

# Pitsford Post

## Spring Term 2023 Review

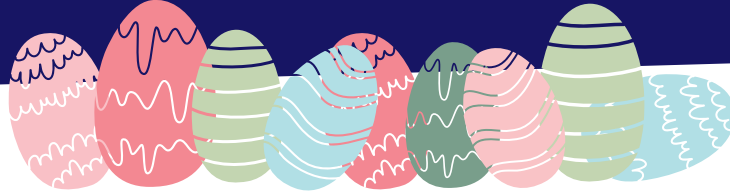


- Christmas Round-up!
- Young Voices Concert 2023
- Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
- Sixth Form 24 Hour Cyclathon
- Inspirational Artwork
- Sporting Success, Class Trips, House Fundraising and so much more!





# From The Head



Welcome to one, welcome to all and I am pleased to share with you our latest Pitsford Post. It is designed to showcase what has come before, to set the scene for what is to follow, and to offer a flavour of life here in NN6 9AX, and I think that this copy that you have before you does this very well. 2023 has been an extraordinarily busy year so far. When King Oswu of Northumbria called the Synod of Whitby in 664 to agree how the British would celebrate Easter I wish that he had afforded more thought to school terms to come almost fourteen hundred years later, as this year our term has been short because of where Easter falls. Despite this, we still had to fill the pot with the same amount of water and this document shows how that was done.

There are too many highlights to address each exhaustively, but I do want to pass comment on the wonderful school musical. The transformation of the Sports Hall, the musicianship on show, the performances of our students (from the Junior School up to Year 13) were all quite dazzling. It was great that, following the madness of the last few years, we were staging such a full-blooded production again, and it was incredible the quality that was produced. I know that many of you will have seen it as the audiences were full both nights and I am sure that you will agree with me that it was spectacular stuff: bravo to Mrs Humphrey and her army which implemented it.

The other experience of last term that I want to mention is the France expedition for Year 6. Going abroad like that, testing your independence and language skills with friends and colleagues, away from parents, is a transformative opportunity for our students and I am delighted that Mrs Pitts and Mme Conroy organised such a superb, culturally rich trip to Normandy. I was lucky enough to go and witness first hand how much the children gained from the experience and I am lucky to have staff willing to give up their time in such exhausting exercises for the good of the students. The same observation would apply to last October's extraordinary Morocco expedition as well.

I will leave my comments there, and thereby leave many of the experiences, activities, events and competitions, included in this document undeservedly unframed but in your reading you will see what a fantastically busy and engaged school we are.

And finally, as I sign off, I want to wish Mrs Heard all the best for the next stage of her career: her impact on the Junior School, and indeed all of Pitsford School, has been immense and I feel that we have moved forward faster and better than I could ever have imagined. That she managed this in the face of lockdowns and bubbles and the madness that came with them is all the more laudable.

Mrs Heard has applied for an MA in Inclusion linked to Autism, which is a part-time course, and she will also be starting a new short-term job which she hopes to do whilst studying.

During her final school assembly, the children gave Mrs Heard a thoughtful handmade leaving present and she was also presented with a voucher for a hospitality day at the Northampton Saints next season from parents and staff, which we hope she will enjoy. She will be greatly missed.



*Dr. Walker*





# Christmas Round-Up!

## A Special Visitor Drops into the Pitsford Play Christmas Party

In December, the Pitsford Play Toddler Group held their Christmas party at Pitsford Hall, and it was a delightful morning. Our young guests had a fantastic time playing games such as musical statues and pass the parcel, and even got to make some festive reindeer antlers. The cherry on top was a special visit from none other than Father Christmas himself, who brought along some presents for everyone. It was a wonderful morning enjoyed by all who came to the event.



## Senior School House Singing Competition

The Senior School hosted a highly anticipated House Singing Competition in November, and all three houses showcased their musical talents splendidly. The judges had a tough time deciding the winner, but in the end, Robinson house triumphed with their rendition of 'Lean on me'. Congratulations to the Robinson group for their outstanding performance and for clinching the victory in a closely-fought contest.







# Christmas Round-Up!



## 'We Three Kings' Nativity

The EYFS and Key Stage 1 students put on a stunning performance of 'We Three Kings' during the nativity in December, leaving us all thoroughly impressed.

The children sang, danced, and delivered their lines flawlessly while beaming with joy throughout the show. We hope you enjoyed the production!







# Christmas Round-Up!

## 'Bethlehem - the Musical!'

Next up was 'Bethlehem - the Musical!' A massive round of applause and congratulations to all the Key Stage 2 students and staff involved in the production. The acting, singing, dancing, and narrating skills were all outstanding, and you exuded incredible stage presence.

Those who attended the performance left feeling truly festive, and we are so proud of each and every one of you for putting on such a fabulous show.







# Pitsford Run



## Pitsford Run

### Junior Champions

Kits and Squirrels: Daisy C

J1/2 Girls: Octavia P

J1/2 Boys: Jackson B

J3/4 Girls: Rosalind M

J3/4 Boys: Harry C

J5/6 Girls: Erin A

J5/6 Boys: Toby C



## Pitsford Run

### Senior Champions

KS3 Girls: Georgie B

KS3 Boys: William H

KS4 Girls: Olivia M

KS4 Boys: Owura A.M

KS5 Girls: Madeleine S

KS5 Boys: Lewis R





# Alice in Wonderland



Sixteen Pitsford pupils, Junior and Senior, performed beautifully in Northamptonshire School of Dance's full-length production of "Alice in Wonderland" on 12th and 13th November at the Cripps Hall Theatre, Northampton.

