



HOLLY LEAVES



An Overview of our Academic Year 2023-24

Hollygirt
SCHOOL

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MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING HEAD

It only felt like yesterday when I received Holly Leaves 2023 as a newly appointed member of staff. It has been an amazing year and the whole Hollygirt community can be so proud to have been part of so many success stories.

The last term alone has been packed with events that shows why Hollygirt is such a special place for young people to grow. The Lion King, Sports Day, EYFS Prize Giving, having a representative at the National ISA Athletics competition, Science Fair and the Art Exhibition to name just a few.

We have a lot of exciting plans for next year and I look forward to welcoming pupils back in September. I hope you enjoy reading some of our successes. Well done all.



Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Cholerton'.

Mr D Cholerton

SLT Structure from September 2024

Acting Head:	Mr D Cholerton
Head of Prep School:	Mrs V Wright
Assistant Head (Academic):	Mr N Rollinson
Assistant Head (Pastoral):	Mrs S Brimblecombe
Bursar:	Mr C Bowker

Head Pupil / Prefect Team for 2024-25

The Senior Leadership Team and all staff will work closely with our prefects.

Head Boy:	Ben	Head Girl:	Lily-Mai
Prefects:	Isabella Juno Max C	McKenzie Hasan Max H	Lily Matilda Tilly

EARLY YEARS – KINDERGARTEN & RECEPTION

Kindergarten and Reception have had a fun filled year! We loved dressing up for World Book Day in March. *Can you guess which book Oscar is dressed as a character from?*

The children took part in Sparkle Week and decorated stones and wrote kind messages on them.

In February, we invited our grown ups to come and spend the afternoon with us for Someone Special Afternoon.

In Science Week we were able to explore the outdoor environment and experiment with mixing coloured water in with flowers.

We have had so much fun and can't wait to come back to school in September.



YEAR ONE and TWO

This year has been filled with fun and excitement. We have studied Castles, Dinosaurs and Space in Topic lessons. We have enjoyed trips to Bolsover Castle, the Pantomime, Victoria Centre to sing and Stonebridge City Farm.

Our photos show Malakae excavating fossils (finding chocolate chips in Maryland cookies), Bella with her junk model rocket, Fionn riding one of the horses at Bolsover, Maya programming a Bee-Bot and Arlo creating his own papier mâché dinosaur egg. We have done so much this year!

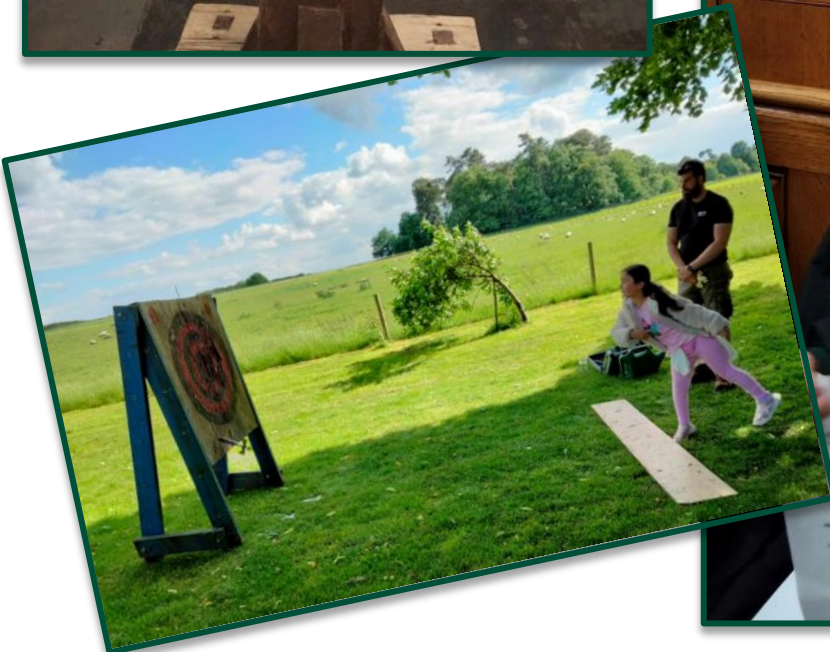


YEAR THREE

What a fabulous year we have had in Year 3! We have learned so much and really enjoyed the topics we chose. Our Deadly 60 topic took us all around the world, exploring our planet and many of its fascinating and dangerous creatures!

