



# Pitsford Post

Spring Term 2022



- News from our youngest to oldest pupils
- Individual Sporting Success
- Sixth Form raise c£2000 for charity
- House music full report
- Netball and Rugby returns to Pitsford
- Geography field trip reports

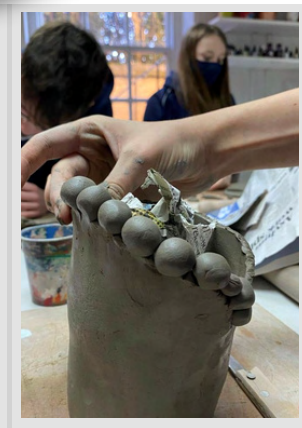
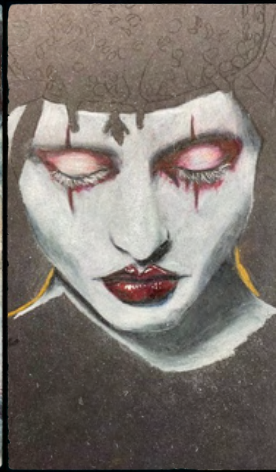




# Art at Pitsford



The art department here at Pitsford has produced some outstanding pieces of work this term both inside the classroom and at extra-curricular clubs. The Junior Art club has been working on window box plants and the Friday afternoon open studios club has seen children working with whichever materials they choose. The results have been outstanding! Here are a few of hundreds of wonderful pieces. if you would like to see more, do follow us on instagram @art\_pitsfordschool





# From The Head

Welcome back to the Pitsford Post which was definitely one of the most impressive things that I inherited when I became Head way, way, way back in 2018: an invaluable, colourful and fun summary of what is going on in what is an incredibly busy and exciting school.



Our plan is that the new iteration of the PP becomes a termly publication, a great summary of what has just happened and an exciting trailer for what is to come.

Older readers (did I say 'older'? I meant, 'more experienced') of the PP will note that seemingly there is an increase in activity (this edition is action-packed) but that is not the case. Pitsford School has always been, and continues to be, a permanent revolution of exciting lessons and trips and clubs and sports and promotions and fund-raisers and fixtures and plays and musicals and musical performances and fancy-dress and cake sales and competitions and on and on and on.

But things are different – as they are every day in this environment – the Junior School has changed under Mrs Heard's energetic and visionary leadership, our Activities in Junior and Senior have new leadership and drive, and the staff throughout the school have been let off the leash: Pitsford School trusts staff to innovate, using their intelligence, guided by experience and a drive to make this the best experience for all of our children. What is more, as a community, we have made the conscious decision to record more of it, to share with our families through our news channels and this wonderful document.

The coronavirus was (and still is) an epochal event and it has changed schools beyond recognition (and killed off no little number). The best have adapted, been fleet-of-foot and they are the ones that have evolved at an accelerated pace, emerging from the firey forge of adversity different, stronger and sleeker. I think that applies to us: before 2020 we did not have a virtual learning environment, now we have a superb one which other schools envy. Before 2020 zoom was something I did in my car on the motorway on the outside lane, now we have sophisticated vehicles through which we can communicate with speed and efficiency.

The network in the school was fully upgraded during those dark lockdown days as we knew that was the time to get fitter and better and now, as we emerge into a new world, we have a richer suite of tools and broad portfolio of skills. What a two years! And what an exciting academic year this has been already – as you will read in the Pitsford Post. I hope you enjoy it.

With best wishes,

*Dr. Walker*





# Junior School

## The Royal Society - Young People's Book Prize

This year the Junior School was selected as an official judging panel for the Young People's Book Prize. The Young People's Book Prize aims to promote literacy in young people and to inspire them to read about science. It also supports the writing of excellent, accessible STEM books for under-14s.



We received a collection of six new titles and the children in J5 class spent the spring term scrutinising each one, thinking about the content, layout and illustrations. The children enjoyed reading all of the books but there was one that really stood out: 'I am a book. I am a portal to the universe' by Stefanie Posavec and Miriam Quick. Everyone agreed that it was the most unusual book they had ever seen.

