



Pitsford School



THE PITSFORD POST

Friday 29th November 2019

Welcome

Hello parents - we are now almost in December (where did 2019 go?). As I write I am in Westminster (city of, rather than School, or Abbey) attending the Second Independent Schools Conference which is a vast gathering of schools from across the UK and internationally (quite possibly the biggest in the country). I have come to the conference to keep as up-to-date as I can, keeping my ear to the streets, remaining fleet of foot (like a cunning fox). This is especially necessary as we live in interesting times: a General Election is set to come and go before the next Pitsford Post, and the biggest constitutional change in Britain for generations continues to work its way through Parliament. Both of these things are affecting schools indirectly, Pitsford School as much as most, and now education is increasingly being brought into debates and policy directly and I suspect that this will only increase. Although there is a lot of anxiety amongst the Heads and Deputy Heads in this room as I type, I am feeling relatively cheerful as Pitsford School is ultimately in robust health - our school roll is very healthy and getting more so, we are very economically run as my colleagues, teaching and non-teaching, are very focused on ensuring value for money, we have no great debts and are an educational charity. Most importantly, we have very happy and optimistic students, committed passionate teachers, and a supportive and engaged parent body. Not all of the other schools in this room can say the same!

Nonetheless the keynote speaker today, the Chief Executive of the Independent Schools Council, has urged all the schools in the room to share with their families their school's economic impact so that we can spread far and wide how much independent schools do for our own communities and the country as a whole, so I hope you do not mind me doing so at this stage. The headline figure that ISC loves, and which wowed me when my Bursar first did the sums for me, is that Pitsford School, through your support, contributes more than £5.25 million to the British GDP. Of that vast sum, we contribute locally in the county, over £3 million to its GDP. Directly (ie staff employed by the school) and indirectly (staff employed through business relationships with the school) Pitsford School supports the employment of 122 people in the county. The amount of money that Pitsford School saves taxpayers every year is over £1.5 million! I had no idea that our positive impact, in economic terms, is so huge, and knowing that it is very heartening, especially when independent schools are sometimes portrayed as 'the bad guys' in British education. Ultimately this is not that key to me, because what makes Pitsford School special is not money but its mission to find the individual person in every individual student, to help make them happy, successful, engaged and optimistic adults who are able to pick up the world they inherit, fix it, and pass it on better to their children in due course. Every day I see that here in Pitsford School and that will not change. But it is good to know, at the same, that we are doing our bit for the British economy. Speak to you again in two weeks!

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- Vacancy -

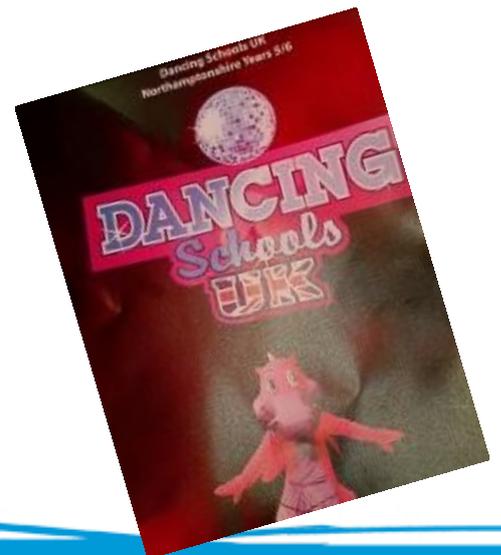
A vacancy has arisen for violin tuition. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact:

snewton@pitsfordschool.com for details.

- Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree! -



Thank you to Mrs Tuffen-Roberts and her children Monty and Constance who helped choose the beautiful Christmas trees that adorn the front of the Junior School and the entrance hall in Pitsford Hall. The trees came from West Lodge Plants where you can choose your own tree in time for Christmas.



Well done to our J5 and J6 pupils who took part in the Dancing Schools UK competition last Saturday at the Royal & Derngate in Northampton. The children rehearsed for six weeks learning an American Smooth Waltz and a Cha Cha routine and then competed against 13 other schools. The boys and girls were wonderful and danced their way into a very respectable 7th place overall!!

