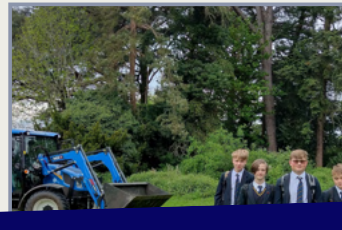
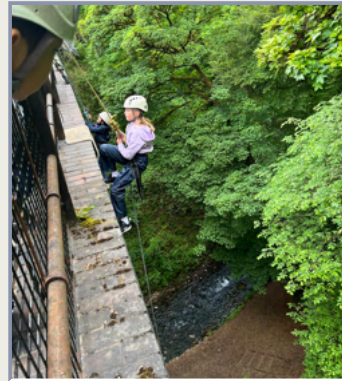




Pitsford Post

Summer Term 2022



- Jubilee activities and photographs
- Junior school residential and expedition
- Celebrating individual success
- Latest school music news
- Finding fossils with the archaeology club
- Upper Sixth fond farewell





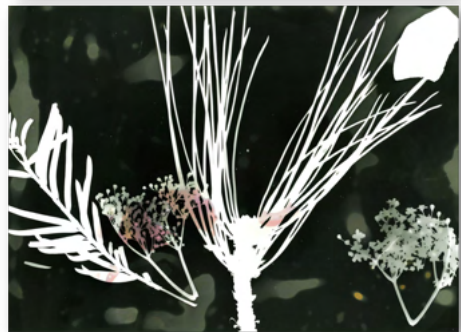
Art at Pitsford

SAVE THE DATE!

Whole School Art and Music Exhibition on
Friday 8th July and Saturday 9th July

Pitsford's Art Department has been creating a lot of exciting work this term! Whilst the talented GCSE and A-Level students have been working hard to produce their final pieces, the year 7s and 8s have been learning a range of new processes involving photography and mosaic making. The students have been given a chance to experiment with lots of different mediums in the lead up to creating a piece for Pitsford's first ever whole school art exhibition being shown in July. Staff and students are very excited about the show, which will include work from the kits and squirrels up to the year 13s.

This half-term will be an opportunity for the year 7 and 8 students to explore our much-loved dark room to learn more about photographic processes. Thus far, they have been experimenting with cyanotype and photogram processes through which they have learnt about the importance of light in photography. Over the coming weeks, they will be exploring lens-based photography through the making of pinhole cameras. This will add to the plethora of mediums they have learnt this year including clay, glazing, watercolour and collage. Our enthusiastic year 9s are mirroring this by using the techniques they have been taught in previous lessons to take a creative lead on their piece for the show. They have each chosen different mediums including drypoint etching, painting and drawing, but lino cut printmaking seems to be a favourite. We cannot wait to see what they produce!



Mrs Smith is London Chamber Orchestra's new Partner Artist

Our Head of Art Mrs Smith is bashful when it comes to shouting about her accomplishments but we couldn't let this pass by without sharing!

Mrs Smith has been selected as the London Chamber Orchestra's Partner Artist for the next three years so she will be producing amazing works of art for them in her spare time.

What an amazing achievement, well done Mrs Smith!





From The Head

Summer is a wonderful time at Pitsford School. The grounds are glorious, verdant and lush and everyone is that bit happier, smilier and, in some cases, sneezier as we enjoy the sun-kissed season. Lots of fixtures are taking place, finally some cricket and rounders are happening, as well as athletics!



Lots of trips are going out and, where relevant, students are able to get their hands dirty with outdoor lessons. It is a nice season to be in a school such as this. This is all the sweeter following the dread last two years and I sense everyone trying to cram in as much as they can to make up for lost time and to live in the moment, which is the best way to live.

