

fOCUS

newsletter



Farmor's School
AN ACADEMY



Farmor's School shines in Autumn glory!
Have a look inside for our latest stories...

Headteacher's Corner!

I had an electrician come to do some work recently at my home. He had to go up in the loft. When he came down he announced that it was the messiest loft he had even seen. The cheek! (He won't be coming back any time soon.)

What bothered me most about the electrician's observation was that he was right. I had been meaning to go and sort everything out up there for years. I kept putting off the job because I imagined that it would take me days. I could also see no benefit in having a tidier loft. Therefore I had no incentive to sort it out.

Finally, a few weeks ago, I needed to find something stored up there. When I ventured up it dawned on me that I just needed to get on with the job. Thus, just three hours later, I had a pile of junk for the tip and an organised attic. I emerged triumphant and insisted that everyone in my house go up and see my handiwork.

Whilst doing this most unpleasant of jobs, I stumbled across some memorabilia from years past. I found my Oasis Knebworth ticket (in mint condition), programmes for the shows I had been in at school and embarrassing photos from my university days. The most unrewarding of tasks resulted in some pleasant reminiscing and lots of laughs at the state of my Noel Gallagher bowl-cut.

The experience taught me two lessons. First that the things we have been putting off are often not as bad as we imagine they are going to be. Second, that we should dwell less on the difficult tasks in our lives and more on the good things that happen along the way.

Merry Christmas to you all. I hope you tackle some of those jobs you've been putting off over the break, but more importantly enjoy the company of friends and family.



Matthew Evans, Headteacher

Our journey so far...

Our Year 7 students joined us in September from their primary schools. The transition to secondary school is an important time in a child's life, we like to make sure it goes as smoothly as possible and that all our students settle into life here at Farmor's.

Here are the thoughts from one of our students on their journey so far.

When I joined Farmor's School I was quite scared that I was going to get lost and get detentions. On my first week I realised it wasn't that bad at all. I made new friends and memorised my own time table. I completed all of my homework and got really good marks on my assessment. The teachers are really kind and help me when I need help with work or homework. I've joined lots of clubs some of them to do with sport and some to do with music. My first term in Farmor's was fine; I made it to my lessons on time and created more friends from different tutor groups. I realised I had a favourite subject, which is DT because I really like creating things. I discovered I like running and I am quite fast and good at netball. I went to a netball match and we won a game.

When I came back from half term I was used to going to lessons and what time break time starts and ends. Farmor's is a really great secondary school with loads of kind people and teachers.

The house I am in at school is Tame, this means my tie is yellow and on sports day I will be on Tame's side. Overall I've been enjoying Farmor's and I can't wait to find out more!

Jade S.

Open Events 2021

In September and October Farmor's opened its doors to prospective year 7 pupils and their families. After a year of lockdowns and restrictions, we were delighted to be able to offer pupils the opportunity to attend face to face open events within school.

We began with our popular Open Evening on 30th September. All of the departments were open and staff were on hand to demonstrate all that makes Farmor's special, how we can help and support pupils in achieving their goals and aspirations and showcase the quality of the education we provide.

The Governor's and Senior Leadership Team greeted arrivals in the car park and then our year 11 prefects guided our visitors around site, following a route specially created to cover Covid19 safety requirements. Departments provided many varied activities such as experiments in Science, fitness challenges in PE and quizzes in Geography.

In the quad, ear drums were treated to the sound of music provided by students and our catering team Aspens gave taste buds a feast with their samples of chocolate brownies, flapjacks, curry and Panini's.

Our Headteacher Mr Evans gave talks in the main hall, which were very popular, so popular that an extra timeslot was added! The hallways and classrooms were full of families once again after such a long difficult year, it was a wonderful sight to see and the atmosphere around school was euphoric.

Next our Open Day Tours, once again our year 11 Prefects sprang into action to represent our school, taking the lead in giving tours around site to pupils and one parent, a chance to see the school in a normal working day and an opportunity to ask questions. Our prefects worked incredibly hard over these two events and we are extremely proud of all of them, they showed great maturity and confidence when interacting with members of the public. Well done to them all!



▼ Mrs Chick worked hard to make sure the D&T Department was ready for our visitors.



WOYD - World on your Doorstep!

So, what an exciting moment when I was told that trips can run again and that I should start planning. After a few conversations, a flurry of emails, a number of meetings and just a couple of pieces of paperwork, we were ready to go on World on your doorstep (WOYD). Fortunately, the weather was with us and on a bright and sunny late September morning, the year 7s arrived in the theatre with military precision (a theme for the day and a testament to the organisation of the Year 7 Tutor Team).

With messages of buddying up and observing the Highway Code, we had a march up to the fields behind the school; our first stand and the site of the Polish Hostel. This area was used after the Second World War to house Polish refugees and provides an excellent starting point for the day. The students arrived promptly and listened intently whilst I waffled at them about the history of the site. Some asked very searching questions and then, after waking them, we walked along the Ernest Cook Trust (ECT) track behind the school. We were met at the stables by a member of the ECT Education Team who took one of our groups for a more in-depth talk about the history of the site and the Fairford Estate.

Having bid farewell to one of our groups the rest of the year group made their way down the ECT drive to explore the town and historic highlights of Fairford. The morning then ran very smoothly with students visiting various sites; St Mary's Church, the Millpond and Ox stalls, the High Street and the Community Centre. We were very fortunate to have a member of the Fairford Historical Society on hand in the Community Centre along with an excellent display. One student was particularly excited to see their house included. Another favourite was a grandfather clock that had

been recently donated by the previous organiser of WOYD.

We stopped for a break in the Walnut Tree Field, a highlight for the students with park equipment to explore and play on and a welcome rest for the staff. After a very short twenty minutes we were off again. I did take over one of the groups at this point and suddenly realised the error in my plan. I had arranged for this group to have the penultimate stand at the ECT and their final stop was the Community Centre. This required a quick march up the ECT drive and back again; this was not well received by my group and the groans did become increasingly loud. However, they did manage to complete the journey (albeit at a much slower pace than I would have liked).

Overall, the day was a success. The goal was to introduce the students to the local history of Fairford and get them to look around, think and ask questions. They did this and gave a very good account of themselves as well. A huge thank you to all involved and I look forward to doing it again next year.

The world on your doorstep trip was a fun experience. We saw lots of places and historical sights, one of them being the community centre. Inside of the community centre there were lots of facts and pictures to do with Fairford's history and World War 2.

Another place that we visited was the church where we saw beautiful stained glass windows and walked around the graveyard. We also stopped off at the park to have a break. It was so much fun going on the swings and zip line.

We also learnt about Farmor's history and who the houses are named after.

'My favourite part of the trip was visiting the church and seeing the stained glass windows'

Emily

My favourite part of the trip was going into the community centre because I got to see a real Indian headdress and learnt about WW2

Sophie

I loved going to the park and having a laugh on the zip line

Daisy





The Local Authority offer school students the opportunity to complete Cycling Proficiency Training through their Bikeability service. Between July and October, 16 Year 8 students have successfully completed their Level 3 training - congratulations to them and thank you to Kirsty and Christine for their awesome training. -

Mr Hockey Head of Year 8



MFL (Modern Foreign Languages)

Our year 12 and 13 students have been volunteering as foreign language assistants this term. They have been assigned to KS3 classes and they worked to support students especially with speaking work. Both the older and younger students have really enjoyed the experience. A year 7 class, [7T], created masks after discussing *dia de los muertos* (Day of the Dead). The students used these to practice greetings and basic questions.

Mr Pike, Head of MFL

Y13 Pembrokeshire Field Trip!

by: Mia Reglar and Emily Cripps



On the run up to Autumn half term, the Year 13 A-level geography class was lucky enough to get out on their first field trip, something we thought may never happen because of COVID-19, a three day visit to Pembrokeshire. Unfortunately, our luck did not extend to the weather with a prevailing storm the first two days involved exploring in torrential rain whilst being engulfed in fog and bitter winds.

Day one brought us an early morning wakeup call followed by a long journey to the end of the M4 and beyond to the south western point of Wales. Upon arrival we all got geared up in our waterproofs ready to venture to the Green Bridge of Wales, a natural limestone arch along with other coastal erosion features situated on the MoD's Castlemartin firing range! As we arrived the fog decided to set in leaving our view of the arch and limestone rock stacks looking more mysterious than anything. We proceeded to the Geo and blowhole both of which were very impressive features, this was highlighted by the interest of the class with multiple questions being raised. Crowding round the clifftop, and standing on the edge, we all nearly gave Mr Wood a heart attack!

