

May 2018 - edition 2

@wexham

OPPORTUNITY
INSPIRATION
SUCCESS



The newsletter for Wexham School

THANK YOU WEXHAM



What an incredible Sport Relief! Thanks to your fundraising and donations, we've helped Sport Relief to raise an amazing

£38,195,278 so far! That money will now be put to work, helping people live happier, healthier, safer lives.



Years 7,8 and 9 had a fantastic time raising money for this year's Sports Relief.

An inflatable assault course was installed in the sports centre and students could compete against friends - fastest through the various obstacles won. In other parts of the centre there was a sponsored skip-athon, and staff versus sixth form football match with the sixth formers beating staff by 4 - 2. Harmanjeet and Taran scored impressive goals.

Students throughout the school were taught in their PHSE lessons the value of sport in different societies as well discovering how the money they raised was spent to help the poorest.

Sport Relief is a biennial charity event from Comic Relief, in association with BBC Sport, which brings together the worlds of sport and entertainment to raise money to help vulnerable people in both the UK and the world's poorest countries.

Academic enrichment from University College London

UCL Sutton Scholars is a free two-year academic enrichment programme delivered in partnership with the Sutton Trust, for Year 8-9 students who attend state schools.

The programme develops independent research, group work, presentation and writing skills to support academic attainment. Students also explore their GCSE and A Level choices, including facilitating subjects, and consider their future study



options.

Dahir and Sian in Yr 8 have been accepted onto the UCL Sutton Scholar Programme which starts in February. The students have been invited to visit the campus where they will work along students from other schools.

Please congratulate the two students as there were over 400 applicants for the programme which only runs for about 200 students overall.

Wexham School was judged GOOD in all categories by Ofsted in November 2017 - read more on page 8

Mock Trials – Team 6th Form



Sixteen students went to Oxford Crown Court to represent the school in the annual Bar Mock Trials competition.

Despite fierce competition, the students came third in the regional heat, narrowly missing out on a place in the regional final.

We are immensely proud of our students who showed dedication, resilience and true talent.

It is only our second year of competing. This is a massive success for Wexham Sixth Form. Next year, we hope to win.

The school has also been entered for the Magistrates' Mock Trials for KS3 students. The sixth formers will be supporting the younger students in taking part and we hope to bring back some more successful stories.



Oxford County Court

Spring term for History at Wexham

This has been another busy term. We have had several visits with different year groups.

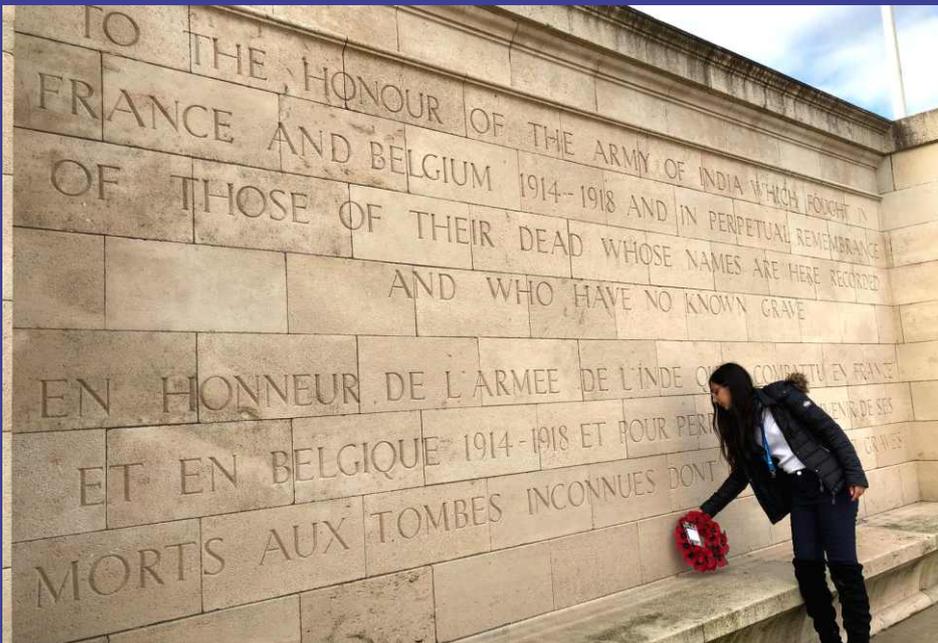
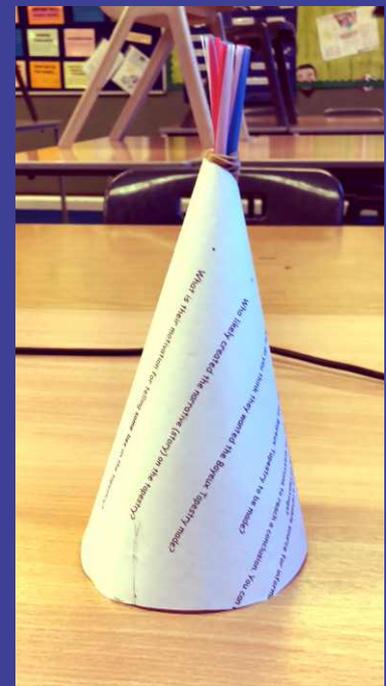
Year 11 students had an interesting day at the Science Museum revising for their GCSE unit on Britain, Health and the People. They were able to see actual artefacts that had been used by key scientists we had studied, such as Pasteur and Lister. It was useful to remind students about what they had learnt; as one student said, it will help her to remember key facts in her exam as she had seen the artefacts for herself.