Four full houses, totalling 1600 people, were enthralled watching the 240 strong cast of children and young people, aged 3 - 24, portray the wondrous tale of Alice's adventures through dance of many genres.





# Junior School Young Voices '23



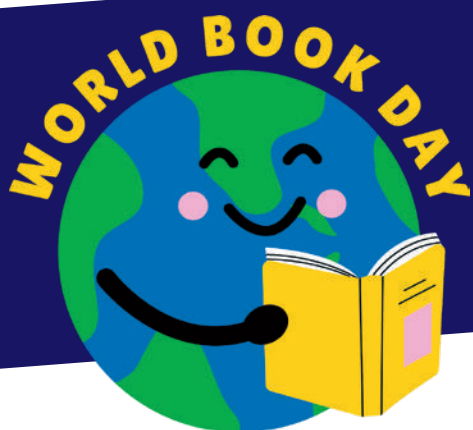


On Wednesday 25th January, a team of willing staff and the Pitsford Junior Choir arrived once again at the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham to attend the "Young Voices" mass choir experience!

The choir is made up of children from J4, J5 and J6 and it was wonderful to see so many children enthusiastic about singing together... the excitement from the children clearly reflected this throughout the day! At the arena we were joined by over 6,600 other children from across the country who had eagerly been rehearsing a repertoire of songs and dances to perform with many famous artists, including Heather Small and Urban Strides. Our choir made sure to stand out by wearing sparkly hats so that parents could spot them in the crowd!

As always, we were incredibly proud of the children who not only behaved brilliantly but were a credit to our school and their parents.

Words from Mrs Heard



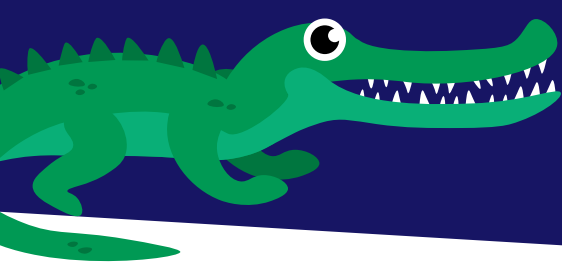
## World Book Day '23

On Thursday 2nd March the Juniors celebrated World Book Day. It was a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to share stories and their favourite books. Lots of activities took place, including older children reading to younger ones and a special assembly led by Lyla D and Carys T (J6).

The children were particularly creative for #WBD this year! They were given the brief of designing and producing their favourite book character - using a potato! The Heads of School had an extremely tough job judging all the entries. Our special guest Supertato (AKA Sadie S - J6) came along to award book token prizes to all the winners. Well done to everyone that took part.







# Roald Dahl Museum Visit

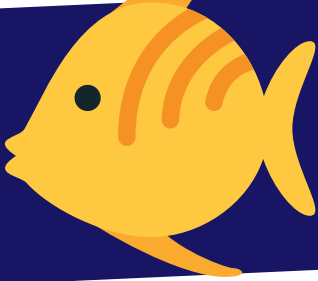
28th February 2023

Years 3 and 4 travelled by coach to Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire on a field trip in honour of the late, great Roald Dahl. The trip began with a tour around the village, taking in sights such as the local library which was used in the book 'Matilda', and the old village garage and petrol pump station, which was the inspiration for the one described in 'Danny the Champion of the World'. Students then followed the trail out of the village to the historic Church of St Peter and St Paul, where they had the chance to visit Roald Dahl's grave.

After lunch, J3 and J4 were given a guided tour of the museum, which had a range of activities involving dressing up and playing interactive games, as well as a substantial amount of interesting possessions that belonged to Roald Dahl. This was followed by a creative writing workshop, where children were encouraged to use their ideas to describe and develop characters that they might include in their own stories.







# Birmingham Sea Life Centre

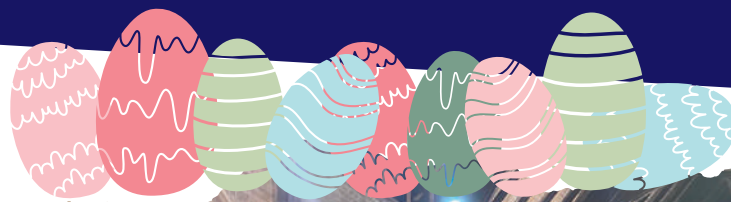


As part of their creative curriculum work about the ocean, Mrs Ball and Ms Bridges arranged for the children in Acorns, Kits, Squirrels and J1 and J2 to visit Birmingham Sea Life Centre on Wednesday 15th March 2023.

The trip provided the children with an excellent opportunity to learn about all kinds of marine life and get up close and personal with some sea creatures!



## Easter Bunny at Pitsford!







# British Science Week 2023



The theme for 2023 British Science Week was "Connections", encouraging the children to think about how nearly all innovations in science, technology, engineering and maths are built on connections between people; two (or more) heads are better than one, after all!