Over the year, we have grown in independence and developed many of our key skills, whilst building upon our existing knowledge. Throughout the year, we've been on some exciting trips including a visit to the new Nottingham Central Library, a trip to the National Justice Museum and, of course, to Perlethorpe on our fabulous residential. We are really looking forward to our end of year trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park.

All of us enjoyed taking part in Aladdin at Christmas and in our spectacular summer Lion King production. What fabulous dancers, singers and actors we have at Hollygirt School!



YEAR FOUR

This year the children in Year 4 have excelled at topic work; making and erupting volcanoes, learning about monarchs and making their own castles, designing and making an Anglo-Saxon village as well as doing some superb topic-based artwork. Some trips they have enjoyed have been a day trip to the National Justice Museum and a residential trip with Year 3 to Perlethorpe where they experienced lots of new activities together.

Year 4 have improved their writing through poetry about nature, newspapers for Macbeth, persuasive letters about the rainforest as well as making up their own fairy tale with a twist. They have contributed well to Prep School performances at Christmas and in the summer, showing excellent acting and dancing skills. Overall, Year 4 have had a fantastic and fun year!



YEAR FIVE

Year 5 have had a fantastic year. They visited the pantomime in the run up to the Christmas break. They took part in the DAaRT programme. The children produced some incredible Science projects and amazed us with both their presentation skills and knowledge and understanding of their chosen topics. Year 5 were very passionate about our topic of Pollution and developed their persuasive skills. They have enjoyed studying *The Tempest*.

The children participated in Careers Day which initiated a lot of discussion around career paths.



They went on a trip to the National Justice Museum and really enjoyed this.



There were very impressive performances at the Quad Kids Athletics. Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed rehearsing for Prep School's production of *The Lion King Jr* and as always, given their all to what was a wonderful show.

I am sure they will have a fantastic time in Year 6 and make some equally great memories.

YEAR SIX

Year 6 have had a busy time this year. We started off with our Anglo Saxon topic – a perfect excuse for battles and trying our hand at some traditional recipes. The children have also been responsible for running the very successful Tuck Shop and taking part in a number of dress-up days in order to raise money for charity.

Year 6 have participated in the DAaRT programme and visited the Galleries of Justice where they took part in a mock trial – two activities which complimented their PSHE sessions.

The highlight of the year was of course our annual residential to The Mill in June.

In May, some of Year 6 accompanied the Seniors to Paris where we visited key locations such as the Eiffel Tower, Sacre Coeur and the Arc de Triomphe.



YEAR THREE AND FOUR RESIDENTIAL

Year 3 and 4 visited Perlethorpe for their overnight camping residential at the beginning of June. Many thanks to our staff who made this trip possible – Miss Hawthorne, Miss Nisan, Mr Ockelford and Mrs Tibbitts. The children had a wonderful time. They got to experience so much including axe throwing, shelter building, duck boat racing, a night time bat walk and a campfire with marshmallows.



