

April 2020 - edition 10

@wexham

OPPORTUNITY  
INSPIRATION  
SUCCESS



The newsletter for Wexham School

This edition covers the period from January until the School sadly closed on 20th March 2020, in line with the UK Government's restrictions to beat the Coronavirus Pandemic. We wish all our school community a safe and healthy time until we once again reopen. Please all look after yourselves, help others and be as positive as you can at this incredibly difficult time. **Lawrence Smith – Headteacher**

# SPORT RELIEF 2020

**You did it.** You helped to raise a staggering **£40,540,355.**

You can relive all the action on BBC iPlayer. All the money raised goes to people living

incredibly tough lives here in the UK and around the world.

Thanks to the money Wexham helped to raise to support this amazing cause, we have helped to fund lots of organisations which support the most vulnerable people in society.

And in recent times these are the people who will be hit hardest by



coronavirus.

The Sport Relief team have been working tirelessly to help many organisations to respond to the coronavirus crisis.

*Thank you!*



They are offering emergency funding and more flexibility to help organisations reshape their services so they can still be there for the people they help, including; those affected by mental health problems, domestic abuse, children living in poverty and people without a safe place to be, amongst many others.

# 23rd World Book Day

**World Book Day** is a registered charity on a mission to give every child and young person a book of their own. It's also a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) it's a celebration of reading. In fact, it's the biggest celebration of its kind, designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and marked in over 100 countries all over the world.

This is the 23rd year there's been a World Book Day, and on 5th March 2020, children of all



ages including our students came together to appreciate reading. Very loudly and very happily.

The main aim of World Book Day in the UK and Ireland is to encourage children to explore the pleasures of books and reading by providing them with the opportunity to have a book of their own.

This year our very own Librarian Mrs Spina-Beatty held assemblies for all year groups to talk them through the power that reading can have on a young persons life.



# Pond Renovation Project

As you have by now probably noticed the pond area along the staff room corridor has undergone a 'make over'.

We have been very lucky this term to have been chosen by the Mars/Wrigley Volunteer Group who are part of the Slough Business Community Partnership, who came into school in February to complete this project. I'm sure you would agree it looks great!

A big thank you to the site team for all their hard work in preparing the area for the volunteers during the half term break.



## INTER FORM

Dodgeball Competitions recently were delivered through our inter-form competition system for Years 7, 8 and 9. With significantly improved attendances on last term, these events were very successful and lots of students had a great time participating. Thank you very much to the Leaders of Year and Form Tutors, especially Year 8, for supporting us both in organising teams and in attending the events. It is much appreciated. The winners were: Year 7: Pankhurst; Year 8: Pankhurst; Year 9: Boys - Luther King and Girls - Deacon



## Year 8 Sportshall Athletics Competition

In January a team of Year 8 students competed at the annual Slough Schools Sports hall Athletics competition, hosted at Langley Grammar School.



It was a gruelling day of competition and our top three students had a positive afternoon and it was an enjoyable competitive experience for them.

They are already working on next years training.

## Homework Club and Support @ Wexham

**Homework Club** is a place for our students to work on their homework, reading and other projects in a casual setting.

Students are given the opportunity to work collaboratively and quietly to discuss their work. They are able to seek support from the expert teachers and their peers here at Wexham.



## Vocation, Vocation, Vocation

Our BTEC construction group have been busy creating their products for final assessment for their vocational qualification that they are studying.

As you can see from the end result, our students have been developing both their skills and knowledge and helping them to develop lifelong skills that they will require.



## Senior Citizens from Langley visit Wexham

Ten senior citizens from Langley Haven Dementia Care Home visited us here at Wexham.

They had a great time with a group of our Year 12 volunteers who were building relationships with them in an enjoyable afternoon.



## Settling into Science

Miss Ahmed has settled in well to the Science department providing the students with an opportunity to practically explore Science which is clearly inspiring them to achieve



# WEXHAM SCHOOL TWITTER

Our twitter account is: @Wexham\_School

If you are keen to see the great work which takes place at Wexham on a weekly basis, why don't you follow us on twitter?



# Year 9 University Aspirations

The University of Reading offer a range of talks and workshops based around a range of themes including: How to choose a university; Preparing for an open day; Writing personal statements (what admissions tutors look for); Interviews for universities; Student life



and Student finance.

A selection of our year 9 students were treated to a general introduction to the University, they experienced a campus tour and met with some current students to talk through what it is like to be a student at University.

## Creative and practical debates

Year 9 GCSE RE students have been completing their project based on the theme of expressing faith through art. The students have enjoyed taking part in religious debates in a creative and practical way. As you can see there are some talented artists here at Wexham!



## YR7 Reward Visit - Treatz for hard work

The Year 7 Eco Group attended a reward trip for their hard work and efforts in their war against litter campaign.

They visited Treatz in February.



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My name is **Sarvinder Phalora** and I am very excited to be joining Wexham school as Lead Practitioner within the Mathematics department.

In my last post, I was Head of Maths in a brand new, start-up school in Isleworth, in which I created the department from scratch.

