



POSSUNT QUIA POSSE VIDENTUR

Beech Hall School

for pupils aged 6 months to 16 years



The Griffin Extra

Issue 8/2 - December 2022

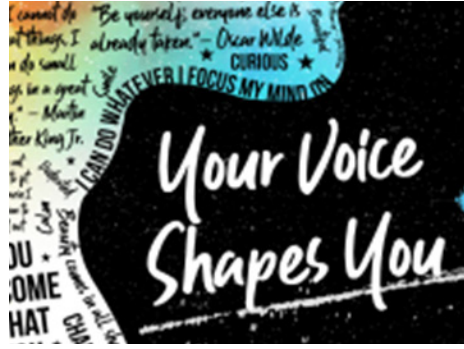


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The sun sets on extra-curricular Waterpolo Club, contested on Mondays after school

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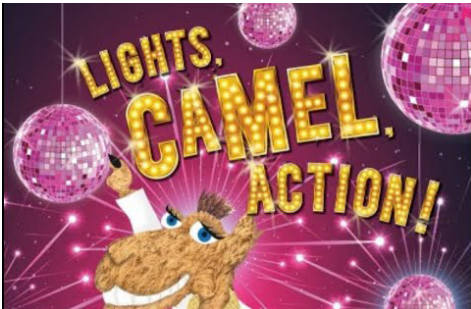
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Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial

Back cover

“What a pleasure it was to watch the U13 boys football and girls netball not only playing this evening, but winning! Which they more than deserved. The teamwork and support all the players showed on the pitch was lovely to see, with so many positive and encouraging shouts.”

We conclude this long Michaelmas term in the beautiful 800-year-old St Peter's Church in Prestbury. The Naughty Elves have brought freezing, biting conditions to Beech Hall as well as increasing levels of tomfoolery and horseplay. Everyone has completed end-of-term assessments, Upper V pupils have completed their mock GCSE examinations, and individual pupils have successfully completed music exams in piano, tenor horn and singing. Danny and Ethan's "Giant Insect" and Bethany's "Fantasy Head" (shown in the last edition of The Griffin Extra) both received "highly commended" in the ISA Arts National Competition.

Our 2022 Channel swimmers were runners-up in the Educate Awards competition in the Wow Recognition category. One of the judges said: "Channel swim - great! This is just absolutely brilliant & 100% has the WOW factor! A truly incredible effort from the team and so fantastically inspiring..." Another agreed: "Swimming the Channel is incredibly tough - these pupils completely smashed it out of the park. Great to hear that the whole experience has had a positive effect on the pupils' approach at school. This story is great on so many levels - wonderful. WOWZER! V tough to judge!" Whilst

they may not have won, they did have the chance to enjoy the Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony in the stunning Liverpool Cathedral.



There have been multiple sporting opportunities during the last seven weeks with competitive fixtures in football and netball, horse-riding throughout the school, a visit to Manchester City Academy for our U11 footballers for the World Cup Football Festival, and of course waterpolo has continued with floodlights! Pupils took part in Tough Mudder competitions, and we even had five parents taking part; more to follow later in this issue. It is clear that our sports men and women are increasing in both skill and confidence, special congratulations to our U14 footballers and U14 netballers, both of whom won their fixtures against Tytherington High School (away).



The Naughty Elves are not the only elfish creatures to join us this half term, as Senior Prefects donned a selection of, in some cases slightly questionable, costumes, to deliver letters from the big man in red. They certainly entered into the spirit of Christmas, as they executed their duties perfectly!



Pupils have enjoyed a History and English Literature trip to the WWI Battlefields, pupils have taken part in more extra-curricular clubs and activities than ever before, and our Upper V are engaging in GCSE revision lessons at both lunchtime and after school, again with more commitment than in previous years. I am indebted to all of my colleagues for the work they put into this extra part of the provision at Beech Hall, it really does add value to what our

pupils are able to enjoy and learn from.

Seven of our pupils are now published poets, congratulations to Thane, Charlie, Amelia, Daniyal, Harold, Joel and Luke - you can enjoy their writing later in this issue.

Finally, thanks to junior teachers and pupils who have surpassed themselves this year with one of the most innovative Nativities in recent years. "Lights Camel Action" was a "Strictly" masterpiece of choreography and performance, although I believe there were last-minute worries right up to the final dress rehearsal. I'm disappointed that Thursday's beautiful angels wouldn't let me join in on Friday, particularly as Mrs Morrell had taught me the ballet moves. However, as the Donkey concluded in his live interview with Griffin 60-Second Roundup: "it was hee-haw-some".

**Mr James Allen
Headmaster**

EMPOWERED

POETRY COMPETITION FOR 11-18 YEAR-OLDS

Your Voice Shapes You

PASSIONATE POETS PUBLISHED

A magnificent seven senior pupils at Beech Hall School are now published poets. As part of the English department's enrichment work during the Michaelmas term, pupils across all senior years were encouraged to write about a topic they felt was important.

