



Farmor's School
AN ACADEMY

Focus

2021/22



Farmor's School
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Welcome to our new look Focus publication.

In the age of technology, we know that you receive a constant stream of information. We want to make sure you are informed about what goes on at Farmor's School, but we don't want to clutter up your inbox!

So, we've made the decision to move from a termly to an annual publication - a compendium of the year's events, successes and news.

This is the first edition, something to keep as a memento of your child's time at Farmor's School.

And what a year it has been. After two years of disruption, it has been great to see students in person every day. There is nothing like the buzz and energy of having over 1000 young people under one roof. Exhausting, but every day is different.

One of the highlights for me over the past year has been seeing students re-engaging with their hobbies, interests and social activities. We have made it a priority to return to providing a full offer of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities. Their enthusiasm and participation has been wonderful, whether it be engagement in sport, the arts, academia, outdoor pursuits, crafts, technology or performance.

Focus is, in part, a celebration of students' achievements and enjoyment of their time at Farmor's. I hope it gives you a flavour of a year in the life of our school.

Matthew Evans, Headteacher



A small but determined group of Year 7s spent a couple of days with the team from Bikeability. Riding safely on the road was the key aim. The weather was kind and all students received a certificate for participating.

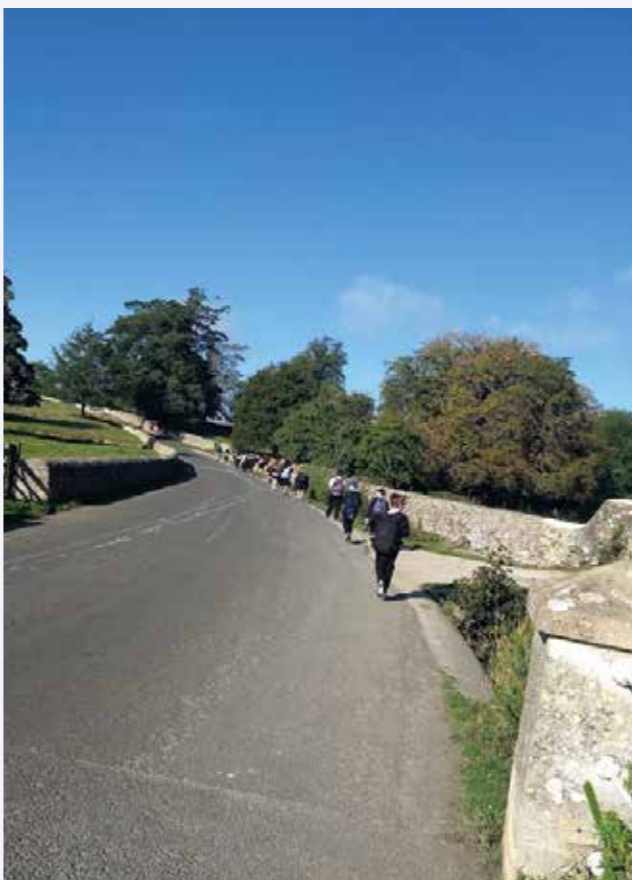
World on your Doorstep September 2021

On a beautiful September morning the whole of the year group set off to discover the rich and interesting history within a few miles radius of the school. Each year the History department organises this activity which includes a talk from The Ernest Cook Trust, a visit to Fairford Church and to visit an exhibition created by The Fairford Historical Society.

The students learnt that in World War II, land owned by The Ernest Cook Trust, was formerly the American Army's 32nd Field Hospital. Next stop St Mary's Church to look at its beautiful and unique set of stained glass windows. Next the Community Centre (formerly the Fairford Free School) and finally the Ox pens and the millpond.

Film Night

With the disco cancelled due to COVID restrictions, finally we were able to organise a whole year social event. Intofilm.org is a charity that allows schools to stream films for free. The hall was set up, students were allowed to bring snacks and drinks, there was a voting process and Sonic received the most votes. A fun evening for everyone just before the Easter Holidays.



Year 7

Residential Trip...

Three coaches arrived at Farmor's bright and early ready to take the students on their residential. A wide range of activities were provided with the climbing wall and zip wire being amongst the favourites. One of the team building activities was to be blindfolded and to walk in a line only being able to listen to verbal instructions and use their sense of touch. There was much laughter whilst students navigated obstacles, no one was allowed to be left behind and the line always had to stay connected. On the final evening everyone sat around an unlit campfire (due to the hot weather) for cold squash, marshmallows, storytelling and jokes.

Mrs Bass

Year 7 Continued: Archaeology Visit

In the summer term, Year 7 were offered the chance to participate in a 'once in a school time' opportunity to take part in a three year archaeology project at Kelmscott Manor near Lechlade to try out archaeology in the real world. The group of twenty students dug up some very interesting artefacts, such as bones. It was fascinating to find out how we could pursue History as a career path in the future. We found about the different levels and time periods in the ground. We also did lots of work back at school, learning about how to tell which artefacts came from what period of time and their worth. Some people were also given the opportunity to record the data through drawings and were allowed to use some very important equipment. We learnt how to wash the artefacts we found and sift through the dirt for maybe tiny shards of glass. We learnt that just digging in the dirt can uncover a true burst of history and sometimes even the things that make us who we are today.

Orla Holland



Year 9

Year 9 started with the optimism that we were finally back at school. Life hadn't fully returned to 'normal' but it felt like it was getting there with each new day. Although it's becoming old hat to talk about COVID so I won't. Throughout Year 9 your sons and daughters worked hard and continued their role as my favourite year group!

I'm proud of my year group for many reasons. The students are kind and compassionate people, they are always willing to support their school and do so through open evenings, watching their friends participate in school competitions or just asking if we need any help. I am often told how students are doing so well in class. I see this when I visit lessons; students are attentive and make fantastic contributions. Sometimes, I'm lucky enough to hear what they do in their private lives. Whether it is community volunteering, athletic prowess, academic competition or excellence in another arena... the mind boggles at human capacity for achievement... when we put our mind to a task.

The first aid day focussed on CPR and its importance in saving lives. The recovery position was taught and every student was given the opportunity to use a defibrillator and should now be confident using one should the need arise.

I'm sure that these days will stay with your child for a long while.

The end of year Wise Up activity day was a great success. Students spent the day with their friends working on the key skills and qualities of teamwork, leadership and resilience.

I'd like to thank all staff involved in these activities, especially the history department for their considerable time and efforts in planning The Battlefields trip. I would also like to thank the whole tutor team for their regular contributions within the pastoral team and their support during events like these and attention to detail in providing your children with whatever they need during the year. We were very lucky with the weather for these last weeks and fortunately had the time to enjoy the experiences whilst being sun baked.

This coming year presents new challenges such as the first year of their GCSEs and completing a work experience placement. Now more than ever, they will need support. The way we do that will need to be timely and well thought out.

I hope you've enjoyed the photos from Year 9 (2021-22) and I hope to share more in the future.

Mr Salvidge

Year 8

Finally, Year 8 enjoyed an academic year with minimal impact from Covid. The vast majority of students have now established good friendships and are in good routines with regards to their approach and organisation towards learning, lessons and making the most of the opportunities presented to them at school. Many students achieved excellent effort grades and are making good progress in lessons. There has been success on the sports field; engagement with the schools Eco-Club, contributions to art, music and drama and top performances in House Factor and House Matches. They end Year 8, I think, in good shape and with lots of exciting times ahead in Year 9. It has been a pleasure to be their Head of Year for their transition to Farmor's and their first couple of years here. I pass them on to the capable hands of Mrs Hubbard-Miles as I take the reins of the PE Department. I will enjoy teaching some of them and seeing them around school and will always take an interest in how they all develop as they move through the school.

Mr Hockey

What a joy it's been to work with Year 9 for my first term! I've had a lovely time getting to know the students and some of you parents too. I've enjoyed walking around lessons and seeing the students engaged in their learning and eager to share it with me. Lunchtime duty has transformed from a chore to a pleasure as I walk and talk to these friendly polite and funny students.