Our verdict: "Wow! A creative, thought-provoking and inspiring book that makes you want to keep reading! Highly recommend!"

## Cooking Club cooks up a storm

All year, Ms Bridges has been running curriculum cooking sessions and after-school cookery clubs for different classes. The club encourages the children to experience the joy of cooking using a range of techniques and recipes. The children are encouraged to expand their cooking skills, to use equipment carefully, to think about the ingredients they are using and, above all, enjoy the cooking experience.

Mme Conroy came along to help the J5 and J6 Cookery Club prepare for 'La Chandeleur' – Pancake Day! The children prepared the batter and fillings and used the special pan to make crêpes. It was quite tough to choose which filling to have: chocolat, crème Chantilly, fromage ou jambon? It was a good job that there were enough crêpes for three each!







### **Yrs 3 and 4 visit Bosworth Battlefield**

To enhance their study of 'The Tudors', J3 and J4 visited Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre. Bosworth Battlefield is the site of Henry Tudor's victory over King Richard, resulting in the start of the Tudor dynasty.

We were met by the resident soldier and learned about the variety of weapons used in battle, the make-up of an army and battle tactics. We handled real artefacts and asked our expert many, many questions. We took our positions as soldiers and had a go at the bill drill.

We also found out about medieval bows and arrows and the role of the archer on the battlefield. We discovered how often archers had to train and how effective the Bodkin arrow was against armour. Some of us were lucky enough to handle a bow and we watched how fast John the Archer could shoot his arrows.

We finished our visit with a tour of the exhibition which was filled with fascinating artefacts linked to this exciting period of history. One of our favourites was the barber surgeon; we all decided that a doctor is preferable to a barber if you need an operation!

### **Early Years Science Exploration**

As part of our 'Dinosaurs' topic, Kits and Squirrels have been exploring where different dinosaurs may have lived. Many of the children thought they lived near volcanoes so we explored what might happen if a volcano should erupt!

How can you help a baby dinosaur escape from a frozen egg? The children were fascinated by the frozen eggs and loved holding them. They came up with a number of ways to meet the challenge including holding the eggs in their hands to begin the melting process and using a hammer to crack the ice!







# Sport



## Pitsford U18s Football Team

Life as a Sixth Former at Pitsford brings freedom and the ability to follow what you are passionate about. We launched our football a team with the aim to compete against other schools and express our Pitsfordian spirit and footballing skills! In order to do this, we also believed that we needed to get a proper football kit that showcased the colours and values of Pitsford school whilst adding a bit of style to the pitch. The ability to personalise our own kits is something that highlights the freedom Pitsford school bring.

With Pitsford traditionally being more focused on rugby, the year of 2022 has seen a new era begin with the sixth form opening a pathway for students to now play football for Pitsford in the new blue and yellow strips and the excitement of having your own name on the back of your shirt.

Once you have reached year 11, you will get the opportunity to personalise your shirt and play football for the first team in the colours of Pitsford enabling you to play with pride and showcase what Pitsford school is all about.

***Captain, Jake Pearce.***



## Junior school inter-house multi-sport festival

The BTEC students from the FCV football academy delivered this inspiring event. Sports covered included football, netball, basketball, dodgeball, badminton, tennis, athletics and cricket. The BTEC students designed challenges that related to the skills needed for these particular sports and each student got to earn points for their house in each of the 10 challenges.

The Junior school pupils all worked really hard and were tired after completing all 10 activities but they definitely had lots of fun. The BTEC students got to experience first-hand what it was like to plan, promote and deliver a sports event and this experience has not only enabled them to complete this unit of work, but has given them some invaluable life skills. Overall, the event was won by Wake, with Hesketh finishing a close second, leaving Robinson in third.

## Rugby returns to Pitsford!

With such a long lay-off from competitive sports and the restrictions finally lifted, our return to Rugby presented a few challenges which were a real pleasure to see the boys overcome and yet again flourish. With the return of the excitement of loading the buses for away fixtures, rebuilding



the camaraderie, pushing our comfort zones and making ever lasting memories they will recall with smiles on their faces for years to come of being soaked, caked in mud and making that last ditch tackle or running in the game breaking try.