We participate in British Science Week each year as a way to further enhance the curriculum. BSW involves a range of hands-on investigations and trips to enthuse and inspire the children.

In the Junior School, the children had the opportunity to work together on a variety of different challenges including the Egg-Naut investigation - designing capsules to protect an egg which was then launched from the top floor of the Wake building! - and exploring states of matter in the Senior School labs.

The children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 went on an exciting journey of discovery at the Sea Life Centre and J5 pupils designed posters for the BSW annual competition for schools.





# J6 Le Touquet Trip



At the very end of the Spring term an excited bunch of J6 children headed off on their residential visit to the Opal Coast in Northern France. During this visit the children are immersed in enriching French cultural adventures where they are able to practice their spoken French in an authentic environment. Here follows a summary of our activities!

Despite the early start, during the drive over to Calais our students visibly started to engage, the mounting excitement creating a bond within the group. After a steady ferry journey on a reasonably calm sea, we stopped at Boulogne-sur-Mer for a city walk, spotting different types of shops and exploring the Basilique Notre-Dame. It was then time to head to our hotel, the Stella Maris, for some chillout time before dinner.

Day 2 was a very busy one. It began with a trip to the market at Le Touquet, where the children were tasked with finding different items - fruits, legumes, fromages - from the stalls. Many of J6 took this opportunity for shopping, testing out their French when making purchases. We then headed off to the Chocolaterie Beussent Lachelle to see the production of a number of items, including a chocolate panda whose head was chopped off so that we could have a taste! Delicious!

We then made a stop at the Boulangerie D'Escoeuilles where the group learnt how to make artisan bread and enjoyed pain au chocolat. The illustrious Bruno 'le boulanger' will leave an indelible mark on many of us. With no rain, a stop at 'la plage' was essential. Everyone enjoyed an impromptu sandcastle building competition.





The final day took in a trip to the mind-blowing Nausicaa, the largest sea-life centre in Europe. We saw fascinating sea creatures and also some entertaining penguins! It proved to be very popular with the children spotting sharks, rays and jellyfish, not to mention some last minute spending of Euros in the gift-shop.

J6 impressed throughout this visit; their great manners, attitude, curiosity and thirst for adventure was excellent. They all displayed a lot of 'savoir vivre' and certainly acquired 'savoir faire'.

Words by Mrs Heard



Wednesday 22nd February was "World Thinking Day", a chance for the 10 million Girl Guides and Scouts across the globe to connect. Students at the Junior School were invited to come into school dressed in their Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs or Scouts uniforms. Those students were invited to talk in assembly about what they do at their group meetings and what their badges mean. The students were very proud to represent their organisations.





# Robinson House Charity Day



Just before half term, Robinson House led the Junior School in a fundraising day in aid of Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People.

Rainbows supports babies, children and young people to fulfil their potential and help families to make the most of every precious moment. They support whole families, offering comfort and compassion during tough times whilst providing the highest level of professional care. Simply put, they brighten short lives.

The care that Rainbows provides costs a lot and Robinson House were keen to raise funds to help with this. The children decided to sell lollies at playtime, raffle a soft toy and hold a scavenger hunt. All of the events were very well supported and Robinson House raised in excess of £220.

Special thanks must go to Jessica C, Lyla D, Hattie V, George W and James E, who presented an assembly on Rainbows for the Junior School and organised the activities.



## Girls Talk

On Thursday 23rd February, Mrs Smith, Mrs Cunningham and Mrs Kirk, Heads of KS4, KS3, and Pastoral Deputy Head respectively, held a pastoral evening for the parents of girls in Years 4, 5, 6 and Years 7, 8, and 9 focusing on understanding the relationships between girls in the tween and early teen years, and how parents and school can work together to best support those tricky years. There was a wonderful turn out and all parties agreed the evening was a huge success.



# Art at Pitsford



The Art Department has been a hive of activity this term with students of all ages creating the most beautiful work. Although we would love to share work from all year groups, Years 11 and 13 are working for their OCR qualifications and so sadly we cannot publish their work at this stage. Please do, however see some exciting work that is taking place during other year group lessons.



Year 7 have been exploring the elements of art, and it seems to have paid off remarkably well, as they have started their first 'formal' project with amazing technical prowess and confidence (which is key). They are currently sculpting some chunky birds out of clay which will be bisque fired and glazed in the most special way. See some images of stage 1 above!

Year 8 have explored Portraiture. They spent an arduous term learning about and applying the proportions of the face, and made remarkable progress demonstrated through their self-portraits. Students started the course by drawing themselves before being taught and once again after they had been taught and were all surprised by how much they had moved forward.

The next step was to explore stylisation and the students were taught how even the most abstract of imagery starts with traditional skills. They studied the work of graphic designer Luke Dixon, and created a colourful array of design self-portraits. Another triumph!







Year 9 are embarking on making their options at the moment, and have started a mini-coursework project to help them gain first hand insight into the GCSE course.

Their initial starting point is Natural Forms and will be working towards a large scale sculpture by the end of the year! Watch this space for some gorgeous images.

Year 10 have started their coursework projects and have already blown our minds with the quality of work they are producing. They are currently working on tonal drawings and coloured pencil studies, researching their individual topics. See two remarkably good examples.