It's been a real highlight to see the boys play rugby and the watch the girl's netball fixtures. Whilst there have been some impressive wins, the real excitement comes from seeing how focused and determined the students are and how well they support each other as a team. Another wonderful collaboration is taking place in the drama studio at lunchtimes where a dedicated and vibrant group of Year 9s are preparing for their production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. I can't wait to see it! Last year ended on a high with three days of Activities Trips to the Link Centre, the Water Park and Bletchley Park. It's so uplifting to have these opportunities back in our lives and the students both did themselves and the school proud with their conduct and had an absolute blast. As I type this, we have ninety three students signed up for Bronze Duke of Edinburgh, the Battlefields trips are imminent and I'm getting very excited about our Snow Sports trip to Austria. These are the cherries on the cake of school life, a fantastic complement to everything else that goes on day to day and I hope Year 9 will continue to get stuck in!

Mrs Hubbard-Miles

Year 10

Year 10 is always a busy year as students step up into their GCSE option courses. It can be quite a shock from Key Stage 3. Key Stage 4 as they are now known, is the first time they have some choice over which subjects they can study.

The year group started September 2021 with an Induction Day, the first time the school had run this for Year 10. It allowed students to attend various workshops on revision techniques, mental well-being, FFT and target setting, information on academic pathways post-16 and the chance to talk to sixth formers on the do's and don'ts of KS4. The day ended with some time with their tutors to reflect on the day, and prepare for the two years ahead.

The year group settled well into Year 10 and there was a strong sense of realising that this was the time to settle down and try their hardest.

Before Christmas 2021 we launched work experience. Students had to contact employers and ask if they could spend a week working with them. The aim was for them to experience the real world of work and experience careers they were interested in. This sometimes affirms their plans or not! We had a wide range of placements far and wide including boarding kennels, primary schools, charity shops, hairdressers, law courts, hotels, restaurants, car restoration, physiotherapists, a film company, leisure centres, vets, Swindon Town Football Club, a London fashion magazine, equestrian centres and the army, to name but a few. It was great to go and visit some of the students in these settings and see them thriving and learning different things from school. They all reported they were very tired at the end of the week, and it encouraged many of them to work hard at school so they can have a job they enjoy in future years.

Another highlight of Year 10 was the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. My year group broke all previous records with over one hundred and thirty students signing up for Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. I was delighted when over fifty then signed up for the Silver Expedition. I was privileged enough to join them for the practice expedition and the real thing. The practice was a very challenging time. On the first day the heavens opened, and they all arrived at the campsite drenched to the core, cold, hungry and tired. BUT they got through it and pushed through to succeed. They were then

rewarded with beautiful weather in the real thing which took part in Monmouthshire. There are many highlights to my job but seeing those faces cross the finish line was amazing. A very proud Head of Year moment.

The undercurrent of everything we have done in our year group over the last four years has been to develop four key values to have in their personal life, school and to take forward into the big wide world. I call them my 4 Rs:

Resilience – never giving up. It is okay to stop, pause and recharge but then to “pick yourself up, dust yourself down and start again”.

Respect: for themselves, for others and for the environment.

Reputation: in person and online. This quality that will follow them through life.

Role models: especially to the younger years who do look up to older student.

Mrs Dawson

Berlin Trip...

Our trip to Berlin was extremely fun and highly educational while also proving emotionally moving.

We learn all about the events that occurred in Germany from the safety of our own classrooms but seeing the landmarks and reminders of our history in real-time is something completely different. Visiting places such as the Reichstag, the Berlin TV tower, Checkpoint Charlie and the DDR museum were eye-opening and brought everything we have learned to life, helping to deepen our understanding of this subject. Visiting the Sachsenhausen concentration camp outside Berlin was heart-breaking but the realism of the area itself proves how important it is that we learn from history. It was a jam-packed trip full of education but also tied into fun activities in the evenings. I'm very grateful to have been given this opportunity. The enjoyment of it all came within the amazing planning of everything we did and the support of the staff that were with us.

Ruby Dorricott



Year 11

On May 11th 2022, we said a formal goodbye to Year 11. We started with assembly in the hall in which we remembered some of the highlights of the last five years and reflected on how much has happened since the year group arrived as bouncy, bright eyed eleven-year-olds.

It was a good reminder of how many happy moments we've shared over the years: we laughed and cried (well, Mrs Kelly did) at some great year seven pictures, lots of memories and a particularly fine film of someone face-planting into a snowdrift (mention no name eh Max?) then it was outside for a BBQ, games, ice-creams and everyone went home to get ready for their exams.

Undaunted by the disruption this year group have experienced over the last couple of years, they approached their exams with a level of grit and determination which impressed everyone. The extended exam season seemed to last for aeons but eventually it was all over and time to celebrate one last time - this time at the Blunsdon Hotel for our prom.

It's always hard saying goodbye to a year group, but seeing them all suited and booted at prom, it was clear that they were all grown up and ready for the next stage of their lives. Needless to say, they will be missed but we wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Mrs Kelly

SIXTH FORM

We have had a great start to the year and here is a roundup of last academic term in the Sixth Form.

We congratulate all our sixth formers who have made such fantastic achievements with their A Level studies this year, with lots of very happy faces. These results reflected the hard work of the students, and the efforts of the Sixth Form team and teaching staff over the last two years to support this cohort through all kinds of uncertainty. In May, all Sixth Formers had a joyous time at the Ball, in a beautiful countryside setting at The Cheltenham Racecourse to celebrate the ending of a hard year, with fabulous food and dancing the night away. We are already looking forward to next year's Ball!

In sport both Fletcher Hart and Katie New were at the Swindon Track 3000m under lights event in atrocious weather conditions. The netball team has also played some exceptional matches and Clara Davies, one of our Heads of School, completed a half marathon for charity over October half term - an impressive achievement so far!

All Year 13 students are working on UCAS applications and personal statements, or applications for apprenticeships; this is in preparation for their next step post Farmor's. They have started their Cooking on a Budget sessions to prepare them for leaving home and have taken part in a thought-provoking session on passenger safety through our Speakers for Schools programme. Year 12 have been entertained by Major Peter Williams and his tales of spying during the cold war.

In April sixteen students took part in a cultural trip to New York City. We had a fabulous five days in the Big Apple, visiting iconic sites around the city and sampling the local culinary delights. Students experienced The Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, The Museum of Modern Art, The Rockefeller, and Central Park to name but a few. An awesome experience for all and Mrs A is looking forward to planning another exhilarating trip for 2024.

Mrs Andrews-Alsaigh



Shadow Senior Leadership Team



Every year we invite our year 12 students to apply for positions in our Shadow Senior Leadership Team (SSLT). Applicants go through an interview process for a range of roles including: Heads of School, Student Presidents, Heads of House, Wellbeing Ambassadors and Social and Events Managers. Once in role, the SSLT help to plan and strategically develop the future of the whole school while representing and voicing specific groups in the school community.

The most high-profile roles are those of our Heads of School. For these roles, students have to go through a rigorous application process that involves a presentation to staff and an interview with Mr. Evans. The successful students have a busy year representing the school at public events, presenting to parents at open evenings and working with the younger students and the wider community.

The roles are demanding but students find that they gain a lot. Clara Davies one of our current heads of school describes the 'confidence in public speaking and leadership skills' that she has developed since being elected, while James Andrew who shares the role with Clara and Amelia Neville-Jones explained that he 'had never imagined the role would be such an opportunity for growth' and that the skills he has gained will be of 'immeasurable value in life.'

We are very proud of our SSLT and appreciative of what they bring to the school community.

Prefects

In order to become a prefect, we all went through an application and interview process. We each wrote about our experiences inside and outside of school that have helped to shape us to become who we are. This included activities we have achieved in and moments of resilience that we have overcome. Everyone was each expected to explain how they have shown their respect for others and themselves, resilience, their good reputation and role-modelling in the interview process and also to explore what they have done volunteering-wise outside of school. The chosen prefects are categorised into groups of head prefects, Key Stage 3 prefects, house prefects and anti-bullying prefects. During some tutor times, Key Stage 3 prefects will visit the younger years and run sessions with them based in different topics. They also stand on duty with the younger years at lunchtime. Overall, being a prefect proves highly beneficial when you see the changes you can make to others' school lives.

Ruby Dorricott



Expressive Arts

Music 2021-22

This was the year when extra-curricular music could restart properly following the Covid restrictions of 2020-21. In my second year at Farmor's I didn't know what to expect initially at the start of term as we re-launched choir, concert band, rock school and introduced a ukulele club. I was really pleased with how these all contributed to a successful concert in St. Mary's Church in December.