The Young Writers organisation challenged schools across the country to ask their pupils for 'words of power' to create a poetry anthology named 'Empowered'.

Thane Davenport (Upper IV), Charlie Barnes (Upper V), Amelia Semp (Upper V), Daniyal Muhammad (Upper V), Harold Ghorbanian (Upper V), Joel Wilson (Upper V) and Luke Francis (Upper V) are Beech Hall's resident poets and their work can be seen in the anthology alongside works from pupils from Taunton, Neath, Ripon, Watford, St Austell and the Isle of Benbecula.

The poems were submitted by Head of English Mr Coulbeck, who said, "To see our pupils' names and poetry in print is so exciting. They all took the time and effort to say something important and portray their passion through the art of poetry. I think there are some outstanding pieces within the anthology."

A Young Writer's spokesperson added: "Words have power, a power that is amplified when young people use them to express themselves. This anthology is full of poets who have harnessed that power to its full potential, unleashing their innermost thoughts and fears, passions and problems. Empowered celebrates individuality and gives the next generation a voice. So we should listen.

TIP #1

ASK YOUR STUDENTS TO CLOSE THEIR EYES. TELL THEM TO IMAGINE A BRIGHT, WARM LIGHT SHINING ON THEIR FACES.

IT FILLS THEM UP WITH POWER AND WARMTH, ABILITY AND HOPE. FEEL IT SOAKING INTO THEIR SKIN, DOWN TO THEIR BONES UNTIL THEY ARE FILLED WITH THIS WARMTH, THIS POWER.

ASK THEM TO THINK ABOUT HOW IT MAKES THEM FEEL, WHAT THOUGHTS ARE THEY HAVING? DO THEY FEEL STRONGER, BRAVER, HAPPIER? IS THERE SOMETHING THEY FEEL THEY COULD TACKLE NOW THAT THEY COULDN'T BEFORE? DOES IT EMPOWER THEM?

AFTER A FEW MINUTES OF VISUALISATION, GET THEM TO WRITE DOWN THEIR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS, AND THEY CAN USE THESE TO INSPIRE THEIR POEM.

The State of Things

By Harold Ghorbanian (15)

Drowning under the knee of oppression
Although this action unsheathes the truth
At the pinnacle of his aggression
Alas we stand up and say, I can't breathe

Egomaniacs raging bloody war
Waves of destruction in just one wee plane
Running for miles, children starving and sore
We stand up and say I stand with Ukraine

Women are repressed into a job
We have no name, just a label to you
Told to clean or slave over the gas hob
More and more, we stand up and say me too

Imprisoned in our own homes like rats
Lives taken away in a wooden cask
The deaths of our friends are set into stats
We should stand up and say, just wear a mask

The Amusement of Sports Day

By Charlie Barnes (15)

Dashing along the grassy path,
With all the parents who scream and laugh,
About to finish the tiring mile,
But hopefully in a flawless style,

Dashing along the grassy path,
The javelin's about to face the performer's power and wrath,
As it travels through the clear air,
The performers are left in despair,

Dashing along the grassy path,
About to start the 100m sprint with a feeling of losing my breath,
And as the teacher says, "Go!" there's a mixture of intense feelings,
But also have the feeling of wheeling past everyone with the Headmaster greeting,

Dashing along the grassy path,
The sun is slowly setting, getting a compliment from the Head of Maths,
Running the relay with the last moments of the sun on our back.
And the next thing we know, it's pitch black.

Dashing along the grassy path,
It's time for the awards, and we pounced our way back to school through the footpath,
And the feeling of winning a trophy, relieved the event is over,
Feeling like they have achieved madness.

A Design for Life

By Thane Davenport (13)

Let's build a house
Firstly let's lay the foundations
Now let's smooth the concrete
And let the excess run off like emotions
Overflowing a human

Next it is time to lay the bricks and mortar
Let's start to build the frame
Like building yourself up to do things
Lift the wooden frames like our bones
And attach them into the ground

Also let's build the frame for the room
Then start putting the underlay down for the slate roof
Like our skin, delicate, hardy
Adjoining this is the insulation getting trapped

In before we lay the drywall to cover it
Like we hide anger
Now we will lay the dark oak varnished wooden floors throughout.
We will attach our oak beams in the home then

Add the custom-made windows and garage doors
Bifold doors, front door and side door making it feel more like a home
Now we can get plumbing and heating put in
Like we have our organs and hearts.

Real Life

By Daniyal Muhammad (16)

Do you think we get to choose where we are born?
Do you believe we pick the lives we live, like selecting a rose without thorns?
Do you think you suffer when you sleep all night on a comfortable bed
While we rest our heads on rock-hard bricks and lie on stone-cold floors?
Every day one of us never sees the sun again.
And do you really believe that you are forlorn?