It was an ambitious fixture calendar given the lay-off and with hindsight exactly what the teams needed to get 'back on the horse'. The year seven side had a great introductory season with an apprehensive, small, yet

spirited squad; replacing apprehension with excitement by the end of the season. The Year 8's who many of which had never played before had a tough start but by the end of the season showed real promise and I'm eager to watch this team flourish as they progress through school, especially after their performances in Rugby sevens (the shorter faster format of the game). The Year 9 Squad had some bruising encounters and it was pleasing to see some of their squad support the U15 team as well. The U15's did not take off where they left off in training after ending their last Rugby bouts in Year 8 (an idea of the gap) on a real high, it took some time and a squad effort to rekindle the team spirit of 2 years earlier, but by the end of the season they had this and they produced performances which showed commitment and passion. In giving their all on the field and for each other we can ask for no more. We look forward to some Rugby sevens this term and even more eagerly the again to Rugby in September 2022.

## Netball courts back in full swing!

It has been wonderful to see every girl have the opportunity to represent their school in netball this year. With at least one team per age group and a mixed aged group team in years 9 and 10, there have been fixtures a-plenty!

The yr7/8 teams have been thrown in at the deep end with little if no prior game experience and a number of new pupils joining having stepped on a netball court for the first time at Pitsford. Both age groups have been outstanding. The yr8 team came third in the recent county tournament. We have also seen individual success with Olivia and Georgie being selected for Northamptonshire.



Yr9/10 teams have been ably supported by 'Coach Sarah' and Izzy who have



attended each fixture offering coaching tips and the occasional treat for the teams! The enthusiasm has been high. Some of the girls have represented the school at Senior Level demonstrating their maturity and level of skill. Serenity has also been representing her county.



The remainder of the season is busy with plenty more fixtures to play and goals to be scored. There is also a trip to see how the professionals do it, with an opportunity to watch

Wasps V Loughborough Lightning at the Richo arena in May - this hopefully will inspire all to keep fit ready for the new season in September 2022!





# Individual Success



## **Annabelle continues with Leicester City**

Annabelle continues to impress at Leicester City, where she is now in her third season. As a central midfielder she has played football for seven years, with three in the Leicester City Academy. In addition to Annabelle's football skills she is also the Goal Shooter for our Netball team. Go Annabelle!

## **Congratulations Charlie!**

Year 9 student Charlie H has been recognised by Leicester City FC, being one of just only eight boys from his LCFC U14 squad of 20 to be offered a full-time contract.



## **Ollie P named on Roll of Honour**

Ollie's golf career continues to go from strength to strength. Ollie is U14s Midlands Net Champion and County Under 18 Junior Order of Merit Net Winner. His achievements have been recognised by Northamptonshire Golf as he has been named on their prestigious Roll of Honour. Well done Ollie!

## **Josh and Lewis reach cross-country National finals**

Pitsford had four pupils run in the recent regional cross-country competition with two, Josh and Lewis gaining a place to represent the Anglian region at the All English Schools Final in Kent. Such a great achievement!

Congratulations also to William, Madeleine and Cara who will be representing the Midlands ISA at the National Final at Worksop College on the same date.







# Music



## House Singing Competition

Students from Y7-13 once again competed for their Houses - Hesketh, Robinson and Wake - in this annual Pitsford choral extravaganza! The theme this year was 'weather', to which all entries must all make reference, however vague!

There were 2 parts to the competition; small group singing with up to 8 singers from each house and then whole House singing, involving every member of the Senior school. A judging panel of Miss Poole, Mrs Ross and Mrs Clark were given the honour (and unenviable task) of awarding points for quality of performance and entertainment; always a challenging job.

In the small groups, Robinson were the winners with a stunning 'Let it Snow', whilst there were brilliant performances from Hesketh with 'It's Raining Men' and Wake with 'Singing in the Rain'. For the whole House competition, Robinson sang 'Here Comes the Sun', Wake gave a performance of 'Walking on Sunshine' and Hesketh gave a rendition of 'Mr Blue Sky'. Our judges had a difficult job choosing the winner, but in this instance top marks were given to Hesketh. However, overall winner of the House Singing with the combined total of both performances was Robinson! Each house performed with confidence and there was a real sense of community, always a fun House event. Well done to House Captains for organising their houses.