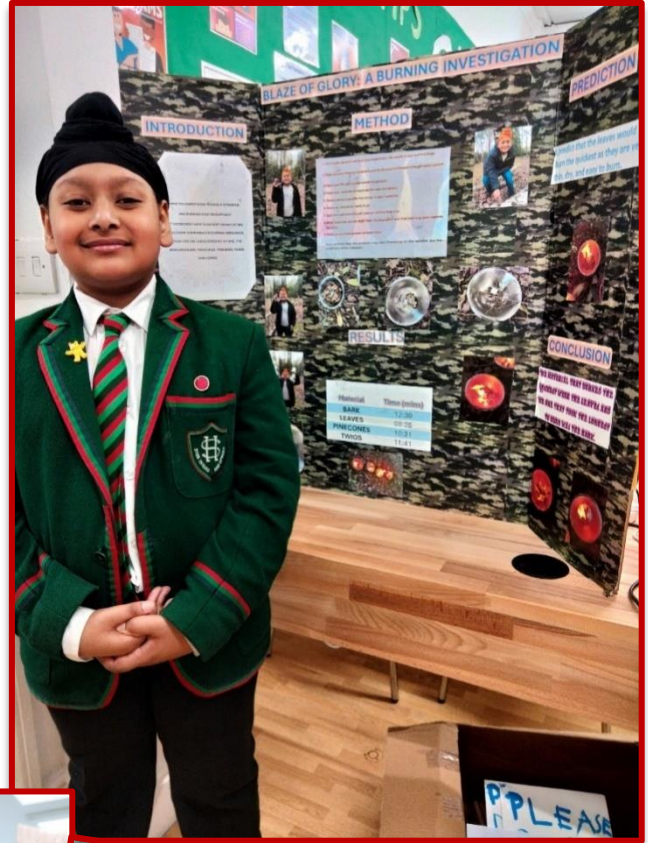
YEAR FIVE AND SIX RESIDENTIAL

Very recently, Year 5 and 6 went on their annual residential to The Mill where they were able to challenge themselves in new ways through the range of adventurous activities on offer, whilst developing team work skills and importantly, having a great time. Thanks to our staff who accompanied the children on this trip – Mrs Bond, Mrs Keyworth and Mr Ockelford.



PREP SCIENCE FAIR

Prep School from Years 3 to 6 took part in a Science Fair. They were given the challenge to create their own hypothesis to investigate. Lewis was the overall winner with his 'Pi program and model' looking at how deaf people cross the road now we have electric cars. All the investigations were amazing and Mr Cholerton had a very difficult job of judging these.



Prep pupils also entered the annual Science Poster Competition run by the Science Association.

The challenge was to design a poster on the theme of 'time'. Ben in Year 6 did all about 'earth' and he has won some marvellous prizes for being runner-up in his age category. Well done to Ben and to all the children who entered this - there were some amazing ideas.

ART

We held our annual Year 11 Art Preview Evening, combined with Prep Art Exhibition earlier in the Summer Term. Once again it was a pleasant evening showcasing the pupils' hard work. Below you can see some of the excellent pieces produced by our Year 11s.



The Year 7s have been studying Hundertwasser/Kandinsky inspired paintings

ENGLISH

Year 7 have ended this year by studying Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* – a comedy about disguises and mistaken identity. The pupils have enjoyed reading the play aloud and watching clips of performances. Pupils had a variety of tasks to choose from for their homework on this topic, including creating a mask for one of the characters to wear and making a model of the Globe Theatre in Shakespeare's time.



A highlight for Year 8 came while studying the class novel, *Pig Heart Boy*. a class debate on the question "are human lives more important than animals' lives?" I was impressed by the quality of their research, their passion, and their respect for each other. It was tough to call a winner!



Year 9 have spent this term preparing for their GCSEs. We have practised writing a variety of non-fiction texts, including reviews, newspaper articles, and letters. We even wrote letters to Mr Cholerton trying to persuade him to let us take a special school trip. Dream destinations included far-flung and exotic destinations like Japan and Santorini! They showcased fantastic persuasive skills, so who knows? We have also begun reading *Of Mice and Men*, which is one of their set texts next year. The image is of an incredible model of the main characters' dream farm – isn't it fantastic!?

MATHS

A massive well done to all pupils who took part in this year's Maths Challenges, across Years 7 to 10.

Junior Challenge Year 7 and 8	Intermediate Challenge Year 9 and 10
Ashraf, Dhaman, Dominic, June, Kofi, Nicholas, Rishi, Sebastian, Tendai and Zach B	Cem, Diya, Harris, India, Jaydon, Mustafa, Peyton and Saran



Sebastian and Rishi both did very well in the Junior Maths Challenge this year, achieving Gold certificates and both qualified for the follow-up round, the Junior Kangaroo. They both performed well in this too, with Sebastian achieving a Certificate of Merit for his outstanding score, and Rishi achieving a Certificate of Qualification. Well done and congratulations to them both!

This year Hollygirt offered an A-level Maths programme. Resources used to support students have been varied and well sourced, targeting key exam questions sampled from key resource providers such as Integral, Maths Genie and Save My Exams to name just a few. This has culminated in a collaborative effort where our students Dhani and Kenden and the Maths Dept. throughout the year have produced a detailed strategy book which unlocks a lot of the key topics in Mechanics and Pure Maths that students can find difficult in A-level Maths (which now takes pride and place in the Maths corridor of the Senior School).