You go to private schools and learn English, Science and Maths,
While we are educated to fire a gun or take a neverending nap.
When was the last time you went to bed hungry?
Do you ever stay up later than your bedtime?
Because every night we go out into the streets and sell food, so we do not start the day hungry.

You Are You

By Joel Wilson (15)

Don't let people change who you are
You are you and you're a star
People judge how others look
But don't worry
Look at the goods.
Always zoom in at the dos and the could's
Never let anyone turn them around

Be the person you were born to be
Don't let others say what you do.
Just be you, what you suit.
Cos no matter what you want to be,
I'm sure it will be the right thing for you.
As you are you,
And you get to choose.

A Pencil and A Pen

By Amelia Semp (15)

The lead of a pencil, the ink of a pen, the power of a pencil and a pen.
The roughness of a pencil, the fullness of a pen, the power of a pencil and a pen.
The pencil lifts me up, the pen lifts me up, up, up I go...
Floating inspiration: I hope I make a great creation .
Touching the paper, starting to write, I can almost see the light.
The lead of a pencil, the ink of a pen, the power of a pencil and a pen.
Nearly finished, nearly done - but wanting to carry on, the power of a pencil and a pen.
A pencil gives you hope, a pen gives you a dream, writing is mine, I hope I finish on time.
The urge to write is so strong, I don't want to get it wrong.
Coming to the end of the line, and at the end of time, follow your dream; I followed mine.
The lead of a pencil, the ink of a pen, the power of a pencil and a pen.
The roughness of a pencil, the fullness of a pen, the power of a pencil and a pen.

Tree

By Luke Francis (15)


The tree is green and leafy,
The roots grow underground,
The big brown trunk,
Is home to a skunk,

Sat in a branch was a big beastly bird,
How absurd!
Small birds nesting in a box,
Away from a fox,

A squirrel is finding acorns to stow away for winter,
Let's hope he doesn't get a splinter,
If I was up so high in the leafy loft,
I'd probably fall off.

TAKING ON MUDDER NATURE





Nothing gives quite the same sort of skin tingling sensation than a romp through the River Bollin, being pursued by your friends, classmates, and in some cases, your parents!

The icy water, gooey mud and thrill of potentially coming into contact with myriad bacteria is something to behold.

The course, prepared and designed by newly-installed Head of Sport Mr Walker and his band of willing supporters from both the student and staff body, was arduous, challenging and superb.

In recognition of our school's Olympic Values and in the spirit of inclusivity, every single child was encouraged to compete but, in a new twist this year, a number of competitive parents were invited to face the elements with one main focus in their minds: to defeat their offspring!

The junior and senior events attracted great numbers of participants and supporters and there were some outstanding performances.

Charlie Barnes, our Sports Prefect in Upper V, and Abi Gibbons of Lower V, were the fastest finishers in the Upper Senior competition. William Stokes of Form III and Indi Platt Wells of Upper IV were the Lower Senior sensations. James Stokes of Lower II and Edith Parkes of Lower II were the junior champions. King of the Parents race was Barry James.

