Sport Cup game (not that we had any idea quite how tough until we took to the court!) We played a school from Winchester called St Swithun's and when we were 20 goals to 2 down at quarter time I wondered how to lift their spirits and regain some of the fire these girls have. We finished the match with a respectable 75-22 loss which showed real grit and determination and a never give up attitude. It also helped that we found out after that game that the team came 7th in the UK last year at the National Schools competition!!

We will only get better if we play the best, and as hard as this can be at times, it is truly how we get the best out of the girls here at Farmor's. Our next aim is to go through to Regionals again next year and of course to retain the District title.

Y11 The Year 11 Netball team have had a fantastic season so far. As a Department we always work towards the County tournaments in each age group with anticipation and excitement. This was particularly true this year for the U16 girls. This team lost out cruelly to Stroud High in the equivalent tournament at U15 level and absolutely had a point to prove!

This tournament always comes early on in the term which means we have little prep time to get the girls ready. However, we made sure that they had three really strong fixtures before the tournament which helped with our preparation and mental readiness for the tough games. The girls enjoyed another tough match against Stroud High which they lost 21-29 and further fuelled their fight to prove their dominance when we met them in the final stages of the tournament.

Results are below:

- V Winchcombe 13-0 win
- V Dene Magna 19-1 win
- V Bournside 11-2 win
- V High School Gloucester 8-6 win
- QF Pates 14-5 win
- SF Stroud High 7-3 win
- Final 9-5 lost



Netball Continued.



Y11 Proceed to REGIONAL FINALS

So far we have played:
Stonehenge school – 75-3 won
Wycombe Abbey Independent school – 34-28 won

We have also entered a National Cup competition run by a new venture called Sisters in Sport.

The benefit of these types of matches are that we get to play teams way outside of our county which gives the girls a great challenge and a variety of opposition so we don't get complacent within the district. This competition is knock out and the girls play full length games (4 x 15 minute quarters) so our fitness is also being tested which is great for the next stage in both the regional competition and the cup progression.

The Wycombe Abbey match was superb and takes us through to the Semi-finals of the South West stage of the cup. The girls are seriously excited and hoping for a trip to Truro School for a rematch of our Year 8 cup match against them.

The girls have also now retained the District title beating Stroud in a rematch 35-30. Ella Tuke-Hastings gained a well deserved player of the match.

Netball Continued.



Netball South West Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing Workshop – Cheltenham Ladies College.

On Thursday 29th of November the PE Dept (with the help of Mr Imeson!) took 16 of our keen Netballers to attend the aforementioned workshop. Becky Oatley of Severn Stars fame, and formerly Celtic Dragons and Wales spoke to the girls about her journey through Netball and the issues she has battled to achieve her status as elite sports person. The girls were enthralled by her talk in which she raised many topical mental health issues. They then enjoyed a yoga and mental wellbeing workshop and a team building Netball based games session. Grace Orgill won two tickets to watch the Severn Stars play and Jemma Watkins (pictured with Becky Oatley) won a signed Severn Stars t-shirt for her attitude during the workshop. Well done Jemma! A fantastic afternoon for all involved and a chance to engage with sport in alternative way.

Cross country

Y7 The Cross Country season was upon us almost as soon as school started, and thanks to the diligent efforts of the PE team and Mr Eckersley we once again put out some strong teams out at the relay cross country event. Ruby Hellewell and Kian Dee gained selection for the District Cross Country team and will now go on to represent the District at the County Meet in Newent.

Y8 Fletcher Hart gained selection for the District Cross Country team who now

go on to represent the District at the County Meet in Newent.

Y9 Kiya Dee, Taya, Dee and Lauren Pawson gained selection for the District Cross Country team who now go on to represent the District at the County Meet in Newent.

Y10 Lucy Spencer gained selection for the District Cross Country team who now go on to represent the District at the County Meet in Newent.



Hockey



U16 Hockey team at plate competition at Cheltenham College

U16 Hockey team at plate competition at Cheltenham College

The photo shown on pg 21 is our U16 Hockey team which is a mixed Year 10 and Year 11 squad. We entered the girls into a plate competition held at Cheltenham College. This was a great day out where the girls competed against many schools who are not in our local district. This was a great experience for them. Many of our students play club Hockey and it was a good opportunity for them to play against strong schools sides and challenge their capabilities.

The St Peters team was a particularly good match, we had all of the possession against this strong side but unfortunately couldn't quite score. However, we were pleased to take away one good win and even in the games we lost the performance was respectable and we were very proud of how we played as a team who have limited experience together. Player of the tournament went to Ella Tuke-Hastings. Soffie Rigby and Emily Skinner from Year 10 also held their own in their respective positions. Well done girls.