GEOGRAPHY

Excellent progress has been made in KS3, 4 and 5 this year. Year 7 have learnt about Resources, Weather and Climate and Rivers. Year 8 have learnt about Development, Russia, Population, Coasts and Asia. In Year 9 the focus has been on Earthquakes and Volcanoes, Africa, Glaciation, Middle East and the future of the planet. Year 10 have been focussed on Physical Geography and have attended a residential in Norfolk concentrating on coastal processes and management. Year 11 have been incredible in their work ethic in the lead up to their final exams. Geography at KS5 has seen students start learning for their A-Level examinations in 2025.

Busy times for all involved in the subject and the pupils at Hollygirt. Already looking forward to next year!



FOOD AND NUTRITION & TEXTILES

It has been an eventful year in the Food and Nutrition and Textiles Department. In the Autumn Term we visited the Knit and Stitch Show in Harrogate. Later in the term allowed the Year 10s to practice their culinary skills for the annual Christmas Market.

Autumn Term also marked the start of the GCSE exam for Year 11s in Food, and in September the Food Science investigations began into using steam as a raising agent, with the release of the exam question.

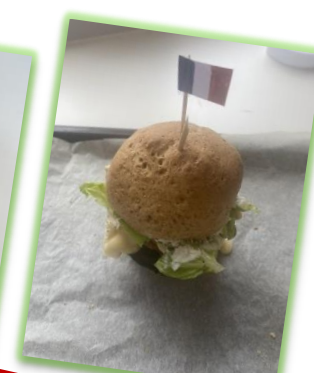


November marked the release of the practical exam questions and then the research began. The Year 11s did fantastically, cooking three dishes in three hours. Unfortunately, their final outcomes cannot be shared yet but you can see the teacher panel of taste testers enjoying their hard work, which was needed for their sensory analysis write up, and not because staff had forgotten their lunch!

In between all this we have had amazing food cooked by KS3 and KS4. A Year 7 and 9 class tried the Tunnock's Teacake Challenge transforming a teacake into a culinary piece of art representing the four elements.



Year 8 and 9 are currently embracing designing their own Euro burger! Milena designed a beautifully seasoned chicken breast burger, it was absolutely delicious! Hayato said "I chose Croatia and I made an amazing burger. I used pitta bread for the bun and minced beef for the pattie.' Ruby made the ultimate posh nosh duck burger with homemade garnish, brie and ooh la la it was magnifique!



The *Walk Talk Eat* Tour in London in June was a triumph - around Brick Lane and Spitalfields Market with a fusion of different cultural cuisines, art and history.

In Textiles, Year 7s are currently working on a project called *idols* where they have used a heat press to transfer a colour image of their idol onto fabric and are now stitching on top – some exciting pieces of work on the way! Year 8s had great success in making phone cases. Year 9s have had a go at making their own bucket hats and dyeing the fabric first.



LANGUAGES – FRENCH AND SPANISH

This academic year in languages, we have done so many things. Year 7 have made clocks, performed a fashion show and presented a weather forecast in the target language. For the European Day of Languages, we each wrote the languages we speak, and we welcomed a guest speaker to our assembly who talked about his life experiences with learning different languages, as a learner and educator of languages.



For Eurovision 2024 we did a special lesson in KS3 and Year 6 rating the songs from the countries taking part.

Miss Nisan ran a Spanish food tasting session for KS3 pupils, which included a mocktail Sangria, chorizo, tortilla de patatas, jamón serrano y aceitunas!!! ¡Qué bien!



Mrs Brimblecombe has recently taken her Year 10 French group to experience a French meal at Bistrot Pierre followed by watching a French film at the Broadway Cinema called À ma Gloria. Quelle joie!



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Pupils this year have looked at many aspects of religion. We have studied the six major world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. Year 7 began the year with a general overview of religion and religious ideas and theories. They then studied Judaism, Buddhism and finished the year with a study of the life of Jesus.



Year 8 have studied Judaism and dressed up ready for prayer in Judaism prayer clothes.

Year 9 have been studying Islam and used artefacts to develop their understanding in preparation for those starting their RS GCSE course in September.