Before arriving at the hostel, we made a trip to

see a wave cut platform where we discussed in detail how the platform was formed and why. This is where the boys all decided to get competitive, with a spot of stone skimming, the rough waves proving to be a hindrance to their so-called talents... Soaked through and cold we decided it was time to leave heading to Manorbier Youth Hostel for a warm supper of spaghetti and meatballs, and for those who were smart a nice orange sponge with custard rather than bag of fruit. In the evening the class relaxed playing cards (cheat was very popular) and uno, being a competitive bunch, it proved to be quite tense!

On the second day we started off with a good hearty cooked breakfast before heading out once again into high winds and torrential rain. Travelling west to Tenby we looked at the Coastal Management Plan implemented to slow erosion on the beaches, as well as doing a Clone Town survey in preparation for the following day. The highlight of the day was down to the boys again, when they found a dogfish and a Portuguese Man-of-War jellyfish; or at least that's what they identified it as! After completing most of the activities scheduled for the day, we decided we were all too cold and wet resulting in us taking an early return to the hostel. The

evening saw us host an award ceremony and yet more card games ensued after dinner. We all went to bed windswept and exhausted, and hoping for better weather the next day.

Thankfully our wishes were answered, and we woke to much better weather. All packed and heading westwards we took a two-hour drive to Cardiff Bay, and on arrival met our tour guide Bryan. He showed us around Cardiff Bay and gave us a detailed history of the bay's past for our Human Geography Changing Places course. We took a walk to see Cardiff's 'Berlin wall' separating Butetown and Cardiff Bay, before taking a boat trip out to see the Barrage. After completing all our survey's and work in Cardiff Bay we boarded the minibus for the long journey back to school. It's fair to say everyone was pretty exhausted and a lot quieter on the journey back home rather than the one there.

Overall, we had a good and varied field trip and benefited greatly from everything we saw. Actually seeing the landforms in person really helped solidify our knowledge, and the evening games definitely made up for the very wet days. Despite the weather and sodden clothes, we all had a great trip.

'Personally, my favourite part was seeing the Green Bridge of Wales on the first day' Emily

Music

What a first year it has been! During my first year as Head of Music at Farmor's school not doing any clubs was very strange indeed! It has been brilliant to start up extra-curricular music again since September.

We now have a 60 strong choir running every Tuesday lunchtime singing well known songs, a Concert Band/Orchestra on Wednesday lunchtime and a Ukulele/Guitar club on a Friday. Additionally there is a Rock School that runs after school on a Monday where pupils can get into bands and develop their performance skills.

These clubs underpin what music is all about at Farmor's and it has been great to see so many faces joining in after such a long time. We are currently working towards the Christmas Concert on 15th December and most of these groups will be contributing to this event.

This event is essentially a relaunch of music at school and will provide a great platform to build on. I am planning other events this year such as a Spring Concert, Summer Concert, "Open Mic Night" and the choir are attending Voice in a Million at Wembley Arena in March.

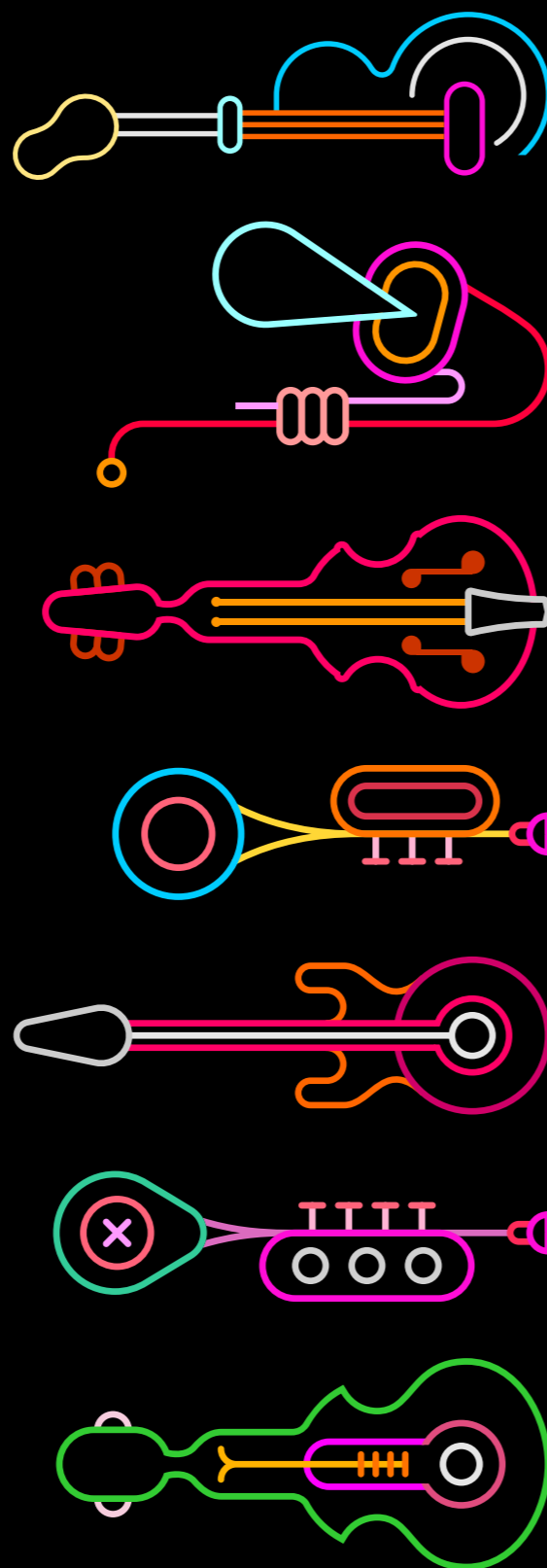
The good news about all these clubs and opportunities is that it isn't too late to join in! The clubs will be running all year so new members are ALWAYS welcome.

Another opportunity is that as your son/daughter gets more confident in their timetabled lessons they may not only want to join some of these clubs but also may want to take up an instrument!

Again, it is never too late and we currently have Drum Kit, Piano, Violin, Cello, Voice, Guitar and Brass lessons taking place. If your son/daughter wants to learn these or even another instrument then the form is available on the school website or from the Music Department.

I look forward to meeting a lot of you on the 15th December for the Christmas Concert and other events throughout the year. It's been a really enjoyable first year at Farmor's and now with all the clubs up and running, it will be even better!!

Mr Driver, Head of Music



Careers at Farmor's School

Careers Guidance is an important part of school life and here at Farmor's we make sure it is a priority.

There are so many choices available to students after they leave school and it is important we explore all these routes so students can make educated and well researched choices. Leaving school, either at the end of GCSE's or after A-levels is such an exciting time and an opportunity to explore your choices and experiences that are available to you. Although, it all requires some research, these opportunities won't just land in your lap! Here are a few key points I want you to remember:

- You don't have to make a 'forever' plan, this is just your next step
- The pathway to your career will not be a straight line – you will make some detours (or mistakes) along the way, that is ok
- You need to research the options – the choices won't land in your lap
- Start with what you love! The best place to start from is with a subject, hobby or activity that you enjoy – that may be the 'root' of your future career

One of my favourite quotes sums it up nicely:

"The best way to predict the future is to create it"

Useful links (please scan the QR codes):

