



## Your Child, Your School, Your Voice

### Heads Up!

#### Dear Parents and Carers

Yesterday I had the great honour of attending the presentation of Gold Awards to our Duke of Edinburgh students at Buckingham Palace. As you know, we introduced the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme for all students in Year 10 last year, as I believe that the programme offers opportunities that help every young person to make a difference in the world. They build resilience, learn new skills and carry out voluntary community service. We have seen our students really shine as a result of the opportunities this scheme has given them, and we know that employers and universities really value it too. The trip to Buckingham Palace came with all the pomp and splendour you would expect; a flurry of summer dresses and best suits, beautiful hats and shiny shoes adorned the students and their parents. Chests plumped with pride at the achievements of these young people who had gone the extra mile, and as headteacher of the only state school in our group, mine too.



The gardens of Buckingham Palace are truly stunning (I imagine the gardener is rather good); plumes of mauve and pink flowers tipped the points of luxurious earthy green shrubs and nail-scissor perfect lawns that defied the sweltering heat, tailored their way around the lake. I was rather hoping Her Majesty had a secret swan shaped pedalo tucked away, but if she did, it was well hidden (maybe she saves it for best). All of this and of course the building itself made for the most epic of backdrops for the ceremony, which, accompanied by two brass bands was so quintessentially British it should have had jam on it.

Our group was met by Sophie, Countess of Wessex, exceptionally beautiful in the flesh and quite charming as she made her way through, engaging with the students and their parents with ease. Our guest speaker was Sophie Raworth, BBC presenter, newsreader and marathon runner. She

spoke to the students about her journey as a runner, the endeavour needed to dig deep when you feel there might be nothing left and how she has found the human spirit to have an uncanny ability to succeed in the face of adversity. What she said struck a chord with me; all too often we feel we cannot, and give up, but in actual fact at that stage we must try harder, get support, push ourselves beyond what is comfortable and fix on the goal ahead. We also met Louis Smith, Olympic silver and bronze medallist, who was happy to chat and have a photo taken with the group.

I doubt our students will ever forget the day (not only because of the heat) and I know they are hugely proud to be part of the 'Gold' experience. I look forward to going again with many of our students next year.



Of course this week has been etched on us all by the terror attack in Manchester; the senseless, brutal killing of children and their parents, the ultimate act of cowardliness. When I woke up on Tuesday and heard of the horror of the night before I wept heavy tears for the families and innocent lives taken. These people are victims of a war they did not sign up to, but we must remember them for who they were – children, sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, uncles and aunts – all with names and stories. The murderer should not be the name we remember from this atrocity; I have no interest in his story. Colin Parry, father of Timothy Parry who died in Warrington in 1993 when an IRA bomb exploded as he went to buy football shorts, reflected in The Telegraph this week, 'To kill a child - let alone multiple children and adults - is, quite simply, the most barbaric and callous act imaginable. And the devastation, the subsequent ripple effect it creates in every family who suffers this terrible loss is monumental. When your child is taken from you so suddenly and in such terrible circumstances, there is no rule book, no way of dealing with the tides of grief that threaten to engulf you. As for coming to terms with it, well, it is nigh on impossible to do so, ever. And certainly not in those early days, when you are so full of shock and bewilderment and disbelief that your child could possibly have ended up in this awful situation.' He should know.



Your children held a minute's silence for those taken from their families today and they did so with respect, pride and quiet reflection. They showed compassion and care for their fellow human beings and in doing so, were a credit to you.

Hug them all a little harder this half term, tell them you love them when you drop them off and stay safe.

Have a good week.

**Sarah Brinkley**

Follow me on Twitter: @HeadteacherJMS

## Teaching & Learning:

### Focus on Computing, Digital Skills and Business

#### Year 10 GCSE Business – Marketing Mix

The group have been looking at how companies use the “Marketing Mix” to attract customers to purchase their products. These are sometimes referred to as the “4 Ps”.

- Price
- Product
- Promotion
- Place

These notions are very much interlinked, and can change and have different priority, especially between different businesses and different products. The Year 10 group looked at Apple and their range of products, focussing on how they use the 4 Ps. They found out the following:

- Apple products are very popular – they are continually upgraded and new versions come out regularly.
- But they are relatively expensive for what they do.
- There are more advanced and developed competitors in the market – but people still stay loyal to Apple.
- They don't need to spend much on promotion – they actually manage to get other people such as film makers, social media to do it for them!!