Year 10 have seen and used artefacts in Christianity and Islam to help them understand the significance of these items in these faiths as part of their GCSE course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Throughout 2023-24, Hollygirt has had a productive sporting year, regularly participating in both independent and state school competitions and producing successful results across various sports. Although Hollygirt continues to tailor the majority of its core PE and extra-curricular programme to focus on traditional favourites like football, netball, tennis and basketball, we have also worked hard to build on the positive work from last year by continuing to offer a broad curriculum delivery. As such, our pupils have responded effectively, and the school has achieved impressive results.

In sports such as Athletics and Dodgeball, the school has represented Nottinghamshire in regional and national competitions. A quarter of KS3 participated in the ISA Regional Athletics Competition while KS2 produced excellent results when competing in ISA Netball fixtures. Our Year 8 Dodgeball team received a special commendation - 'Sportsmanship Award' which we are really proud of. We are also very proud of Tendai in Year 7 who threw discus at the recent ISA National Competition in Birmingham, claiming third place. Well done Tendai!



Moreover, Hollygirt has demonstrated its strong commitment to community partnerships this year, particularly through sports. Despite the temporary pause during the Covid period, the school has successfully reestablished its ties with St. Augustine's Catholic Academy School. Both schools now participate in a dual ECA tennis programme, which has proven to be a hit. Looking ahead, we are

excited to further develop and strengthen this partnership in the coming year, reflecting our dedication to fostering relationships beyond our school walls.



SPORTS DAY

On Monday 24th June, we ran a whole school Sports Day with all children participating from both Prep and Senior School.



The pupils had a great day, participating in a variety of track and field events. Congratulations to **Clumber** for being the overall winning House and well done to all pupils who took part.



SCIENCE

As you'll have read in the Prep Science Fair section, this year brought success in the National Science Week poster competition for Ben in Year 6, as a runner up in the nationwide junior category. Prep pupils presented their Science projects at the Science Fair in April. The standard was incredibly high with all the projects showing creativity and scientific understanding, with all three sciences represented. We marked Earth Day with an assembly and environmentally themed lessons with pupils pledging to take care of our environment.



This year pupils have undertaken lots of practical activities to support their learning.



Year 7 have designed, made, and tested bottle rockets, investigated Hooke's law and tested which method is the most effective at cleaning your hands.



Year 8 pupils have extracted DNA from peas and dissected flowers.

Year 12 Psychology students completed their work on the brain by dissecting a rat and removing the brain, comparing samples under a microscope.

COMPUTING

All pupils in Year 9 were entered for, and gained the Bronze Award in iDEA, with some achieving the Silver Award too! The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA) is an international programme that helps young people develop **digital, enterprise and employability skills**. Through a series of online challenges, pupils win career-enhancing badges across 4 areas: Citizen, Worker, Maker and Entrepreneur, unlocking new opportunities and, ultimately, gaining an **industry-recognised award** that will help them stand out from the crowd.



iDEA badges are interactive online modules, created in consultation with industry experts that can be accessed for free, on any device, anywhere in the world. They vary in length and difficulty and iDEA has a huge range of badges to suit all learners, where students pick the ones that interest them and get started. The iDEA Award is perfect for those students who choose not to continue their studies in Computing at GCSE level yet have something worthwhile to show for their three years of hard work.

The Gold Award has now been launched – if anyone fancies an extra challenge, log back in and give it a go!

HISTORY

Year 7 have studied the Black Death and the Peasants' Revolt including the reasons why the peasants were angry and what they did about it to try and change their lives. They are currently producing a front-page news report on this violent protest in 1381. We have debated whether King John really was the worst ever king of England and challenged the evidence about this. Some of us had strong opinions and argued our case confidently! Many felt that they would have perhaps been able to do a better job than John.



Year 8 have studied the Tudors and Stuarts including the Spanish Armada and the English Civil War. We have considered how much of a threat Mary Queen of Scots was to Elizabeth I. We have considered the issue of empire and whether the British Empire was one to be proud or ashamed of. There were some strong and well supported views here. We finish the year with a study of the transatlantic slave trade and the struggle for civil rights in Britain and America.