Plate tournament results:

- U16 County Plate tournament results:
- V Cotswold 1-0 win
- V Pates 0-2 loss
- V Wycliffe 0-2 loss
- V St Peters 0-0 draw



1st Team

The 1st team have played some exciting Netball this term. The first outing against Cirencester College proved to be a tough call.

However, with the help of Alice Mundy from Y11 we took the win 24-22 with Tatum Eyre gaining player of the match working both ends of the court effectively as centre. This was followed by an impressive victory against a weakened Stroud team but nevertheless it was a strong performance whereby we dominated throughout. Taking the win 24-4. The most recent match we played was against New College Swindon who are always strong. The girls once again put in a great team performance, losing 32-37. We play New College in a rematch next.

Rugby

Y7

A fantastic start to school Rugby with around 30 regular students attending Rugby Club and representing the school at some stage this term. We took one team to the District Tournament at KLB back in October and enjoyed a great morning of rugby with a mixture of wins, draws and losses.

We have also played A and B team friendlies against Kingshill, Thomas Keble, KLB, Cotswold and Sir William Romney. The boys have progressed throughout the term and have played some really good Rugby - we look forward to continued progress next year.

Y8

The boys have made real strides in their rugby development this term, both as individuals and as a team. They have had a very competitive season, which saw them come runners up in the East District regional tournament and was then followed up with 3rd place overall at District Finals night at Katherine Lady Berkeley's School on Tuesday 16th December. Other notable performances saw nail biting 20-15 wins over both Cokethorpe and Kingshill Schools, whilst a 5-20 loss to a very strong Cotswold School side has been just as important for the boys development (full set of results can be found on the school website).

The team has been led by captain Zachary Slade who has thrived in assuming responsibility for organising the players and has also led by example on the pitch. Other players who have also played key roles this season have been; Will Merrett, Alex Ponting, Will Lloyd, Max Bird and Reuben Rebello.

The boys' commitment to training has been superb and they have made great strides in their technical and tactical understanding of the game. Next year I look forward to seeing the boys develop as individuals and as a team as well as adapting to the 15-a-side version of the game. Full squad with positions from this season; Kieran Flood (Prop) Jack Heycock (Hooker) Will Lloyd (Prop) Eden Morely (Second row) Jack Overson (Second row) Zachary Slade (No.8) Max Bird (Scrum-half) Jack Morgan (Scrum-half) William Merrett (Fly-half) Alex Ponting (Inside centre) Jonty Parkinson (Outside centre) Fletcher Hart (Wing) Reuben Rebello (Full back) Josh Watkins (Wing) Alfie Haines (Utility Forward) Nick Scott-White (utility back) Joe Warrington (Utility forward).

Y9

Year 9 have made huge improvements with their commitment to training and games this year with 18 regulars making up our squad. We enjoyed a hard fought victory against Sir William Romney back in September winning 28-17 and despite scorelines sounding one sided we gave an excellent account of ourselves against Kingshill and Deer Park who are both very strong sides. Unfortunately our game vs Thomas Keble was lost to the weather. We look to next year for further improvement and hopefully some more fixtures against well matched opposition that will continue to challenge this developing group of players.

Y10

Buoyed by a strong season last year; the year 10 rugby team were looking forward to another season of school boy rugby. As a result of their successes last season a conscious decision was made to find them a selection of harder fixtures in order to really test them. Frustratingly though the team has failed to 'kick on' this year; with attendance at training being less consistent and the impact of injuries and 'return to play' protocols on a relatively small squad being quite significant. This has meant that the necessary improvements in organisation have been difficult to implement and they have found it hard going against some of the stronger teams played.

The games the boys have won have usually been won comfortably, reflecting the potential the team evidently has. Cotswold School were comfortably beaten 62-15 early in the season, with victories against Hardenhuish School (31-0) and Katharine Lady Berkeley's School (36-24) following.

In their remaining fixtures the team came up against teams that displayed a much greater level of organisation and fitness. This level of organisation creates defences that are harder to break down and a more options in attack to defend against. These differences between the teams resulted in losses against Burford School (5-27), Severn Vale School (7-38) and Marling Grammar School (7-36).

Next year the aim is to regroup and improve their fitness and organisation of their play which, when combined with their exciting running and offloading game, could take their game to the next level. However, greater determination and commitment is required if they want to take their game to the next level!

Rugby Continued.

Y11 It has been a pleasure coaching this group of boys over the last two seasons. For a group of lads who apart from one or two hadn't picked up a rugby ball before Year 7, have developed into a very capable team, and have consistently given very good accounts of themselves in the district and in regional competitions over the years. Their committed attitude was evident none more so than at our weekly training sessions where we approached training in a fun but competitive manner.