Already this term we have had so many events and trips I could fill this whole section by listing them one by one. However, better to leave that to you to read in this edition of the Pitsford Post, and instead, I want to pause to talk at more length about the Jubilee Tea Party that we had at the end of the last half-term. The whole country went crazy over the four-day celebration and, as always, Pitsford was ahead of the curve with ours. I was delighted to see so many families in the school coming to enjoy the food and the weather and I thought the celebration was a lovely way to end what had been a very hard few weeks. I need to take my lyre down from the tree and sing the praises of the catering staff who created all of that from scratch in-house I was pleased as Punch to see their labours recognised by happy faces crammed full of cake and sandwiches and those magnificent chunks of cheddar with a cheeky pickled onion attached for sharp contrast. In addition, I must praise the admin and grounds staff who did not realise when they agreed to come to work here that decorating the school with bunting was part of their job. I also must praise your attendance as it was a wonderful way for the community of the school to get together which, I think, was in many ways what the Jubilee was all about: recognising the extraordinary career of the Queen and taking time to be a community again. It was superb.

As I write, further events are on the way and hopefully, by the time you read this you will have experienced some of them. On 19th June the Family Fun Day in the grounds is coinciding with Father's Day and that should be a great event as are all of our PTA initiatives. We will also have whole school Sports Day in Corby on the final Friday of the year and I hope that if you can come then you will do so. Finally, our inaugural Pitsford Arts Festival will be an exciting and satisfying end to what has been a good and full year. I hope to see you at all of these events, and I hope you enjoy this Pitsford Post which will detail the many, many, many great things which have happened in school this last term.

With best wishes,

Dr. Walker



Junior School



Pinnacle Climbing Centre Trip

In May, students from J2 and J3 headed off to the Pinnacle Centre for a day of climbing, bouldering, abseiling and caving. As we headed into the centre, many of us were shocked and more than a little apprehensive when we saw how tall the climbing walls were. How could we possibly ever make it up there?



Our excellent instructors soon put us at ease, gently encouraging us to have a go. Some of us are clearly related to Spiderman, scaling walls with ease. However, our teachers

were just as impressed with those of us who were brave enough to take one more step, even if we were only a little way off the ground. Our friends were cheering us on and that helped a lot. We all had our own favourite parts of the day. For some it was scaling the 12.5m walls, while others enjoyed the feeling of descending using the Auto Belays.

Abseiling taught us all that things seem a lot higher when you're at the top rather than standing on the ground. Caving with head torches was also a lot of fun! Regardless of our personal preferences, we all pushed ourselves to try new things and face our fears in one way or another. We showed we could do great things when we challenged ourselves!

Pitsford Junior Choir at Young Voices 2022

Young Voices is the largest series of children's choir concerts in the world and performs at some of the biggest arenas in the UK.

Pitsford Junior Choir were very excited to take part in a Young Voices performance in May at Resorts World Arena in Birmingham. The performance had been postponed a number of times because of Covid but was well worth the wait.

The Choir spent the day practising along with approximately 6000 children from other schools. At the end of the day their hard work culminated in a spectacular performance to a capacity audience. It was an amazing experience for the children who took part and they really represented Pitsford School amazingly well.

The concert was the result of lots of hard work and practice in the run up to the big day from the children, parents and teachers and their hard work paid off in spades. It was an inspiring and special day for everyone.



Pitsford Passport Jubilee Activities

In the week before the Jubilee all the children in the Junior School were working towards gaining their Pitsford Passport during Activities week. All the activities were themed around the Jubilee and we finished it off with an awards ceremony which we shared with the parents. The children had lots of different tasks to complete including designing a Jubilee T-shirt, painting a pot, scavenger hunts

in groups, learning Jubilee songs and making scones and bunting. The students split into very patriotic teams: Red, White and Blue - to complete all the exciting tasks. The children learned lots of new skills and had lots of fun working together in different ways.

All the children in the Junior School were presented with a special commemorative badge as a souvenir of the Platinum Jubilee, it is lovely they will have them to keep as a memento.





J6 Water Sports Expedition Days

On the 24th and 25th May, J6 went to Thrapston Lakes and had a great time doing lots of water sports activities. The sailing was complicated at first, but once we got the hang of it, it was really fun. The instructor showed us how to work the rigging and how to steer. In the afternoon, we switched groups and went kayaking. We all got the hang of the kayak whilst we made our way to the mouth of the river but once we got on to the river it was chaos! The currents were really strong so we kept crashing into each other and more than one person ended up in the water.