### Lunchtime Concert Series

It has been wonderful this term to welcome parents back into the building for our lunchtime concerts. The first concert was by the Contemporary Female Musicians and included performances by Pitsford Singers, Cantabile and a solo from Annabelle B. Other concerts include "Music from James Bond" and "GCSE Music Performance". These events on a Friday afternoon are a great way to showcase our talented musicians in an informal setting. Well done everyone!



### County Music Representatives

Congratulations to Annabelle B who is a member of the NMPAT County Youth Choir and George H who is in the Country Training Orchestra and Jazz 3.

**Spring Concert: SAVE THE DATE!**  
This will take place on Thursday 31st March in the early evening and will feature our ensembles and soloists.



### Music Exam Success

Congratulations to the following pupils:

Madeleine S  
Grade 4 Singing with Merit

Tegan S  
Grade 5 Rock and Pop Vocals with Merit

Calypso S  
Grade 4 Clarinet with Merit





# Senior School



## Geography trip to Norfolk

The red and white cliffs of Hunstanton have been a regular destination for our Year 9 Geographers as they present a wonderful opportunity to understand the processes of erosion and how they are affecting coastal communities. We have been visiting this part of Norfolk every year for many years so after a brief hiatus caused by the pandemic it was wonderful to be back again. The same gentleman is still there every morning throwing rocks back up on to the beach to defend the cliff base. We particularly enjoyed a visit to the kiosk on the cliff, where we never tire of being told how polite our pupils are, and sampling their best ice-cream!

Further up the coast at Brancaster Overy, Staithe, we walked out onto the salt marsh and out to the sea along the dyke that separates the reclaimed land from the wild salt marshes. Here we could see how humans have tried to tame the environment but how policy is changing to one of managed retreat. At the far end of this path we reached the sand dunes: of course we were here to study the plant succession, but what self respecting teenager would not take off their shoes and take the opportunity to roll down such an impressive dune.





## Active Bystander Workshops

The name Active Bystander or Upstander refers to a person who is aware of behaviour around them being inappropriate or wrong and chooses to challenge it. At Pitsford school we believe in our collective responsibility to ensure that we all act kindly and respectfully to others and to not accept behaviour that does not promote these values.

Our workshops are delivered by Mrs Kirk and the tutors and are based on Staub's TAB curriculum. Professor Staub's work actually began working with Holocaust victims and trying to understand the barriers to people speaking out when they see things happening around them that they know are wrong. People can feel uncertain, think that someone else will do it, or even be afraid. Active Bystander Training aims to give pupils the tools to intervene.

There are many ways to intervene and it does not have to be by speaking. Our Year 8 and 9 pupils learn about the 4 Ds - Direct, Distract, Delegate and Delay as a toolkit to respond to 'harmdoing' that they witness. We use games and role play to practice techniques and develop empathy with those who might experience unkindness or bullying. We also enjoy developing teamwork skills and having fun.



## Year Seven Camping

There is nothing like being under canvas and around a campfire with your new friends. Our Year 7 camp out in September was a wonderful chance to start learning about ourselves and each other. We had a beautiful late summer's evening and we played man-hunt in the evening shadows and then stayed up late, chatting around the fire with marshmallows and hot chocolate. Surprisingly we slept quite well (after quite a bit of giggling!) and still had energy to get out for our team building activities at Stanwick Lakes.





## SAP Club Gets Busy

The Service and Adventure Club is open to all pupils in years 7-9. We do all kinds of activities, usually ending with marshmallows around a fire! In addition to baking in the lovely new kitchen in Pitsford Hall and fire making we have been working on the raised beds and green house in the walled garden. Next term we are hoping to also take our club off site for more adventures.



## Year 8 visit Dovedale

As part of our Year 8 Geography course we study the processes of weathering and erosion. What better place to observe this in action than in the wonderful Dovedale in the Derbyshire Peak District? This beautiful limestone valley has caves, stepping stones and fossils. This beautiful and quite magical valley gives us an insight into processes that have been taking place for millions of years. In addition to the geology of the area we also looked at the impact of tourism on the area. A great day out for all!