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



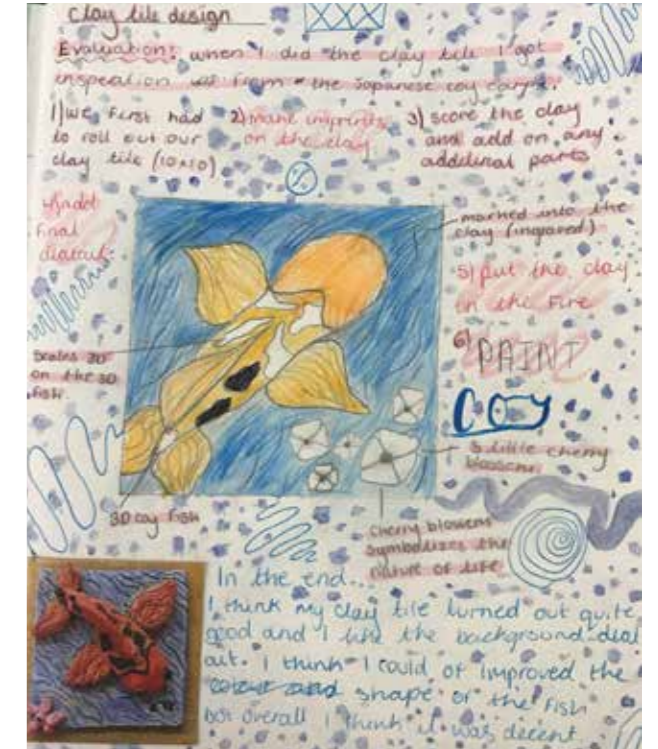
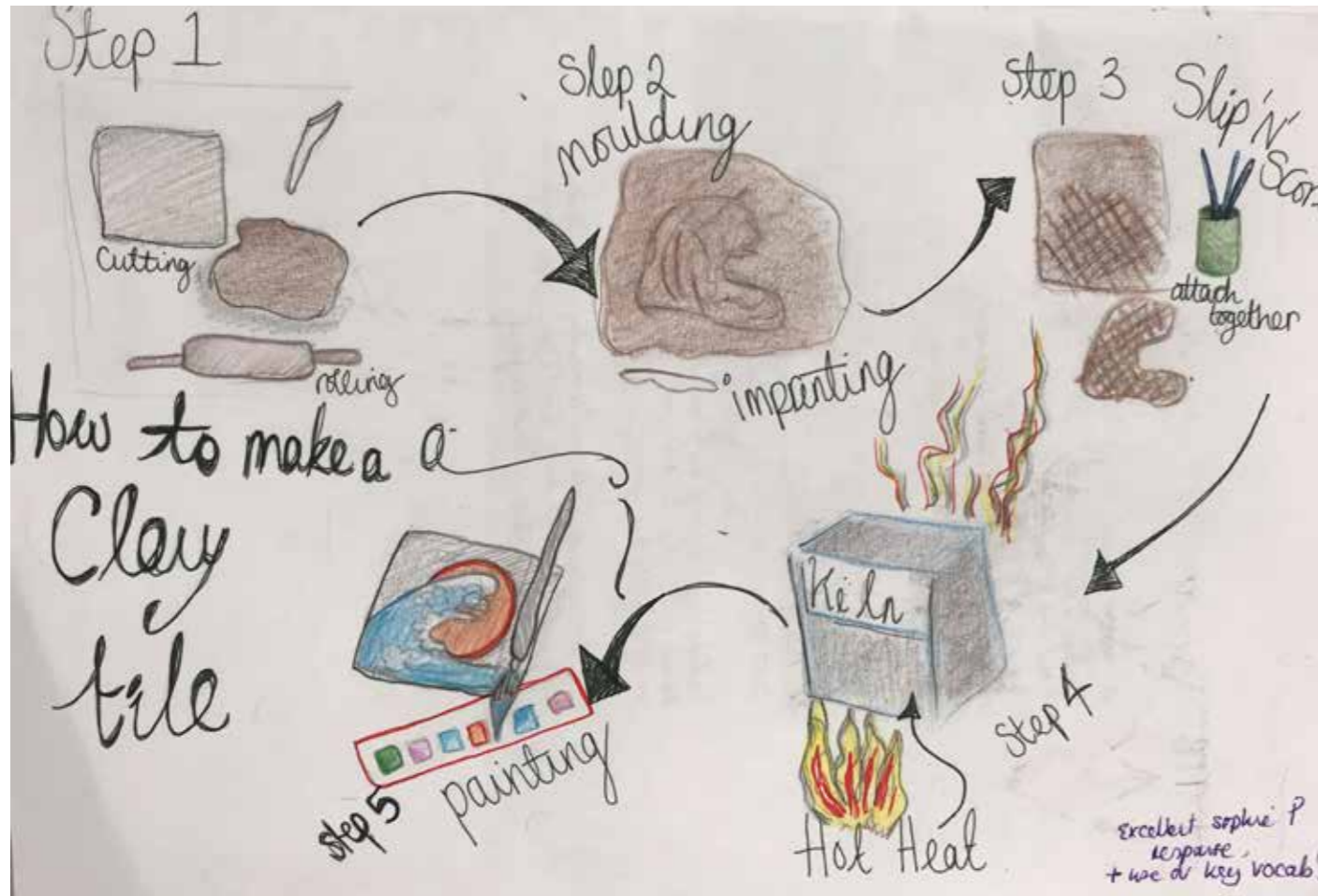
1. www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/career-choices-at-16
2. www.ucas.com/further-education/post-16-finance-and-support/where-find-help-post-16-choices
3. www.whatuni.com

4. www.ucas.com
5. www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
6. www.notgoingtouni.co.uk



Y8 Art:

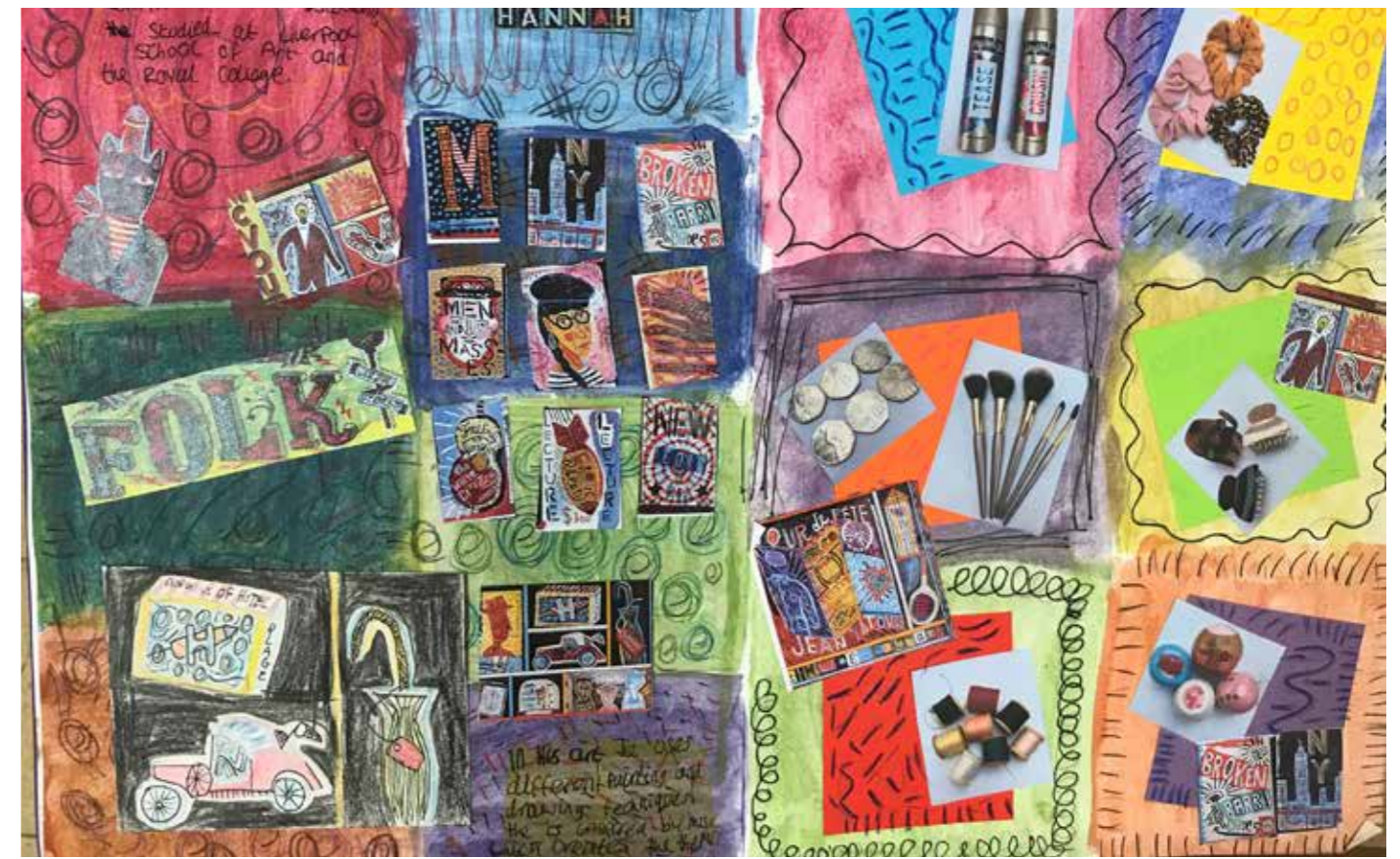
Japanese Inspired Clay Tiles





Y9 Art:

Artist Research pages and observational studies



Y10 Art:

Natural Form Clay Tiles

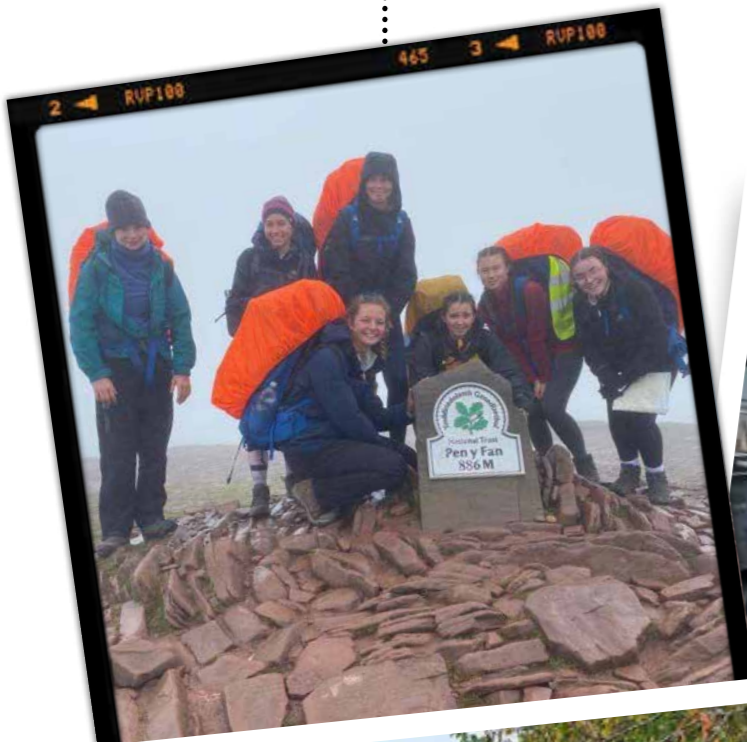



DofE
AWARDS
GOLD

Finally..

... in October, we were able to go out and complete our assessed Gold DofE expedition in the (not so sunny) Brecon Beacons. It was such a relief to be able to go despite covid and have a break from normal life. DofE is not only a physical challenge but also a mental challenge too, it was definitely one of the hardest but best accomplishments I've been able to participate in. Luckily, in our group, there were no disagreements and we got on really well which is part of the fun and enjoyment of the award.

The expedition in itself was really challenging, carrying all our equipment in the wonderful British weather and sleeping in tents for 4 nights. But with our teamwork and good morale we pushed and supported one another, and I definitely could not have done it without my team! Although at times we all felt like giving up and going home, looking back we can now remember the fantastic memories we made and the sense of achievement once we reached the minibus at the end of day 4. We would all recommend taking on the challenge of DofE as it's such a rewarding experience and it pushes you out of your comfort zone.



Aspens Catering

Hayley Greenaway is the new Catering Manager for Aspens. Hayley has been baking up a storm and providing the students and staff with some tasty treats. Most recently, the Halloween and Remembrance Day themes proved very popular:



SCHOOL FOOD
WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU DINE WITH US

Aspens

FOOD FOR THE FUTURE

Research increasingly demonstrates the need for good nutrition across all age groups and we know a balanced diet reduces the number of nutrition-related illnesses in young people. We play an important role in promoting a well-balanced diet and setting students on the right track for later life.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS
You may be entitled to them.
Check out this website:
www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

Hayley Greenaway is the new Catering Manager who with her team have the same goal – to provide a great catering service to our customers and we love what we do!
We are committed to quality and our approach to food sourcing focuses on sustainability, seasonality and provenance.

Our menus are exciting and innovative, reflecting the very latest UK and international eating trends but with a real focus on health and wellbeing. Our menus adhere to the school food-based standards to make sure students are fuelled and hydrated for learning.

Allergens and Special Diets
We cater for different requirements so that all customers can enjoy a tasty meal with us every day. For pre-packaged food, our labelling processes have been reviewed to give ingredients and allergen information in accordance with Natasha's Law. We continue to encourage customers to talk to us so we can work together to provide meals that are safe to eat.

Food Trends - What's hot and What's Not!
Attitudes and expectations around food are increasingly influenced by the high street and as we now eat a much wider variety of food than ever before - we make sure we are on trend!
We keep taste buds excited with our great Flavours of the Month themes and specials!

Vegan and Free-From.
Vegan and free-from ingredients are key to our recipe development we love to tempt our customers more and more opportunities for alternative dishes.
We have a great range of Plant Power options as part of our menu cycle as well as our pop up special days.

EMAIL: info@aspens-services.com
WEB: www.aspens-services.com

SAMPLE MENU
DISHES MAY VARY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Butter Chicken Curry Pavlova Buttermilk & Chickpea Fritters Rajasthani Watermelon Tofu Laksa Superfood Grain Roll Whole Grain Rice Coconut Green Beans Mango Chutney	Archo Jackfruit Buns Sweet Potato Fajita Kebabs Avocado Smash Tofu & Glass Noodles Tofu Laksa Superfood Grain Roll Burrito Burrito Burrito	Made Garamon Curry Roast Chicken & Stuffing Veggie Meatballs & Garlic Sauce Vegan Sausage Roll & Gravy Turmeric & Mustard Roasties Braised Red Cabbage Gravy Dipping Pot	Chicken Rendang Pulled Pork & Steamed Bun Tasty Tofu Noodles Vegan Pad Thai Sticky Coconut Rice Pak Choi Stir Fry Sweet Chili Sauce	Hand Battered Fish Fillet Katsu Fish Dog & Curry Sauce Battered Halloumi & Chilli Jam Smoked Carrot Bagel Chunky Chips Mushy Peas Fries

DEALS

Our promotions are created to give our customers the opportunity to try new products, increase loyalty and encourage use of the service at different times of the day. We offer rewards such as discounted prices, free fruit, treats, drinks or money off vouchers.
We also hold a range of theme days to keep the menu exciting!

EXCITING FOOD OFFERS

Hot DELI

Our range of hot deli items includes hot marinated chicken wraps, paninis, topped jackets, freshly prepared pizza slices and fresh pasta with a variety of homemade sauces.

Cold DELI

We have a great range of homemade savoury and sweet items. Freshly baked baguettes, rolls, wraps, sandwiches and salads. For offers ... a range of cold desserts, homemade cakes, biscuits and fruit pots.

There is no planet B

Sustainability is one of our core values - we recognise that our activities can affect the environment and so we do what we can to minimise our impact. We believe that lots of small changes can add up to make a big difference and so we have a multi-faceted approach including:

- using environmentally friendly cleaning chemicals and disposables wherever possible across all our sites.
- phasing out single use plastics and giving preference to products made of recycled materials.
- reducing food miles and carbon output by selecting local suppliers wherever possible.
- conscious consumption - providing low impact food choices such as plant based proteins, seasonal fruit and vegetables and zero waste recipes

'The Glorious Cotswold Art Competition'

I decided to enter the 'The Glorious Cotswolds Art Competition' because I was really interested in the message that the art competition was giving. It was something new for me to do, I was not really interested in the rewards that winning gave me, not that I was expecting to win.