When we arrived on day two, we put our swimsuits and life jackets on and split into two groups for a raft building competition. We were given four barrels, some string and four logs in each group. We had to get to a buoy - but as soon as the rafts got in the water, they broke! We had to swim holding our raft parts! Luckily, our team won. It was a super-fun trip.

Written by Henry Cross and Sam Hartshorne

J4 and J5 Residential Visit to the Hollowford Centre

At the end of May, children from J4 and J5 went on a residential trip to the Hollowford Centre in Castleton in the Peak District National Park.

They had an incredible experience, venturing into the great outdoors to complete some challenging and adventurous activities, which took the children out of their comfort zone! With the careful intervention of the instructors, the children learnt valuable lessons about themselves and how to work with others.

Highlights included abseiling from a disused railway bridge, zip-wiring over a lake and exploring a series of caves and tunnels underground. Canoeing proved a bit of a challenge; it was a wet, wild and windy day. The instructors created a mega-canoe, lashing all the vessels together so that the children could work as a team to row on the reservoir.

The evenings provided some down time. We completed teamwork challenges, worked together on the Big Quiz and had fun in the games room. Everyone enjoyed their first residential trip!





Celebrating the Jubilee

We had a brilliant time in School celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. The Junior School carried out lots of Jubilee preparations in the week leading up to Half Term (see the Jubilee Activity Camp article!) which made all the students feel very ready to celebrate. We had a whole school Jubilee Tea Party on the last day of half-term with parents and students from the Junior and Senior Schools.

The students were astounded at the amazing food our catering term had prepared and there was much 'oohing' and 'aahing' at the spread! It was lovely to all get together to celebrate such a momentous event.





Sport



Champion Javelin thrower coaches at Pitsford

What an opportunity Louis C had this term with a 1-to-1 javelin coaching session with Joe Harris. Joe is currently ranked Number 1 in the UK for Javelin and came to coach our own budding Javelin contender Louis. Joe gave plenty of top tips and advice related to technique and after two days of coaching Louis threw a personal best of 36.4m.

Louis is now County Champion having won the Schools' Northamptonshire competition. He will be representing Northamptonshire in Stoke-on-Trent at the East Midlands regional meet.

Junior Inter-House Football Tournament

On Tuesday 17th May, our students from the FCV Football Academy ran an Inter-House football tournament for the students in Years 4 - 6. The tournament consisted of match play and a penalty shootout challenge and thankfully the sun was shining. All students had lots of fun and worked really hard to score their House as many points as possible. Some great football was played, and some excellent penalties were taken in the shootout challenge. The final results were as follows: 1st Robinson, 2nd Wake and 3rd Hesketh.

Thank you to Mr Auckland and Mrs Heard for helping to organise the students for this event, the FCV students who planned and ran the event incredibly well and to the parents who came out to support as well. Well done to all those students who participated.



Pitsford students at the ISA Midland schools athletics event

A team of athletes from Years 7 to 10 competed in May at the ISA Midland schools event in Solihull.

There were some fantastic individual and team performances. A number of the squad qualified for the Nationals in Manchester in June.

Well done to all students who took part, for many it was their first experience of an athletics meet and everyone had a great day. Special congratulations to:

- Calypso – First place for discus
- Sidney F – First place for long jump
- James, Sidney, Lewis and Charles – First place for relay
- Georgia B – First place for 100m
- Louis C – First place for discus
- Lewis R – Second place for 1500m

The team came 7th in the competition overall with many athletes coming 2nd in their track finals. Excellent work team!



National Athletics Final for Pitsford Students

We were pleased and proud that some of our talented athletes qualified for the National Athletics Final at the Manchester Regional Arena in June. The team did brilliantly and came back with some medals!

Congratulations to the entire team for doing so well, notable successes were:

- Georgie – Gold medal for 4 x 100m Relay
- Louis – Silver medal for Discus
- Sidney – Bronze medal for 200m
- Lewis, James & Sidney – Silver medal for 4 x 100m Relay
- Calypso – 4th for Discus
- Lewis – 5th for 1500m
- Georgie – 5th for 100m





Individual Success



Golf Captain for the County U14s

Ollie P from Year 9 was named as Captain for the County u14s at the start of the golfing season.