A few Year 10 and Year 13 students attended a Holocaust Memorial Day talk at The Curve in Slough, where a man who had come on a Kindertransport from Austria to England in 1939 told us about his experiences. Wexham students asked some good questions to help to

understand the experience of Holocaust survivors.

Three Year 10 students (Hania, Milad and Hafsa) had the opportunity to go on a government funded visit to the World War 1 Battlefields in Belgium and France. The students attended the Last Post at the Menin Gate in Ypres, visited the Somme in France and also laid a wreath at the memorial to soldiers from South Asia who had fought with Britain in the war. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and the students represented the school well.

Students have been busy in school too. Year 7 have re-enacted the Battle of Hastings, with some students dying quite dramatically as they were shot with arrows by William the Conquerors troops. They also re-enacted the Harrying of the North and how William gained control.



Year 8 have designed a board game about working in factories, looking at how dangerous it was and whether they would survive.

Year 9 students have re-enacted trench warfare (with paper) to see if they could beat the stalemate. They discovered how hard this was and understood why World War 1 lasted so long. Year 9s also became investors in the 1920s US stock market. They lost all their money in the 1929 Crash!

Year 10 have been studying the American West and created a tipi.

Year 13 History students were able to discuss the causes of the French Revolution with a lecturer from St Mary's University, who visited school part of their preparation and support for their coursework.

The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding. (Ofsted, November 2017)

Slough Food Bank Volunteer

A huge congratulations to all the pupils, staff and families of Wexham School for your generous food collection for Slough Foodbank just before the Christmas holidays. The collection weighed in a total of 159.6kgs, which is equivalent to approximately 170-180 individual meals.



It is wonderful to see the difference we can make to people's lives, when we all work together towards a

common purpose. When we live in comfortable homes surrounded by our loving families, it is easy to forget that others are not so fortunate. The food that you all provided has made life a little

more comfortable for local people who find themselves in difficulty.

Thank you for helping to support them.

We anticipate that 2018 will be challenging for people who are teetering on the brink, and we are extremely grateful that your donations allow us to support families and individuals who are most in need.

Year 8 'Beyond the Baseline'



Students led an indoor tennis coaching session in our sports hall for twenty Year 4 children from Wexham Court Primary School. This was the final session of the Year 8 'Beyond the Baseline' leadership project and all involved had a great day.

Well done to the following sport leaders: Julia Nielsona; Magda Kulanska; Alisha Ali; Angel Kelesi; Solomon Makoni; Elyas Zargar; Sian Wright; Namra Mughal; Feroz Shamsi and Hamza Shabir.

Team HUMS

Dr Stewart McCain from St Mary's University came into run a history workshop with the Year 13 History class on Historiography.

The Students were really engaged throughout and found the introduction to University style work to be extremely helpful for their A-Level Coursework"



TEAM CREATIVE ARTS Drama

Year 10 GCSE Drama Students performing their extracts from "An Inspector Calls" for their Mock exams.

Pupils participate enthusiastically in the rich range of extra-curricular activities. - (Ofsted, November 2017)

Slavi Spasov destined for big things



Year 11 student Slavi Spasov has been going the extra mile recently and is playing for Oxford United U16's.

Slavi makes the trip to the Oxford Academy four times a week for training and development. Slavi's current stats are:

25 goals from 24 games

10 assists

Numerous appearances for the Oxford youth team

Slavi has been offered a 2 year scholarship with Oxford United which he will be starting in July 2018.

Slavi is very much looking forward to the next stage of his football career where he will be working towards successfully obtaining a professional contract.

