



Pitsford Post

Summer Term 2023 Review



- Residentials and Activity Week Fun
- Sports Day
- DofE Walks
- Year 11 and Sixth Form Leavers Proms
- Junior School Summer Performance
- Summer Concert
- A Royally Good Coronation Party





From The Head



And so we reach the end of another term and year, and this splendid publication will describe and shape much of what has happened. This has been a momentous year in so many ways. We had our Integrated Inspection (which happens every seven years or so) and this is no small beer: bigger and richer schools than us failed this last year, and the price of failure could be closure. I am delighted to note that we did a great deal more than pass, our Inspectors left the school in raptures, loving the children and loving the culture of the school, and we were delighted to be recognised as Excellent (the highest category). I think that the staff and students deserve a great deal of praise for all that they did for that, and do every single day. Also momentous, this summer we will knock down the current Sixth Form building and build the new Centre, which should open in September. That is the first new construction since I joined the school in 2018 and it is an exciting statement of intent and confidence in the school in the midst of what is a turbulent time in the world. It was also continue our process of beautifying and opening the Drive which is, to my mind, the handsomest part of our gorgeous site.

The school also embraced the post-pandemic world this year with our Sahara Expedition which was another powerful statement that we were back to being Pitsford: doing the brave and the exciting and the engaging to give our community the richest possible experience. The other trips this year, from day trips to residencies, domestic and international, meant that every term we have been very busy and dynamic. I had the privilege to go on Mrs Pitts and Mrs Conroy's J6 French invasion and that was an amazing opportunity for our amazing children and demonstrates how much my wonderful staff care and invest above and beyond. As a school we are lucky to have them. The year to come is equally exciting, and I know many of you will be gearing up for the many trips to come (New York City!).

I am writing this before the Arts Fest, but I am sufficiently confident that it will be amazing that I am pre-emptively praising the art, music and drama showcased there. The quality of this creative side of the school is incredible and, again, it is a powerful testament to the values and value of Pitsford School. I write just after the Summer Concert that many of you attended, and it was jaw-dropping in its quality and

breadth, and most importantly of all in how it distilled the unalloyed joy of our musicians finding, in Music at Pitsford, a place to create, communicate and share. Linked to that, this is the year of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, which was a triumph in every way: its scale, its invention and its quality are hard to exaggerate and the way in which it focussed the whole school in a combined, community effort was spirit-lifting. Next year is the Wizard of Oz, which promises to be as good, if not better, and with Mr Edwins now esconced in the Junior School we are looking to make more muscular the already fine drama produced there.

For a small school which lacks the numbers to have multiple teams fielded in multiple sports I am agog at the number of fixtures that we have had in all sports, and the successes accrued. In particular our elite athletes have again brought home the vegan bacon with an extraordinarily successful season crowned with a medal-laden performance at the ISA Tournament. We are punching so far above our weight in this area of school, Tyson Fury should watch out.

Our departing Class of 2023 have done themselves proud, and like the classes before them, they have left their mark on our community. From the Charity Tuck Shop, through to new initiatives in integrating with juniors and the Junior School, they have been engaged, mature and determined. I am pleased and proud of their achievements and they define what it is to be Pitsford: finding the best of themselves, igniting their passions and confidently embracing the future. Their next steps are most exciting, from the Law to Languages, through Sports Science, Medicine and Art, and beyond, to securing offers from top universities (including this year Cambridge University) the graduates of Pitsford must be applauded. That they have done so well in such trying times is heroic.

At this time, we also bid adieu to some colleagues (and this is detailed later in this august publication) but, in this message, I want to note the impact Mrs Heard made in the Junior School: she brought a great deal to the school and we are very grateful for all that she did. Her next school will be most fortunate.

And with that, I will peel off. Have a great summer and speak soon,

Dr. Walker

Thoughts from Mr Edwins...

When I arrived at Pitsford it was tricky: not knowing routines, making friends, unfamiliar work and timings, finding my way around...but perhaps it has been an ideal introduction as I have had opportunity to experience life as a brand new Pitsfordian, and therefore can totally empathise with the new children who arrive. All of these areas of school life, now feel a lot more familiar and whilst the 'honeymoon' period is definitely over I do hope to cultivate a long and lasting relationship with Pitsford. The Junior School has been a hive of activity and 'buzzy-ness' and we have finally reached the end of a very full term. We have had the silent disco, class assemblies, outdoor cinema, Space Centre trip, Pitsford Play, a coronation tea party, Thrapston water sports days, Condoval Hall residential, activity week, Moving Up Day, a very wet Sports Day, the J5 & J6 play - Did the Butler Do It?, the J6 Leavers' programme - walk, pizza party - and the whole school slip slide. Amidst all of this we have somehow found time for lessons as well as packing in numerous cricket and rounders fixtures! The children (not to mention the staff) are certainly ready for the holidays!

It has been great to meet some of the wonderful community of parents and to take the pulse of what is a thriving Junior School, watching it in action and listening to the views of all stakeholders. Fundamentally we have a wonderful setting, a dedicated team of staff, and children of whom we are immensely proud. However, we are still looking to develop and, to coin a phrase, seeking evolution, rather than revolution.