Playing off 10 now, Ollie manages to balance his commitment to practice with his academic studies. The season will be very busy for Ollie with competitions nationwide. Well done Ollie, you have really earned your Captaincy!

Captain's Choice for Saints Rugby

Congratulations to Monty C for receiving this season's Captain's Choice award for Saints Men's 5th rugby team. This is in recognition of Monty's performance throughout the season and commitment to the Club.

Regional Swimming Success

Harris C competed in the Regional swimming competition in May at Ponds Forge international pool in Sheffield. He won his heat in the 200m breast stroke competition. Next year his goal will be to qualify for Tier 1 races.

Loughborough Lightning Netball trials for Olivia

Olivia M was selected for Loughborough Lightning U15 netball trials. Over 400 netballers trialled at the event. Olivia was not successful this season but is looking towards next season and trialling again.

Well done Olivia!

Schoolboy Trialist at West Bromwich Albion Football Club

Huge congratulations to Caiyan P from Year 8 who has recently signed as a Schoolboy Trialist at West Bromwich Albion Football Club.

We're so proud of you Caiyan!





Music



Did you know? Over 40% of our students have instrumental or vocal lessons with our fantastic team of Music teachers. We have students from Reception to Upper Sixth singing and playing each week. With lessons ranging from drum kit to flute, singing to bass guitar and most other instruments you can think of, we really are a musical school.

Musical Theatre

This extra-curricular group runs on a Friday after school and they are currently working on songs from *The Greatest Showman*, *Hairspray* and *The Wiz* to name a few. What is fantastic is that we have students from J3 to Y11 sharing songs, dance moves and having good fun together. Anyone is welcome to join with us and share the joy of musicals.

Exam Success

Students continue to work at their performances and take exams awarded by two main exam boards: ABRSM and Trinity College London. Music grade exams are awarded UCAS points for those taken above Grade 6, so they are worth working for.

Congratulations to:

- Cara R in Year 11 who gained Grade 6 Rock and Pop Vocals – Merit
- Lottie W-I in Year 6 who gained Grade 2 Singing – Merit

... and very best wishes to all students who are taking their exams at the end of the Summer Term.

Pitsford School Musical

We are delighted to announce that there will be a whole school musical taking place in the next academic year! It has been a while since we have been able to put on a show but we are going to do it together! Auditions have been held during this final half-term and the full show

details and cast will be announced in September. We'd like to tell you what it is... but for now, it's under wraps (or maybe a multi-coloured coat!)