- NANNA Mufti Day -

We were absolutely blown away by the generosity of the donations we received (and are still receiving!) last Friday for our Mufti Day and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who brought items in. The monetary value of the donated items far outweighs anything we could have foreseen or hoped for. The costumes and effort the pupils and staff put in was tremendous in what was a whole school effort.

The Senior School pupils were also engaged in a "Penny War" with the winner having the privilege to get into lunch first. Each penny donated counted as a +1 to your tutor groups total, likewise a 2p coin counts as +2 to your score. It became interesting when non-bronze coins were donated as these count as negative points and were used to sabotage another tutor group's score!

Thursday 21st November was the final day and 10W entered the day with a slight lead and a positive score. That soon changed with political alliances and shady back room deals affecting the positions on a minute by minute basis.

Some machiavellian manipulation by Mr Kefford saw 8H finish the competition head and shoulders above the opposition with an amazing score of 3197 points, the only other team to score a positive result was 7R. All the others were negative, with the wooden spoons awarded to 9H. The initial calculations indicated that around £640 was raised for the Year 9 chosen charity NANNA.



HALF DAY = £13
FULL DAY = £21.50



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SPORTS CLUBS

23RD DECEMBER

ABINGTON PDC

Multisports or
Dance & Gymnastics

8.15am - 5pm

Northampton. NN1 5JS

REDWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Multisports or
Dance & Gymnastics

8.15am - 4pm

Wellingborough. NN8 5LQ

MONTSAYE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

Multisports

8.30am - 5pm

Rothwell. NN14 6BB

SILVERSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Multisports & Gymnastics

8.15am - 4pm

Silverstone. NN12 8UB

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- Headgirl Alex's Black Belt Brilliance -

On Saturday 16th November Alexandra was promoted to Nidan Black Belt (2nd degree) at East West Martial Arts, after a gruelling three hours grading examination process. Alexandra, has been training since she was 8 years old under the Sensei Mr Nigel Davison (7th Dan Principal Instructor). The club is focused on developing black belt leaders, encouraging respect and courtesy to others and developing confidence and self- esteem. The Japanese 'Wado Ryu' style of Karate is taught, which translated means 'Way of Peace & Harmony'.



- Junior Chamber Choir Christmas Carols -



Last week, the Junior Chamber Choir visited two local care homes - Brampton View & Wardington Court - to bring some festive cheer to the residents.

- Congratulations to our Children in Need Winners -

Sam, Seb and Fraser!



Here are the worthy winners from the 'J4's Got Talent' show for BBC Children in Need 2019. The audience were treated to all sorts of acts and an array of talent but the pupils with most votes were..... (drumrolls please!)

1st place Seb C (comedy magician)

2nd place Sam H (sumo tap-dancer);

3rd place Fraser M (rugby-inspired tuba solo)

We would like to say a very well done to all the children who took part and are already looking forward to next year!

J6 have been studying optical illusions. Finn M created an excellent illusion using Lego - inspired by the Penrose Steps and MC Escher's famous impossible staircase lithograph "Klimmen en Dalen" (Ascending & Descending).



Pitsford U11 rugby team travelled to Quinton House this Wednesday, displaying impressive form to give the home team plenty to think about. Pitsford took the game to Quinton immediately, with some fast hands finding Harrison F on the wing, who scored an early try to give the visitors the lead. The quality of play continued for the Blues with Pitsford keeping possession and using athletic ability and extraordinary fitness levels to out maneuver and outpace Quinton. Within the next fifteen minutes Raffi O and Niko S had scored several tries each.

By half time, Pitsford were 9 tries to 1 in the lead and a shaken Quinton House looked in trouble. In the second half, Quinton elected to completely change their side, clearly attempting to salvage the game by bringing on fresh legs and talent. Despite suffering an aggressive Quinton onslaught in the third quarter, Pitsford dug deep, demonstrating real determination. Some outstanding defensive work by Sebastian P and Thomas H began to deter the Quinton attack, and Austin VdW and Lucas W stepped up brilliantly to play some fantastic passes out wide. Bradley RC was first to the ball many times, offering great support and playing a key role on the attack. William H demonstrated incredible pace on the break and in the final quarter Pitsford again found momentum, culminating in Avanish J gathering up the ball near the Pitsford try line and running the entire length of the field to score a try of sheer brilliance. Well done Pitsford!