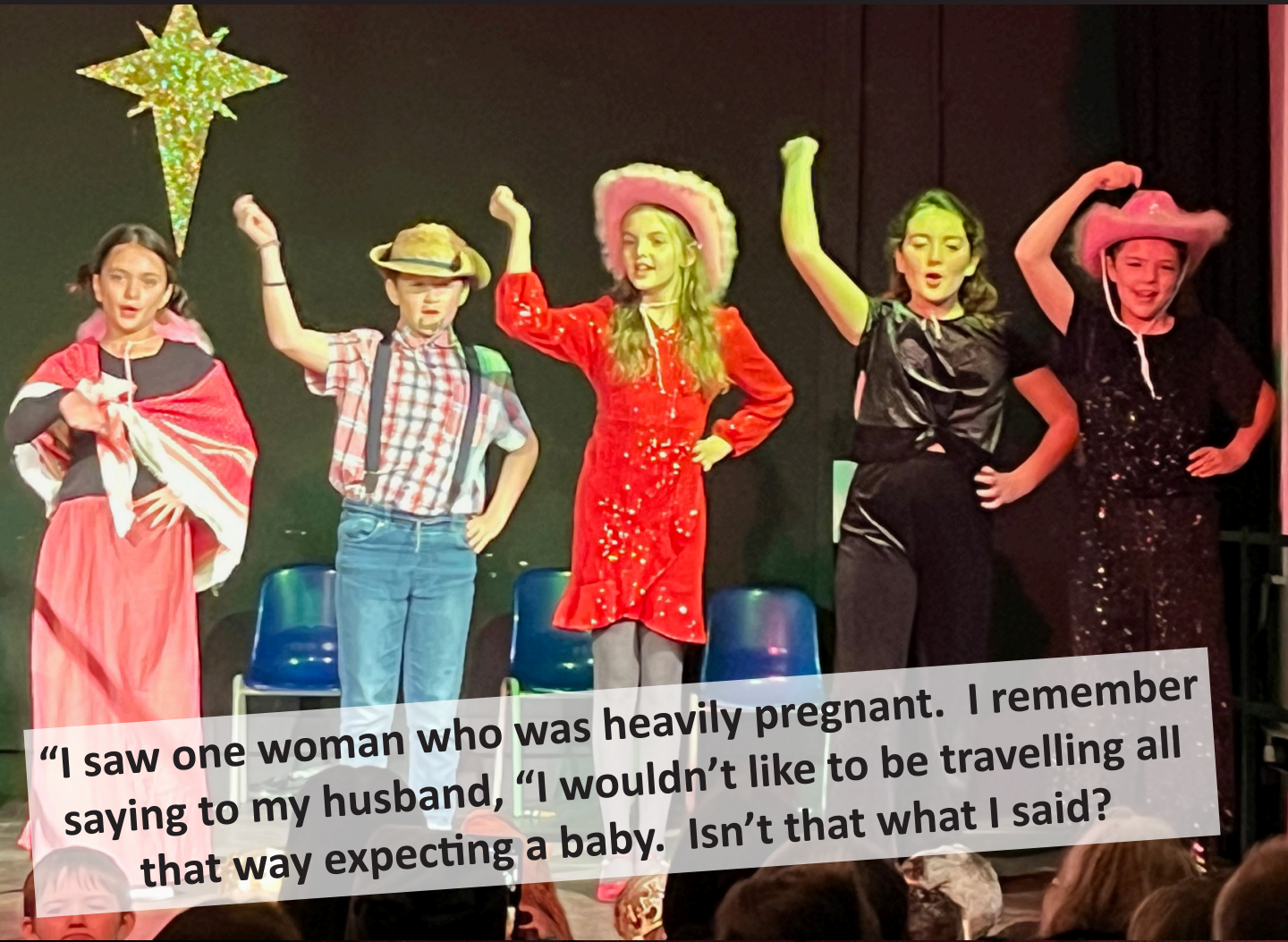
Head of Sport Ryan Walker said, "I would once again like to thank all of our runners in the Juniors, Lower and Upper Seniors for their efforts. They all performed exceptionally well and performed with courage and determination. Our pupils embraced the muddy conditions and took on the challenge alongside five of our parents."

Form Lower V C





LIGHTS CAMEL ACTION



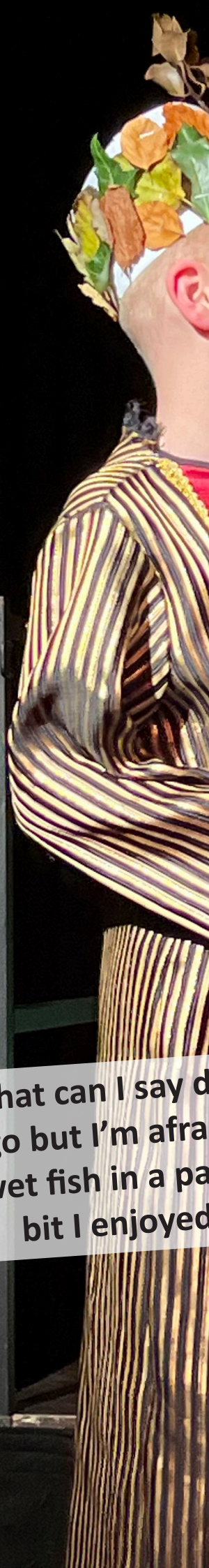
"I saw one woman who was heavily pregnant. I remember saying to my husband, "I wouldn't like to be travelling all that way expecting a baby. Isn't that what I said?"







“This dance is all about having a good time and you certainly put the FUN into funk! I loved it!”