I am incredibly proud of how popular the subject of Maths became amongst pupils – rating it above all other subjects, when surveyed.

Before this, I was a middle leader at a large comprehensive in Brent and Deputy HoD at an academy in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

Growing up, my biggest role model was my Maths teacher, who was an incredible teacher of the subject – making it look seemingly effortless. Despite no discernible



lesson planning involved, he had a knack of making this subject look incredibly easy – even in Year 13!

I completed a

joint-honours degree at the University of Southampton in Mathematics and Physics, before embarking on my route into teaching by completing my PGCE at the University of Oxford in 2011. I stayed on at the University to complete my masters in Learning & Teaching.

Outside of school hours, I enjoy participating in team sports, such as football and cricket, as well as spending many hours in the gym!

Favourite colour: White  
Favourite season: Summer – the hotter the better!  
Favourite number: 1.618  
Favourite TV series: Arrested Development  
Fun fact: Travelling Sri Lanka back in August 2016.



# Active in Mind

An 'Active in Mind' mentor training took place in January and was lead by the former GB track athlete Lesley Owusu. Lesley visited the school and she spent the morning training five of our Year 12 students to be mentors for a Youth Sport Trust programme called 'Active in Mind'.

Our five mentors will work with a nurture group of Year 7 and Year 8 children next half-term with a focus on developing mental wellbeing and how physical activity can play a significant part in that.



## Year 7 Rugby Coaching



During early February the Year 7 tutor groups took part in a rugby taster session led by a coach from Slough Rugby club.

This was a valuable addition to their normal PE curriculum and with nearly 150 children taking part in one day it was a truly successful programme.





# Change over time

The A-Level Geography students are required to complete an independent geographical enquiry for their Non-Examined Assessment.

The students developed their own investigation question. We spent a day at Canary Wharf, Brick Lane and Shoreditch in London.

The students were looking at how places have changed over time, gentrification and crime within an area.

We also visited the Barclay's Building to discuss career and apprenticeship options after completing A-Level courses. We went to Milford-on-Sea to look at how physical processes affect the coastline, how the coastline is being managed and the effectiveness of coastal defences in the area.

The students used these trips to complete their Non-Examined Assessment and had a great time!





## Boccia competition

Recently we hosted and competed in the annual Slough Schools Boccia competition. Although our boys did not win this event they performed well and represented the school positively. Wexham School also provided leaders from Year 12 who assisted with officiating the event and they all did a fantastic job.



## Crazy science

Our Science department and students had a fantastic time during ational Science week in March, with specialist and focused Science clubs running for our year 7 and 8s.

They took part in a range of exciting activities including creating bath bombs and making hovercrafts.

A massive thanks to our hard working Science technician Ritchie, who brought all of our Science departments crazy ideas to life, including a human size hover craft!"



## Aerobic Fun at Wexham

The year 7's have recently been taking part in aerobic workshops and it was pleasing to see them embracing their aerobic challenge! Aerobic exercise reduces the

risk of many conditions, including obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes and certain types of cancer.



## In memory of Mohammed

**W**e were extremely saddened to learn of the tragic loss of Mohammed Ashraq in early January. Mohammed left Wexham last year

but his loss has been very much felt by all of us at the school.

Mohammed was a very caring and kind student who had a great sense of humour and was always very popular. He was also a very talented boxer and pursued this outside of school to great effect .

A crowd funding page was set up by Mohammed's family and they exceeded the target that was set. With this money they are intending to build a well for Mohammed in a country that is less fortunate. It is also intended to donate Quran's in local mosques and distribute prayer mats so that he continues to acquire blessings. - **Mr. Smith**

**I** can't believe I'm sat here writing this. Especially about a person so full of life and vivacity. None of us who were lucky enough to know Mohammed will ever forget him or his cheeky smile.

What a character. He had that rarest of abilities; to light up a room and make everyone in it laugh, his teachers included! He was held in the highest regard by

the Wexham School community and made such a positive contribution to the school and to the lives of all those he met. I don't have the words to express what a loss this is.

I am so sad for everyone who knew him

especially all his friends in Year 13 and in particular his lovely family. Rest in Peace Mohammed. You'll never be forgotten. - **Mr Shepherd**



**I** had the privilege of having Mohammed in my tutor group from Year 7 to 11. I am still in shock about the tragedy that has happened. Mohammed was a key part of our form group and year group. He was always making us smile and laugh every day. He was kind to every person in our school community.

He had a positive energy and was always striving to better himself in school. Every day he would ask me if he had done well because he wanted to make his family proud. I will never forget him or his cheeky smile. I know he meant a lot to the Year 13's and together we have created a memory book to remember him.

I am devastated that this has happened- it shouldn't have happened- but I will always remember him. Rest in peace Mohammed. - **Miss O'Neill**

## Reaching for the Stars

Students in year 7 have been exploring the spooky 'Darkwood Manor' this term.

This has involved students creating a scary piece of drama. Students explored the stimulus, then planned a piece of drama which developed into writing a script before their big finale performance with lights and props.

Miss Pike is delivering an amazing curriculum over in Drama which is providing our students with a range of opportunities and inspiration.