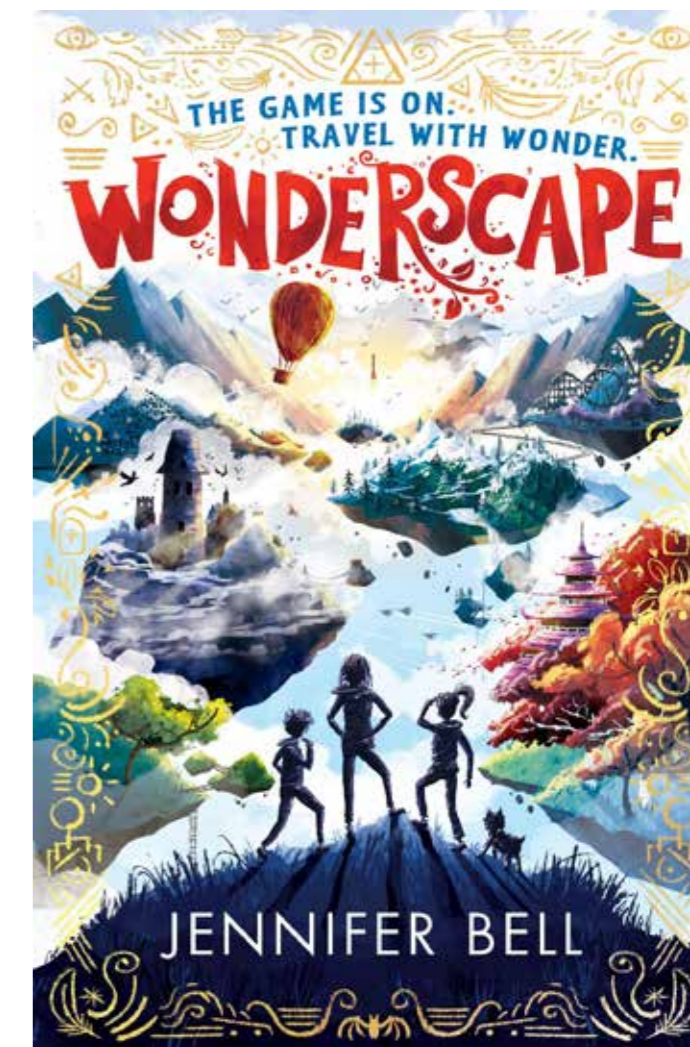
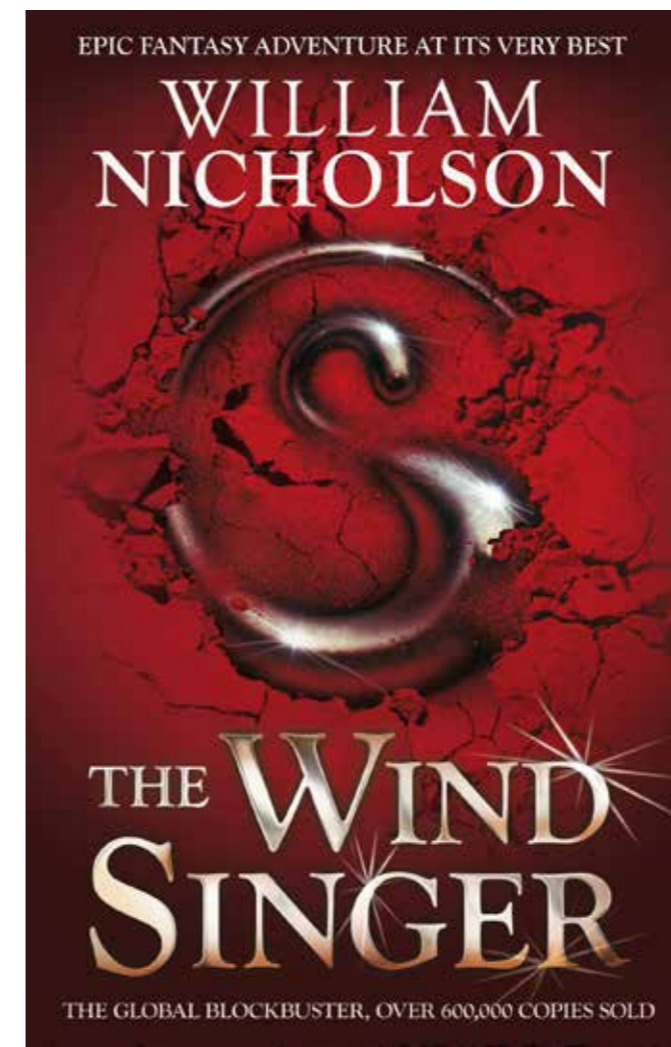
I wanted to enter the art competition as I had never really done anything like it before and thought it would be an interesting project to do over the summer holidays. It took me a while to do; I'm not going to lie. I started on the 24/8/21 and finished on the 10/10/21; it took me over 200 hours to complete! The message that the competition was giving, was important to me as I love walking around my town and seeing all of the beautiful wildflowers that everyone has planted. When I entered the competition, I was never expecting to be in top 10, I never entered for the prize. When I received the email that I had won I was overjoyed, I was so surprised that I had won. Overall, I found the whole project really challenging but it was definitely worth it.

After winning the competition, Daisy has been given the opportunity to attend the workshop with Aardman animator Jim Parkyn.

Daisy Davis, Y9



▲ Daisy Davis Year 9 winning artwork



Welcome to Farmor's Library.

For those students unfamiliar with its hallowed edifice, we're upstairs in the History and Geography area. Do pop in.

With over 12,000 books, 18 computers, board games (Monopoly in 15 minutes - it's a Year 7 art form), puzzles, crayons, paper, we're a Library with things to do, people to see and chairs to swing on. No, that's not actually allowed, but the rest is.

Set over a spacious 2 floors with fiction upstairs, non-fiction downstairs and comic books somewhere in between, we're a happy, busy place. A study space for some, a social area for many.

Of the 12,000 or so books, I'd like to recommend:

- Year 7** **Wonderscape by Jennifer Bell**
- Year 8** **The Wind Singer by William Nicholson**
(part 1 of a trilogy)
- Year 9** **The Last Paper Crane by Kerry Drewery**
- Years 10 to 13** **...anything. Just start reading again!**

We're open all day, every day so do come and visit.

Mrs Watson – Library Manager

Eco Club

By Oliver Kocharski



Our Farmor's School Eco Club is well in the swing of things now, and we are meeting on a weekly basis every Thursday Lunchtime in order to keep everything ticking over. In our meetings, we discuss our goals and targets both short and long term, as well as discuss the environment generally, and share environment-related news we thought was interesting (subjects discussed include Peat Bogs, Wax Worms in the recycling of plastics, and Elephant Poo paper!).

Our main ambition at the moment is to help the school obtain a Greenflag Status – a prestigious award that is given to school and a perfect way to acknowledge, reward and celebrate the ecological achievements of young people. However, in order to achieve this, there is a strict criterion which we must meet and follow. At the end of the summer term, we conducted an environmental audit of the school – taking into account various areas such as the Site

Biodiversity to Recycling Availability. In turn, this allowed us to decide on our three areas of improvement for the next academic year – Site Biodiversity, the Canteen, and Waste. Currently, we are developing action plans with time scales on to help us reach our targets whilst simultaneously monitoring our progress. We hope that by the end of this academic year, some of our targets will have been achieved, and that this will be noticeable around the site.

To supplement this, Eco Club are also interested in how the topic of the Environment features in Farmor's School life. A Curriculum Review is being conducted, to see how the topic of the environment is intertwined with the curriculum across the school in all subjects, right from Y7 all the way to Y13. Once we have received this information, we will analyse it to identify areas which are weaker and could benefit from having more of an environmental link. As well as this, we carried out two surveys towards the end of November to gain an insight into the view on the Environment

here at Farmor's – with one survey being pitched towards staff and another survey pitched towards pupils. The results of this survey will be analysed by us, and we will create a list of suggestions which we will raise to SLT, alongside ways in which we think we can address them. Then, in 6 months' time, we will recirculate the same survey, to see if the responses will have changed after we have had some more time to spark some changes around the school. The results of the November survey will be shared via Farmor's School social media as soon as they have been collated and analysed.

Our Eco Club is entirely student-led, organised by Head Boy Oliver Kocharski, and consists of a group of young people who have a genuine desire to make a positive change within the school community, and do our part for the environment. If you are interested in joining, have any general questions or ideas, or simply just want to know more, then drop Oliver an email at 015kocharski@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk, and he would happily discuss it further with you

We all have a voice!

Recently, the environmental conference COP26 has finished. It's been a place where world leaders and people wanting to make a change have met. However, just because you're not at the top end of the spectrum, doesn't mean you don't need to make a change.

Every person in the world has to make a change. Everyone has a voice to make that change. Young people have a voice that sometimes we are scared to use, scared to use it because we may be judged for it. But I can't tell you enough how much your voice is needed.