Year 12 are another bunch who are exceeding our expectations in the quality department. They are exploring the more conceptual aspect of art and investigating context to support this. Included here are a few sneak peeks into their current explorations in paint and drypoint etching.



# Junior Art Skills Club

This term we launched our very first JUNIOR ART SKILLS CLUB where 12 future artists are learning skills that will enhance their eventual qualifications.

The students are so great and arrive every Friday afternoon with determination and a thirst for knowledge. Ranging from Year 7 - 9 it is an opportunity for our younger art obsessed students to fine tune their technical skills!



Thus far they have worked in pen and ink wash, large scale charcoal drawings and coloured pencil blending. The work below is testament to the hard work and concentration they are showing at this early stage.





# Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat



The week before the half term break saw the school production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor © Dreamcoat'.

Rehearsals began back in September, with students from Year 5 to Year 13 taking on roles and working together to put on the performance. George, who played 'Joseph' in Thursday night's performance said 'I had a brilliant time working with people I wouldn't have otherwise worked with'. We spent many hours together practising our songs and dance moves, ably directed by Mrs Care and Mrs Wilton.

It was a truly collaborative project; students were involved throughout the whole process including sharing ideas about staging, costumes and choreography. Away from the stage, students were involved in the technical support and design and preparation of the props, led by Mrs Smith and Miss Morris. We were also supported by a fantastic team of parents and volunteers who shared their time and expertise to build an auditorium in the Sports Hall! A fantastic achievement which meant that the students had opportunities to work in a superb performance space.

Thanks to all involved, including the PE staff who vacated the space for a week.

We also had a fantastic band; made up of Pitsford students and other local young musicians, ably supported by Mrs Clark, Mr Andrade, and Mr Humphrey. Calypso, who played clarinet in the band, said 'I enjoyed playing in the 'Joseph' band. I got to play with some amazing musicians and had a great time'.

On the performance evenings the adrenaline was high, with every single person involved giving their all. As Eva-Grace said 'Many fun memories were made'. Both evenings were fantastically well supported and the cast received rapturous applause.

There were fantastic performances from all and it is hard to highlight any one performer. There were some great moments from Joel and Jake (Y13) as Mr and Mrs Potiphar; Lucas (Y10) as 'Pharaoh' along with Annabelle, Ella and Libby (Y12) as 'Narrator' and not forgetting 'Joseph' played on Thursday by George (Y10) and on Friday by Isaac (Y10). These, along with the brothers, the butler, the baker, and the multi-talented chorus put on an amazing show.

Putting on a show is a tremendous amount of work for everyone involved but the rewards are fantastic! We have made great memories and new friends and we are all looking forward to getting ready for the next musical theatre adventure!







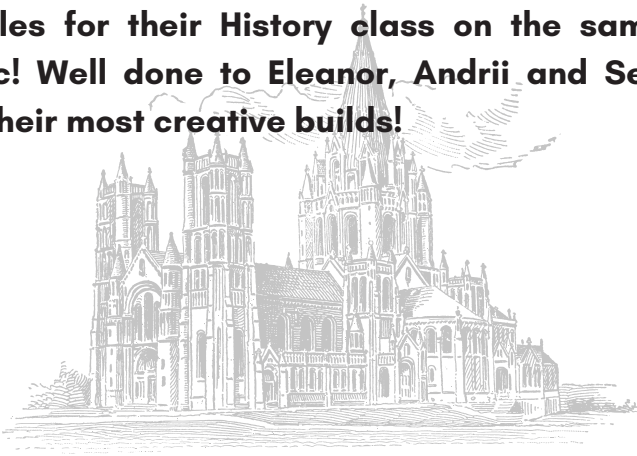




# Senior School

## Pupils find their forte in building castles

Pupils in Year 7 created these spectacular castles for their History class on the same topic! Well done to Eleanor, Andrii and Seb for their most creative builds!



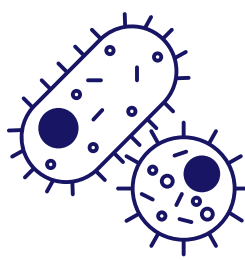
## Flipping Marvellous!



The Senior School enjoyed taking part in a variety of pancake related activities; with DofE groups making pancakes on stoves finishing with a good old fashioned pancake race!



# Year 8 Biologists



Year 8 learnt about useful bacteria by making yogurt and kimchi. What is kimchi made of?

Kimchi can be made from a variety of vegetables, and even fruits, but the most recognized version – baecheu kimchi – is made with cabbage.

Alongside cabbage, it often contains radishes, scallions, carrots, garlic, ginger, chili flakes, and other flavorings. Kimchi has a sour, salty, savory, and often fiery taste.

## Lauretta's Threads of Life

We were treated to an impressive art installation in the Library created by our Year 12 student, Lauretta. Lauretta came up with the concept and built a beautiful fish with a wooden frame finished with layers of tissue paper and suspended from the ceiling by lots of individual red threads.

Lauretta said of the project; "As part of my EPQ presentation I held an event, an art installation call 'The Threads of Life'. I invited everyone to take part by cutting the threads labelled with the things they wanted to be free of in their life. Students and teachers from throughout the school participated and we watched as the threads were cut, and the fish fell becoming free."