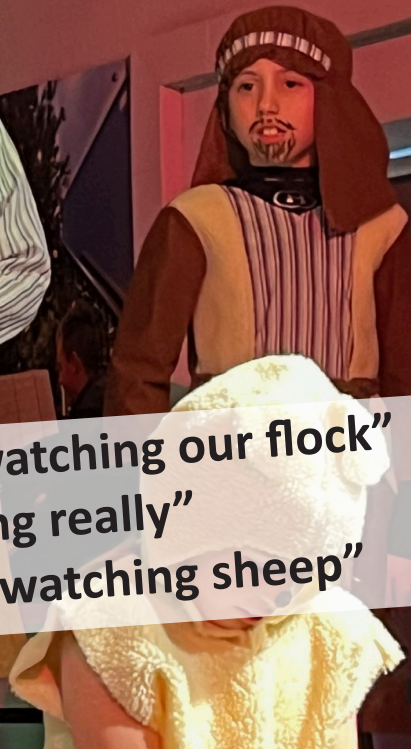
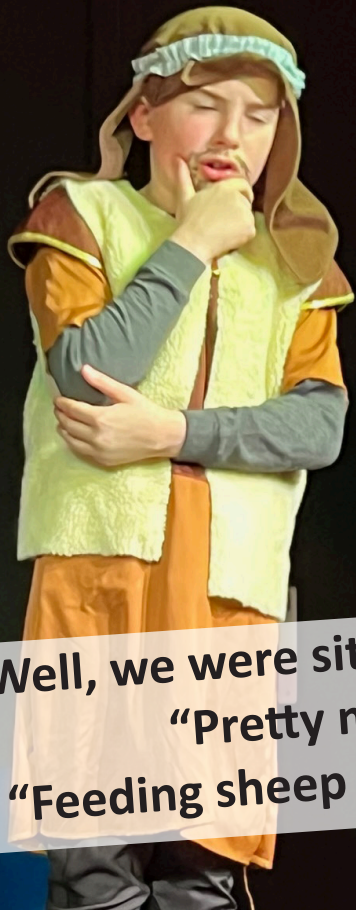
“What can I say d tango but I’m afraid a wet fish in a pa bit I enjoyed



arlings? I'm a big fan of the
id that had all the passion of
per bag. Sorry but the only
was when it stopped!"



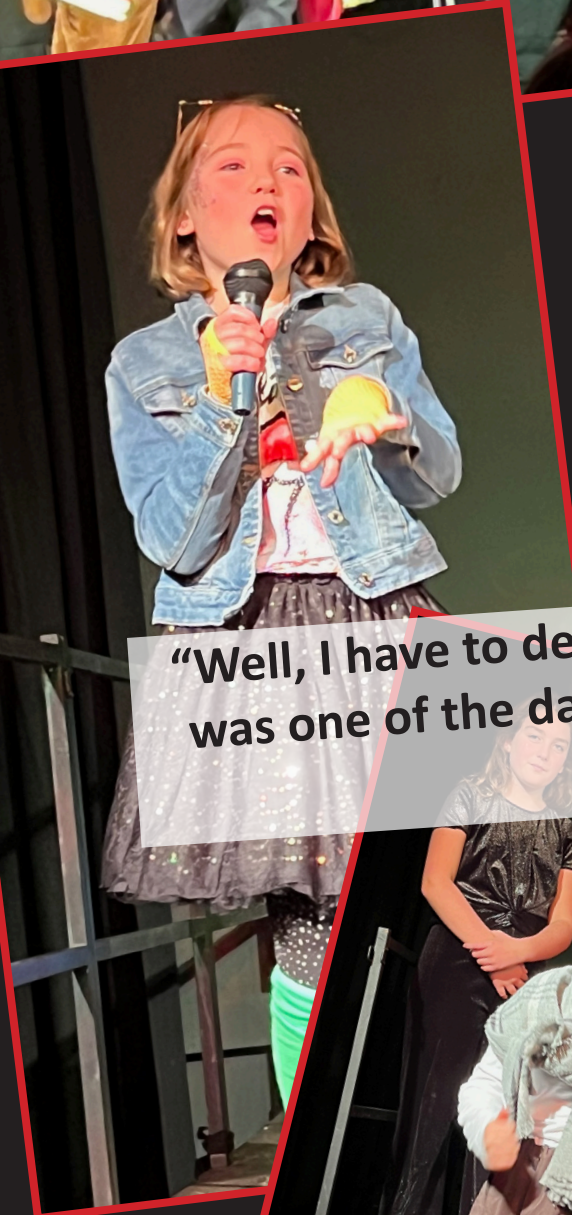




EMERGENCY
EXIT

“Well, we were sitting on the hillside watching our flock”
“Pretty much a normal evening really”
“Feeding sheep ... counting sheep ... watching sheep”