Year 9 have focused on the Industrial Revolution and the First and Second World Wars. We have explored the causes of both wars and some of the significant events that took place in each. We are finishing the year studying the Holocaust and will be debating the issue of different levels of blame for the Holocaust and considered the views of historians on this debate. Year 10 have looked at the reign of Henry VIII and considered the role played by his chief ministers Thomas Wolsey and Thomas Cromwell. The reasons for the Reformation and its impact on ordinary people were explored. We have finished the year studying medicine and the impact of war in the trenches during the First World War on the development and progress of medicine.

SIXTH FORM

It has been a busy year in Sixth Form and our students have made the transition to their A level courses with a calm focus on studying hard. However, studying in Year 12 is so much more than this.



From team building during an Escape Room trip at the start of the year to a recent university visit exploring what student life is like and the options available. Care for others was demonstrated in our support of the community through a visit to a cafe at Christmas time to sing carols with those who might otherwise have been feeling lonely. Self-development has been ongoing in activities such as participating in workshops on effective studying, personal statements and respecting our individuality. During Work Experience week, placements were enjoyed in locations as varied as laboratories and law courts. Students are studying social and political protest writing in English Literature, learning about brain function in Psychology, forensics in Criminology, a individualised project in Textiles and inorganic topics in Chemistry to name a few. Certainly an interesting range of topics!

Looking ahead, our students will be focusing on completing their courses and organising their plans for post-18. This will be the last year that the Sixth Form will be open and we say goodbye to Mrs Brown who will be leaving and handing over to Mrs Williams, Head of Science. Mrs Brown is very proud of our sixth formers and they deserve every success in their future careers. She wishes them all the best for their remaining studies and will be rooting for them at exam time.

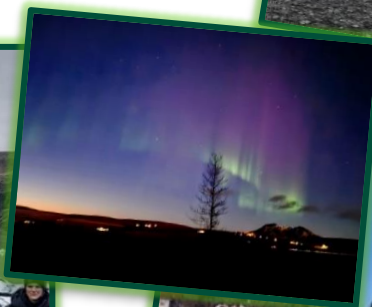
TRIP TO PARIS

In May Hollygirt pupils from Year 6 to 8 went on a European trip visiting Paris. The trip included climbing up the Arc de Triomphe and seeing the tomb of the unknown soldier, cruising along the River Seine, seeing the Tour Eiffel and Notre Dame, eating out in a Parisian restaurant, visiting the Montmartre area and the Sacré Coeur, seeing the famous Louvre pyramid, having stunning views of Paris from the 52nd floor of the Montparnasse Tower and experiencing a full day of fun at Euro Disney.



TRIP TO ICELAND

At the end of Spring Term pupils across Year 9, 10 and 11 visited Iceland. What a fantastic trip with a jam-packed itinerary – taking in the sights of many waterfalls, glaciers and beaches - visting Pingvellir National Park, Oxararfoss waterfall, Kerid Crater, Urridafoss Falls and Reykjavik. They were very lucky to experience seeing the northern lights.



MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

The Music Department has added many performance opportunities this year.

It was great to see St. Peter's so packed for our annual Carol Service at the end of the Autumn Term. Our wonderfully talented musicians performed a variety of pieces to welcome in congregation members. The service commenced with the gorgeous angelic soprano voices of Charlotte and Tamelia filling the church with the traditional Once in Royal David's City solo. Again, performances were showcased from Year 3 through to Year 11. Mrs Maher conducted the wonderful Prep School choir who shone like stars at the front of the church. Our Senior School choir were great with their beautifully presented SSA performances.

The Teatime Concerts have again been fabulous this year with so much talent being showcased on multiple instruments. It has been fabulous to see the great support for these concerts which have now been firmly fixed in the calendar for next year.

Our Arts Award has been hugely successful this year with all pupils in KS3 gaining the required level to receive their certification. The Arts Award is regulated by Ofqual and accredited by Trinity College London. The Bronze Arts Award is undertaken by all Year 9 pupils and carries a TCL Level 1 Award in the Arts. Pupils found it hugely rewarding to develop and deliver their own workshops to Prep School.

The Music Department has been ever expanding and we now have a new brass teacher Mr Davis who is working towards creating a brass band in the new academic year. We have had Music assemblies and workshops on a range of instruments including harp this year! There will be availability to take part in harp lessons from September.