# Individual Success

## Carys Swimming Award

J6 Carys T has competed in the Northamptonshire County Swimming Championships 2023 . She won Silver medals in 50 Freestyle and 50 Backstroke 11under.

Carys is on track to qualify for East Midlands Swimming Championships and Welsh Nationals in the upcoming year based on her personal best times that have improved significantly in all strokes .



## Erin: Dancing Queen

On Saturday 25th February, Erin A from J6, danced her way into 1st place winning the U11's Beginners Championship with her Reel and Light Jig at the East Midlands Feis, held at the Caroline Chisholm School.

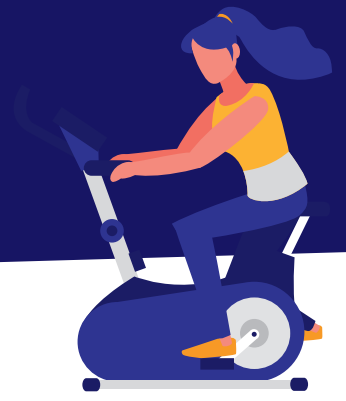
Congratulations to both Erin and Carys on your continued success!







# Sixth Form



## 24 Hour Cyclathon smashes target!



Our Head Girl, Izzy T, with help from the Sixth Form and Head of Sixth Form, Mr Vié, recently organised a gruelling 24 hour Cyclathon in aid of the charity Lupus UK. The Cyclathon took place in our fitness centre on exercise bikes between 7am on Friday 3rd February and 7am on Saturday 4th February.

Throughout the day all year groups from the Senior School took turns to ensure the bikes were manned constantly. Our intrepid Sixth Form and members of staff cycled throughout Friday night and a particular well done to the 8 hardcore Sixth Form students who pushed through the night shift - well done to Izzy T, Cara R, Libbie C, Joel H, Jake P, Kieron R-W, Luca M and Ben P-M.

By the end of the event the students had cycled 872.5km combined which is a staggering figure and a real testament to everyone's grit and determination. Head Girl, Izzy said: "We are so happy with how well the Cyclathon went, over 100 students took part and everyone did their bit to raise as much money as possible for Lupus UK. Thank you to everyone that helped on the day, especially those who stayed over night!"

At last count the team had raised £830 through the Just Giving page with funds going directly to Lupus UK. Sixth Formers also ran their charity tuck shop though out the event to raise further funds and that total has yet to be added on.





# Sixth Form News

## Sixth Formers raise a 'toast' to Olly

Cooking breakfast for a large group of people can be a daunting task, but for one Sixth Former, Olly D, it was a challenge that he embraced with enthusiasm as part of his EPQ qualification. As the aroma of freshly cooked bacon, eggs and toast filled the school hallways, students began to gather in the kitchen at Pitsford Hall, eager to sample Olly's culinary creations.

The breakfast was a huge success, and many expressed gratitude to Olly for such a delicious meal. Olly's efforts had not only provided a much-needed meal for his peers, but also brought the Sixth Formers together in a communal setting. His actions show that with a little initiative and effort, anyone can make a difference in their school community.



## Dr Daniel Duncan gives presentation to Sixth Formers

On the 7th February, the Medical Society had the pleasure of welcoming Dr Daniel Duncan to Pitsford to give a talk to the Sixth Form. He discussed the process of drug trials and explained how they are commercialised. We were given an accurate insight into drug development and the legislation involved in making the drugs available to the public. We looked through the tragic history of drugs that were commercialised but had negative side effects and how new laws put into place have ensured that these instances will not happen again. We were also made aware of how vaccines are produced; more specifically we explored how the COVID-19 vaccine was able to be administered so rapidly and its effect on the future of vaccine development. We were so grateful for the opportunity to ask our questions and gain further insight into drug development. As aspiring medical students we greatly valued the knowledge we were given and the insight into corporate life.



# Sixth Form News

## Dr Poggi Presentation to the Medical Society

On Tuesday the 21st of February, the medical society had the pleasure to welcome guest speaker Dr Raffaella Poggi. Dr Poggi studied medicine and surgery in Milan, where she qualified to become a cardiovascular surgeon, she later moved to the UK. Dr Poggi is now a partner at a local general practice which accounts for 22,000 patients, alongside 3 other general practitioner doctors.

During our talk she gave us an insightful view about the medical profession and the issues she faces daily; such as having to make difficult decisions and learning how to adjust to life after the effects of corona virus. Dr Poggi talked with us about how the decisions we make in the present have a significant effect on the decisions we are able to make in later life. We also got a chance to ask ethical questions and questions surrounding getting into and studying medicine.

This talk was very insightful and inspiring, It gave aspiring doctors like myself a real outlook of what life is like to be a doctor in the NHS, today. We are immensely grateful that we had this opportunity, it allowed us to reaffirm that medicine is the career we want to do. Thank you Dr Poggi !

Words by Elisabeth C

## Update on the New Sixth Form Centre

Exciting times are ahead - we are about to submit our final design for our stunning new Sixth Form Centre to the planning department! Watch this space.

## A Royal Invitation to All Pitsford Students and their Families

Your presence is formally requested at our Coronation Party on Friday 5th May! Parents and students are invited to join the tea party at Pitsford Hall to celebrate the King's Coronation. Please complete the form on Firefly to confirm your attendance.