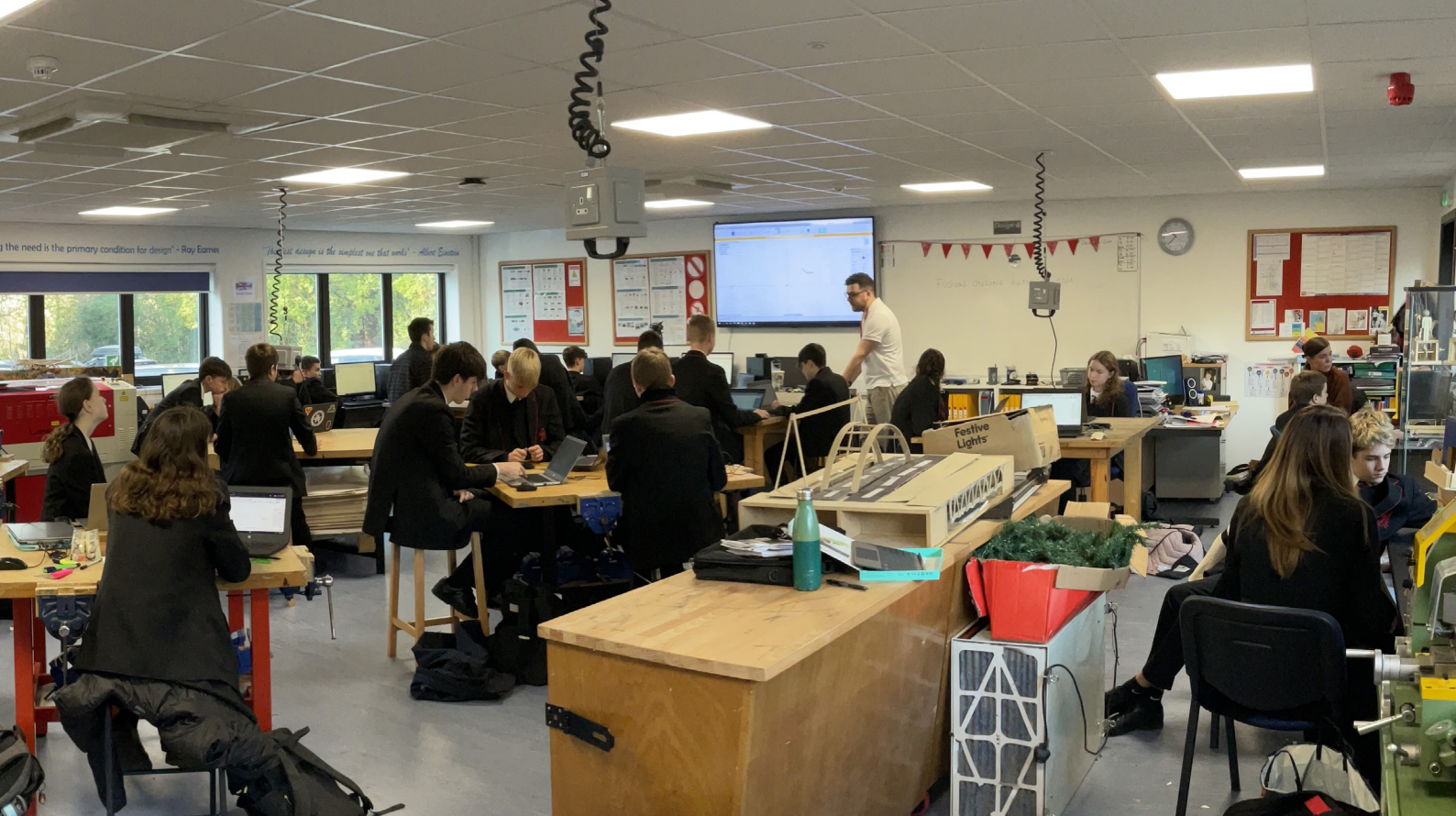
“Well, I have to declare an interest here as my husband was one of the dancers! I thought you were fabulous, honey!”





WELCOME SANTA'S ELVES





D&T AUTODESK FUSION 360

We introduced Autodesk Fusion 360 into the Design & Technology curriculum this year. Fusion is an industry leading 3D Computer Aided Design (CAD) package that incorporates 2D and 3D modelling, ISO-compliant draughting, full rendering of photo-realistic images, stress analysis, fluid dynamics simulations, Printed Circuit Board design and manufacture, 3D printing and Computer Aided Manufacture support and sheet material net design.

To give the pupils a jump start with their journey through learning to use this advanced software, we arranged for an Autodesk funded full-day training session from Fabio Design for all our current GCSE D&T pupils.

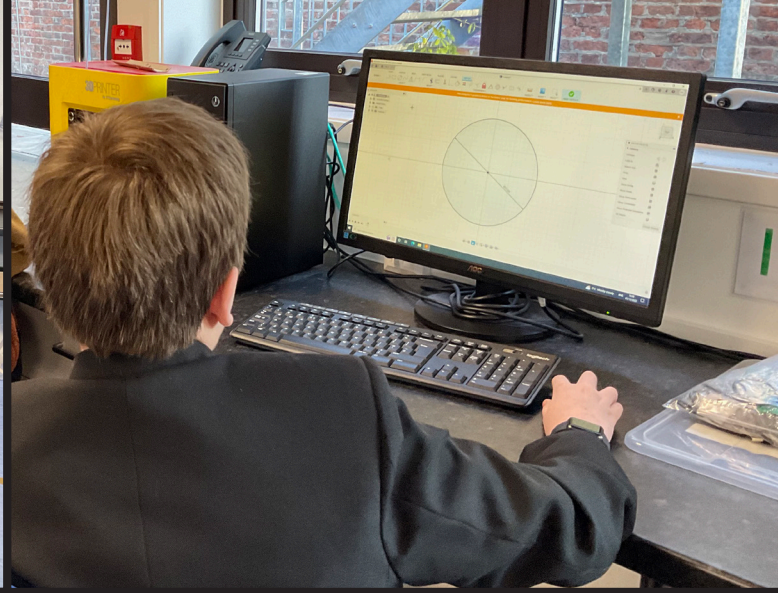
On Wednesday 7th December 25 pupils and 4 staff gathered in the workshop, armed with PCs and Chromebooks, eager to get to grips creating 3D CAD models. Within the first session they had created a fidget spinner using the software, before moving on to a more independent learning task of fully modelling the intricacies of a Lego brick using Fabio's unique training platform before being challenged to use their new-found skills to come up with a creative design for a money box. The competition kept interest and engagement high as we worked late into the afternoon. Pupils voted