So what does next year hold in store? We will continue to provide fixtures for all children to participate in, running an A and a B team wherever possible, promoting pride in being chosen to wear the Pitsford colours. Our sport offering will be extended in terms of swimming with all children from EYFS through to J6 receiving a swimming lesson once a week. We are actively promoting the performing arts from our existing Musical Theatre tie-in with the senior school, to a collaborative whole school approach to our annual school production (The Wizard of Oz next year!), curriculum drama lessons will be introduced for every child in the school and the option of individual 1:1 LAMDA lessons will be available. Additionally, the continuation of curriculum dance lessons and optional ballet/street dance will be on offer after school. We are excited to announce that every class, from EYFS through to J6, will have a dedicated outdoor/Forest School lesson each week (whatever the weather!) as we teach the children about husbandry and make use of the terrific grounds that we have available. This is just our starting point, a comprehensive and wide ranging offer that will grow and develop over time.

The Junior School is a place where the children work hard and they play hard. It is a place where we make each day count. It is a place where we encourage risk taking, stepping out of comfort zones and embracing effort. Where potential is recognised and directed as each child makes the most of every opportunity, where each child - regardless of their starting point - can realise more than they could possibly imagine.

OUTDOOR CINEMA ARRIVES AT PITSFORD

In June, the much-awaited sunshine arrived precisely as planned, setting the stage for an unforgettable evening of Outdoor Cinema at Pitsford.

We are immensely grateful to our dedicated volunteers, including Mr. and Mrs. Hart, Eva-Mae, Mrs. Williams and Isaac, and to Mr and Mrs Sellekearts, who were so generous in lending us their popcorn machine and all the supplies. Furthermore, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all the staff members who offered their time and support.

Thanks to the support and enthusiasm of our community, we raised over £2000. This significant sum will be reinvested into enhancing the vibrant life of our school. If you would like to contribute and volunteer for future events, please contact the school office on office@pitsfordschool.com.





Coronation Party



The recent Coronation of King Charles III was a momentous occasion that Pitsford School embraced with gusto. Given our longstanding connection with the Royal Family, it seemed fitting to pull out all the stops and make this event truly unforgettable. Leading up to the Coronation, the Junior School wholeheartedly embraced the spirit of the day - vibrant hand-drawn Corgis, flags, crowns, and spectacular artwork adorned the corridors.

On a sunny Friday afternoon, Junior and Senior School students, together with their parents and teachers, congregated on the terraces of Pitsford Hall for a Coronation party. The lively tunes from the school band filled the air as attendees indulged in afternoon tea and festivities spilled out onto the Croquet lawn, where students played outdoor games. Adding a touch of hilarity to the celebration; one parent brought a life-size cut out of King Charles himself, sparking much laughter. It was a privilege to have such a royal guest among us, even if in cardboard form.

Despite a few rain clouds, everyone enjoyed a truly unforgettable afternoon. The celebrations commemorating the Coronation of King Charles III will be etched in the memories of Pitsford School students, parents, and teachers for years to come.



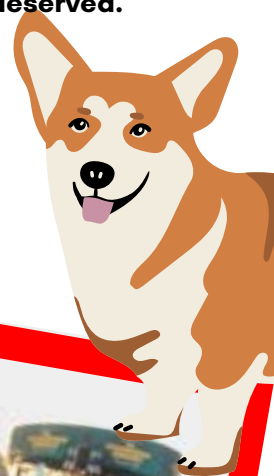


Coronation Party



Alfie's Royal Coronation Celebration

Our student Alfie C. from Year 11 was invited to attend the official Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle over the bank holiday weekend. Alfie was put forward as a Coronation Champion for his volunteering work with Nanna Animal Rescue (where he can be found volunteering most weekends) and was awarded 2 tickets to attend the Concert in recognition of his services. It was a fantastic experience and very well deserved.





Activity Week



Day 1

On Day 1 the children did a circuit of 4 different activities: a scavenger hunt, designing a circus themed t-shirt, building a Lego big top and creating a concertina clown. In the afternoon Mr Leach came to show us how to make a safe fire. We had to find the sticks, listen carefully about how to start the fire, build it up and eventually we roasted marshmallows on it as a treat when it was hot enough to cook on.



Kits and Acorns went on a coin toss walk and flipped a coin at each stop to decide the route. They had a great trip around the school! Finally, the children stamped their Pitsford Passport for the activities they have completed in the Creative, Nature, Physical and Collaboration areas.

Day 2

On Day 2 the children completed 4 morning activities: natural art, sand art magnets, scratch art magnets and clown biscuits. In the afternoon we had a Greatest Showman dance workshop which was fantastic! The children learned a 4 minute dance all in an hour... we have some very talented dancers among us!





Activity Week



In this picture the Acorns, Kits, Squirrels and J1 enjoyed a circus day! They dressed up as members of a circus:

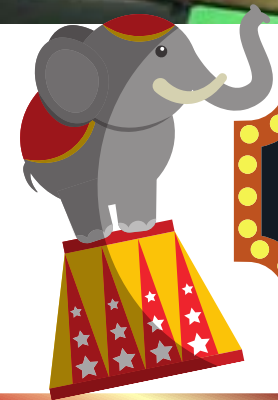


Meanwhile J2, J3 and some of J4 went to Benham. We had an action packed day with some brilliant instructors to help us!

We learned some trampoline skills:



We completed some rock climbing activities:



CIRCUS

Finally we showed off some wonderful circus skills! Phew - what a busy few days!



You've Got This!



CONDOVER

A 3 day residential trip for J4 and J5 students to Condover Hall in Shropshire...

"I enjoyed the high ropes and the sensory trail. I would recommend the residential because it was really fun. The funniest part was when Mr Edwins went on the high ropes."

By Giles

My favourite thing about Condover Hall was....

"My favourite activity was the high ropes because we were really high up and there were obstacles!"
By Orlando

"Definitely the circus skills!"
By Jake

"I enjoyed fencing, the bonfire, the sensory trail, aerial trek and rock climbing - I don't have a favourite!"
By Oslo

"Fencing was really fun although I was scared at first."
By Beau

My bravest moment was...

