

## Science News

### Dissection Clubs:

An enthusiastic group of KS4 students were able to participate in the Dissection Club thanks to support from the Sheldon Student Opportunity Fund. Students completed the first part of their investigation into rat anatomy, viewing and discussing the external structures: the rat's eye with its extra membrane, whiskers and teeth, layers of skin. They then explored the chest cavity, focussing on the cardiovascular and respiratory systems by dissecting the heart and lungs. Next week students will be developing their understanding of the anatomy of the digestive, reproductive and urinary systems by dissecting the intestines, reproductive organs, kidneys and bladder. The students were expertly guided by Ms Caley and Mrs Dunn who were impressed by the skills, knowledge and engagement. A great opportunity well taken! Photo by Charlie Lloyd (12FMA).



In term 6, there will be KS3 Dissection Club, again run with support from the Sheldon Student Opportunity Fund. KS3 students will be given the opportunity to focus on musculoskeletal system through pigs' trotters and chicken legs.

### Flying Start Challenge:

Our group of four winners in the Regional Finals of the Flying Start Challenge made their way to the University of Bristol to compete in the Grand Final, accompanied by Mr Grainger. Maisie-Grace Almadi, Arthur Ellis, Benjamin Harvey and Chloe Sopp completed a range of different engineering challenges against the clock and participants from other schools. They acquitted themselves well in the boat construction and their glider covered a good distance. Unfortunately, they were up against very stiff competition, but much fun was had by all. The day included a tour of the Faculty of Engineering where they witnessed the air tunnel in action. A great opportunity seized by a great group of students - well done!



### Gold Award

We have had two year 13 students complete their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award in recent months. James Harriman and Dan Heal have shown fantastic commitment and dedication to the award, they have both previously completed their Bronze and Silver awards at Sheldon, so now have the full set. This is an amazing achievement that comes with great prestige. Participants must complete their skill, volunteering and physical sections, one for 6 months and two for 12 months. Their expedition was over 4 days and 3 nights and they also had to complete an activity of their choice away from home for 5 days, 4 nights (residential section). The boys now wait to receive their award at Buckingham Palace from a member of the royal family. Congratulations James and Dan.

### Silver Award

Good luck to the two silver groups who are travelling to the Quantocks this weekend to complete their qualifying expedition.

### Bronze Award

Seventy year 9 students completed their practice expedition this weekend in glorious sunshine across some amazing Wiltshire countryside with H5 Adventure. They started in Chippenham Saturday morning and finished Sunday afternoon/evening at Overton Hill after an overnight camp at Blacklands Lakes. The participants learnt a lot about navigation, some the hard way! The weekend was great preparation for their qualifer in June. Well done to all involved and a massive thank you to Dr Morgan, Miss Teague, Mr Humphries, Miss Brightmore, Miss Libby and Miss Baxter for helping out.

Well done to the following students who have already completed their skill, physical and volunteering sections; Albie Blake, George Copping, Tess Harris, Ben Harvey, Claudia McQuillan and Libby Towse.

## Head-itorial

The end of another half term is here and finally we have some decent weather to see us into a holiday – let's hope it continues. Enjoying the increased warmth last weekend were our latest crop of DofE Bronze students who might have hoped for something a little cooler to walk in. It was a very successful couple of days for them navigating their way around the Wiltshire countryside; hopefully, they will manage all of their other assignments for the qualification to join the large number of students who have recently been presented with their badges and certificates upon completion. Completion of a different kind has happened for our Year 11 and Year 13 students too, both groups now immersed in their examinations. It was a pleasure to reflect on five and seven years respectively with various leaving events and assemblies – and we still have their prom and ball to look forward to when the GCSEs and A Levels are over. As always, **it has been heartening to see so many of the youngsters working hard and we wish them well over the next month; it's a challenging period in their lives, but if they put in the effort, they will have a long summer to enjoy when they have finished.** For the rest of us, we have half term to refresh and recharge ahead of what will be a busy end to the year – a term that is always something to savour.

Neil Spurdell  
Headteacher | *N. Spurdell*

## Year Nine Art Competition

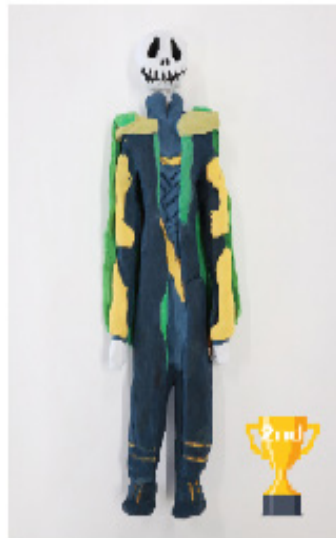
In March we entered 30 pieces of year 9 artwork into a regional competition, their work has been viewed by artists and designers across the country who have voted for their favourite pieces. Each school has three shortlisted students whose artwork will be exhibited at an awards evening in the RWA with the potential of winning some prizes.

The following student's artwork received the most votes and they have been invited to the event:

1st: Ella-Mai Appleby, 2nd : Bo Archibold, 3rd: Grzegorz Szkudlarek



**Dragon Eye**  
Ella-Mai Appleby  
Oil Pastel



**Day of the Dead Ceramics**  
Bo Archibold  
Clay



**Seahorse**  
Grzegorz Szkudlarek  
Pencil

The MFL Club enjoyed a Eurovision party ahead of Liverpool hosting Eurovision 2023. Students decorated flags, had face paint to support their country of choice and enjoyed the entertainment of semi-final 1 with some food and beverages. Students rated their favourite singers and performances as they prepared for the big finale on the Saturday.

Fun was had by all!



Wishing everyone a lovely relaxing half term break and we look forward to seeing staff and students back in school on Monday 5th June 2023.