# Music



## Exam Success for Pitsford Pupils

Congratulations to:

**Francesca F-N Year 13** - Grade 8 singing with distinction

**Cara R Year 12** - Grade 5 Flute with merit

**Libby K Year 12** - Grade 2 Flute

**Madeleine S Year 11** - Grade 6 rock and pop vocals with Merit

**Emma H Year 10** - Grade 4 Flute

**Sadie S Year 6** - Grade 1 singing with Merit

**George S Year 6** - Grade 1 Guitar with Distinction

Well done to all!

**Annabelle B Year 12** - auditioned with Northampton Opera Group and has been offered a place to sing with them. She will be performing in the Opera Gala concert in June and a full-scale opera in November.

**Ella S Year 12** - Spent the half term week with the Territorial Youth Choir on a singing course and premiered a new vocal work.

**George H** - played with Jazz 2 at the NMPAT Big Band Night held recently at the Cripps Theatre, Northampton.

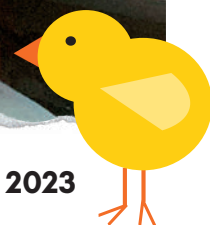


## Mr Andrade's Ukulele Book Published

Pitsford's very own guitar teacher, Mr Andrade, has written and published his own music book. 'Let's play ukulele' is a celebration of making music with the ukulele, learning the basics of chords and strumming in a fun and progressive way. This book is the result of over 30 years teaching experience, of various ages, abilities and instruments.

'Let's Play Ukulele' is suitable for individual and group learning, so if you don't fancy going it alone grab a friend or family member and start playing together!

Order your copy today from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)





# Junior Sport



## Pitsford Juniors J5 & J6 v. Quinton House

An overcast afternoon saw members of the Pitsford football club from year 5 and 6 play Quinton House at home. From the start of the game, the Blues looked strong and confident in play. Pitsford had the lion's share of possession in the first half; with centre back Alfie H making some incredible dribbling runs the length of the pitch.



By skilfully playing the ball in to James E and George S, Pitsford were soon rattling the woodwork and the Quinton defence were left floundering. After a few coordinated attacks in this manner, the Blues were rewarded with a fantastic goal from centre-forward George S. Quinton House attempted to counter attack after this first goal, but clean tackles of superb quality from defenders Jude N, Alfie H and the fearless Bella C, quickly allowed Pitsford to regain possession and counter attack.

In the second half, consistently winning the ball at the back allowed Pitsford to string together some outstanding passing going forward. Midfielders William C, Giles T, Toby C and Jude H played some simply stunning two-touch football, at times reminiscent of a Barcelona performance. The crosses kept QHS under constant pressure and only the cat-like ability of their goalkeeper prevented Pitsford from scoring 3 or 4 more. The game finished 1:0 to Pitsford. Well done to the Blues, a great team performance.

## Pitsford Juniors J3 & J4 Fixture v. Quinton House

An away fixture at Quinton House was a pleasant way to end the first half term of 2023 for members of the football club from years 3 and 4. Pitsford started confidently, with some brilliant runs made by Harry C and Jake W, but unfortunately these didn't create any real opportunities to score, mainly due to a very strong Quinton defence. The home team counter attack caused some real problems for the Blues, and despite valiant defending by Seb W, Hugo Sand Chaela M, Quinton managed to score. Although Pitsford refused to let their heads go down and continued to battle, Quinton managed to steal the ball time and again, scoring 4 more before the half-time whistle.

After some positional rotation and tactical changes, Pitsford really began to find their stride in the 2nd half. Quinton continued to play a pressing, aggressive game, but Phoebe L, bravely playing in goal in her debut game, made some brilliant saves to prevent the home side from getting any further goals. Finally, Pitsford's perseverance was rewarded. Undeniable talent from Oslo G-B and Luke E in the midfield allowed the Blues to play through the thirds and encroach on the Quinton box. A superbly weighted pass by Oslo allowed the determined Orlando S to take a deft touch and rocket the ball into the back of the net. Pitsford had scored thanks to a great goal from Orlando. This was clearly a game of two halves. Despite losing the game 5-1 to a quality side, Pitsford learned a great deal and remained sporting and positive throughout.

Well done to the whole team and special thanks to Mrs Shah for offering to assist on the day.





# Sports Round-up

This year has seen a large number of pupils participate in additional sport outside school this term including; swimming, water polo, table tennis, sailing, horse riding, netball, football, rugby, golf, skiing, rounders, cricket, hockey to name but a few.

There have also been pupils who have been officiating and coaching during the weekends for local teams and leagues enjoying an opportunity to give back to their club/sport. All of these additional skills take time, commitment and dedication to obtain experience and qualifications. Some pupils have started this pathway in school offering to coach in the Junior School, attend after school clubs for the younger years and umpire for school fixtures when possible. Long may this passion and enjoyment continue with the enjoyment of receiving a whistle in Year 10 for the netballers!

## Netball

The netball teams have flourished this term with more players attending netball clubs and selected to represent the county. There have also been more taking the opportunity to help with after school netball club with the younger teams and learn the 'art' of umpiring.