For the past four years I have been trying to use my voice by showing my actions of litter picking on social media. Pollution and climate change are just two problems that we as the human race have created. During this time, I have found dead mice in bottles and snails on cans.

Although they may only be on the bottom of the food chain and may only be mice and snails, but if they get wiped out other animals may be wiped out with them all because of people's actions. And that could be your action. Do you want to be the one who gets the blame for the extinction of other species? Do you want to be the one whose grandchildren ask why the world is degrading?

COP26 is one of the first steps towards combatting climate change. Ice melting, species dying, oceans polluting- all these are signs of this problem. Just because COP is over, however, doesn't mean we now don't have to worry. Inspirational people using their voice, Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough, it's not all on them. They are depending on you. I am depending on you. Future generations are depending on you to be the one to make a change too. We can't just sit back relax and hope they sort it out. It is on you and me. It starts on us to be the one to take action. Your view is as valued as the one who were at COP26- in Glasgow. You are probably thinking- she

is just another one of 'those people'. But I challenge you to look at the roads whilst you're on the bus to school, look around your area, and look at the beaches whilst on holiday. Tell me- what do you see? You don't see what you want to see. You see litter- not flowers. You see dark skies instead of blue ones. Don't ignore what you see. All of this is because of our actions. Every minute that passes is another minute closer to the day that we can do no more. And it is now your time to take action.

No matter how old you are, you can make a change. You can do anything from cutting down on single use plastics and litter picking, to eating less meat and not driving somewhere at the weekend. Whatever change that you make, is a big difference to our world. Every change you make is another step closer to a brighter future.

Take action now before it's too late.

Together we can make a difference.

Heather Kent, Year 9, has been involved with the Farmor's Eco-Club and national initiatives including the Eco-schools sustainability forum. She is a respected member of her local and national communities.



Maths

UKMT Success

Last year, some of our students took part in the UKMT Maths Challenge which involved answering challenging questions using mathematical reasoning. Many of our students received bronze, silver and gold certificates for their achievements. We're delighted that Thomas Cornell (now Year 9) was one of a small percentage of students who scored highly enough to reach the next round – The Junior Olympiad! Here is one of the questions that Thomas answered in the Olympiad paper:

B4. The letters *A*, *B* and *C* stand for different, non-zero digits.

Find all the possible solutions to the word-sum shown.

$$\begin{array}{r} A B C \\ B C A \\ + C A B \\ \hline A B B C \end{array}$$

Masterclass Success - Maths

At the end of last year, a number of students from year 8 & 9 were nominated by their teachers as talented Mathematicians. After a tough selection process, competing against over 2000 students from all over the country, Ruby Dorricott (now Year 10) secured her place onto the highly sought-after Autumn Maths Masterclass tutorial programme.

She has been attending weekly sessions with other young mathematicians where she has been able to discuss mathematical ideas and test her abilities through various challenges.

We were also able to offer some of our Year 7s the opportunity to attend several sessions on a similar programme (organised by Simon Singh, author & journalist) and we're delighted that Freddie Brooks has also secured a place on the Masterclass tutorial programme.

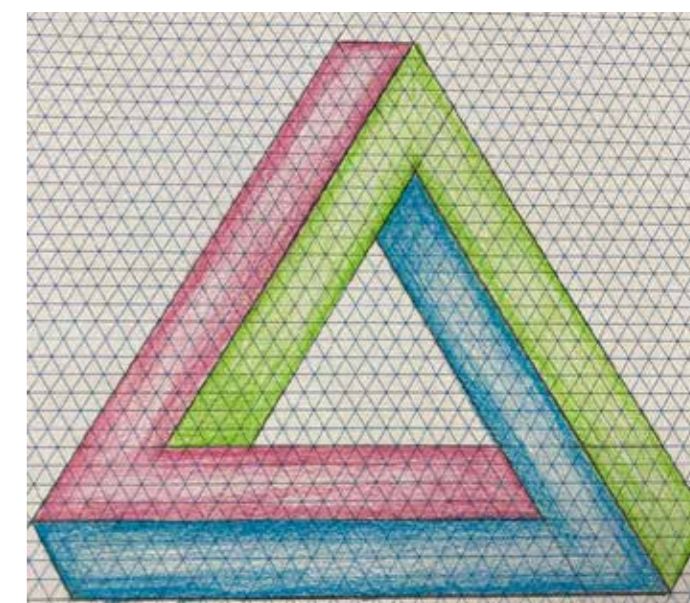
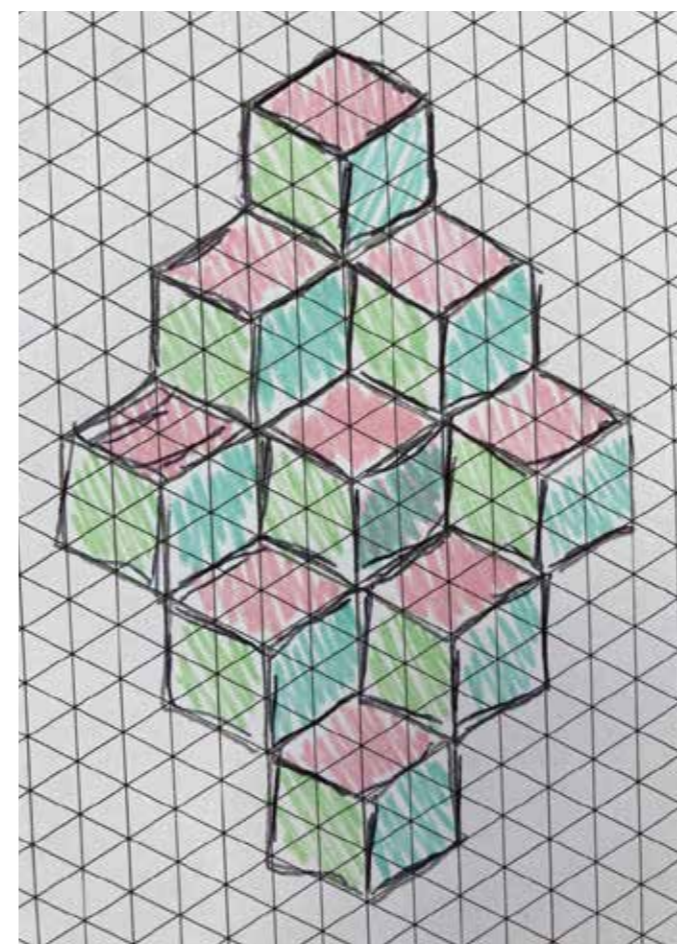
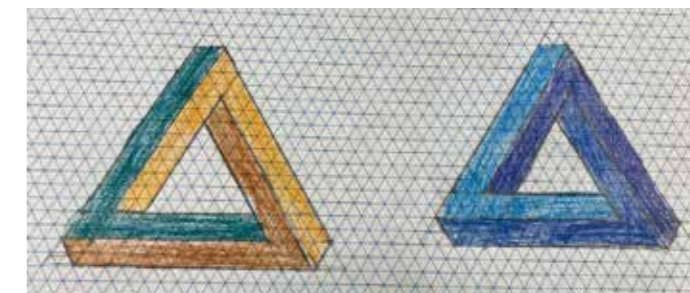
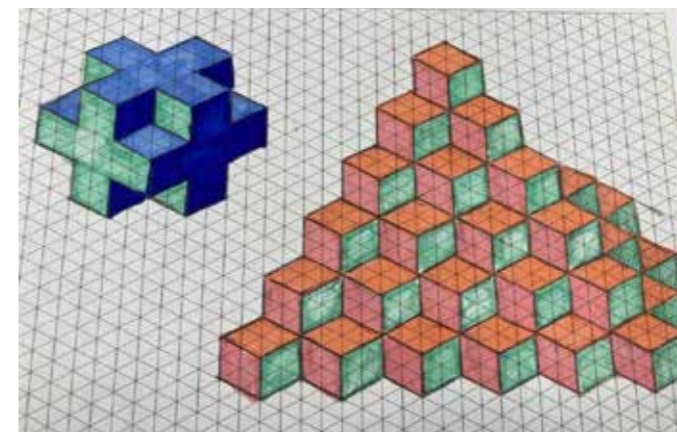
Dr Frost