All of the boys have played their part in keeping the rugby team together for 5 straight years and managed to finish their last season off with two solid wins over Cotswold School and Kingshill school winning 46-34 and 34-7 respectively, whilst they found themselves on the wrong end of the score line in two highly competitive, high quality and very physical matches, which for the spectator were enjoyable to watch; 27-36 loss to Marling and 29-7 loss to Katherine Lady Berkeley's School.

Most importantly and above all else, is that this group of boys have turned out into pleasant and respectable young men, and we wish them all the best for the future.

Y11 rugby squad with positions; (Prop) Aidan Uttley (Hooker) Matty James (Prop) Daniel Pearce (Second Row) Harry Bull (Second Row) Jed Deo (Second Row) Jordan Goodwin (Second Row) Thomas Mundy (Flanker) James Terry (Flanker) Christian Conlan (No.8) Christopher Harris (Scrum Half) Alfie Taylor (Outside Half) Aaron Davis (C) (Inside Centre) Alex Cohoon (Outside Centre) Archie Mehtar (Wing) Thomas Brown (Fullback) Freddie Merrett (Wing) James Landafont (Wing) Joel Bradley (Fullback) Elliot Slade (Wing) Owen Baker-Smith.



Archery

Eleven Farmor's students have recently completed a seven week archery course. The sessions, delivered by the award winning Xperience Archery, were run in the main hall, as an after school session, on seven consecutive Mondays.

Over the weeks the eleven students covered:

- Range and Personal safety
- Basic archery etiquette
- Basic shooting technique
- Aiming techniques
- Individual and team competitions

All the students involved really enjoyed the course and made some great progress with their shooting over the three sessions.



The coaches who run the sessions are really funny and helpful. My archery has really improved.

Isabel Shepherd, 8AH

It's really welcoming at the club and they have given me lots of help. I've really enjoyed it!

Freya Berrisford, 8SCK



Badminton

Boys' badminton is going from strength to strength at Farmor's School. Just three years ago no teams existed and the boys' ability reflected this. However, fast forward to the current day and in an average week 45 boys attend training, there is a steady stream of fixtures against other schools for the boys to play in, the KS4 boys team have qualified for the County finals (again) and the KS3 boys team, which consists mainly of Year 8 students, missed out on qualifying for the County finals by the narrowest of margins.

This year friendly fixtures have been played against Cirencester Kingshill School and Balcarras School, who are arguably the strongest badminton school in the County. A further friendly fixture was planned against Sir William Romney's School, but sadly this was cancelled by them at the last minute.

A wide variety of boys played in these fixtures and the results were:

Vs. Cirencester Kingshill School KS3 'A' Team: Won 6-4 KS3 'B' Team: Lost 3-7 KS4 'A' Team: Lost 2-8 KS4 'B' Team: Won 8-2 Vs. Balcarras School KS3 'A' Team: Lost 1-9 KS3 'B' Team: Lost 2-8 KS4 'A' Team: Lost 4-6

At the District Tournament a relatively inexperienced KS3 Boys team, made up entirely of year 8 boys, keenly entered the fray. In their first match they comfortably beat Cirencester Kingshill School by 4 games to 1. However, lots of mistakes were made and many of the games were closer than they needed to be. In their second game the boys showed that they had learnt from their mistakes and beat a much stronger Sir William Romney's team by 3 games to 2. This created a must win last match against Cirencester Deer Park School, a team consisting entirely of year 9s. Sadly, this game was eventually lost by 3 games to 2, with both teams scoring a total of 41 points across the five games #CLOSE! This placed the team 2nd overall, meaning they missed out on qualifying for the



County finals by the narrowest of margins.

At the same District Tournament the KS4 Boys team easily beat all their opposition to finish in first place. Winning the competition means they have qualified for the County finals, which will be held in Cheltenham on Tuesday 5th February 2019. This will be these boys third appearance at the finals. In their first year they competed (as Y8s) in the

years 7-9 competition and gained valuable experience and in their second year they won a bronze medal in the years 7-9 competition (as year 9s). How will they do this year?

There are further fixtures planned against Sir Thomas Rich's School, Archway School and Marling Grammar School, with hopefully a few more in the pipeline too. There is also the House Badminton competition to run as well.

District Tournament Results:

KS3 Boys - 2nd Place Beat Cirencester Kingshill 4-1 Beat Sir William Romney's 3-2 Lost to Cirencester Deer Park 2-3
KS4 Boys - 1st Place Beat Cirencester Kingshill 5-0 Beat Sir William Romney's 4-1 Beat Cirencester Deer Park 4-1



Proceed to REGIONAL FINALS

See page 20



Rugby Round-Up See pages 23 & 24

**Full Sport
round-up.**

See pages
18 to 25