It was then great to see these groups maintained through to a Spring Concert and Summer Concert respectively. In March we took the choir to Voice in a Million 2022, where one of our own pupils Fayth Ifil (then in year 10) performed as a guest soloist. We were part of a three thousand strong group singing a range of pop songs with various dance moves as well! I am pleased to say that already into the new term for 2022-23 that the choir is going from strength to strength, we are booked to go again to Voice in a Million in March and the concert band has more members and so does the ukulele group who will perform properly for the first time in December. We also ran a trip to Dear Evan Hansen in February which was a truly brilliant show, in conjunction with the Drama department. This year we are going to watch Back to the Future, The Musical again in February.

If you have any questions about any of the clubs for music please don't hesitate to send me an email to jdriver@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk. Equally, if you have any enquiries about instrumental lessons with our fabulous peripatetic tutors, please email music tuition@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk.

Thank you for all your support last year.

Mr Jon Driver, Head of Music

Drama & Theatre

Live Theatre Trips

Following our trip to the Barn Theatre to see Cinderella last Christmas, we are taking 200 Key Stage 3 students to see the Barn Theatre's Christmas 2022 production of The True Adventures of Marian and Robin Hood. The GCSE and A-Level students went to the Oxford Playhouse in November to see Frantic Assembly's production of Othello. It is so good to be able to see live theatre again after lockdown. All students benefit socially and culturally from the experience of seeing live theatrical productions. It is wonderful to see how they inspire our students' imagination and creativity.

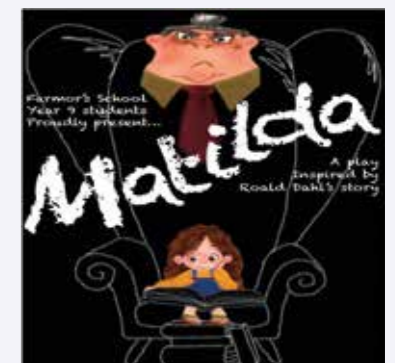
Year 9 Production

We staged our first production for a live audience last year with a Year 9 production of Matilda inspired by the story by Roald Dahl. In March 2020 the students involved were just over halfway through Year 7 when practical drama lessons gave way to remote online learning and social-distancing measures prohibited extra-curricular activities. With these students soon about to choose their GCSE options, it would have been such a shame if they had never had the opportunity to take part in a school production. So, with cautious enthusiasm and despite the disruption of illness and isolation they created a play. The students made and painted their own props and scenery and students took responsibility for all the costumes, lighting, sound and front-of-house. For the first time in almost two years, the magic of theatre brought together Year 9 performers, Year 12 Enrichment students and staff in a unique experience that we had fun doing and were proud to share with our audience. This year the Year 9 students are tackling Shakespeare and are busy rehearsing A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Drama and Theatre Alumni

We would like to congratulate our former students Natasha Gleeson and Otto Richards who have just began studying BA (Hons) degrees in Theatre Production at GSA and Theatre & Performance Design at LIPA.

Mr Thomas Newman, Head of Drama



Art

A Level Exhibition

On Tuesday 21st June, the Art and Design Technology departments threw open their doors and invited Year 13 students, staff, parents and the wider community to visit their summer showcase of work. Visitors were invited to wander through the departments looking at A level work from Art, Photography, Textiles and Design Technology. In our first exhibition since the pandemic it was lovely to be able to show off our students' hard work and incredible outcomes. The rooms were buzzing with lively conversation and people pouring over sketch books, work journals and models. The students themselves were on hand to talk people through their work and were blown away by the appreciative compliments they were given. A resounding success!



Art trip to Kelmscott Manor

Kelmscott Manor is a 16th-century house built for one of the 19th century's most celebrated designers, William Morris. The stunning Cotswold architecture, intricately curated walled gardens and idyllic countryside setting look as though they grew out of the soil, and it is no wonder that Kelmscott inspired many of Morris' most famous pieces such as *The Strawberry Thief*. Expanding upon our previous studies of his work and just a short coach journey away, it would be a crime not to visit.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by a friendly education team and a deserted manor reserved for our explorations. It would have been more difficult to get a sense of Morris' creative genius if a painfully slow queue stood in our way of the bedroom. Thankfully, we had no such issue, and it was astounding to witness the history and beauty of the house's art and design. We were encouraged to take observational drawings as we went and found that every intricacy had been curated to perfection, from winding, carved bedposts to expertly embroidered armchairs. My personal favourites were the tapestries displayed proudly in the dedicated tapestry room. I was astounded to discover that some took over four hundred hours to be carefully stitched by hand! This inspired me to put a little more time into my own work...

We also visited the gardens, where we all took part in an exercise of choosing four elements to draw, then turning them into stylized motifs as Morris did in his own iconic textile prints. I found this quite therapeutic; I rarely draw out in the open from natural references when Google is so readily available. It was strange in the best possible way to think that I was standing in the same spot, possibly drawing from exactly the same reference as William Morris did over a century ago. Capturing the beauty of nature in the crisp October air, it was clear why Morris described this little piece of enchanting countryside as 'heaven on earth'. Finally, the day came to a close with a printing workshop, where we could work in groups to create our own wallpaper designs. It took a surprising amount of teamwork and communication to place each person's designs in the correct place as to achieve a pattern. I knew I would be infuriated for the next two years of my GCSE course if my pattern was in fact not a pattern. But everyone achieved an eye-catching result, and they will certainly add a little colour to our sketchbooks. It provided a new dimension to our work to experience art outside Farmor's School, and I –and am sure many will agree– cannot wait for another trip. Although I am not sure means would stretch to reserving the entire National Gallery; perhaps a little queuing could be tolerated.

Mrs Tara Parker-Woolway, Head of Art





Photography

Year 10 Bristol Zoo trip 2022

Two classes of photography students, including myself, visited Bristol Zoo last May. We had been given a brief for which photos to capture, aiming for images portraying close ups of the animals, as well as their movement. Some of us also decided to take a photo shoot for our GCSE coursework while we were there. The day brought mostly brilliantly bright clouds and sunshine, accounting for some amazing images that were taken.

We arrived at the zoo in high spirits and set out to explore the animals. I found that the flamingos offered a sage start to the day as they stood regally around their lake. However, the Asiatic lions captured the attention of most of our party. Female Sonika prowled around, soon joined by the male (Sahee) for some light play. Our amble continued down the avenue, which was decorated with bunting, past the red pandas, bats, and tortoises. The red pandas proved elusive to some of our cameras though.

The Reptile House created an interesting change in lighting. Close ups were easier as the majority of lizards remained still, however one particular gecko attracted a lot of attention with fervent racing up and down its tank. Also, we debated whether the statue-still West African Dwarf Crocodile could be real. It was indeed alive; proven by a startling shuffle. We continued to the Aquarium, where huge fish, and even a river turtle, accompanied us through to a tunnel inside the final tank. In the Insect House we were greeted by a forest-based section with ants, huge locusts, and even a golden orb spider. Then we saw the beautifully colourful anemones, and jellyfish determined to swim upside-down, into the fine pebbles at the bottom of their tanks. We also loved the Monkey Jungle section with its lively inhabitants. Moreover, the walk-through the

Lemur Garden provided excellent shots without glass in the way. The nature of all our ramblings meant groups rarely bumped into one another. Being left behind and separated from our individual groups was a danger for those who become engrossed in their photography. Luckily, lost members found each other again relatively easily. Lunch was spent on a grassy patch, huddled in our respective groups, as ducks waddled their way around us. Afterwards, some of us watched while seagulls fought over scraps left by the other students. Feeding time at the Gorilla Island piqued interest, but the Seal and Penguin Coasts enclosures demanded the most patience as inhabitants swept around their huge tanks. Particularly impressive shots were taken within the tunnels and views beneath the water surface. Finally, inside the Butterfly House, many chased the aerial occupants for the perfect shots, especially of the Blue Morpho Butterfly.

Overall, we all enjoyed the day out, putting the skills gained throughout the year into practice. After the trip, a competition was held for best image taken at the zoo. Caitlin came first with a stunning image of a penguin swimming towards the viewer.

Laura Garner

Last May around sixty photography students visited Bristol Zoo. Each student was given two topics to explore, 'up-close' and 'movement'. The 'up-close' photos were targeted to take photos when the animals are close to you, so that you can capture the extensive detail present on their body such as fur

or pines and sometimes even the detail present on their teeth if you caught them at feeding time.