LION KING JR – A PERFORMANCE FIT FOR A (LION) KING!

On Thursday 20th June, children from Prep performed a superb rendition of the Lion King Jr. A huge congratulations to all pupils and the staff who made this production such a success.



Every child in the Prep School took part in dancing, acting and singing a selection of songs enthusiastically. From start to finish, this was a whole school production requiring all the skills displayed throughout the school, from singers, dancers and performers. The staff participated by helping with rehearsals and face painting, Mrs Tibbitts made the wonderful masks and the Year 10 Performing Arts pupils helped backstage. A special thank you to Miss Seaton for directing such a fantastic production and to Miss Nisan for her wonderful choreography and communications to parents.

It was clear to all that the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the entire experience and for pupils, parents and staff it was a delight to see the whole of the Prep School back together again in one joint event.

A huge thank you to our marvellous performers and parental support which contributed to this magnificent event.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has been extremely successful again this year providing thirteen pupils from Year 9 an opportunity to develop both individual and team focussed skills. Our first practice expedition took place in and around Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire at the end of April. It proved to be an extremely useful but very cold shakedown for the qualifying expedition. The pupils were able to familiarise themselves with the practical elements of erecting tents and cooking on stoves, before embarking on instructor led walks where they were guided in the skills of navigation and rucksack packing. A few navigational 'issues' on practice are the norm, and yes, this group proved to be normal, everyone returning to camp safely with numerous stories to tell.



At the end of May, the pupils attended the qualifying expedition in and around Hartington in the Peak District and were required to demonstrate that they could use the skills that they had previously learned. Not cold this time, but biblically wet on day one. It was amazing to see the good humour and teamwork come to the fore in incredibly challenging conditions. All participants deserve a 'pat on the back' for their endeavours. Well done to all! Thanks to the staff who support these trips, come rain or shine!

WORK EXPERIENCE

Pupils come to Hollygirt to gain skills and qualifications to eventually enter their chosen career path. Work Experience is a valuable way to get ahead in the interview process for university and work, and is something we prioritise for our Year 10s. It shows employers that students have already taken the time to gain experience in the world of work or their chosen career.



Year 10 undertook their Work Experience in March, spending a week in a work environment of their choice – ranging from a teashop to pharmaceutical companies. It is important both for the pupil and the employer, the pupil gains knowledge of the job role, the environment and what is expected of them in the work place. Equally the employer will bring in new insight and potential to their business. Some of our pupils have even been offered summer or weekend work after completing their Work Experience placement.

The Benefits of Work Experience:

- Employability skills
- Insight into the work place
- Increases your knowledge of your chosen industry
- Maximises your chances of finding employment
- Improves communication skills
- Optimises your CV

Work Experience allows young people to gain insight into a career and informs their decision making. Students are often convinced they have found their career of choice only to complete a work experience placement in that field and realise it is not for them. Equally, for many the work experience placement can help to confirm that it is the right career option for them.

FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School continued in the Prep School this year and remains a weekly favourite for all children. Our games and activities have occasionally been impacted on by the weather, but there has not been much a hat, scarf and jacket could not endure. Our games continue to be wherever possible child-led and often last many sessions to ensure that all children take a turn in all roles in a game.



One of this year's focus areas has been setting up basic games and then allowing the children to develop their own rules. This has allowed them to assume leadership roles within sessions and develop their communication skills.

We have also built shelters, completed 'natural' artwork, been animals, designed scavenger hunts, played animal bingo and animal Top Trumps, and of course enjoyed the classic Bath and Moth game. Thank you to all who have been involved and worked on skills of cooperation and teamwork in an outdoor setting.

HOUSES

This academic year has seen **CLUMBER** collect the most house points every term in Senior School! Each term comes with a treat for the winning house - they have been rewarded with a trip to the Depot Climbing Centre, Planet Bounce and Laser Tag. Well done Clumber!