Result: Pitsford 13 - Quinton House 6.

By Mr Auckland

CHRISTMAS AT ROYAL & DERNGATE

**ANITA DOBSON
BERNIE CLIFTON SID SLOANE**

CINDERELLA
THE FAIRY GODMOTHER OF ALL PANTOMIMES

MARTYN JAMES

Pippi LONGSTOCKING
ASTRIO LINDOREN
MIME ASKERS

TUE 10 - TUE 31 DECEMBER

The Further Adventures of
The Owl and the Pussy-cat
John DONALDSON Charlotte VOAKE

THU 28 NOVEMBER - SUN 5 JANUARY

Box Office **01604 624811**
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ROYAL & DERNGATE NORTHAMPTON

- Year 8 Shakespeare Evening -

Another week, another exceptional performance from our school. Every Year 8 student performed in Romeo & Juliet and Macbeth with incredible performances, real bravery, skill and charisma by all the actors. Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful!



- Junior Eco Club -

As part of our project to become an Eco School, the Junior school are taking part in Switch Off Fortnight. From Monday 18 November to Monday 2 December pupils are learning about ways to reduce the amount of energy we use in our homes and at school. Classes took part in a treasure hunt styled quiz round school where they learned different facts about energy, such as "What is the National Grid?," and "what percentage of the world's total electricity use goes on technology to power the internet?" It was a fun activity which hopefully will result in more responsible use of this valuable resource.



- PPA Christmas Fair -



The PPA Christmas Fair last Friday was another huge success with special thanks to the dedicated PPA members who put so much effort into this wonderful event which raised a whopping £1350! There were over 40 stalls for shoppers to browse while enjoying mince pies and a drink and the Senior School Band performed winter medleys and the Pitsford Belles sang a variety of festive songs! It was a fantastic evening all in all and one to put on the calendar for next year!



- Language Show in London -

On Friday, 15th November some of our students in KS4 and KS5 visited the Language Show in London. The Show has been celebrated for 31 years and it is one of the most important language fairs in the world. Students, teachers and language enthusiasts come together in this vibrant event to enjoy their passion for languages.

Students at Pitsford have been able to access information about language courses and professional options. They have attended professional seminars and free tasters on a new language that they do not learn at school. They have visited all the stalls where they found information about amazing opportunities to enrich their learning, such as trips abroad, additional courses, new learning tools, foreign language books and magazines etc.

European Day of Languages t-shirt logo winner

Matthew M's design won the t-shirt logo competition. Well done, Matthew!

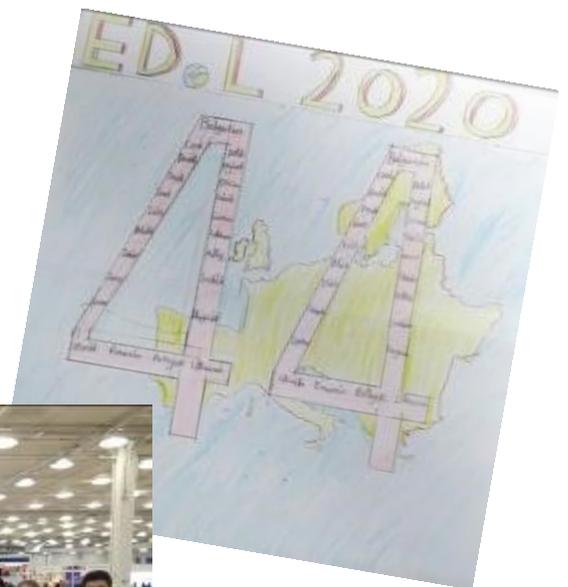
Juvenes Translatores translation competition

This was the third year our school took part in the Juvenes Translatores translation competition. Ben V translated a text from French into English at the same time as students in schools all over Europe on Thursday, 21st November. We will know the name of the winners in February!

Etwinning projects (to be published only before Christmas)

Our Christmas cards are almost ready to be sent to our partner schools in Spain and France. Y7 and Y8 students have been designing their cards and writing about themselves in Spanish and French to their friends in other countries.