Music in the Senior School

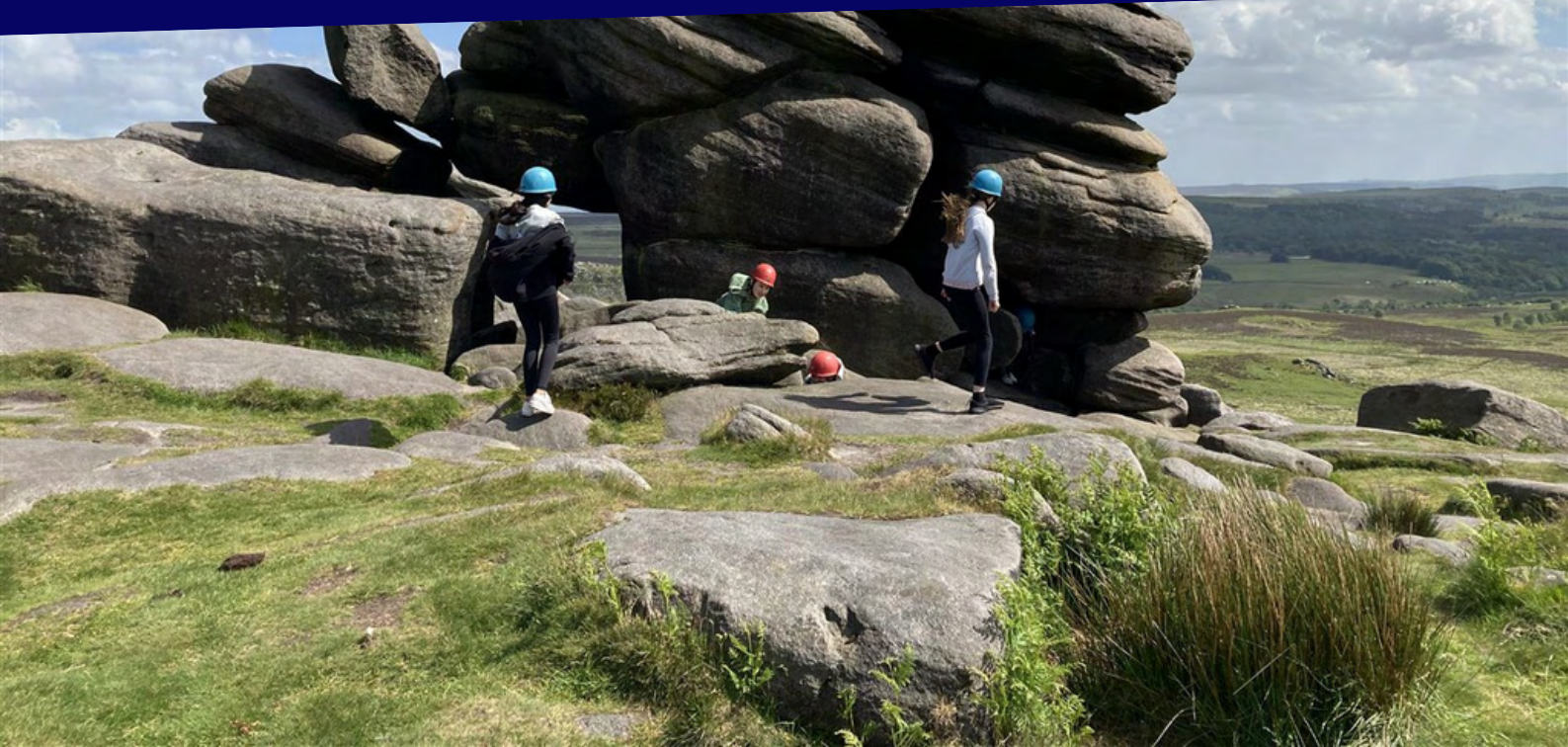
We have had a busy year in our Music classrooms, students have composed fanfares; written and performed raps; performed Blues songs; composed underscores for a film scene; performed songs from *Hamilton*; played in a Samba band and this is all just in Years 7, 8 and 9!

Students are learning to work together to create great performances and have some real imagination when it comes to composing their own pieces. We look forward to developing more in the coming year.





Senior School



Year 7 visit to Hathersage Moor

Year 7 recently spent a day in the Peak District on Hathersage Moor enjoying a day of Geography fieldwork and adventure activities. During the morning, the pupils put the various themes they had learnt in Geography in the context of an actual place, learning how to describe and explain the physical and human characteristics of a landscape. They learnt of the importance of weathering and erosion in the creation of the distinctive landscape of the Dark Peak, the role of tourism in the local economy and the problems it can create as well as how the site of settlements has changed over time.

In order to fully appreciate the advantages the area has for adventure tourism, the pupils spent the afternoon experiencing rock scrambling and weaselling. This was a new experience for everyone, and it was good to see everyone's confidence growing through the afternoon as they learnt to work together as a team.

Mr Harrison is co-author of the new IGCSE History Textbook

The new text book for the IGCSE History course will be published this September and the co-author is our very own Mr Harrison! Well done Mr Harrison, what an achievement. Our pupils study this course so if anyone has any questions then Mr Harrison is your man!



Geographers visit the Derbyshire Peaks

Year 10 geographers recently spent a day in the Derbyshire Peak District doing fieldwork in preparation for one of their GCSE papers. The focus of the visit was a classic geographical investigation examining changes along a river from its source. The day began with some hands-on measurements of channel cross-section, flow velocity and sediment sizes. This was met with varying degrees of success at staying completely dry. Following a spot of lunch and an opportunity to drip dry, the students then traced the river from its source noting down and sketching changes in the landscape. The walk provided many of the students with the opportunity to limber up for their forthcoming Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice expedition. The students will analyse their results in their remaining Geography lessons this term.