"2 weeks into my new life at Pitsford School, we went to Condover Hall to test my bravery and resilience in many ways - my first time away without family, trying unknown meals and sleeping in a dorm."
By Graihagh

"My favourite part of going to Condover Hall was the high ropes because I faced my fear of heights and now I'm not scared anymore."
By Chaela

"The part that needed the biggest bravery was the high ropes because I got scared when I couldn't touch the bridge so someone had to knock me onto the other side!"
By Lottie

"I was doing fencing, I went against Hester and Nicole. We went back to our rooms for a bit after dinner and then we went to a runaround quiz. The runaround quiz was fun but my favourite was the rocket. I would recommend it to the Year 3s because there were many more fun things than I said."
By Lorelai

"I was excited to go to Condover to challenge myself. I liked the rocket launch because it was fun to see who would get the furthest rocket. I like the bunk beds because they screeched all night."
By Edward

"Going to Condover was scary exciting and some of the best fun ever!
My favourite bit was when we went on the high ropes, I went round 4 times. I would recommend Condover definitely, just remember to bring earplugs!"
By Megan

Proud of myself



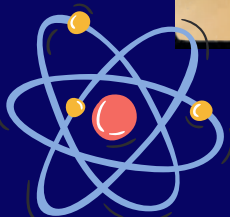
BE
Bold

Be
Brave

Enjoy

J5 visit to the Space Station

J5 had a trip to the National Space Centre on Friday 16th June. A great way to bring a science topic to life!



J5 Science Olympics



We enjoyed our annual Science Olympics competition on Wednesday 21st June. We were delighted to host eight local schools who each entered a team of budding scientists from Year 5. Thanks for coming Pitsford Primary School, Spratton Hall, Kingsthorpe Grove Primary School, The Duston School, Brixworth Primary, Mawsley Community Primary and St Luke's CE Primary, as well as our own J5 team.

Science Olympics experiments consisted of flame tests, a biggest bubble competition, orienteering using Science clues, elephants toothpaste experiment and finished with some spectacular rocket firing. All the children enjoyed the day and represented their schools brilliantly. Our own team from J5 were fantastic and came in joint second place. Big congratulations to Mawsley Community Primary who won the competition with their team, excellent job all!





Silent Disco



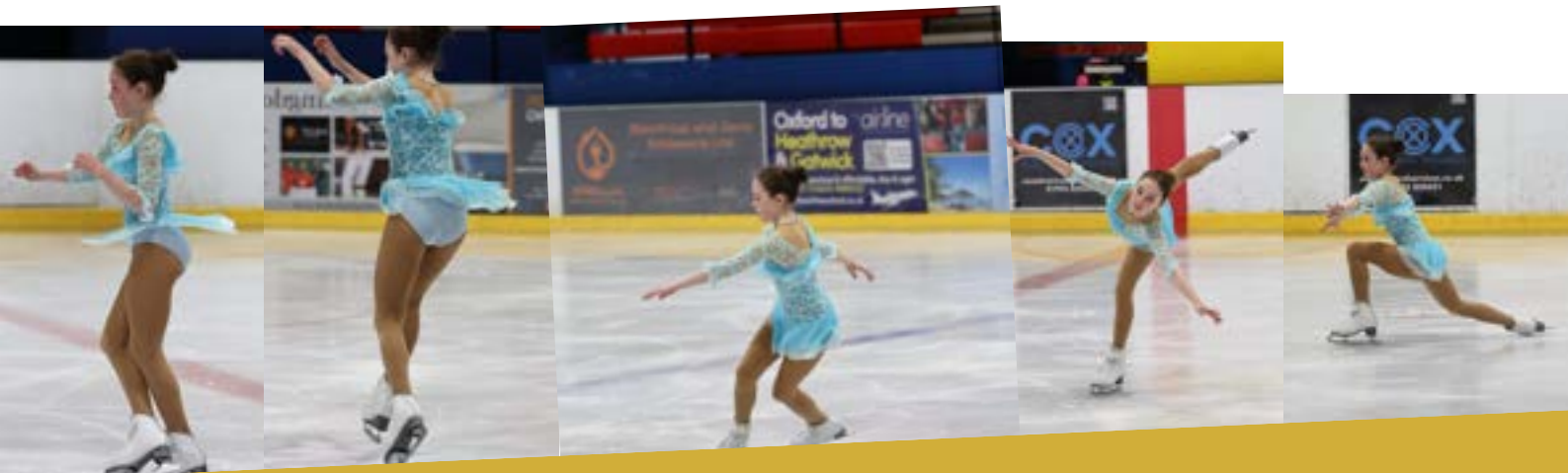
In May, Junior School students from J1 to J5 and J6 to Year 8 enjoyed a fabulously fun Silent Disco in the Junior School Hall. Everyone really enjoyed themselves and showed us their best dance moves - teachers included! The Sixth Formers ran a tuck shop and raised an impressive £100 for charity.



Erin's Skating Success!



On Tuesday 20th June, Year 6 pupil, Erin A, did incredibly well at the Oxford Open scoring a personal best! She was 7th overall in her category, which is also her best placement yet. With this being her first competition at this level, Erin scored high enough to move to the top level of the Under 13 age group even though she has 2 more years left. Well done, Erin!



Juniors Leavers Assembly



On Monday 10th July, the Junior School hosted a very special assembly for all the J6 pupils moving into Year 7 in September. Whether moving up or shipping out to pastures new, we wish them all the best of luck. We will miss you!