The picture shows the work they produced.

Mr Ferris

## Geek Club is the new Chic Club

One of the most important aspects of computational thinking, ranking alongside “Debugging” and “Abstraction”, is “Tinkering”. So much can be learned from simply exploring something – whether it is a new gadget, a new piece of software or simply a toy. The value of tinkering is something adults perhaps struggle to remember, or maybe we just don’t have enough time. However, the Computing faculty provides an extra-curricular oasis where, for students at least, tinkering is encouraged and respected. “Geek Club” began a few years ago at the request of some Year 10 techies. The group have the opportunity to try out technologies like Raspberry Pi computers and adapt them for use in projects. They’ve been able to find out for themselves what can be accomplished and explore the Web for projects to



try. For example, the team have produced a bird box with a built-in camera that takes a photo when the bird enters. One of the most spectacular projects was the “PiWall” – a video wall made of multiple old monitors, TVs and Raspberry Pi computers which allowed video to be played, spread across all of the screens.

The group’s most recent endeavour has been converting an old Ikea coffee table into a gaming machine using an old monitor and a Raspberry Pi computer. The group are currently carrying out final assembly, having embedded the monitor into the table, and drilled holes for buttons and joysticks with the help of Mr Hoyle, the Visual Arts technician. Once all the soldering has been completed, there will be some Perspex laid over the top to protect the monitor when the system is in use. This will allow the table to be used as a normal coffee table as well as a gaming table. The games system itself is based around a Raspberry Pi computer with “RetroPi” installed. This provides a suite of several hundred games, so users will simply be able to choose which one they want to use. The controls are connected to the Pi using an Arduino, providing an authentic arcade machine experience. The plan is to allow students to use the system for a small charge in order to raise funds for future Geek Club projects.

The team’s next project is even more ambitious – to make a JMS drone. The group have completed an initial design and produced a list of parts for a hexacopter, funding for which has been generously provided by the JMA. The drone will be able to fly independently or under the guidance of its own control unit and will be able to take photographs and video. It will initially be used to take some aerial shots of the school, but will potentially be able to stream video of, for example, sporting evenings taking place on the field.



Mr Bate

## Dates for your Diary:

Monday 5th June: Term starts;  
Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd June: Sports Days  
Sunday 25th June: Year 8 Welsh Farm trips start;  
Monday 26th June: Community Concert  
Wednesday 5th July: Open Morning - 9.00am -12.30pm  
Thursday 13th July: Argentan trip leaves;  
Friday 14th July: Year 8 Welsh Farm trips end;  
Friday 14th July: i-Day;  
Sunday 16th July: Koln trip leaves;  
Monday 17th July: i-Day;  
Tuesday 18th July: i-Day;

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Wednesday 19th July: i-Day;  
Thursday 20th July: term ends at 1.10pm;

## Community News:



**Celebrate our past,  
present and future!**

**EYNSHAM ROAD, FARMOOR, OX2 9NJ**

# ffennell festival

**SATURDAY 24 JUNE**

raft building\* bushcraft  
yoga workshop\* archery  
robo skool\* bee keeping  
children's mural\* BBQ  
history display\* indian  
head massage\* soap boxes  
arts & crafts  
and lots more!

**10:00 AM**  
**10:00 PM**

12:00PM - 4:00PM  
ACTIVITIES & WORKSHOPS  
12:00PM - 7:00PM  
LIVE LOCAL MUSIC  
7:00PM - 10:00PM  
LIVE EVENING PROGRAM

**LIVE MUSIC**  
8 local bands playing original  
songs & covers, pop, rock, folk,  
jazz, soul. LISTEN, DANCE, SING!

**EVENING PROGRAM**  
Headliner Andy Williams  
(from Hot Chocolate) with his  
band Plus Quint Starkie  
all included in day ticket

Advance £5 per person  
16 & under free  
**FREE PARKING**  
Limited tickets on the gate £6  
No dogs permitted on-site

**TICKETS ONLINE**  
[www.hillend-oc.co.uk](http://www.hillend-oc.co.uk)

PosterMyWall.com



Please donate your  
unwanted uniform  
via school reception

JMA will be  
organising another  
sale in the summer