for their favourite design after seeing each other's efforts. Congratulations to Dmytro Vasylevskyi who won with his donut inspired design.

Feedback from pupils who took part has been very enthusiastic and we look forward to seeing this new tool being integrated into pupils' future design work. I would like to thank James Miller of Fabio Design for his time and expertise in delivering the workshop, Autodesk for funding the training, and to our colleagues and pupils in school who supported the day by adapting their day, changing rooms and covering lessons without complaint.

Mr C Richards, Design & Technology Teacher









BHPA BIG BANG BONFIRE









SEÑOR JORGE'S CHRISTMAS GALLERY

Earlier this month, Chatsworth's Head of Digital Marketing, Señor Jorge Sigler, flew in from Mexico to coordinate the collective performance of Feliz Navidad. He took the opportunity to take some very artistic photographs whilst working in our beautiful entrance hall. If you would like any of the digital images, please contact the school office. Here are some of the results...









FRANCE
BELGIUM
EGYPT

GAVE THEIR LIVES
1945



HISTORY & ENGLISH FIELDT



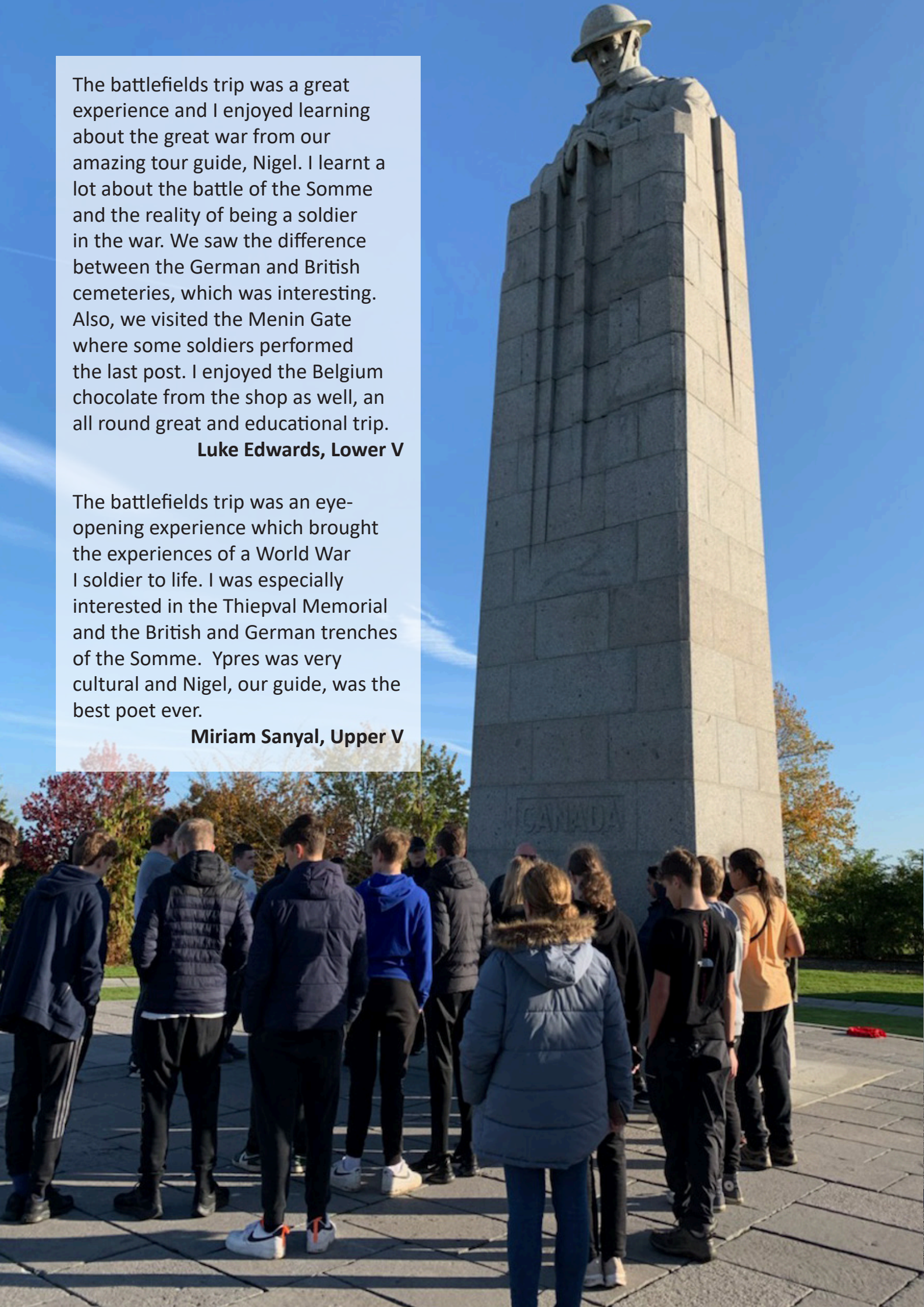
TRIP TO WWI BATTLEFIELDS

The battlefields trip was a great experience and I enjoyed learning about the great war from our amazing tour guide, Nigel. I learnt a lot about the battle of the Somme and the reality of being a soldier in the war. We saw the difference between the German and British cemeteries, which was interesting. Also, we visited the Menin Gate where some soldiers performed the last post. I enjoyed the Belgium chocolate from the shop as well, an all round great and educational trip.

Luke Edwards, Lower V

The battlefields trip was an eye-opening experience which brought the experiences of a World War I soldier to life. I was especially interested in the Thiepval Memorial and the British and German trenches of the Somme. Ypres was very cultural and Nigel, our guide, was the best poet ever.

Miriam Sanyal, Upper V





I learned about the Canadian flag was changed after the war and that German graves (Langemark) are very different to Commonwealth graves. I also learned about the danger tree at Beaumont Hamel and also the largest man made crater. I was lucky enough to find a relative on the Thiepval memorial. The last post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres was amazing.

Isaac Inwood, Lower V



My favourite things about the Battlefields trip was the trenches when Nigel our guide showed us around and explained the tactics used by the British, Canadian and Germans. The tree at Beaumont Hamel called the 'danger tree' which was the only tree still standing from WW1. I also enjoyed the Menin Gate ceremony as well as the chocolate shop!

Theo Wright, Lower IV