We wish Slavi all the best in his efforts for his scholarship.



Year 11 go the extra mile

Year 11 have enjoyed an extremely busy term in the build up to their GCSEs which start in May. Attendance to academic interventions has been excellent. The Year 11s have relished the opportunity to practice and improve their knowledge of the content and skills they will need to excel in their exams. A big thank you to all the staff who have been giving up their time to go the extra mile for Year 11.

Preparations for the Year 11 prom are underway!

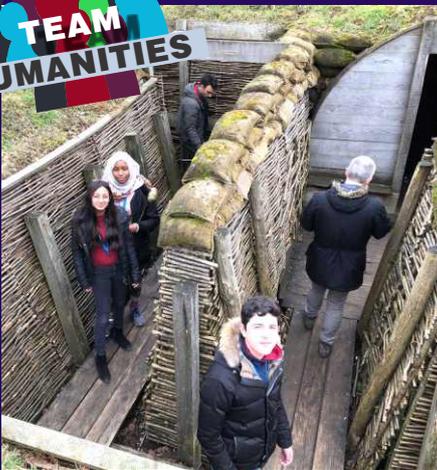
Thank you to Ms Edwards, Miss O'Neill and the Year 11 'Prom Committee' for organising this exciting evening.

Students are competing for reduced prom tickets by

taking part in the 'Passport to prom' initiative. Year 11's will receive discounted prom tickets and go into the weekly prize draw if they attend all interventions, have excellent punctuality and have 100% attendance each week. Please do all you can to support them with 'Passport to prom'!

We continue to be extremely proud of how the year group have overcome the challenges and stresses which inevitably arise during the final GCSE year. They are a credit to you all. Please continue to support us by ensuring your child is revising for 2 hours a day at home both after school and during the school holidays.

A wealth of hands-on learning



The Natural History Museum in London is a natural history museum that exhibits a vast range of specimens from various segments of natural history. It is one of three major museums on Exhibition Road in South Kensington, the others being the Science Museum and the Victoria and Albert

Museum. The Natural History Museum's main frontage, however, is on Cromwell Road.

The museum is home to life and earth science specimens comprising some 80 million items within five main collections: botany, entomology,

mineralogy, paleontology and zoology.

As part of our History and Science Curriculum the Nurture group visited the Natural History Museum on Wednesday 14th March, we all had a really enjoyable day whereby we experienced a wealth of hands-on learning.

Year 9 visit the University of Reading



A group of 12 Year 9 students visited the University of Reading to experience a day in the life of a university student.

Our pupils took part in a programme called "Find Your Future", that had a theme that was based around love.

The pupils were involved in three sessions; Classics, Biology, and Philosophy as well as a student life talk and a student panel.

Our pupils were outstanding ambassadors for the school. They were actively involved in all the sessions and were a credit to themselves and the school.



University of Reading

A valuable feature of pupils' and students' learning is the breadth of insight and sensitivity they acquire about the world around them. - (Ofsted, November 2017)

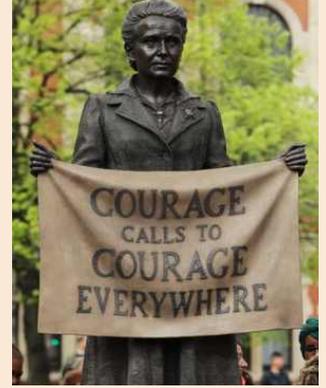
Meeting Labour leaders at statue unveiling



Amy Bhola (Year 12) and Hafsah Khan (Year 10) two of Wexham School's Student Voice Slough Youth Parliament representatives had the honour of attending the recent unveiling of the statue of Millicent Fawcett in Trafalgar Square on Tuesday 24th April.



It was a momentous occasion which the girls enjoyed tremendously and gave them a rich insight into the struggle for women's rights. Whilst at the unveiling Amy and Hafsah had the opportunity of meeting Jeremy Corbyn and Sidiq Khan.



Year 11 review 'The Plough and The Stars' at the Lyric Theatre

Year 11 Drama pupils visited a theatre in Hammersmith, West London on Thursday 22nd March. This is a compulsory element for their final written exam where they need to write a review on a production they have seen. This was an exciting opportunity for our Drama students and they thoroughly



enjoyed the performance.

Following a sell-out season at the Abbey Theatre as part of the 100th anniversary celebrations of the 1916 Easter Rising, as well as a successful Irish and US tour, The Plough and the Stars, came to the Lyric as a co-production with the Abbey Theatre.