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Expedition

By the time you will be reading this, four very hardy souls in the Lower Sixth (Joel H, Ben P-M, Kieron R-W and Jake P), accompanied by Mr Leach and Mr Lewis, will have completed their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice expedition and experienced the true Welsh wilderness. Two nights will have been spent wild camping in the Rhinog mountains with three days of thrashing through knee high weather, navigating a truly unique landscape reminiscent of Lord of the Rings, scaling hills that feel much higher than they are and generally surviving on ration packs, stream water and sheer enthusiasm. We wish the team every success for their Assessed Expedition towards the end of term.

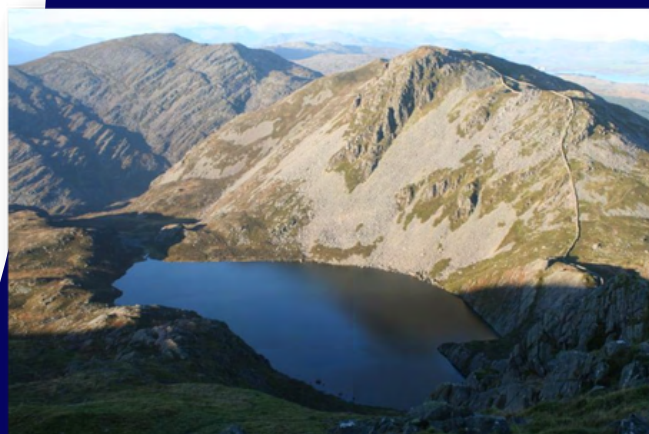
Biology class sample our grounds for plant diversity

Our Year 12 Biology class have been sampling the Pitsford School grounds recently to investigate how plant diversity changes between shaded areas, mown areas and unmown areas. Within the A-Level course the class are required to complete practical activities and this sort of fieldwork helps meet that requirement.

Ruby W wins awards at Northampton Festival for Performing Arts

Ruby W took part in the prestigious Northampton Festival for Performing Arts in May and was awarded 1st Place for her Musical Theatre Trio and 2nd Place for her musical Theatre Solo.

Congratulations Ruby!





Young Archaeologists' Club

The Young Archaeologists' Club has begun its second onsite dig. The site was chosen by Mr Bull, one of our estates team who noticed a circular shaped area with a slight elevation in the front field. Mr Bull used his tractor to start off the trench.

So far, we have discovered some mysterious pipe work which we are hoping will lead to evidence of a building on the dig site. We have also found evidence of glacial drift and identified various fossils. We will keep you updated!



SAP Club raises money for global water and sanitation projects

Our SAP Club raised money last term to support Toilet Twinning. Toilet Twinning raises funds to support water and sanitation work in some of the poorest countries on Earth.

SAP Club (which stands for Service and Adventure Programme) raised money by carrying out a Chicken Poo Lottery (which isn't as horrible as it sounds, it was a chocolate raffle!). The fund raising was led by Isaac in Year 9 and they raised over £180.

The money has been used to sponsor three latrines - two for the Democratic Republic of Congo and one for the Ivory Coast. Excellent work Isaac and the SAP Club - such a worthy cause.



St Andrew's Mental Health Accreditation for Pitsford

We were delighted that Pitsford School was recently awarded the St Andrew's Mental Health Quality Mark Accreditation. In order to receive the accreditation, we had to go through a rigorous assessment process which included interviews with pupils and staff.

The lead assessor said of Pitsford:

- Pupils told me that their school supported them and they feel appreciated and this is recognised with rewards, enrichment activities and organised trips.
- Targeted support is in place for pupils who need it and interventions meet the needs of each child.
- School leaders ensure there is a developing culture of positive mental health for pupils.

It's excellent that our hard work in this important area has been ratified.



Sixth Form

Lower Sixth visit Snowdonia

Lower Sixth geographers recently spent four days completing fieldwork in Snowdonia as part of their A-level. Based at the foot of Snowdon in Llanberis, the students busied themselves studying the glacial history of the Ogwen valley; considered how the physical and human landscape in the Pass of Llanberis affects the hydrological response of the river; and evaluated the success of regeneration strategies in the old mining town of Blaenau Ffestiniog.