For the 'movement' topic students were tasked to capture images where the animals were moving. This proved to be a challenge for those who had not used the manual mode before because you needed a fast shutter speed to capture the animal with minimal blur but you needed more exposure to let more light in because the shutter was so fast it didn't let enough light through the lens onto the sensor.

As we arrived at the zoo and disembarked the bus, I must say that the exterior appearance of the zoo had me worried as I felt it looked a bit rundown and tired; however, as soon as we were inside my expectations of the zoo were met and annihilated by the welcoming staff and the colourful decorations overhead the walkways.

We explored the zoo in groups of around four or five, and occasionally came across another group and stopped for a quick chat before continuing our excursion to the rest of the zoo. After walking for around fifteen minutes my group encountered the reptile house. As we entered the warm building it became apparent that this would be a good place to take 'up-close' photos, because all the habitats were relatively small, and the animals were slower moving making it easier to capture them. On the other hand, the dark lighting caused some problems for us. The reason behind this was that the darker room required a slower shutter speed to let as much light as possible enter the lens. This meant that to take a clean photo you needed to hold the camera perfectly still which proved difficult when the narrow corridors were filled with half a dozen students.

Later in the day, we discovered the aquatic zone which housed animals such as jellyfish and clown fish and many other freshwater

and saltwater creatures. This building was also quite dark in rooms without windows which yet again raised the issue of exposure times and attempting to hold your camera still. This challenge was only made more troublesome by the fact that the fish were constantly swimming and moving which made some quite interesting effects. In my opinion the photos I took of some clown fish looked like they were ghosts or spirits as their shapes trailed off into the background like flour being dashed onto snow.

My favourite part of the zoo was the penguin enclosure for two reasons: I love penguins and the penguin enclosure at Bristol Zoo was where my Dad proposed to my Mum nearly two decades ago. At the end of the day, we all gathered outside of the gift shop before boarding the bus once again. Overall, the students enjoyed our trip to Bristol Zoo and were happy to put the photography skills we've acquired over the year to the test.

Farrell Gratton

Design & Technology

2021/22



▲ Cirencester Rotary Tournament KS4 Winners: Kieran Kent, Charlie Fryer-Ward, James Biggs, Terja Jugdev.



▲ Cirencester Rotary Tournament KS3 Winners: Finn Bird, Waylon Campbell, Boro Dobsa, Joesph Rodgers



▲ The Royal International Air Tattoo 2022 Runners up: From left to right Ms Banyard, Nathan Govier, Jayden Murdock, Charlie Fryer-Ward, Terja Jugdev, George Cairns, Ms Smith.

When I first took over as Head of Department in 2020, we hit the ground running with what seemed like impossible restrictions imposed on schools due to Covid. How would we teach a practical subject? How would we meet student expectations of our subject and be met with disappointed faces when it came to a lack of practical work? How would we support our theory if students couldn't see how or why things worked? It was hard to envision how I would have any impact on the department to get it to where I wanted it to go. The focus had to be solely on teaching and learning whilst keeping students and staff safe - which I think as a team we achieved.

2021-22 was the welcome start we needed as a department, restrictions were lifted and we could really start rethinking our schemes of work, idealising what Design and Technology meant to us and the wider world, aiming to bring more relatable meaning to the curriculum. We firstly employed two new teachers into the team, Dr. Asbridge and Ms. Banyard who have brought a wealth of knowledge and skills with them. Thanks to Mrs Bass, we introduced electronics into our department as well as Computer Aided Design. We felt as a team that we needed to get away from the idea that we just 'make stuff', when really, we are problem solvers, designers, thinkers and makers. We wanted to emphasise that we are not here to add to the many products this world creates but how we will use our students' young imaginative minds to solve problems, help others whilst also thinking about wider world issues such as the environment. We have made great advances in our curriculum to change the perception of Design and Technology in KS3 with extensive research and planning to implement iterative learning and skill set across all key stages. Along with these changes, we have given the main DT1 workshop a bit of a face lift with a new modern colour scheme and a dedicated area to Polymers as well as a CAD/CAM working area. This is an on-going development for us with plans to introduce two new workshops in DT2 and DT3 over the course of the 22-23 academic year

D&T Celebrations:

June was a busy month for department. Dr. Asbridge and Mrs. Chick took fourteen students to the Rotary Stem tournament at Cirencester College where we competed against other local schools in Key Stage 3 and 4. The students were challenged to design and make a weight powered vehicle. We had two groups competing in year 9 and year 10. I'm delighted to say that Farmor's won both categories.

Also in June, we welcomed Lockheed Martin into school for a mission to Mars STEM day. Students spent the day programming robots, team building and making a pressure release pad to raise a flag. Ms. Banyard and I accompanied the winning team of the day to the Lockheed Martin STEM competition at the Royal International Air Tattoo in July where we were runners up in the challenge against other schools.

It's a lovely feeling knowing that we are developing as a department and bringing back STEM. We are united in our belief that Design and Technology should be celebrated and experienced by all. It brings together many cross curricular subjects and allows students to apply knowledge from across the school into one subject.

Ms Mindy Smith, Head of Design and Technology



Outdoor Pursuits

Between the 23rd and 25th of September, Paul Wood, Jo Dawson, Abi Banyard, Karen Brathwaite and I took fifty two students on a three-day walking expedition around the Forest of Dean. We were very lucky to have clement weather this time, which was a welcome change to the -5 degrees Celsius the same cohort had to endure during the training expedition last March. The first day they walked from Lydney to Bracelands campsite near Coleford, which was around 16 kilometres and was completed in a very good time of around five hours. After an early night and some decent sleep, it was on to Biblin's campsite near Symmonds Yat, a further 13-ish kilometres which included a fantastic lunch break atop Monmouth and the roundhouse Napoleon had constructed for entertaining his girlfriends. All walkers were starting to feel the exertion now but they handled it well and, more importantly, any group's issues, such as navigation or walking speed were dealt with calmly and by the students themselves. After a rather chilly start to Sunday (and a very refreshing morning wild-swim for some staff) the students got to Goodrich Castle in a fantastic time (so quick they had to be held at the last checkpoint). The pick-up by parents was incredibly efficient and all students and staff were back home to wash and have feet massaged by 4pm Sunday night. Massive thanks to the staff for all their help and support... here's to the next cohort's success!

Mr Jackson, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



3 Peaks Challenge



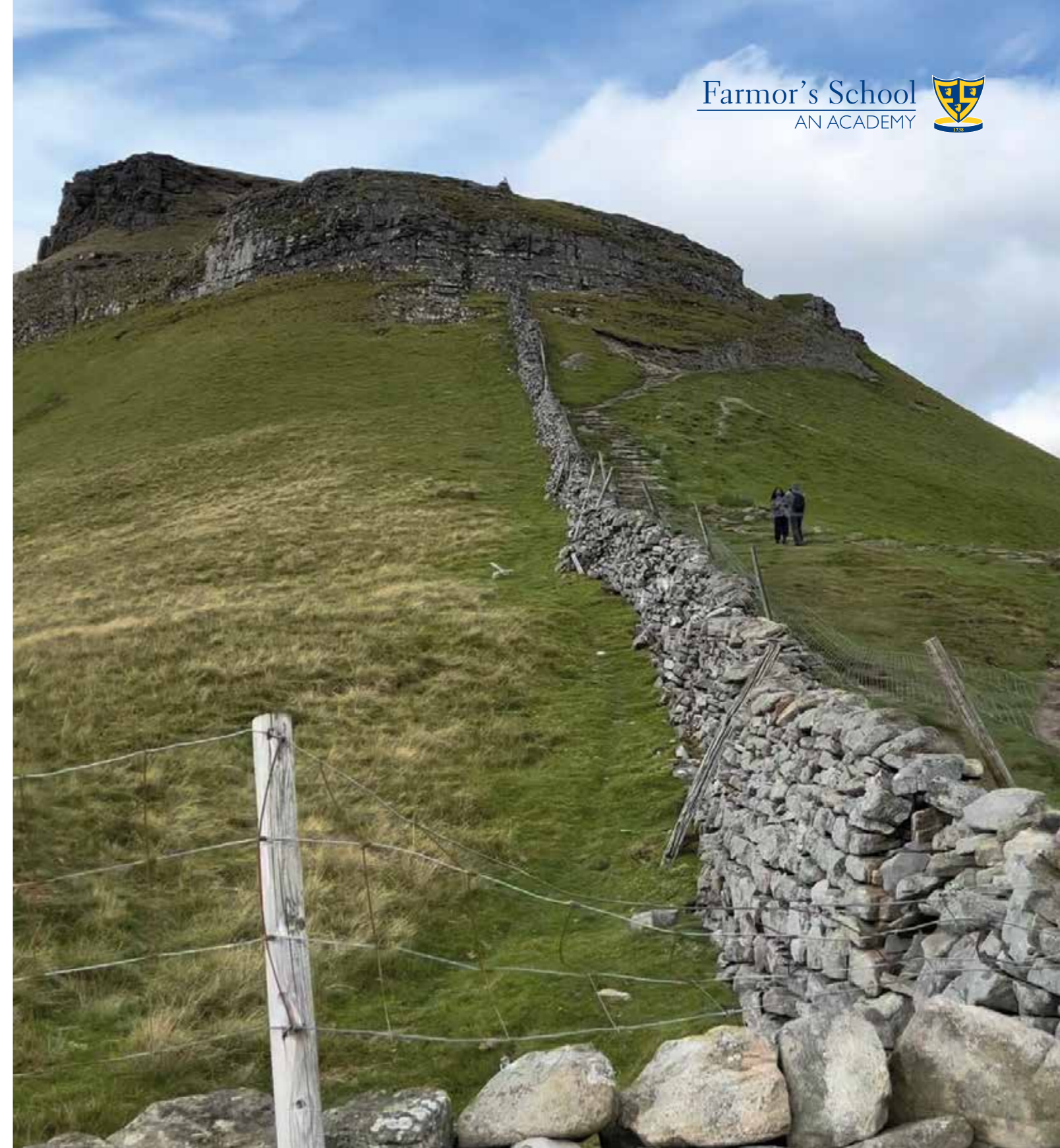
3 Peaks Challenge Continued:

The Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, alongside the other walks we completed as preparation, was one of the hardest things I have ever done, both mentally and physically. When I signed up, I don't think I had quite anticipated how much of a challenge these walks were going to become. The first walk, an out and back over part of the Malvern Ridge, felt impossible.

As soon as we got out of the minibus we were scrambling up an incredibly steep gradient and I just remember thinking to myself that there was absolutely no way I was going to be able to do this. I had no belief in myself that I would make it up this slope, never mind the final challenge of Whernside, Pen Y Ghent and Ingleborough all in one day. It wasn't until I was sat at the top of Pen Y Ghent on the last day after walking over twenty miles and ascending a combined total of 1585 metres that I actually realised what I had achieved.

I genuinely do not believe I could have done it without the rest of my group, both in terms of my friends and the amazing staff that joined us. Three Peaks isn't just something that I'm going to put on my CV later on in life, it was a truly incredible experience that I am so grateful to have been given. You can do it. You just have to believe in yourself.

Caitlin Goodman



Exam Results

A level - Summer 2022

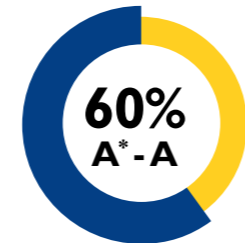
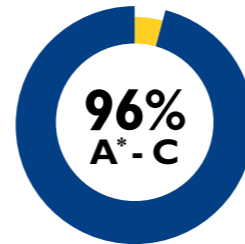
Farmor's Sixth Form students celebrated a brilliant set of A level results in August. Despite an incredibly tough two years and not having had any prior experience of formal exams, their hard work and resilience paid off and, after a record number of university applications this year, 88% gained their first choice university place and are now well into their first term of university studies.

We are incredibly proud of the whole year group: they have achieved far more than just grades.

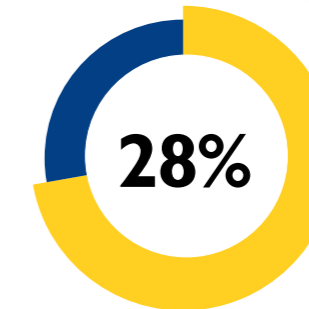
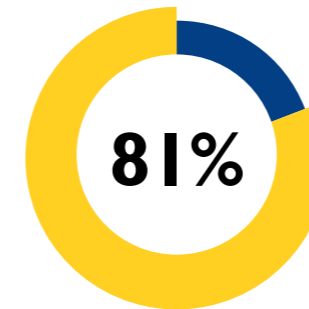
Despite the pandemic, they have competed in sports competitions, taken part in concerts, climbed mountains and record numbers completed their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. The resilience they have shown under such conditions is remarkable; they are exceptional, inspiring, and talented young people. Congratulations to them all!

The celebrations extended to the current Year 13 students who were also delighted to collect their Extended Project Qualification results. Almost a third of the year group took this AS qualification and 96% gained A*-C with 60% A*-A. We look forward to more impressive results from them next year.

Farmor's Sixth Form students AS
Qualification Results



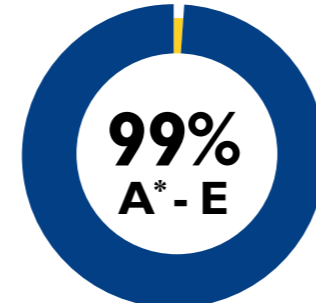
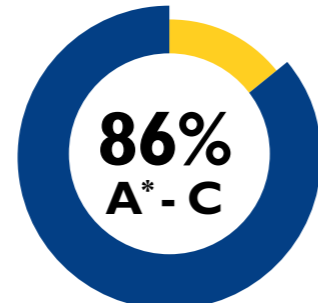
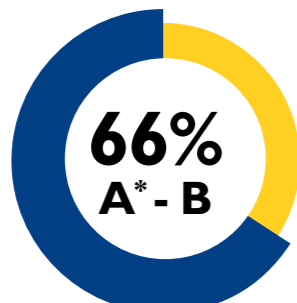
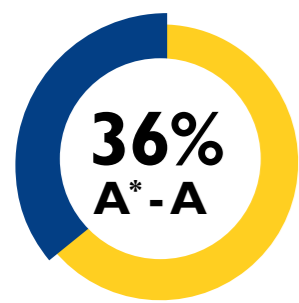
GCSE results - Summer 2022



Despite the disruption of the last two years, 81 per cent of all GCSE grades from year 11 students were grade 4 (C) and above and 28 per cent of all results were grade 7 (A* - A) and above.

Tor Kelly, Head of Sixth Form, confirmed her delight in welcoming so many of the students back in September to continue with their A level studies. "Behind the figures are many individual stories of hard work and resilience in really difficult circumstances and I am very proud of them".

Headline A level figures:

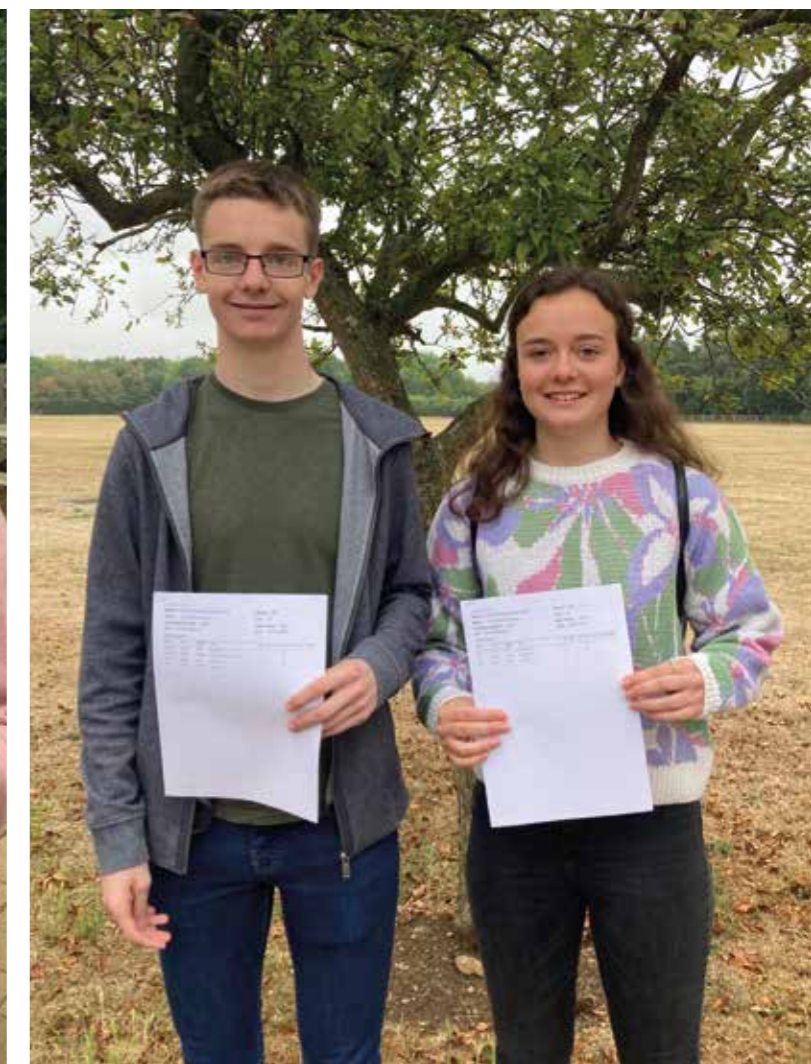
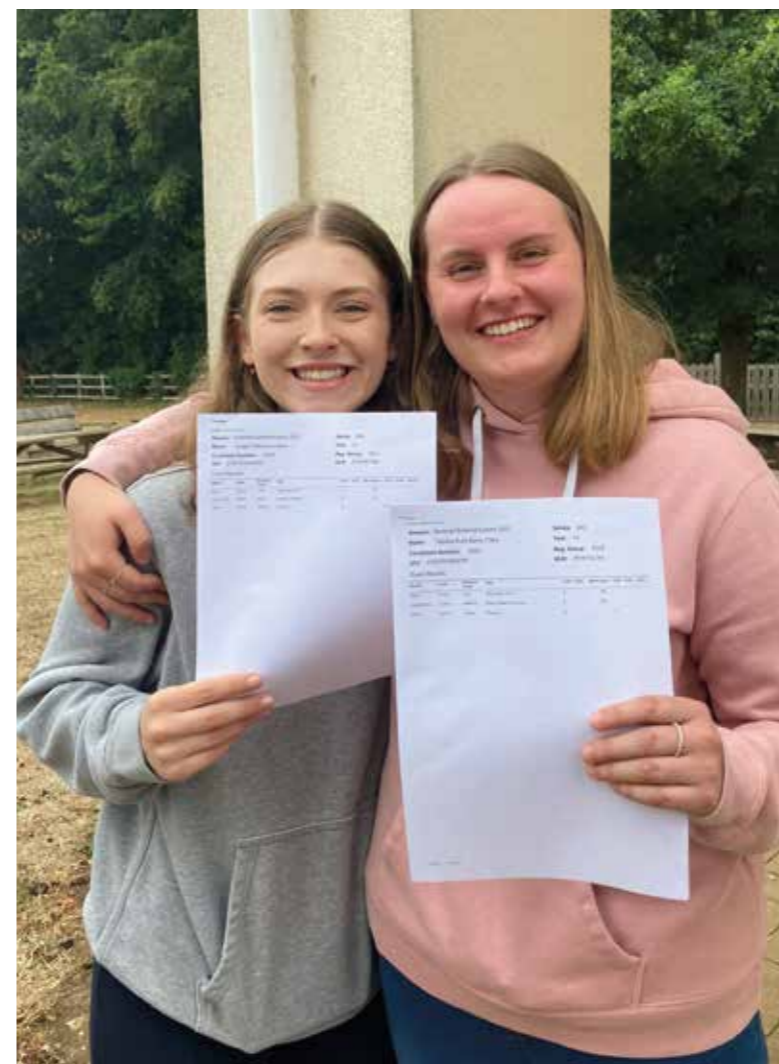


Individual successes include:

- Annie Lloyd achieved the following grades: Economics A, Maths A*, Further Maths A*, Physics A* and is studying Maths and Physics at York.
- Hannah Clark achieved the following grades: English Literature and Language A, Art A*, Geography A* and is studying English and Communications at Exeter.
- Joe Sims achieved the following grades: Business Studies A, Economics A, Psychology A and is studying Business Management at Cardiff.
- Alex Moyle achieved the following grades: Biology A*, Chemistry A, Maths A and is going to study Medicine at Birmingham.
- Arjan Cook achieved the following grades: 3D design A*, Maths A*, Psychology B and is studying Architecture at Loughborough.
- Eleanor Forrest: Computer Science A*, Maths A*, Further Maths A and is studying Computer Science and Maths at Exeter.

▼ Immy Hobbs: Psychology at Reading University.
Tabi Berry: Paramedic science-gap year

▼ Luke Cripps: Maths at Durham University
Emily Cripps: Midwifery at Plymouth University



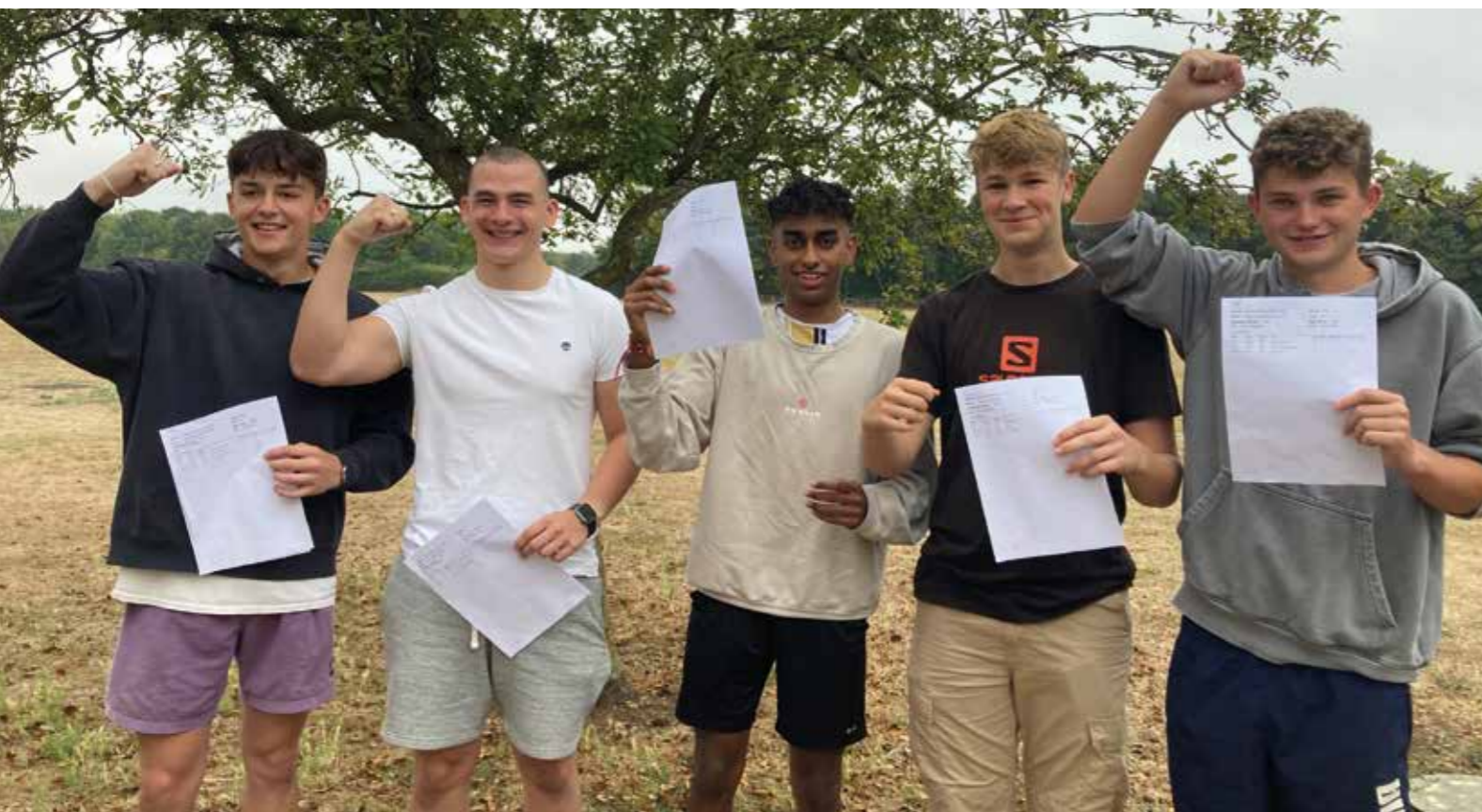
▼ Rose (Chemistry), Grace (Biological Sciences) and Maudie Orgill (History) who are all at the University of Cardiff



▼ Annie Lloyd: Maths and Physics at the University of York
Joe Sims: Business Management at the University of Cardiff



▼ Josh Newman: Aeronautics and Astronautics at the University of Southampton, Joe Brogden: Construction Management at the University of Reading
Saahen Shetty: International Relations at Loughborough University, Henry Pegg: History at the University of Cardiff
Tom Prosser: Marine Geography at the University of Cardiff



Physical Education

When we look back at the achievements of our students across this year it really is quite impressive. A nostalgic scroll through our Team Farmor's Instagram shows just how many brilliant performances we have achieved, and how many incredible experiences we have all had together. The numbers of students who regularly come to our clubs and represent us in our teams is outstanding and we are blessed with some outstanding individuals and teams. In our relatively small community, we continue to punch well above our weight in many areas of competitive sport. We are also really proud of the continued commitment that all of our students show to training, and their own individual progress, offering both strength and depth to our teams.