The Years 12 and 13 retention rate and the completion of study programmes are strong. In 2017, over three quarters of students went on to university, and practically all the others into work or apprenticeships. (Ofsted, November 2017)



Art
Year 7 Art students exploring portraiture and experimenting with balloons.

ff spotlight**Staff spotlight**Staff spotlight*

"The more difficult the victory, the greater happiness in winning" Pele

My name is Stephen Gibbs and I am currently in my second year of teaching PE at Wexham.

I completed my PGCE at Brunel University, which is where I also studied for my Sports Science degree. I knew from about the age of 15 that I wanted to become a PE teacher. This was largely due to the inspirational teachers that I had when I was at school.

Even after I had left secondary school I would go back on my days off and help out with events such as sports day.

I have always enjoyed playing and watching sport, especially when Liverpool are winning!

I play for my local team, RBC,



every Saturday. We have had a really good season finishing 2nd in our league and reaching the county cup final.

I am also currently training for



FACT FILE:
● Favourite Colour: Red
● Favourite Season: Summer
● Favourite Number: 7
● Favourite TV series: Scrubs
● Fun fact: I have just got a puppy called Ruby

the Slough half marathon in October, which I am hoping to complete in under 2 hours.

I have enjoyed starting my teaching career at Wexham and am looking forward to spending the foreseeable future here, helping students to achieve the grades that they deserve.

Great start for Year 7

The Year 7 students have continued to make an excellent start to their life at Wexham School and have impressed us all with their hard work, outstanding attitude to learning in their classrooms and excellent participation in extra-curricular activities.



Overall as a year group they have collected an outstanding 14,500 Achievement Points and collected 450 PE house, the highest in the school, by taking part in the many extra-curricular activities that are on offer, including boxing, basketball, cricket, football, handball, trampolining and the use of the Fitness Suite.

Students were also able to watch live David Williams's story "Awful Auntie" at Wycombe Theatre. From the acclaimed producers of Gangsta Granny the students watched David Walliams' amazing tale of frights, fights and friendship, featuring a very old car, a very large owl and a very small ghost!

Yr 12 students successfully mentor Yr 7 in reading

We are now looking forward to the end of term Year 7 Rewards trip in April and additional trips to Kingston University and Go Ape.

In addition all Year 7 students are taking part in schools Accelerated Reader programme which has seen a 64% rise in their reading ability.

Furthermore 25 Year 7 students, who have been identified as needing additional support, are being successfully mentored as part of the AR programme on Tuesdays and Thursday morning by Year 10 and Year 12 students.



The Year 10 and Year 12 mentors were given training on how best to support these Year 7 students

We hope this will help them give the confidence to read more challenging books and continue to raise their reading ability. - *Mr Gunn, Leader of Year 7*

Student Council

Wexham's Student Council and Slough Youth Parliament Representatives delivered a series of assemblies to Years 7-13 on the topic of Mental Health to mark Children's Mental Health Week.

The assemblies were engaging and informative and conveyed important messages to our students about how they can maintain positive mental health and who they can speak to if they are have any concerns about their mental health.



Year 10 - Lawyers for Schools



Wexham students will shortly take part in a Lawyers in Schools program.

This will be a six week course running every Wednesday Period 1 and will allow the students the opportunity to learn about various aspects of the law. [@LawyersinSchools](https://twitter.com/LawyersinSchools)



WEXHAM SCHOOL TWITTER



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?



Our twitter account is: [@Wexham_School](https://twitter.com/Wexham_School)

Governors rightly describe the school as aspirational, rapidly improving and socially cohesive. (Ofsted, November 2017)

Year 8 'Beyond the Baseline' Tennis Leadership Project

Ten Year 8 children are taking part in this year's 'Beyond the Baseline' tennis leadership project starting on Wednesday 21st February when they will be absent from lessons 1-4. This year our assigned athlete mentor is former professional tennis player Jessica Weeks and she will be working with the following children in the sports hall all morning:

- Julia Nielsona
- Magda Kulanska
- Alisha Ali
- Angel Kelesi
- Solomon Makoni
- Elyas Zargar
- Sian Wright
- Namra Mughal
- Feroz Shamsi
- Hamza Shabir



A group of girls from Years 7 - 10 who have been attending weekly practice played their first badminton fixture at home against Eden Girls School.

Although we lost the match it was great to see a full sports hall and a competitive match taking place

New Building Update

Councillor James Swindlehurst, the new Leader of the Council, visited our new building site.

Walls and windows are going in and the building is ahead of schedule! These photographs are of the new Humanities floor, one from the new sixth form area and one that shows the other side of the fence.