We have been so impressed with the number of students completing independent work on Dr Frost in addition to the homework being set by teachers. We are now ranked 210th globally! This is especially true of our Year 7s who are new to the site. Here are our top 3 users (all from Year 7) for Term 1:

1. Henry Luce
2. Archie Walker
3. Timoci Rasovo

Art Club - Mathematical

Our new Mathematical Art club is now up and running and our students have produced some brilliant work. So far we have looked at Celtic Knots, Optical Illusions, Origami and 3D Drawing. The club runs at lunchtime on Tuesdays (Week A only) in M7, come along if you'd like to be creative in Maths. ▶





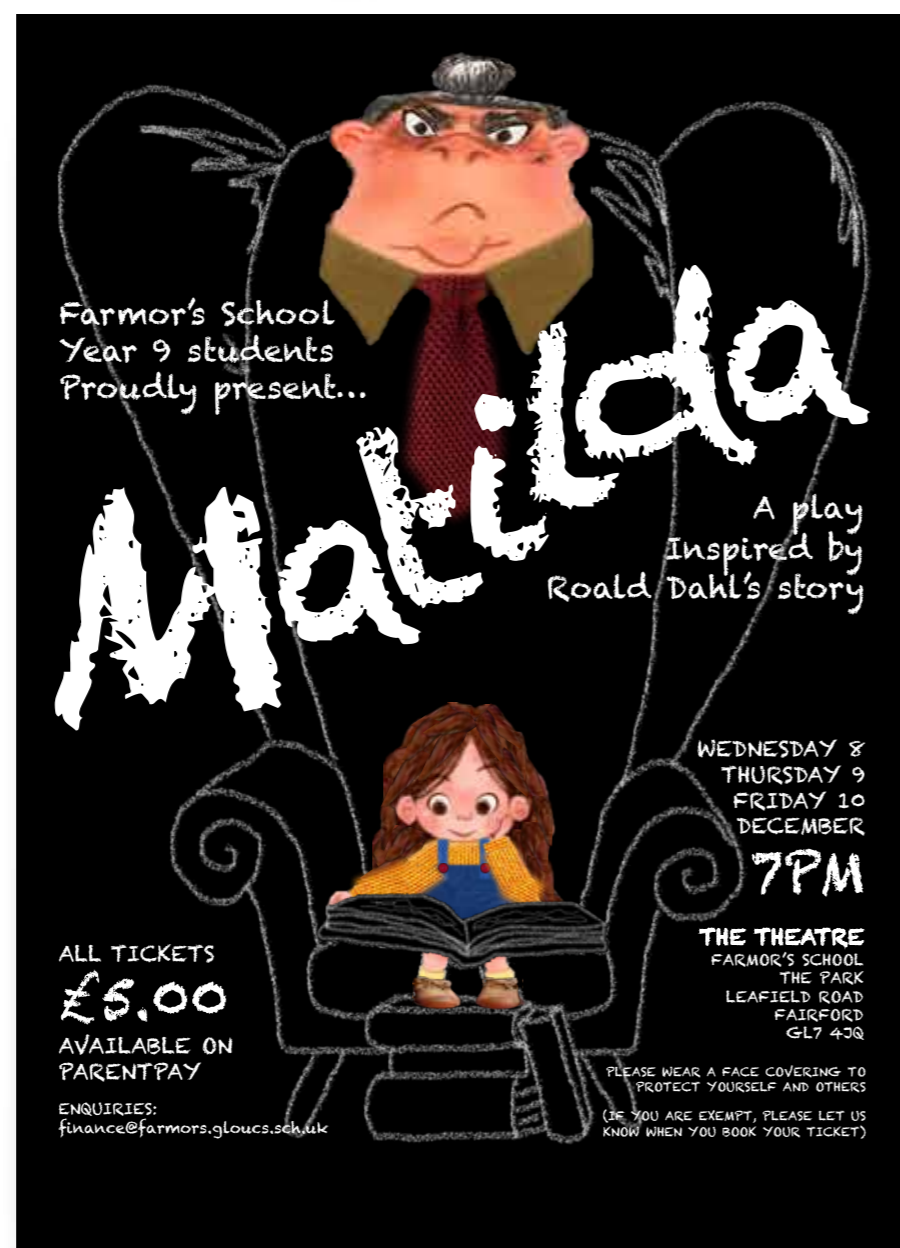
Farmor's Site Development – Summer 2021

Summer 2021 saw the most ambitious development project undertaken for some years. Nine rooms were refurbished or developed using four contractors, as well as our own site team to achieve completion. Below are some before and after photos of all the hard work that took place.

Y9 Drama...

Since September a group of Y9's have been working hard on the production *Matilda*. It has been wonderful to see so many students working together to create what will be a wonderful show. The actors have been madly rehearsing their lines, we've had the crew coming in every spare minute to create and paint the world of *Matilda* and many others learning new skills. It is a joy to see it all come together. Please do come along to support them all on the 8th, 9th, 10th December 2021. Tickets are available via ParentPay - Mrs Dundas

'The thing I have most enjoyed about taking part in the play *Matilda*, is being able work in a group with my friends doing something I enjoy. The thing that I have been supported with in the play is the help from Miss Dundas and Mr Newman who have helped with techniques and skills during weekly rehearsals. As a student who loves drama, I think the play has been a great opportunity to expand my abilities. I would highly recommend taking part when given the opportunity' - Katy Roberts (*Matilda*)



↑
Photography - new ICT suite



Media - relocation / development
↓

Farmor's Site Development 2021 - Continued



Maths Classrooms



The Centre -
Refurbishment /
development



Psychology
- relocation /
development



Focus on Farmor's

Rugby

It has been fantastic to finally see our boys back out playing rugby and representing the school, it has been a long wait! We have been incredibly impressed with the sustained enthusiasm and commitment across the year groups at lunchtime rugby clubs, with the numbers continuing to increase as the season goes on. In addition, and amongst some of the older year groups, we have seen more new faces getting involved in the teams alongside some of the more established players which has only enhanced the atmosphere at lunchtime clubs, whilst it has also given more depth to the squads.

This year, the RFU placed a regulation on junior rugby that all year groups must play the rules from the year group below in order to ensure a safe and progressive return to competitive rugby. In line with this, we structured our season so that the KS3 year groups had a more progressive start to competitive rugby in order to regain confidence and build their knowledge of the game, whilst our KS4 teams got stuck in more or less straight away. It is now the middle of November, and it is safe to say our Y7-11 teams are well and truly full throttle into their seasons, with each year group having had at least four fixtures to date along with District ran festivals at Y7&8, whilst there are more fixtures on the horizon, taking us into the final week of the Autumn term.

A special mention must go to our Y11 team, who for a large majority will be going their separate ways at the end of the academic year.

Y11: Cotswold School Lost 0 - 35
Deer Park Won 0-34
TK Won 25-10
Kingshill Won 33-10

Y10: Cotswold School Lost 0 - 34
Burford School Won 21-22
Deer Park Won 26-19
Kingshill Won 0-56

Y9: Deer Park Won 11-7
Burford School Lost 5-3
Kingshill Lost 2-7
TK Lost 2-6

Whilst this year group was never blessed with a large pool of players right from their beginnings in Y7, what they lacked in quantity they certainly made up for in quality and spirit and it would be safe to say punched above their weight right from Y7, with one of their most notable achievements seeing them reach the semi-finals of the Y9 EDF Energy Cup Competition.

Everyone has played their part in this group of players in order to enable them to stay together to the end, however, it wouldn't have been possible without the presence and commitment of a few very talented players in the form of; Zac Slade (Gloucester DPP), Reuben Rebello (Gloucester DPP), Alex Ponting (Gloucester DPP), Eden Morley (Bath DPP) William Merrett and Will Lloyd, all of whom have been a real driving force since Y7. Just as important has been the sustained commitment from long standing supporting players in the form of; Jack Overson, Jack Morgan, Kieran Flood, Max Bird, Jack Heycock and Alfie Haynes. This season has seen this team acquire the services of other students who have all made valuable contributions.