For more information about our projects visit our blog: <https://pitsfordinternational.school.blog/>



- House Rugby Competition -

Thursday 21st November 2019



This was the opening ceremony of the Year 10 House Rugby Competition and the spectators were in for a thrilling afternoon of fast flowing, flair filled rugby with crunching 'take no prisoners' type tackles and the most even contest I've witnessed for a number of years.

Robinson v Hesketh kicked off the afternoon and after a fierce encounter Robinson prevailed eventually edging the contest 28-7. They moved onto Wake for the second game of the afternoon with poor Wake struck down with injuries and very few players (they could only muster six) but what a six!! They won the crowd over with their six man heroics and the final score featured another good battle with Robinson taking the win in a similar fashion 28-5. The final game was now being played for pride, Hesketh just edging an epic encounter it 17-12.

Final standings: this year's victors were Robinson 1st, Hesketh a proud 2nd and Wake a respected 3rd given the personnel.

Fantastic afternoon with some fine young men!

By Mr Kefford

U18 v Welbeck Sixth Form Defence College

Tuesday 19th November 2019

By Tyler S

As the game kicks off against Welbeck the Pitsford line pushed up applying pressure to the opponents. Welbeck unfortunately score a couple of phases later but the 1st XV don't drop their heads and go back to play more.

Pitsford battled and battled against the opposition's try line before Henry B managed to exploit their defence and touched the ball down for a try.

However, this didn't stop Welbeck as they attacked back at us, with the pressure building, the Pitsford forwards fought well holding them back from scoring, with Christopher L holding up 3 attempts in a row before they scored after trying continuously for over 6 minutes which led to the end of the 1st half.

The score being 5-10 to Welbeck.

As the 2nd half kicks off, Pitsford keep up the intensity and slowly run it back towards the oppositions try line before a player from Welbeck intercepts and scores.

After a lot of back and forth play Pitsford are on the attack, with a pass from Lewis G to Tyler S who runs towards the try line and scores for Pitsford. Olly W goes for the conversion and scores the kick.

Pitsford once again defending their line from strong counterattacking from Welbeck before the ball gets turned over in the ruck for Pitsford possession but with a mistake in communication the ball is spilled and Welbeck pounce to score to making it 12-22.

Pitsford on the attack once again sees Tyler S finds a small hole in the defence which he runs through to score his 2nd try.

Welbeck add score another try to their tally and the time is running down, a pass from Lewis G to Tyler S sets him on a run before being tackled, the backs shape up and pass it to Jacob O who runs some 35m to score the final try of the game making it 24-29

Well done to all the players putting their bodies on the line more success will come against Bishop.

Final Score: 29-24 loss

Man of the Match: A split between Christopher L and Vlad C.



- Netball Reports -



U18 netball team v Caroline Chisholm played a very mature and patient game. The team demonstrated some quality attacking passages of play capitalising on defensive interceptions. Each quarter saw the team build upon their scoring tally with a high percentage of shots scored and rebounds collected. The defensive unit had a number of different players play together with all starting to experiment with zonal defence in the defending third. This defensive pressure forced the opposition to make more mistakes around the circle. Final score 20-9 player of the match Molly O. A brilliant game to umpire!



U14 & U15 Netball vs Duston

On Thursday 21st November we played Duston School, it was a very competitive game with both sides evenly matched throughout. Some outstanding play from all the team with the winning goal scored in the last few minutes we determined a score of 14-13 to Pitsford. Player of the match: Cara R

On Wednesday 20th November we played Northampton Academy. We played a strong match with an outstanding performance from player of the match Emily M. It was head to head going in to the last quarter however they managed to sneak a win with a final score of 11-8 to Northampton Academy .

The weather was cold but the team continued to play hard and work together, even after it fell dark. Everyone on the team played very well and looked out for each other on the court. It wasn't a win for Pitsford. However everyone was pleased as they knew they worked hard. POM Hannah GS and Juanita N.
By Matilda R



- Rugby Roundup -

U12 vs Beachborough Prep Bxv (Home)

Wednesday 20th November

The U12's next match saw them up against Beachborough. Both sides showed potential with ball in hand early on and both sides looked less interested in their defensive duties. Making for a very open, fast paced and exciting to watch. Oliver S showed again what he can do when given the smallest of opportunities, scoring some great individual tries as did Adriel B and James R. Unfortunately in the end Beachborough's attack proved too dominant.