Active Slough

We have secured a grant from "Active Slough" to introduce Street League on Friday nights from 4 - 6 pm with the support of Wycombe Wanderers Sports & Education Trust.

We plan to run the programme from Friday April 20th until Friday 25th May aimed at our Year 10 and Year 11 students. The students will organise their teams and the winners and will be presented with their medals at Adams Park (Wycombe Wanderers home ground). They will watch a match for free, have a tour of the ground and if possible meet the players.



WEXHAM - WYCOMBE WANDERERS STREET LEAGUE – YEAR 10 & 11

VENUE: WEXHAM SCHOOL

WHEN: FRIDAY'S 4-6PM

DATES: 20TH APRIL, 27TH APRIL, 4TH MAY, 11TH MAY, 18TH MAY, 25TH MAY

THE WINNERS OF THE STREET LEAGUE WILL BE PRESENTED WITH A TROPHY DURING A WYCOMBE WANDERERS GAME AT ADAMS PARK

REGISTER TEAMS BY 23RD MARCH TO ENTER THE LEAGUE FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MR IFTEKHAR

Many integrated elements of the curriculum contribute to the school's excellent work to prepare pupils for their lives beyond school. (Ofsted, November 2017)

An above-national proportion of students are in education, training or employment after leaving, something that the headteacher rightly believes to be an important outcome. (Ofsted, November 2017)

“Wexham School GOOD in all categories” - Ofsted, 2017

In November 2017 the School was inspected by Ofsted and graded GOOD in all categories providing a very strong platform to develop further. This reflects the hard work and dedication of students, parents and staff and confirms the improvement the school has made in recent years.

Of particular note Ofsted found the following to be real strengths of the school:

- ✓ The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is outstanding.
- ✓ Many integrated elements of the curriculum contribute to the school’s excellent work to prepare pupils for their lives beyond school.
- ✓ Pupils are sensible, considerate of others, and get on well together and with staff.
- ✓ Parents and staff are rightly confident that pupils are safe; pupils confirm that they feel safe. All staff, especially the pastoral team, provide exceptionally thoughtful care for all pupils and students.

- ✓ Pupils who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, including those in the autistic spectrum disorder resource base, receive the best possible physical, educational and emotional support to flourish.
- ✓ Sixth-form students mature into thoughtful young adults, and practically all of them move onto worthwhile study, training or employment.
- ✓ The range of extra-curricular activities is a strength of the curriculum.
- ✓ Pupils who speak English as an additional language, some of whom arrive from overseas with no more than a few words of English, are taught by experienced and skilful teachers. They make rapid progress and join in mainstream lessons as quickly as possible.
- ✓ The Year 12 and 13 retention rate and the completion of study programmes are strong. In 2017, over three quarters of students went on to university, and practically all the others into work or apprenticeships.

Mr Lawrence Smith - Headteacher

Steel signing ceremony marks crucial stage in building project



A steel signing ceremony marked the latest stage of building work at Wexham School. Headteacher Lawrence Smith was joined by the school’s students, teachers and governors, as well as representatives from Slough Borough Council Property Services, Slough Urban Renewal (SUR), and Morgan Sindall Construction to celebrate this major milestone in the school’s expansion.

The school group visited the construction site where Morgan Sindall made a presentation followed by an interactive Q&A session in their site office.

The work at Wexham School is part of the council’s ambitious school places programme – a multi-million pound investment in primary and secondary school buildings, extensions and new schools – to provide enough places for Slough’s current and future young people.

The Wexham School expansion will include a new 3,000 square metre three storey teaching block that will house 29 new classrooms for English, Humanities and Languages, three of which have dedicated ICT facilities. The new block will also provide staff workrooms, group rooms, a new student reception and welfare facilities, a new library and a sixth form study centre.

The existing library will be converted into two new science laboratories and external landscaped areas will be provided, along with a new staff car park, to complete the site.

Lawrence Smith, Headteacher at Wexham School, said: “I am exceptionally proud that Slough Borough Council chose Wexham to invest in. Redeveloping and adding these fantastic facilities to our already impressive Science, Technology and Creative Arts – and of course Sports facilities – we will really have a school fit for 21st century education.



DJ workshops

DJ Miss Tyson (Julie) has been busy running DJ workshops for all pupils today. The morning started early with a breakfast club, where we signed up 10 pupils to complete an Arts Award over the next 10 weeks. Julie then demonstrated to Year 9 period 3 and 4 how to mix records together, before giving them the chance to start experimenting with their own records and sound effects. They will also be completing the award over the next half term.