In the first proper year of competitive school sport after missing out on so much due to the constraints of COVID, it was heartening to see how motivated and engaged to compete our students at Farmor's School were. We have attempted to capture some of the highlights of the year in chronological order, starting with our winter sports and building up to what was a bit of a summer spectacular!

From September until Christmas our main focus is always netball, rugby and cross-country. Rugby friendly matches returned with an extensive programme in each year group enabling the boys to develop their skills and knowledge in a competitive environment. The attendance in all of our year groups was fantastic and we hope that more competitive opportunities will be presented next season. Many of our lads are working hard in the rugby set up and continue to progress through either the DPP (Development Performance Pathway) programme or the county schools set up. Just some of the boys who are involved include: Freddy Fox-Thompson, Alex Thomson, Finn Bird, Rory Bird, Jack Cook, Luke Jackson, Charlie Davis, Oli Roberts, Zac Slade, Kieran Flood, Eden Morley, Reuben Rebello, Will Lloyd and Will Merrett.

We kick started the netball season by entering a few teams into cup competitions and playing friendlies within our district. Our under 19s reached the semi-final of the county netball tournament and narrowly missed out on winning a place at regionals. Our under 14 netballers reached the quarter finals at the county out of twenty teams. Although we played netball festivals rather than competitive tournaments our girls still wanted to know where they were in the district! Year 11 – District Champions; Year 10 – runners up; Year 9 – District Champions; Year 8 – runners up. As you can see from these results the netball continues to be a strength at Farmor's. We have a number of girls who are on the England Netball pathway, or who are



▼ Year 7 XC relay team: Grace Windett, Daisy Giles, Sophie Giles & Lucy Bull.



Physical Education Continued:

involved in Severn Stars Nova hubs. These include; Hollie Clarke, Maisie Slattery, Bella Griffiths, Hannah Easton, Poppy Reeves, Holly Floyd, Lucy Clark, Daisy Davis, Poppy Abercrombie, Megan Clarke, Livi Bayless, Lucy Bull and perhaps a few others who are going through this process as we speak! Great work girls.

Our cross-country season was no less successful – many runners gaining District and County selection. These included: Reuben Linscott, Lucy Bull, Livi Bayless, Rebecca Cornell, Fletcher Hart, Tom Whetton, Will Lloyd and most notably Ella Spencer in Year 9 and both Fletcher and Tom in Year 11 competing at The English Schools XC. An incredible achievement for all.

We were also well represented in each of the three Basketball Tournaments at under 12/14 and 16 being one of only three schools in the district to send a team to each age group – again reflecting the commitment of our students to take as many opportunities to play sport as possible.

As we progress through the year from January to April, we switch to playing football (girls and boys) and hockey for the girls. This presents its challenges from a hockey perspective, but we played some brilliant matches and welcomed lots of girls back into teams who have not represented school for some time. Izzy Stewart, who currently plays GK for Cirencester Ladies Hockey Club made a real difference to our under 16 team and will hopefully enable us to have some friendly 1st XI matches this season. We also have a number of girls who are involved in local football teams and Tia Rees in current Year 11 who plays in the Swindon Town Academy and has travelled far and wide playing for her team.

We certainly had one of our most successful football seasons for a while this year in terms of both numbers of boys playing in our teams and success in competitions. We often fielded B & C teams in Years 7 and 8 and the House Matches also provided a high number of boys with a taste of competitive football. The Year 11 boys and Year 8 boys won district titles this year which is no mean feat. The Year 8s taking their match to a nail-biting finish, scoring a dramatic winning goal in the second half of extra time. Holding on for the final two minutes with composure beyond their years. Year 11 dominated, winning their district final 5-2 having been 3-0 up inside the first 20 minutes and missing a penalty - as Harrison bottled his hat-trick! Three of this team gained selection as individuals in the Gloucestershire Schools under 16s team – well done Will Lloyd, Will Merrett and Dan Howard.

In February, as part of our team development, we took two netball squads and two football squads from Year 11 on tour to Jersey for a long weekend. This was the first tour we had managed to run post-Covid and it really was a truly brilliant experience. The netball was super tough, but the girls rose to every challenge they faced and played with absolute heart in every game. The boys played the two strongest football schools on the island as well as Jersey Academy. They also played their hearts out with the A team beating both opposition schools and a great 2-2 draw against Jersey Academy. The B team were simply entertaining and whilst the score line did not always flatter us, the games were certainly an exhibition! We are certain that the tour consolidated their team ethos and contributed in the quest to become district champions upon our return. An absolutely brilliant tour, one which will be remembered for years to come.

The summer term brings us to tennis, cricket and rounders. Without doubt this was one of our most successful years in all three areas. We



▲ 1sts Netball team 2021-2022: L-R Grace Orgill, Annie Lloyd, Maudie Orgill, Jemma Watkins (former Head Girl), Hannah Clark, Bella Smith, Jess Modica, Emily Skinner & Rose Orgill.

▼ Year 10 boys rugby team.



▲ U16 Rugby team 2020-2021.



◀ U16 County Football
L-R: Dan Howard,
Will Merrett & Wil Lloyd



◀ U16 Netball team at
The County tournament.
L-R: Lucy Tuke-Hastings,
Amelia Gardner, Lilly
Mills, Rebecca Cornell,
Annie Griffiths, Steph
Cvetkovski, Poppy Reeves,
Issy Landafont & Bliss
Chapman.

Physical Education Continued:



◀ Grace Orgill & Hannah Clark in full defensive flight at the U19 County tournament where we reached the Semi Final – losing by just one goal to Cheltenham Ladies College in October 2021.



◀ U16 Rugby team 2020-2021.

▼ Boys and Girls XC teams at the District XC trials at Archway School.



▲ U14 Netball team at the County tournament.

L-R: Izzy Still, Daisy Davis, Paige Thrush, Holly Floyd, Daisy Donlan, Lucy Clark, Meg Lloyd, Poppy Abercrombie, Harriet Ray.



▲ Year 9 Rugby team 2021.

had such a brilliant time with all of our teams and some super highlights. Tennis competitions included the LTA team competition for the girls, the district competition for the boys and the Play your way to Wimbledon 14 and under for both boys and girls. Highlights included the under 15 boys team winning the district title beating Marling in the final. The under 15 boys also found their winning streak in softball where they took another district title. Olivia Adkins progressed to the win the county round of the Play your way to Wimbledon competition securing her place to play on the hallowed turf of SW19 itself. Olivia represents Wiltshire County tennis, but I am sure she would agree that playing at Wimbledon was a highlight for her this year. We are super proud of her achievements this year through school and elsewhere.

The athletics season was really something special for us. It kicks off with district trials at Deer Park School and we really surpassed expectations with the number of our athletes who gained district representation. Students who either won their events or performed at a qualifying level included: Amelia Gardner, Annie Griffiths, Rebecca Cornell, Fletcher Hart, Dan Lijs, Tia Rees, Hannah Thomas, Daisy Davis, Bill Elliot and Billy Dickinson. Three of these students continued through the schools competition to compete at the pinnacle in the school athletics calendar – The English Schools Athletics meet. Many Olympians have competed here. Fletcher Hart, Ella Spencer and Billy Dickinson all experienced what it might be like to one day compete on such a stage. An amazing experience for them all. Ella has had a particularly successful season including new personal bests in 800m (2:17.9) and 3000m (10:24.1). Oakley Hogan in Year 7 also went on to compete at National Events in the summer and is winning any event he turns his hand to.