Class of 2023

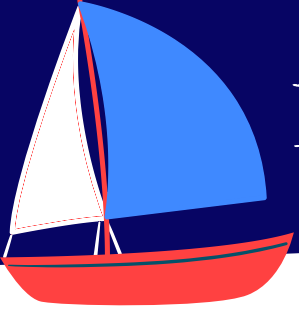


Did the Butler Do It?



Lady Jemima Fitzwilliam's valuable pearls have been stolen! This looks like a job for aged amateur sleuth Mrs Clues, but does Jeeves the Butler know something important which can shed light on the subject? J5 and J6 acted their hearts out in the Junior School summer performance in the penultimate week of term - not forgetting Jude H's light and sound tech skills. Well done to all on a wonderful show!





Messing about on the River



J6 enjoyed a gloriously warm and sunny two days doing water sports at Thrapston Sea Cadets during activity week. Day 1 involved kayaking and sailing, and despite some trepidation, everyone had a go and many (literally) threw themselves in! Day 2 began with a fiercely contested raft-building competition, and the winning raft successfully travelled 50 meters out into the lake and back, with the team attached. A picnic and walk around the lake ended a fantastic couple of days.

Meanwhile, the Senior School have had lots of fun paddleboarding in the SAP Club led by Mrs Kirk over at Thrapston.



Awesome!

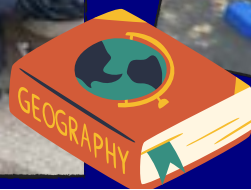
Year 7 Visit to the Peak District



Year 10 Visit to Hathersage

Leaving Pitsford in torrential rain on Tuesday 20th June left the Year 7's feeling a bit pessimistic about completing their fieldwork and we were very grateful to the National Trust for letting us use their covered area at the Longshore Estate to do our initial learning. Of course, all Year 7 really wanted to do was play on the rocks, so we were delighted when the weather broke enough to allow us to get up on the moor for a bit of weasling- a cross between scrambling, bouldering and caving. Great for building confidence, strength, balance, teamwork and good judgement. It's all about supporting each other and working together- and Year 7 did us proud. Thank you Blue Mountain Adventure - and of course to Mr Lewis from organising this (sandwiched between three weekends of Duke of Edinburgh expeditions). Mr Lewis really must like his rocks and landscapes to give up so much of his time to share this passion with the pupils.

A spectacular day yesterday in what must be one of the most beautiful landscapes in Britain. The Year 10 Geographers were completing a field study on Hathersage Moor to understand the ways in which a landscape has changed over time. Burbage Brook is studied yearly by Pitsford School so we can see changes in the data as a legacy of one year to another. You can see from the photos why this small stream has been designated as a SSSI and why our data was to be collected at specific locations and under the strict guidance of environmental ethics. The couples picnicking on the banks of the brook also enjoyed Mr Lewis' explanations and conversing with the children about the methodology they were using. Our pupils were as polite and charming as ever.





Year 8 Hampton Court



Year 7 Kenilworth Castle

Pitsford School was lucky enough to be picked by Historic Royal Palaces (who run and operate Hampton Court Palace). Year 8 and Pitsford School History teachers Mr Harrison and Mrs Davies set out by coach early Tuesday morning, packed lunches in hand. When we arrived, we were taken back by the majesty and opulence of Hampton Court Palace which was first built by Henry VIII's chief minister, the infamous Cardinal Thomas Wolsey.

In 1838, Queen Victoria opened the palace to the public. Thanks to Queen Victoria, Year 8 got to experience the beautiful architecture and ornate quality of life enjoyed by English monarchs. Our first workshop gave us a guided tour of many of the state rooms and halls, with a focus on the changes in religion experienced during the Tudor period. Our second workshop saw two teams compete against each other in a heated debate over the succession crisis on the death of Edward VI and Mary I. All of the tour guides commented on our students' fantastic attitude to learning and their excellent behaviour. We hope to win this competition again next year, so we can experience this wonderful educational trip with our new Year 8's next year.

Mr Harrison, Assistant Head and Head of History

It was a privilege to return to Kenilworth Castle after so long. Year 7 jumped enthusiastically on to the minibuses on Monday 3rd July with Mr Harrison and Mrs Cowling ready for a medieval adventure. Mr Harrison led the tour around the castle and showed the development of its features through the different time periods. Beginning at the imposing Norman keep, students had a chance to see the many defensive features such as the 3m thick walls and arrow slit windows commonly used in medieval castle building. Our final stops included Leicester's Building and Leicester's Gatehouse. After lunch and some delicious hot chocolates bought by many at the cafe in the Tudor stables, Y7s took part in a competition to photograph the various features of the castle. We finished the day with a visit to the gift shop (a must it seems these days!), before jumping back on the minibuses for the return journey. As always, staff at the castle commented on the good behaviour and manners of Pitsford School students and even jumped in on a photograph! We will see you next year Kenilworth Castle!





Ex-Pitsford pupil asks for sustainable pledges to reduce our carbon footprint

I was a one of the first pupils at Pitsford School in 1989 and I was inspired by my teacher, Mike Lewis, to study Geography at Leeds University.

For 20 years I've worked to protect communities against floods from rivers, reservoirs, the sea, and overwhelmed drains. Nowadays, as a Chartered Water and Environmental Manager, I concentrate on ways to protect the planet from the changing climate. This includes helping us all to recognise our different roles in sustainability.