Man of the Match- Oliver S

From Mr Cole

Year 8 Abingdon Prep School Sevens Tournament

Friday 22nd November

First tough task of the day was to select just 10 players from the Pitsford U13 squad which was a very difficult challenge. The boys who attended on the day did the school's crest proud, producing some spirited and inspired performances.

Our first opponents were Wednesday's opposition Beachborough; Pitsford came flying out the blocks with some excellent rugby, re-cycling the ball and moving it around to score an excellent try for 7-0 lead, Iolo R adding the extras from in front of the posts. Beachborough answered back several times, but Pitsford's performance was much better than Wednesday's and left the field pleased with their first taste of sevens.

Next up was Pinewood, with good confidence from the game before Pitsford piled on the pressure but didn't convert it and Pinewood notched up a 2 try lead, Pitsford fought back well scoring a well taken try of their own and looked to be moving towards their first win of the day as they pressed on to snatch victory from Pinewood, but a last play score from Pinewood made the final score 19-7 and Pitsford rued their missed early opportunities.

Following on was Abington Prep who were big, strong, quick and talented. Pitsford gave their all but were always going to come second here.

This led us into the final game which was matched with the other pool and Pitsford were flying and the opposition were strong. There were no easy games today but Pitsford played as a team and moved the ball well and, this time, didn't miss their opportunities as they just nipped home in classic sevens game 19-15.

It was nice to get back on the bus with a win under their belts as we made our way back up the A34. A terrific day for the boys and a good experience exposing some of the squad to Rugby Sevens with the scheduled ISA tournament to attend after Christmas.

Well done to all the team. An enjoyable day on the fields.

Year 10 v King Henry VIII (Coventry)

U15 RFU National Bowl Competition

On a sodden afternoon King Henry played with the slope in the first half and put 5 tries past Pitsford who struggled to get into gear and reach the form of the last round.

The half time talk centred on the annoyance that it was 5 tries and not 2 to 3 with Pitsford below par but also highlighted a couple of areas Pitsford could expose in the King Henry ranks. The team started the second half in a much richer vein of form, putting together some good phases and marching King Henry back up field. They held firm and on a turnover moved the ball around Pitsford to grab a devastating sixth try. However, this seem to further drive Pitsford on, sparked with an unusual but marvellous Tom M break, moving himself at a rate of knots some 50-60 metres up field, he was magnificent to watch in full flow. From that break Pitsford went into the red zone and finally crossed. Pitsford now were looking dangerous and the (much appreciated) side line support even started to check the maths and time, could they come back?

More Pitsford pressure this time cleared by King Henry to Jake P, who gathered inside his own half, a powerful run evaded several would be tacklers and glided him into the corner for a fantastic score. Jake P himself converting both.

It was all a little too late though, with the damage already done in the first half. The large pitch really didn't suit this side's style of play and King Henry were deserved winners, with several excellent players including one future Wasp's hopeful.

Nevertheless it was a proud afternoon for the boys but sadly on this occasion David couldn't beat Goliath.

To pick out a man of the match was tough—choosing between several excellent performers: Tom M for his marvellous sparking run, Jake P for a well taken try, Monte M for carry after carry and work at the breakdown or Oliver C who as everywhere and tackled so well. In the end it went to the skipper who was excellent throughout making bone crunching tackles in both halves of the game.

Final Score: 55-14 loss

Man of the Match: Charlie J

Year 8 v Beachborough Prep School (Home)

Wednesday 20th November 2019

With Beachborough unable to field a full complement on the day, Pitsford dropped down to match them at 9 a side. Something that seemed to really throw Pitsford from their game, they couldn't match the style of play or speed of some of the Beachborough boys. Half time couldn't come quick enough, some poor habits had slipped into Pitsford's game they were down a considerably amount when the half time whistle blew.

The second half a much different story, Pitsford lent some players to Beachborough to get both sides to a full 13 a side, what emerged was a very competitive game, with Beachborough coming away victors by 20 points to 5.