CHARITIES

Prep School pupils voted to support Stonebridge City Farm as our charity this year. They provide training and education for the community and offer multiple volunteering opportunities for all skill levels. The operation of the farm enables them to support over 150 volunteers each week - many of whom have a mental health challenge or a learning disability. If you've not visited – it is well worth a trip – as well as a wide range of animals, they grow seasonal plants, veg, fruit and herbs in their gardens, some of which you can purchase in their shop. Stonebridge City Farm is a 'small slice of the countryside in the heart of the city'.



As well as raising funds for Stonebridge City Farm, our Prep School pupils have raised funds throughout the year for a number of other charities including the Anti-Bullying Alliance (Odd Socks Day), Make a Wish, Children in Need and Comic Relief (Fun Run) / Red Nose Day.



In Senior School pupils have chosen to support The Salvation Army, UNICEF, NSPCC and Muslim Hands as well as supporting the

Macmillan Coffee Morning, Save the Children, Cancer Research, Comic Relief / Red Nose Day and Open Minds. We are always thinking of ways to raise funds for these invaluable charities.



The school has joined together in raising an exceptional amount for yet more charities – Children in Need, Save the Children and Macmillan to name a few. Food donations have been collected and taken to both Emmanuel House and St. Ann's Foodbank. Thank you to all of our pupils and families who offer support throughout the year with our numerous initiatives.

Prep School Fundraising - £1680

Senior School Fundraising – £825

**Total raised during 2023-24:
£2,505**

ADMISSIONS

It has been a busy year with prospective families visiting school. We welcomed around 40 families to our most recent Open Morning in April and it was a lovely occasion. Lots of tours, tea and cake plus it didn't rain!



Our pupil tour guides were simply amazing, and we received so many compliments about our children and how well they toured families. Visitors appreciated their politeness, honesty and thorough descriptions of life as a pupil at Hollygirt and we know this plays a huge role when prospective families are considering us as a possible school for their children.



On Open Morning the Food room hosted it's very own *bush tucker trial* where willing visitors sampled buffalo worm cheese biscuits, meal worm chocolate truffles and cricket carrot cake to name a few! No saturated fat and a good source of protein, the future of environmentally friendly farming; the jury is out!



In the run up to the end of term, we welcomed our new Year 7 parents and pupils for September 2024, for an afternoon of information gathering and getting to know each other as well as our annual Year 5 Taster Day, when we welcome a large number of current Year 5s to join our own Year 5s for a full day's experience in preparation for possible entry to Year 7. A busy end to a busy term!



ESTATES / FINANCE

Mr Bowker has now completed his first full year as Bursar and whilst there have been challenges this year, he has thoroughly enjoyed working with Senior Leadership and the wider Estates/Catering team to find a way through this and put continuous improvement at the heart.

Following the extensive summer works last July/August, we launched our Sixth Form in September and the much improved and relocated kitchen into the Senior School building. This has allowed our Chef Julie to provide even better meals for the children this year. This has coincided with the introduction of lunch passes this year to provide flexibility and choice for parents.

We have welcomed Jamie Limb into the Estates team as Caretaker and we continue to work hard to ensure the grounds and buildings are well maintained and the best they can be for our community.

STAFF CHANGES

At the end of this term, we say farewell and good luck to the following staff who we would like to thank for their commitment and hard work during their time at Hollygirt:

Mrs Brown (Head of Sixth Form), Mrs Duncan (Cleaner), Mrs Jelani (English), Mr Ockelford (PE), Mr Shahrokhshahi (Science and Maths), Mrs Smith (Art) and Mrs Thornton (Head of English).

We look forward to the following new staff joining us in September:

Miss Bruce (PE and PSHE), Miss Humphreys (PE and Science), Mrs Phipps (Art), Mrs Rowlinson (Head of English) and Miss Toledano (Maths).

During the course of this academic year, we have welcomed the following staff:

Mr Beresford (PE) – also Head of PE until Ms Kohut returns from maternity leave in 2025.

Mrs Williams (Head of Science) – who will also be our Head of Sixth Form during 2024-25.

Other staff changes for 2024-25:

Mrs Brimblecombe	Assistant Head (Pastoral) <i>(temporary)</i>
Mr Gray	Deputy SENDCo
Miss Hill	Head of Art/Food/Textiles
Miss Lovell	Deputy DSL
Miss Nisan	Deputy Head of Prep <i>(temporary)</i>
Mrs Skov	SENDCo

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