U12 netball, with a tightknit team of 7, and the additional player who joined us, gave the team an opportunity to play a number of different positions on the court enjoying the new challenges. The team have had a fixture each week which has provided plenty of opportunity to put practice into the pressure of full court games. This was tested at two tournaments that were competed in: County Plate and Moulton School invitation. The team once again flourished on the court with increased passion and determinations to do as well as they were able to as a team.

U13 netball has had a wonderful season with all of the year having plenty of opportunity to run around the court. The team has moved up a pace with lots of time spent on court showing a maturity both in their attitude and play. A few U12 players joined the team at the ISA Midlands schools competition hosted by Loughborough School. The team came second in their section eventually being knocked out in the semi-finals. This further inspired the team in the County Plate tournament where they finished first in their section, convincingly winning their final and a closely fought final - wearing their new bling with pride! This win qualified the team for the County finals at Oundle School, which is always a tough closely fought and feared tournament! The team fought against nerves finishing much to their surprise third. Well done all players.

U14/15 netball teams have spent much of the season playing across the age groups. There has been plenty of opportunity to play for all with each fixture often having three teams playing at the same time. The teams have been amazing with their adaptation for all having different positions and opposition to play, sometimes in tournament format. There have been plenty of smiles on the court, hiding the individuals' fiercely competitive nature and determination to win. Coach Sarah has again been wonderful in her support of the teams with postgame snacks always appreciated!

Senior netball there has been an opportunity to play two senior teams this season with a large proportion of the three year groups opting to continue to participate in school netball. The teams have played a number of different oppositions and game formats to keep them engaged and wanting to play more. A number of the team have helped with the younger teams and Cara has recently taken her Level 1 coaching qualification. Next season looks exciting with a number of the yr10 players wishing to continue to represent the school.

Words by Mrs Chacksfield

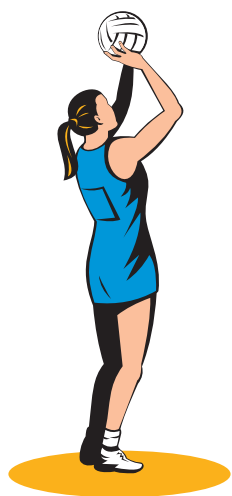
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# Netball News

The U13 netball team competed in the ISA midlands tournament at Loughborough School recently. The team came second in their section winning 5 + drawing 1 of their games. The final games were closely fought but sadly the team ran out of steam losing their play off place by 2 goals. Well done girls!







# Cross Country

Well done to the team of runners who took part in the Northampton Town Cross Country Championships at Abington Park in November.

Lewis R. and Madeleine S. beat off fierce competition in previous rounds to meet at the Anglian Schools Cross Country Final, where both finalists completed the race admirably.



National qualifiers from the event: Owura, Madeleine, Lewis and Cara

## ISA Cross Country Bedstone

Another amazingly organised ISA event hosted by Bedstone College, Shropshire for the Midlands Schools Cross Country. As usual, the pupils were eager to conquer the course and infamous 'river' crossing, with the older runners checking that the first time runners had packed their arm bands! For many it may have been their last opportunity to enter the event reminiscing on their experiences over the last number of years. It was wonderful to see so many of the Junior School pupils have an opportunity to run a challenging and enjoyable course - the races were certainly fast. There is plenty of opportunity to continue the hard training and good work moving to the track season ahead.

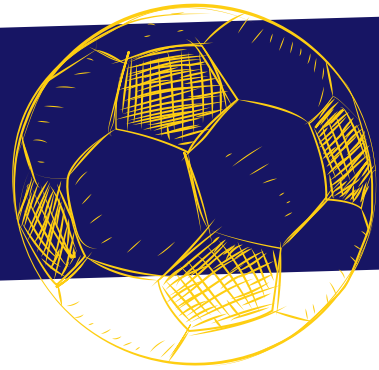
National qualifiers from the event: Owura, Madeleine, Lewis and Cara (automatic qualification) who went on to compete at the ISA National Finals at Worksop College. All had another great experience with a flat, fast paced course.

Congratulations to all runners who have represented the school in the town, county and ISA events - keep up the good work ready for next season.





# Seniors Football





The Senior Football team is a prime representation of the motto that Pitsford School stands for in Excellence, Opportunity and Understanding. Pitsford School has provided senior students the opportunity to organise and direct their own football team, creating our own Kit, personalised with surnames and selected numbers, and give us the chance to compete successfully with other schools. The Senior Football team consists of Year 11 and Sixth form students who rally together every Tuesday afternoon to show off their hard work, footballing prowess and strong determination to win. This showcases the pride of representing Pitsford School and the chance for students to really show their excellence.

The season started off in disappointing fashion with a short trip down the road ending in a 3-0 loss to Moulton School. This was however the first game that the Year 11 and Sixth Form had played together so there was plenty of hope for the rest of the season.

The teams next match was away to Akeley Wood where we battled hard and showcased moments of real potential, but unfortunately we had to settle for a 2-1 loss. After going 2 goals behind, Josh C scored our first goal of the season, late on into game, giving us hope of a potential comeback, but in the end it was too little, too late.