# Sixth Form

## Sixth Form Edinburgh Trip

During the October half term, the Pitsford Sixth Form enjoyed a trip to Scotland, where they visited Edinburgh and Glasgow.



A range of activities were offered as suggestions to them and they were allowed to decide on their itinerary as a group, opting for a visit to an art and history museum, the market town, and an optical illusions gallery – they even took a trip to watch the new Bond film (which was a success for some, but not for others!) One of the highlights of an action-packed few days was the hike up Arthur's Seat, and the slippery mud made it even more entertaining to climb together! It was a memorable trip and allowed them, as a new group, to get to know each other much better.

## MacMillan Coffee Morning

At the beginning of this year, the Sixth Form participated in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Research.

Parents, teachers and pupils were overwhelmingly generous and showed up to show their support for an amazing cause. They hosted drive thru tea and coffee on the quad for parents in the morning and cake sales across the entire school during break time, raising a whopping £650, which they think must be a school record for a single day charity fundraiser! A special thank you must go to Mrs King and Mrs Drakeford for helping to make the day such a success.





## Volunteering with the Activities Programme

Many of the Sixth Form prefects have begun to volunteer in the activities programme to support members of staff in delivering after school clubs. Activities are a fantastic way for senior students to interact with and get to know younger students, so much of the sixth form was eager to volunteer when they were given the chance. For example, Tianna volunteers as a netball coach and umpire in the junior school, Izzy works alongside the PE department to deliver games to the Year 9 and 10 groups and has travelled to their matches to support them from the side-lines, Jake continues to coach rugby across the senior school, Eva-Mae helps the art department with clubs twice weekly and the FCV academy offer multi-sports to the juniors. It is great for pupils across the school to see the Sixth Form participating alongside them and this has been a source of enjoyment for the prefects involved.



## Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Our Upper Sixth have been working hard with completing their university applications across this school year. It all began with a trip to a university fair at Northampton University back in September, which allowed for all of the sixth formers at Pitsford to explore the different options for them once their school careers have come to an end.

With the help of the team of fantastic Sixth Form tutors, they have all completed their personal statements and sent off their applications - and many have received reduced offers. So far, the universities who have offered this year's cohort places include; Birmingham, Nottingham and Sheffield and they are still awaiting some responses. This is a very exciting time for them!

## Prostate Cancer UK Tuck Shop

At the start of this school year Joel and Jake came up with the idea for a tuck shop with all the profits being sent off to a charity.

The organisation chosen by the two was Prostate Cancer UK, an amazing charity to help provide men with lifesaving treatment to prevent the disease from getting worse.

The two boys planned out the project and performed an assembly to the entire school, explaining the tuck shop and the charity itself. Joel and Jake decided to use November as a trial month and put the month's earnings from the tuck shop into a charity known as 'Movember' (an annual event involving the growing of moustaches during the month of November to raise awareness of men's health issues - such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide).

After a successful trial month, with both boys controlling the finances and stock, they have employed a few Year 10 students to help them complete their bronze D of E work experience. The Tuck Shop is now fully operational.

So far, with the support of the whole Sixth Form, they have raised a total of almost £2000 for Prostate Cancer across this school year!



# Pitsford Post



## Pitsford Wedding!

It was wonderful to hear from Old Pitsfordian Zehan who updated us on his career. Zehan is now a Director of International trade at a medical device company. He remembers his days at Pitsford fondly, not least because that is where he met his wife, Yanjin! The couple who left in 2015 got married in 2019. Congratulations! We wonder how many other OP couples are out there, we'd love to hear from you!

## University News

Congratulations to Evans Rozario (pictured) who graduated with a First Class in Part I and II and Distinction in Part III of the Maths Tripos. Congratulations also to Yichi Aria Zhang who graduated from UCL with a first. Please do send us your uni news to [enquiries@pitsfordschool.com](mailto:enquiries@pitsfordschool.com) we would love to hear from you!



## Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Congratulations to Ryan Marshall (2018) who has received his Gold Duke of Edinburgh.

# PTA Family event: SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday 19th June - come and join us in the Pitsford grounds for a fun afternoon for all the family. Details to follow!