The team continues to make small steps forward unfortunately we have the odd one back in between. I'm hopeful of a good last game against Peterborough High next week before we sign off with House Rugby.

Man of the Match: Joshua C (strong running and a couple of tries from the Pitsford wing).

1st XV v Bishop Stopford School

Tuesday 26th November 2019

The final game of the season and the team excited with anticipation, following on from an excellent performance at Welbeck the week before and something to build upon. It wasn't to be however, with the sheer power of an Upper Sixth heavy squad from Bishop, Pitsford couldn't quite keep pace with some very large Bishop boys. Bishop unfortunately couldn't get to a full 15 a side, or contested scrums on the day so Pitsford matched them up at 12 a-side.

Bishop opened the scoring with two tries in what emerged to be a fairly even contest. Pitsford answered back with a try from Tyler S to enter half time 14-7 down, Olly W with his reliable boot for the 2.

Pitsford used their entire squad but the 12 a side format seemed to favour Bishop who were moving the ball better than Pitsford on the day. Some well taken tries from them opened up a gap just after half time stretching to 38-7. The Pitsford side, however, don't know when they are beaten and their heads didn't drop but raised up again as they battled back into the game with 3 more scores, a chip and collect from the busy Henry B, another powerful score from Tyler S and Christopher L burrowing over for the last one. It ended 38-24.

The side were still high in spirits knowing that they can keep getting better from here, particularly being a young squad. There was one senior player though who has had an excellent season, pushing himself in every game despite some painful knocks and has really developed into a force to be reckoned with when it comes to tackling. The boys graciously lifted one Ben V for whom this is his last outing in a Pitsford Rugby shirt and dragged him unceremoniously through a large puddle which I can **assure** you was out of respect and celebration of the excellent representation of the school. Well done Ben, you will be sorely missed between the posts in the Royal Blue.

On to House Rugby, rally the troops and fix bayonets.

Final Score: 24-38 Loss

Man of the Match: Jacob O (his work around the rucks, tireless and priceless).

Year 7 v Peterborough High School

Wednesday 27th November 2019

The U12's notched up their 4th victory of the season when they matched against a determined Peterborough side on Wednesday. Pitsford started well, winning the collisions and the breakdown battle. Led by Alex R, they carried well, dominating possession and territory. Iolo R, Ted R and Oliver S showed their skills with ball in hand and kept the score board ticking. Their excellent ball retention allowed them to control the match and the outcome with the final score at 40 points to 10 in favour of Pitsford. What was most pleasing was the return of some players who have been challenged with the demands of rugby this season and it was fantastic to see them finish on a high and very much enthused. It was a well-deserved victory after a good team performance.

It concludes their rugby season after 9 tough bouts throughout the term which has really seen some excellent development and every single boy in the year has managed to play some part of the team wearing the Royal Blue with pride.

Well done boys, we look forward to next year.

Year 10 v Prince William School (Oundle)

Thursday 28th November 2019

This game completed a rather royal week for the Year 10 team who took on King Henry on the Monday and then Prince William on Thursday; unfortunately they failed to infiltrate either monarch!

The start against Prince William was excellent—the ball retention was fantastic and Pitsford moved the ball through their hands at every opportunity and the game was evenly matched for the first 15 minutes or so but Pitsford failed to work any territory to make their possession affect the score board.

Eventually Prince William breached the defence, their big runners making ground and then over the Pitsford line.

Some fatigue set in for Pitsford with the powerful tackles taking their toll on the Pitsford bodies and Prince William finished the half very strongly to gain a 24 point lead.

Pitsford proudly on the day had a 24 strong squad and used the bench well but failed to get a foothold in the second half, the scrummage had been excellent for Pitsford in the first half and seemed to fall away in the second removing a strong hold of theirs in the game.

The lightning quick Prince William full back ended Pitsford's attempt to gain better field position and Prince William finished the strongest.

The spirit of the side is still high and they eagerly anticipate next week's 7th game of the season against Sponne School, Towcester in the Quarter Final of the Northamptonshire Cup.

Final Score: 0-53

Man of the Match: Tom M (with some stiff competition but two good performances over the week)