We have two flagship events for our athletes. One is the District Competition at the Prince of Wales Stadium in Cheltenham at which we take boys and girls teams from each year group and compete against all other schools across our district. It was without doubt one of the best days in our sporting calendar with some absolutely stand out performances – Poppy Abercrombie, Izzy Sollis, Ben Scanlon, Hannah Thomas, Daisy Davis, Billy Dickinson, Lucy Bull and many, many others put in stellar performances to give us an incredible set of team results. Years 7, 8 and 9 girls' teams ALL took 1st place by year group. Year 9 boys came second and Years 7, 8 and 10 boys came third. Overall, we won the whole competition by a large margin coming top out of eleven schools – such fantastic depth in all of these teams and an amazing effort given that we have considerably fewer students in our year groups than many other schools at this event. Super proud of our athletes and all of the hard work they put in. Well done team!

Another highlight in the PE calendar is Sports Day. Once again, the sun shone and the whole school supported us in running a fantastic event. It was brilliant for students to compete against one another and for the rest of the school to get to witness some of the awesome performances our athletes are capable of. Farmor House were crowned Sports Day Champions and as often is the case – school records were smashed and we even brought back the staff relay...but we won't mention who brought the baton home in first place for his team.....!

Our rounders teams were simply superb this year! The Year 7 team won their district tournament and all other teams were runners up in

Physical Education Continued:

the district with some seriously tough competition. Sadly, school cricket is becoming more of a challenge with more and more schools opting not to engage in school fixtures. Thankfully, we managed to play several friendly matches in Years 7 through to 10 which also saw girls playing in what are traditionally boys' teams. We have some very talented cricketers in our ranks and it was great to give them opportunities to develop through school but equally as rewarding for us to give students their cricket debuts and play in competitive fixtures for the first time ever.

The demise of cricket in some schools has seen an influx of softball and we have also done our best to participate in this sport in Year 9 and 10. Our Year 10 boys A- team won the district tournament at Archway School demonstrating what all round talent we have and how well some of our students can adapt their natural ability to new sports incredibly quickly.

Our final section covers our Sports Awards Evening. We host this in June each year before we lose our Year 11s and 13s post exams. It is a great opportunity for us to celebrate all of the above and those who attended will agree. It is almost impossible for us to narrow nominations for Sportsman and Sportswoman for each age group down to just three, let alone pick a winner; such is the abundance of talent and great performances across the board.

Thank you to all students, staff and parents who make all of the above happen. This year has already been busier than ever – remember to follow @teamfarmors on Instagram for more regular updates throughout the year.

Congratulations this year to the following:

Year 7: Lucy Bull and Reuben Linscott

Year 8: Lewis Drabwell and Poppy Abercrombie

Year 9: Alex Thomson and Ella Spencer

Year 10: Oli Roberts and Tia Rees

Year 11: Will Merrett and Annie Griffiths

Sixth Form: Rose Orgill and Tom Hills

Team of the Year:

Year 11 Football (2022)

1st Team Netball (retrospective for 2021 due to Covid.)

▼ Year 10 Netball team after a successful Cup match win.

L-R: Rebecca Fleay, Zoe Thomas, Bella Skinner, Erika Valpeters, Hollie Clarke, Hannah Easton, Maisie Slattery, Tia Rees & Bella Griffiths.



▼ Year 7 Girls Football



▲ Year 8 Girls Football

▼ Year 7 Rugby team 2021.



▼ Year 7 & 8 Netball teams



▼ Jersey Football tour team



▼ Mr Hockey and his boys!



▼ District Title winners



▲ Year 7 Hockey



▲ U16 Hockey

Fundraising

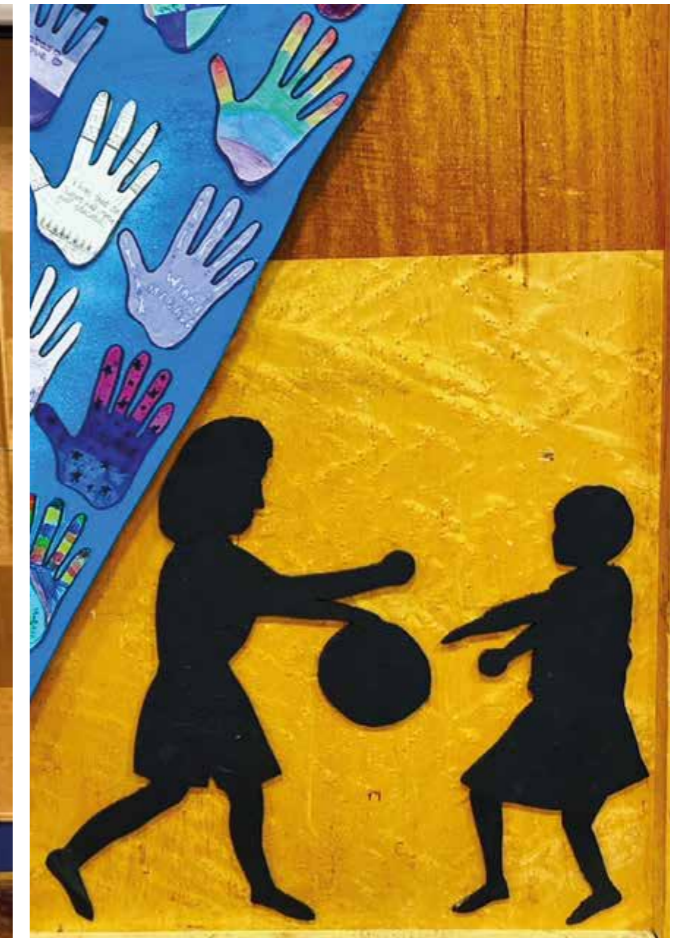
Winnie Mabaso Foundation / South Africa / Fundraiser

This summer we undertook a mass fundraiser for the Winnie Mabaso Foundation which we visited on our sports tour to South Africa in 2019. All of the students and staff were incredibly moved by the work we saw at the orphanage, and by the wonderful children whom we had the pleasure of spending the day with. We knew we just had to put the wheels into action at Farmor's to raise some money for the many projects that the Foundation supports within the community. Sadly, Covid restrictions meant that we had to wait far longer than we would have liked to in order to get this up and running, but in true Farmor's style we made sure that when we had the chance we REALLY went for it!!!

Over the course of the summer term we planned six different charity events to raise a target of £2000 for the foundation. Lockdown hair was a strong theme for our main event which involved two students and Mr Hockey having their heads shaved in front of the whole school. As you can see their locks were long, their hair was thick and the sun shone as local barber (and ex-student) Mason Hathaway relieved them of their flowing manes!

This first event gave the fundraiser real momentum and was closely followed by a cake sale, put your hands up for Mabaso (a mural we recreated in our canteen which exists in the Foundation itself) a non-uniform day, the sixth form row for Mabaso, a teacher leg wax (ouch) and a whole school walk for Mabaso. The most incredible

donations came in from all of our students, ex students, parents and many people who felt connected to this charity through our efforts. Whilst we set the target tentatively at £2000, really hoping for £3000, we absolutely shattered this, and ended up raising a total of £4000. We received heart-warming messages of thanks from all of the children and Lisa Ashcroft who founded Winnie Mabaso. We are delighted that the money is being put towards refurbishing a rundown swimming pool which the Foundation has wanted to use for a long time. This facility will once again offer the community another way to support, nurture and bring together those who need help the most. We are so proud of everyone who helped to raise this money and genuinely touched by your generosity and support in helping us fund such a project. We are now planning another tour to South Africa in the summer of 2023 with our current Year 10 and as part of itinerary we will be visiting the Foundation to see the pool and once again be inspired by this wonderful charity.





Alumni Network

Interesting things are afoot

Every year we wave goodbye to our students as they go out into the world and it's always lovely when we find out what they've been up to. Last year, we were contacted by Will Findlay-Wilson who left us in 2012 and now works as a senior investment analyst. Over the last few months, Will has been working with the 6th form team to set up an alumni network. He has sought out ex-students and created a portfolio of speakers and mentors who have volunteered to work with our students and support them as they take the step from school into the big wide world.

Watch this space for the big launch coming soon.....



Farmor's School
AN ACADEMY