Living sustainably doesn't just benefit nature. It also brings immediate financial, health and social co-benefits to us and others. There's a range of steps for you and your family that suit many circumstances and values. Here are four examples along with their co-benefits:

- better insulate your loft, walls, and water tank – on average saves at least £800 each year
- walk or cycle instead of driving short distances – saves fuel/ money, improves fitness, lowers street air pollution, and reduces childhood asthma in our neighbourhoods
- eat a plant-based diet with less processed foods – lessens the risk of developing a serious illness in your lifetime
- buy pre-loved garments (e.g. school clothes) or fewer than three new pieces per year – eases the social impacts and demands on water resources.

Taking these steps avoids at least 2.7 tonnes of greenhouse gases (emissions) per person each year. To put this into perspective, the average UK person emits around 8.5 tonnes. If we wish to avert grave harm to ourselves and nature, the annual emissions target is less than 3 tonnes per person by 2030. The origins of facts in this article are in my short, peer-reviewed Low Carbon Living Advice Note.

This summer, I invite you and your children to try three measures from the Advice Note. To add a bit of fun, consider making a competition. For instance, see who can do the most or who has the longest commitment. If it helps, I'm still sticking to public pledges I made in April 2023: to halve my car use, only fly every three years, and talk to someone everyday about living sustainably.

In the next academic year there will be opportunities on Firefly for sharing your discoveries and experiences. Also, in Autumn 2023 there will be interactive assemblies that will encourage pledges from pupils and staff to live more sustainably. There's a role for everyone, everywhere, all at once!

Andrew Robinson BSc (Hons), MSc, MCIWEM, C.WEM, CEnv, CSci





Year 11 Leavers



Here are our Year 11 students just before study leave. Students enjoyed signing each others shirts and eating Krispy Kreme doughnuts on the terrace in the sunshine.

We look forward to seeing many of you return for Sixth Form but until then have a good study leave and best of luck with your exams!

- Year 11 Prom - 19TH JUNE 2023

Summer's evening celebration of the class of '23. The Year 11's decorated Pitsford Hall beautifully and danced on a starlit dance floor and mingled in the evening sun on the terraced lawns. Congratulations to all, and you look stunning every one of you!









Upper Sixth Leavers Service

11th May 2023



It's an annual tradition that on the last day for Upper Sixth, before they leave for exams, they execute a prank of some kind. We arrived into School to find ourselves magically transported to the beaches of California with the Baywatch lifeguards on duty. Upper Sixth greeted our cars with a water gun screen wash as we came into School and one of our sports fields was transformed into a lovely beach! The new 'Pitsford School Lifeguard Association' led the Senior School assembly and warned younger students about crocodiles and facilities in the new 'pool' on the field. The assembly was really funny and Upper Sixth really did themselves proud as always.



In the evening Upper Sixth returned to Pitsford Hall for a formal leavers dinner. The dinner is always special and takes place in Pitsford Hall. Upper Sixth students and teaching staff enjoyed three delicious courses and many speeches were made to remember favourite moments and wish each other well. It was fantastic to hear the memories about the School from the students, some of whom have been in the School since they were in Reception! Mrs Kirk, Deputy Head, said of the evening "If we could bottle the atmosphere and experience, we would, so that you could fully appreciate how special this group of students is and the relationships they have with the School".



Sixth Form Ball



Another special event in our school calendar as we mark the leaving of our Upper Sixth (yes again), this time at our Sixth Form Ball. We are happy to share some of this beauty with our proud parents and our community. We still have Speech Day so it's not goodbye yet. But congratulations to all in completing your A Levels and enjoy the well earned partying and rest. The Lower Sixth and teachers will miss you.





Sixth Form Leadership Team 2023-24

Congratulations to our new 6th form leadership team for the 2023-24 academic year :

Heads of School: Alanna and Annabelle

Deputy Heads of School: Libby K and Ella

Head of Charity: Luca



House Captains:

Hesketh: Cara

Robinson: Ella and Lauretta

Wake: Libbie C



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Walk

The Year 10 students worked hard towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award and were at large in the wild in the Peak District in June. They had a wonderful time and made the most of some beautiful weather. Their spirits remained high, despite significant distances travelled to reach their walk. Thank you Mrs Cowling, Mr Leach and Mr Lewis for taking them.





Duke of Edinburgh Gold Walk



On the 16th of June, after a quick Mcflurry at McDonalds the DofE group embarked on a gruelling 3-day practice walk in the Rinogs of North Wales guided by Tim and his dog Brody. With unpredictable weather and varying terrain, the group of 5 survived thunderstorms and scaled cliff sides to be rewarded with some fish and chips from Barnmouth, and yet another McDonalds stop. The first time any had walked with a 16kg bag they were relieved to be done, for now.

By Cara R

Thousands upon thousands of footsteps later, the tremendous DofE Gold group returned triumphant but exhausted after spending the weekend walking around Betws-y-coed. 58km in distance and just short of 2,500 m of ascent (the equivalent of climbing Ben Nevis twice). Our team demonstrated outstanding teamwork, strong navigation skills and a really positive can-do mindset. Through wind, rain, lightning and sunshine, they finally arrived in the sun to enjoy delicious ice cream. Everyone was looking forward to getting home to warm comfy beds, but the verdict is that this challenge is definitely worth it!