I felt I was surrounded by history on the Battlefields. We were introduced to a vast amount of First World War landmarks such as Lochnagar Crater and various areas of the Somme. I learned a lot about the First World War from Nigel who shared his immense knowledge.

Tom Case, Lower V



On the Battlefields trip we went to a variety of war memorials such as Tyne Cot in Passendaele and Thiepval on the Somme. They both showed many names on the walls of soldiers who had fought and died. Other places were Lochnagar crater showed how weapons could be used, Beaumont Hamel where you could see the outline of the trenches and the Menin Gate in Ypres where the last post ceremony takes place.

Sam Allmand-Smith, Lower V





On the Battlefields trip, we went to a Canadian Memorial where it showed what was left of where the trenches would have been. They also showed us the 'danger tree' where no Canadian soldier passed, suggesting they were killed. On a GCSE level, it showed me the geography of the Somme and the area which was fought in.

James Johnson, Lower V



In regards to the history trip, the topics and events we discussed and sites we visited were worth it in terms of GCSE. With the experienced and factual tour guide and interesting and historic sites like the cemeteries such as Tyne Cot and Essex Farm as well as the outline of former trenches we visited, this trip was something really fascinating to be a part of.

Drew Gilcrist-Dick, Upper V



I really liked going to the cemeteries as it was interesting to see all of the soldiers that fought and died. I also really liked going through the city of Ypres as it was interesting seeing the big Cathedral, Cloth Hall and the Menin Gate. Listening to Nigel out guide talk about all of the army tactics in ww1 was also very interesting. The chocolate shop was great as well!

Kingsley Howe, Lower IV



On this battlefields trip, I thoroughly enjoyed the chocolate shop, as well as being lucky enough to see the danger tree at Beaumont Hamel, which was the only tree left from WW1. Nigel also told us that this was where no more Canadian soldiers got past. I also loved listening to everyone shouting Nigel's name, and clapping to honour him. The last post at the Menin Gate was also interesting and was also a favourite event of mine. It also helped me understand the geography of the battlefields which I study in GCSE.

Felicity Farmer, Lower V





When I went on the Battlefields trip, I enjoyed it a lot. I enjoyed the food and how it was explained where the fighting took place. I also enjoyed the Menin Gate ceremony and the last post. It was a great trip.

Henry Barnes, Lower V

I enjoyed the chocolate shop and the ceremony on the Saturday night at the Menin Gate after the long fun day exploring the Somme. On said day we saw the Canadian memorial (Beaumont Hamel) and saw the danger tree as well as Lochnagar Crater. I enjoyed the ferry, where you could buy all sorts as well as pizza! I thought it was eye-opening, educational and helpful for my understanding.

Jack Prince, Lower V