The final Y11 Farmor's rugby Squad for 2021 is listed below;

Kieran Flood, Jack Heycock, Alfie Haynes, Jack Overson, Eden Morley, Zac Slade, Will Lloyd, Jack Morgan, Max Bird, Will Merrett, Alex Ponting, Jonty Parkinson, Reuben Rebello, Ieuan Slement, Guy Woodcock, Riley Walter, Ed Landafont, James Blythe, Ruben Sillano, Vladimir Keyahov, Ben Gilhespy.

Below are the results for each year group up until Mid-November.

Mr King

Y8: Festival (Multiple Schools) Won 6-1 vs TK
Lost 1-2 vs Deer Park
Burford School Won 9-2
Deer Park Won 4-3
Kingshill Won 10-3

Y7: Deer Park Won 2-0
Burford School Lost 2-7
Kingshill A's - Lost 3-8
B's - Drew 6-6



Rugby **Continued**



Netball



Y7

We are always so excited to meet the new year 7's when they join us in September, and this year was no exception!

School sport is such a positive way to become involved in school life and enables pupils to contribute to the wider school community. For this reason, we are delighted that so many of the year 7 girls have attended cross country, netball and badminton club this term. We have also recently started girl's football and they have all donned their boots and enjoyed sessions put together by our sixth formers. Excellent work girls! More to come on the girls' football front next term! Along with Hockey matches as well. We are very impressed

with how you have started your sporting journey at Farmor's, keep up the good work!

The Netball team have had some very tough matches and are improving all the time! So far this season we have played Stroud High, Rednock, Deer Park, Archway and Kingshill school! It has been a very busy term for them, with lots of learning and development. The final event this term was an end of season festival held at Thomas Keble School where the girls put in an awesome performance – winning 4 out of 5 of their matches!

Y8

As always the Y8's have shown strong commitment to training this year. The numbers at netball have been fantastic and continue to keep me on my toes each week! This group of girls are so keen to improve and play as much as possible it has been a pleasure to work with them. As the season continues to progress we have played some incredible games. Our Schools Magazine Cup match against a school from Cardiff called Cwm Rhymini was really competitive, and so good for our development. The girls lost, but really had to raise their games. We also had a lovely tea with sandwiches and cakes all supplied by the two teams who played in the matches – a really brilliant way to



Netball Continued

kick off our season. Many of the girls have had outstanding games at various different points this year. I am hoping that many of them will find a local club to join and try to get themselves even more match play. There is certainly hot competition for a spot in the A and B teams! Congratulations to Megan Clark and Poppy Abercrombie who are both part of the England Netball talent pathway

We also entered four girls into the Year 8 team XC relay at Thomas Keble School – the girls absolutely smashed it and came third overall. Pictured L-R; Eloise Greenaway; Grace Middleton; Poppy Abercrombie & Liviv Bayless. Livi and Eloise both went on to run at the District competition and gain selection to represent the District at the county XC champs!!!



Y9

The year 9's have once again proven their grit, determination and **AMAZING** commitment to the sport here at Farmor's. Every Friday they file out to the netball courts, and every week I am so pleased that they keep coming (even though we haven't been able to play everyone in a match yet). They are improving every step of the way and there have been some incredible performances from many of the girls including Ella Spencer, Saffy Hayward and Chloe Bishop. Congratulations to Lucy Clark and Holly Floyd who have both been selected to play train with the county academy this season.

In year 9, England Netball run the first tournament that connects to the talent pathway. Matches are played in group stages and the top two teams from Gloucestershire progress to represent the county at the regional netball finals in Bournemouth. The tournament here in Gloucestershire hosts anything up to 20 teams across the county (normally those schools who feel they have teams who are strong enough to compete!) It is an incredible experience for the girls and a real baptism of fire in terms of pressure and learning how to deal with intense match situations. Prior to the tournament the Y9 netballers had had a planned run of three matches to prep them and help us select the squad and ready them for the big day! I would say there were some mixed results, but they certainly took hold of what they learnt and put everything into their performance on Monday the 15th of November! We knew we had a tough group before we went left, and our first group game was one of the toughest (the team we played got to the semi and lost on golden goal!) We managed to hold them to a decent scoreline, (4-9) but nevertheless we had to pick ourselves up and really dig deep to win the next three games. The girls were absolutely fantastic beating Crypt by just one goal and Dean Close by two. It was really nailbiting stuff!! We reached the Quarter finals and lost out to a strong Pates side by three goals. We are so proud of how they performed though, and to be in the top 8 teams in the county is no mean feat. Congratulations to Holly Floyd for being awarded player of the tournament and to Poppy Abercrombie who played a year up and excelled herself. However, what was most brilliant about this performance is that it was a true team effort, everyone contributed, and they all held their nerve!

Netball **Continued**



Y11

The Year 11's work towards the U16 County tournament this year and then towards their netball festival within the district. These girls have a commendable attitude towards training and have benefitted from training with our current 1st VII who have really pushed them on. We have had some really exciting close games in the district competition – the girls are most proud of their win over Stroud High 26-24 – this team have always been their nemesis, so to beat them in their final season as a squad is really something special!

Pictured are the squad at Cheltenham Ladies College where they kicked off the season with their U16 County tournament in September. The girls won two matches and lost two matches in their group stage. These tournaments are never easy, and it just wasn't our day. The girls enjoyed it though and are looking forward to their forthcoming tour to Jersey in February!

Whilst we have not started our hockey season yet, here at Farmor's the club hockey season runs from September onwards. Izzy Hawkins in year 11 currently plays for Cirencester Hockey Club and she has recently been selected to play for the U16's on a tour to Holland. Holland has a very strong Hockey tradition and whilst she is there, she will be playing against some of the top junior teams. Well done Izzy! Make sure you let us know how you get on!



Y10

The Year 10's have had a fantastic season so far. They have competed in two external cup competitions – the School Sport Magazine Cup & the SNS Cup. In both competitions they have played against schools outside of the local district which has afforded them match experience they would not otherwise get. They had a superb game against Kings Gloucester, a battle against Cwm Rhymini and a third plate match against Prior community college in Weston-Super-Mare. Taking a good win against Prior 30-23 we progress to the next plate round against a Coventry school.

They have also had some amazing results in the local district and Maisie Slattery has had her best season yet – playing a variety of positions and really working hard on court. We are pleased to say that in this team we have the following netballers on the talent pathway in either Wiltshire or Gloucestershire; Hollie Clarke, Zoe Thomas, Libby Kelly, Blythe Chapman & Maisie Slattery. Well done to the whole squad for your tireless commitment and enthusiasm.



Netball **Continued**

1st VII

This team have had SO many ups and downs during their time at Farmor's. I think it goes without saying that they have taken their netball to one of the highest levels we have seen go through the school, and they have picked themselves up after some seriously tough matches and tournament defeats. Losing on golden goal, losing in a semi final, winning on golden goal & playing against the Wasps Netball super league hub team in their first cup match back!!!! These are just a few of the highs and lows they have experienced. Along the way, they have been through every emotion possible, and this year has been no exception.

We set the season up so that they had a good run into their final county tournament at U19 level (which is always VERY tough). Losing their first game to the Wasps team was a challenge, but they picked themselves up again and beat Cirencester College and Stroud High convincingly.

Their final preparation match was against Cheltenham Ladies College – we were 10-10 at half time and sadly lost 18-10 (incidentally, this team went on to reach the final at the U19 county tournament and progress to regionals!!) Anyhow, some fantastic preparation and a BRILLIANT performance at the county tournament reaching the Semi Final stage and losing out again to CLC. Such a shame, but the girls were just great.

The final match of the season so far was a plate match against Redmaid's school Bristol. This was truly a match of epic status. Never ones to make things easy, this went to extra time and golden goal, sadly we lost, BUT this team have never once let us down. We are so proud of how they have performed whilst they have been a squad at Farmor's and they all continue to be an inspiration for many of the girls who are coming up through the school now. We are very sad we will be saying goodbye to this team t the end of this year but there are a few more matches yet to go! A truly fantastic bunch of girls to work with, and yes, just in case you're wondering girls, training is ON!!!!



Mountain Biking



Ruby Dorricott in Y10 has undertaken a seriously challenging mountain biking competition. No less than 9 miles of uphill cycling in the Forest of Dean!!!! She did absolutely brilliantly in her race ending up 3rd place out of 29 participants. Surrounded by beautiful scenery and some autumn sunshine. Well done Ruby – let us know how you get on in the next round!

sport

Focus on Farmor's - Sports