Art at Pitsford

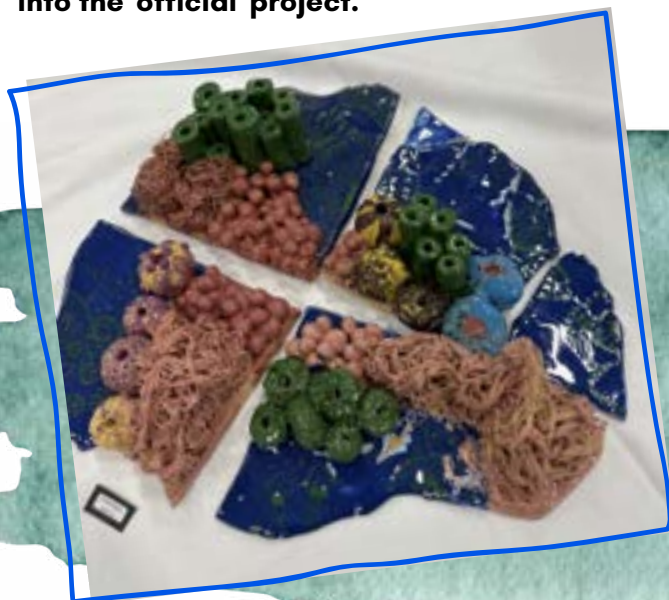


This past term in Art has been absolutely crazy (ier than usual), as we have been working furiously towards GCSE completion, A Level completion, two moderation shows, as well as the highly anticipated Arts Festival & Exhibition!

The GCSE and A Level students made us so proud, and although the moderators are not allowed to breath a word, we are proud of the work produced by all examination students this year.

The quality of work was mirrored by our upcoming young artists from Year 7 & 8 with students developing skills in colour blending, composition and learning to paint in acrylics! Based on what we have seen, the future certainly looks bright for Pitsford Art Department.

Year 9 also blew our socks off this term. They started a 'Mini GCSE' project based on the starting point 'Natural Forms' and have shown super focus and determination. As a result, they are well prepared for Septembers foray into the 'official' project.





Art at Pitsford

The project the Year 10's have been working on to an extremely high standard uses a large range of materials ranging from traditional pencil and paint to printmaking, ceramics and digital art. We are excited to share this next year post-examination!

Every students work at Pitsford is fantastic. The Junior School have been working just as hard on creating amazing pieces. The J6 class even spent some time with us in the senior department, creating fabulous clay masks inspired by the Greek Gods!

Every student in the school from Acorns to the exam students in 10, 11, 12 and 13 displayed a piece of their amazing work at our Summer Exhibition. It was an absolutely fantastic event launched on Friday by Dr Walker presenting the Headmasters award to TWO worthy winners, Emily F and Dom K. The Headmaster's Award is awarded to the piece that appeals the most to the Headmaster and an undertaking that is not an easy one.

We were also excited to invite visiting artist Colin Procter who showed his recent work and ran a fun workshop for students on the Saturday, which resulted in some lovely illustration work created by collage and printing.

Saturday also brought many more visitors and an unbelievable performance by the student ensemble. This was led by George H (Year 10) who really did make us proud facilitating both individual and group performances. Despite the muggy day, we had a steady stream of support from families current and prospective, who enjoyed the work, the music and a refreshing ice cream from the Gallones van - a lovely addition to a gorgeous day.

"I am an artist & illustrator creating paintings, drawings & digital images from the world I see around me. My aim is to bring out the poetry and mystery that I find in overlooked, "ugly" or "dull" subjects. After working for many years in an abstract style, my most recent work has returned to recognisable imagery, usually of urban scenes. In these, I emphasise form, light, & texture, to create a sense of atmosphere."

Colin Procter





Music News

Summer Concert 28th June 2023



A fantastic evening was presented by the students from both Junior and Senior schools.

With music ranging from Bach to Quincy Jones and everything in between, the audience were treated to performances by Pitsford Players, Pitsford Singers, Cantabile singers and the Musical Theatre Group along with soloists.

There were solos from Freya D, Julian H, Emma H, William H, George H, Vanessa K, Chalea M, Sadie S along with a vocal duet from Annabelle B and Ella S and a clarinet duet by Calypso S and Emma H.

The musical theatre group wowed with performances of 'The Greatest Show' A number from 'Bugsy Malone' along with a fabulous rendition of 'Revolting Children' from 'Matilda'.

The Junior Musical theatre group, accompanied by Pitsford Players sang the lively track 'Ease on Down the Road' from 'The Wiz', complete with their own choreography. Pitsford Players demonstrated versatility with music from Austin Powers, the show 'Wicked' the popular hit 'Don't Stop Believing' and finished off with a rousing 'Uptown Funk'.

The musical talent on the evening was outstanding and the students were brilliant as always.



School production news...

We are delighted to announce that our next production, which will take place in February 2024 will see us all going on a trip - 'follow the yellow brick road!' We hope you will be able to join us.

Students should keep their eyes peeled for audition information which will be sent out via Firefly. Auditions for main roles will take place in early September. Anyone can be in the chorus and there will be lots of backstage help needed.



Grade exams

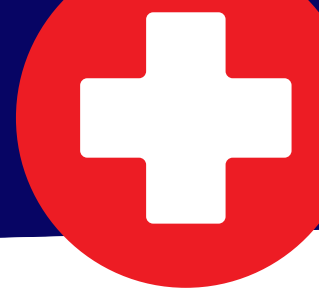
Congratulations to the following students:

- Will W - Grade 1 Singing with Merit
- Ciara M - Grade 3 Rock and Pop vocals with Distinction
- Emma H - Grade 5 Singing with Merit
- Isaac W - Grade 5 Singing with Distinction
- Ming F - Grade 7 Piano with Distinction
- Eleanor T - Year 7 Grade 4 Viola





Medical Society News



Medical Society Trip to University of Leicester

On Thursday 11th May, 4 Lower Sixth students were fortunate enough to have been invited to the University of Leicester Medical School to be volunteers for the current medical students to practise key skills on. The Pitsford students each had a station where they were given a role to play that focused on either history taking, medication or lifestyle. There was also a physical examination where the medical students chose which exam they wanted to perform. This was in preparation for their upcoming OSCE exams and throughout the visit and we were able to ask them questions about life at Leicester University, Medicine as a course, and how to strengthen our applications. This was an incredible experience and we would like to thank Dr Farrah Mustaq, the medical students at Leicester University, and Mrs Cowling for giving us such a unique opportunity and for helping us gain insight into Medicine.