Even after two losses, we were ready to keep fighting and were determined to not let the previous results define our season. The new kit had finally arrived and a match away to Oundle School brought a 5-3 win, the first of the campaign. This game provided some beautiful attacking football from Pitsford and goals from Josh, Lennon, Jake and the Houghton brothers ensured that the team could survive late pressure to see out the win. After two losses in a row, the only way to respond was with 2 wins in a row, and that is exactly what we did after beating Peterborough school 3-1. Another strong team performance saw the team fighting to the end and a last minute wonder strike from Harley P nestled in the top corner to confirm the three points after players were throwing body's on the line to make sure of the victory.

By Jake. P



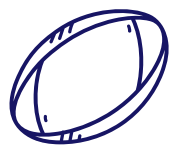




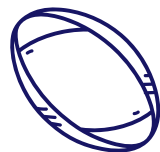
# Rugby Round- Up



The Rugby District Tournament, held on Wednesday 22nd February, saw the U13's playing on the first pitch with great enthusiasm, demonstrating individual skills that they have honed during the season. All good preparation for the ISA Tournaments to be in March.



## ISA Rugby Sevens @ St James Boys School London



Pitsford's U13 and U14 Rugby teams had an exciting day on Thursday 9th March, despite facing some unexpected challenges. The weather conditions were harsh as they left Pitsford, but the snow disappeared as they travelled towards St James Boys School in Ashford. The U14s had a memorable moment at the beginning of the tournament, which they will surely look back on with fondness in the future. Although they faced injuries and a depleted squad, the team persevered and put up a valiant display, showcasing some excellent rugby at points. Overall, it was a character-building day and well done to all involved.

Pitsford's Under 13s had a challenging game, as they played on smaller pitches than they were used to. Despite this, the team showed fierce tackling and determination throughout the game. Although their attacking play was not as prevalent as in previous games, the inclusion of some Year 7's in the squad proved to be a positive move, with these players showing they can hold their own.

Despite the team missing some key players due to injury, the boys gave their all in the Royal Blue of Pitsford and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. This game provided a valuable learning opportunity for the team and the Year 7's, who will no doubt benefit from the experience in future games.

Overall, it was a great day out for the team, and they look forward to the upcoming rugby season in September.

Words by Mr Kefford



# Pitsford School Launches New Wedding and Events Website

Pitsford School is proud to announce the launch of its new wedding and events website, [www.pitsfordhall.com](http://www.pitsfordhall.com). The website showcases the School's stunning grounds and facilities as a venue for weddings and events based around the school holidays and weekend availability.

The launch of the wedding and events website is part of Pitsford School's ongoing efforts to expand its services and offer unique experiences beyond the traditional scope of education.

For more information, please visit the website or contact [events@pitsfordhall.com](mailto:events@pitsfordhall.com).



[www.pitsfordhall.com](http://www.pitsfordhall.com)



## Pitsford School Careers Fair



### Pitsford School Careers and Higher Education Fair



**4pm - 6pm  
29th June**

**Free to attend. Please email [office@pitsfordschool.com](mailto:office@pitsfordschool.com) to  
exhibit or attend or call 01604 880306**

I am very excited to announce that Pitsford School will be hosting a Careers Fayre for all students from Years 7-13 and schools in the surrounding area will be invited to attend our Careers and Higher Education Evening on Thursday 29th of June between 4pm - 6pm.

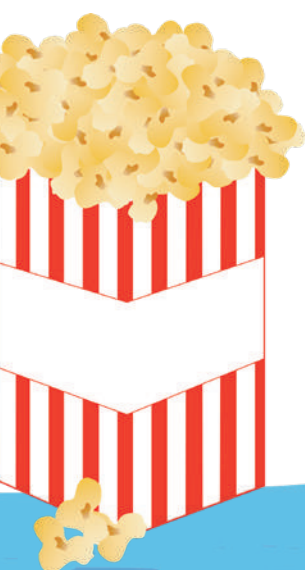
We are currently asking all parents if they would like to be an Exhibitor with either their own business or employer. There will be a range of employers across many different sectors including engineering, construction, retail, the forces, the legal profession and healthcare, giving students an insight into a wide range of potential careers and the different paths that can be taken in order to pursue them.

**Mrs Laura Cunningham  
Head of Key Stage Three**





# Upcoming Events



**Friday 5th May: King Charles III Coronation Party**  
**Thursday 11th May: U6's Leavers Dinner**  
**Thursday 11th May: Silent Disco for J2 - J5**  
**Friday 12th May: Silent Disco for J6, Y7 & 8**  
**Friday 9th June: Outdoor Cinema**  
**Monday 19th June: Y11 Prom Night**  
**Friday 23rd June: Sixth Form Ball**  
**Thursday 29th June: Careers Fair**  
**Friday 30th June: Moving Up Day**  
**Friday 7th July: Sports Day**  
**Monday 10th July: J6 Leavers Assembly**  
**Wednesday 12th July: Junior and Senior School Speech Day**

## End of term!

**Pitsford School FOPS**

## JOIN THE FOPS

Join our new Friends of Pitsford School group and find out how you can help our School with fundraising and events. Get involved in some fun activities with other parents and staff. Help a little or help a lot - it's up to you, no pressure!

**Register your interest** by emailing Gemma at  
[gbailey@pitsfordschool.com](mailto:gbailey@pitsfordschool.com)



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