The students also spent an entire day collecting data for their own independent investigation. Despite all the work, there was still time for relaxation as the students spent one afternoon trampolining at Bounce Below in the old slate caverns at Llechwedd. One of the benefits of studying A-levels at Pitsford is the small class size and individual attention. As a result the trip ran more like a family outing than a formal school visit!

A fond farewell to our Upper Sixth

We shall really miss our Upper Sixth, who had their last official day in school in May.

It's a tradition on their last official day for the Upper Sixth to carry out a prank and we were all very confused when we came into school to find chairs lining every road and path. A huge 'Take a Seat' sign at the entrance should have warned us really! It was a wonderful prank and very imaginative - touché Upper Sixth. It has apparently been three years in the planning.



In the afternoon the whole Senior School body made their way to the local church in Pitsford village for the Leavers' Service. The Upper Sixth students pulled together the Order of Service themselves (even designing the booklet!) and chose songs, hymns and readings that were special and meaningful to them. Everyone from the year group contributed in some way during the Service.



Our annual Leavers' Dinner in the evening marked the end of an emotional day.

Pitsford Hall was transformed for a formal dinner, attended by all of Upper Sixth. The Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and Sixth Form tutors also attended. It was a real celebration and featured speeches from the Head Boy and Head Girl, Thomas and Tianna.

Students will be popping back to school to sit exams in the run up to the end of term. The students have studied so hard and deserve to do well, we are very proud of them. We will be excited to see everyone back at Pitsford Hall in their finery for the Sixth Form Ball at the end of exams.

Mrs King, Head of Sixth Form will miss the students greatly and said:

"They have been a fantastic Upper Sixth, they have given a great deal back to the School and community through their volunteering with younger pupils and charity fund raising. We have been very lucky to have them in the School and wish them all the best for a very happy and successful future."

The Upper Sixth have been very ably led by three Heads of School. Our thanks to Thomas (Head Boy), Tianna (Head Girl) and Eva-Mae (Deputy Head Girl) - your contributions to the School have been enormous. Thomas said of the School, "Pitsford has provided me with the happiest of environments to grow up in".

Many of the Upper Sixth have been at Pitsford since Junior School and we will miss seeing them - onwards and upwards Class of 2022!

Meet the new team



Mrs Cunningham, Science Teacher

As well as teaching science, I'm a mum and cat lover!

I graduated in 2013 with a BSc (Hons) in Forensic Science and joined the NHS working in Microbiology.

Training others inspired me to change careers and in 2016 I made the leap and qualified as a Science teacher and I am extremely excited to continue on my teaching journey at Pitsford School

In my spare time I enjoy crochet, yoga, gardening, DIY, running (mostly after my toddler) and journaling.



Miss Bull, Higher Level Teaching Assistant

I work in the Juniors as an HLTA teaching PSHE and RE and I sometimes cover lessons.

I like to do Art and Photography outside of work, and I like to keep active playing badminton, bouldering, water sports, cycling and going to the Gym.

In my downtime I am a massive fantasy fiction nerd! My favourite books are Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter and Witcher.

I am undertaking my University Degree in learning and teaching and I am in my second year - only one more year to go before I graduate!



Mr Swinford, Head of English

I studied English Literature and History at the University of Birmingham before completing a Masters degree in Military History and a PGCE in English at the University of Warwick. I've since worked at schools in both Rugby and Coventry before joining Pitsford School at Easter.

When I'm not found with my head in a book/poem, I'm known to be an enormous fan of creative writing and of film. Currently, I also run the School newspaper and encourage any keen journalistic minds to join after school! I'm an avid concert-goer and also enjoy playing/watching rugby!



Miss Herring, Early Years Teaching Assistant

I have recently joined the School as a Teaching Assistant in the Kits and Squirrel class.

I have a Foundation Degree in Teaching and Learning and have worked in many Early Years settings over the years.

I'm returning to work after taking time out to raise my 3-year-old daughter and I am really excited to be part of the team at Pitsford.

I look forward to meeting you all!