L-R: Alanna, Cara, Libbie,
Luca



George Davies Centre, University of Leicester

Medical Society First Aid Course

The Medical Society did an online first aid course on Tuesday 6th June with The British Red Cross. They were taught about the importance of taking action and not being a passive bystander. They also learned about how to deal with bleeds, head injuries and broken bones.





Junior Sport Round Up



Quadkids Athletics Event

On Thursday 22nd June Mrs Tuplin and Mr Auckland took eight students (all of J3 and two from J2) to the South Northants and Daventry district Quadkids athletics finals at Daventry athletics club. This event, which is part of the national school games programme for schools, was fantastic - there were over 300 athletes competing for 20 different schools.

It is a multi-event competition, and all of our students completed a 400m run, a 50m sprint, a standing long jump and a vortex howler throw, accumulating points for their team as they did so. We also participated in some fun relays at the end. For many of the students this was their first inter-school athletics competition and they all did really well, especially as they were the youngest team there. The sun was shining, the picnic was tasty and we all had a fantastic day out, made even better the ice pops afterwards!!



Junior Cricket Round Up

The summer term saw a number of exciting fixtures being played for both the under 9 and under 11 teams from the Juniors. On April 26, both teams played against Maidwell - the U9 side at home and the U11 side away. The U9 played well in their first ever fixture, with some great batting and running. Bowling was an area in which we clearly needed to work, however, as the number of wide / no balls soon racked up, resulting in a narrow defeat for the blues. The U11 fared better, with good fielding and several wickets allowing the older side to gain an overall victory against Maidwell.

On May 3, both sides again played together, this time all were away at Spratton Hall. Clearly learning from their first match, and with the benefit of some focused training, the U9 side put in a fantastic performance across the board, batting superbly and causing wickets to tumble. The result was a hard-earned victory against Spratton.

The U11 side found this fixture tougher, however, and narrowly lost by twenty or so runs against a clearly experienced and well-drilled Spratton U11 side.

The final two fixtures were on 14 June (U11 v Quinton House) and 23 June (U9 v Quinton). Pitsford were hoping to gain a home advantage for these matches, and they certainly demonstrated how much they have all improved in this short term. Impressive batting and far sharper bowling technique contributed to a very close game in both cases, with Pitsford narrowly losing by a handful of runs, due mainly to Quinton's impressively tight fielding.

Overall this was a really positive cricket season for the Juniors, that saw a significant number of students participate in, and enjoy, training and match fixtures. Well done to everyone who took part and for being outstanding ambassadors for your school.



Junior Sports Day

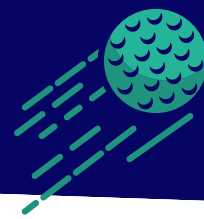


Spirits were high despite the wet weather on Junior Sports Day where our intrepid Junior pupils battled it out on the slippery playing fields for their respective Houses - Green, Blue and Red. The supporters loudly cheered on the children - parents too - in the variety of races including the 600m race, egg and spoon race and the obstacle race!



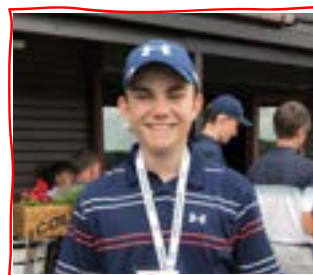


Senior Sports

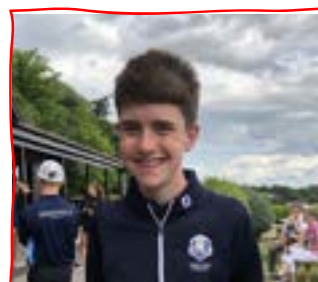


Pitsford Golf Team Have Drive!

Congratulations to the Pitsford Golf team who played brilliantly at the ISA National Golf Competition at Worksop College on Wednesday 21st June. Ollie P was awarded 'nearest the pin', Isaac S was awarded 'winner' and the team was awarded 'overall team winners'. What a fantastic result and they should all feel very proud!



Overall
winner,
Isaac.



'Nearest the
Pin' winner,
Ollie.

L-R: Giuseppe M, Isaac W, Ollie P, Kieron R-C

Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day in June was a hotly contested inter-house event across all year groups in the Senior School. Every student represented their house; whether on the track or in the field throughout the afternoon. Each member of Robinson, Hesketh or Wake house participated in at least 2 events of their choice, with many students competing in as many events as they could physically manage!

A rousing speech from the Heads of each House set the tone for the afternoon. Students stepped in to additional events where they could to earn extra participation points for their houses and everyone showed amazing house spirit. The top 6 athletes were awarded additional house points linked to their finishing positions to determine the overall winning house.





Sports Day

With the sun shining all students supported fellow members of their house in each event with great excitement, Hesketh took the lead half way through the afternoon. This was testament to the Hesketh house and they ended up winning overall.

There were many closely fought races on the track with the largest number of u13 athletes entering the 100m races for the first time, there were heats with the fastest time across all winning. There were a number of pupils achieving season best and personal bests for their events, it was so rewarding to see their hard work translated into results and growing confidence. A number more have recently joined local athletics clubs and it is hoped more have been inspired to attend the Summer sessions at the local track over the Summer holiday.

Well done to all house members and staff and thanks to parents for coming along to support the competition. It is always exciting to see the final relay races with all cheering their teams on through to the finishing line and potential victory!



The victor/victrix are:

U13 (joint) - Milo and Sam H

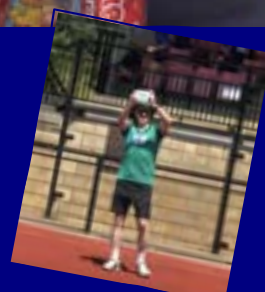
U13 - Georgie B

U16 - Ollie S

U16 - Calypso

U18 - Cara

U18 - Sidney





Sports Round-up

Northampton Town Athletics Championship

On a perfect day for Athletics, the Year 7 team travelled across to Rockingham Stadium to compete against Northampton's best athletes which saw over 10 of the Pitsford performances finish in the top 6. Huge congratulations go to Sam H who claimed the town's bronze medal in Discus. This means Sam will progress to the County meeting and a chance to pitch himself up against the top performers in Northamptonshire, good luck to Sam at the next stage.



Meanwhile Mr Erskine and I took great pride in the way the team approached the events, conducting themselves in an exemplary manner and showing great team spirit, support and camaraderie. It was the perfect introductory taste of Athletics for the Year 7 athletes and a new completely new experience for some, I really look forward to seeing them enjoy building on the experience for future performances.

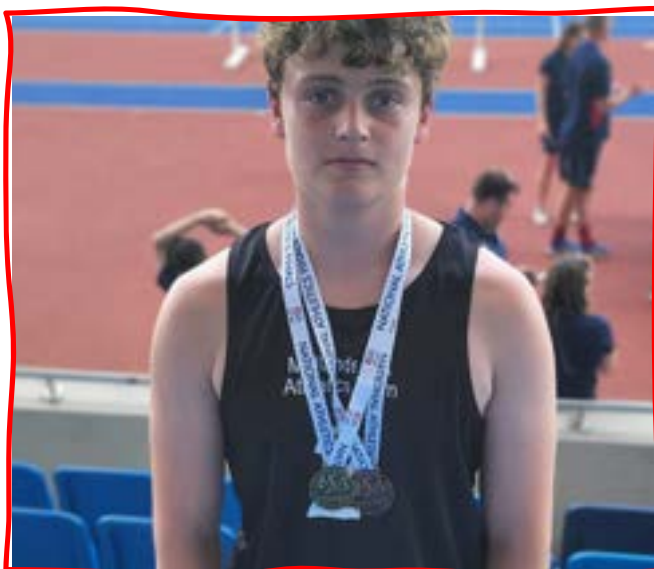
Words by Mr Kefford

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ISA National Athletics Finals, Birmingham

Best of luck to our team of athletes who competed on Monday 19th June competing in the ISA National Athletics Finals at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. It's a huge event and the atmosphere must be amazing!

Good luck to Owura, Louis, Lewis, Zawati and Sidney all competing in various events throughout the day.





Pitsford School Careers Fair



A big thank you to all the exhibitors who came to the Careers Fair at Pitsford School to share their experience and expertise with our pupils, visiting pupils and their parents. It was great to have representatives from higher and further education, universities, apprenticeships and a range of businesses. It was a valuable opportunity for engaging curiosity and exploring some avenues previously not considered. Students really enjoyed it and came away inspired! Exhibitors had some lovely feedback about the students they had spoken to.

Huge thanks to: Elsby Chartered Accountants, Wilson Browne Solicitors, Starting Off, British Army, Royal Navy, GSS Architecture, University of Northampton, University of Leicester, The Bedford College Group, Northampton College, Bidwells, Weavers Medical Centre, Towergate Insurance, NHS Hospital Trust, Mercy Muroki, Andrew Ross, Textbook Teachers Ltd, Abington Park Veterinary Group, Blue Skies, Keith Wright Consultancy, Bishop Grosseteste University, De Montfort University, NFU (National Farmers' Union), CA-WN and Rachelle Peart. Thanks so much for giving up your time, we really appreciate it. The Careers Fair was a great success and is sure to feature in our annual calendar of events.





Goodbye

As we round up another jam packed school year, the class of 2023 would like to say thank you and au-revoir to some members of staff who are leaving at the end of this term...

Mrs Lyon - we wish Mrs Lyon a wonderful retirement after 20 years of teaching at Pitsford. She will be greatly missed by staff and students alike, but she will be popping in to help our GCSE German class finish their course next term.

Dr Cabrera-Alvarez - we hope she will be as successful in her new role as she has been at Pitsford for the past 7 years. Thank you!

Mrs Cunningham - we are also saying farewell to Mrs Cunningham; thank you for all of your hard work, not just in Biology, but also in your pastoral work with KS3.

Mr Swinford - Good luck in your new role and a huge thank you for leading the English department.

Mrs Bryant - a fond farewell and good luck as she embarks on her teaching training course.

Upcoming Events

Friday 1st September: School opens for Year 7 students

Monday 4th September: School opens for all year groups

Friday 15th September: Coffee and Croissants with Dr Walker and Mr Edwins

Saturday 30th September: Whole School Open Day

Friday 13th October: Junior Halloween Disco

Sunday 5th November: Bonfire and Fireworks Night

Saturday 2nd December: Christmas Fair

End of term!



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