

### Message from Mrs Thrower



I would like to thank all those who came to see our music and awards evening on the 8th December. We all had a great time and I hope that you did too?

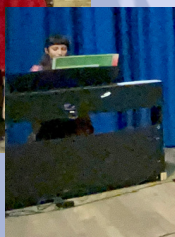
As we near the end of another term I have to say, as I get older, I think that time is going quicker!

We are finally back to some order of 'normal' with several trips going on this term. I think the normal though has been changed by the increasing numbers of pupils in the school, which is lovely to see. With more pupils comes more staff which really enhances our already brilliant team.

The weather is due to change to be quite cold over the next few days and weeks so please wrap up warm. Remember to keep an eye on the website for any school closures but if it is too dangerous to travel from your area then that is your call but let us know.

I would like to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and if you do not celebrate this festival then please have a good break.

### Music and Awards Evening



The evening began with an introductory speech by Mrs Thrower who thanked so many parents for coming out in the cold weather and spoke about the school's expansion.

There was some great Music. Years 7 and 8 sang a beautiful German song, and years 9 and 10 a Christmas mash up, all focusing well on the conductor Mrs Clark, The staff choir sang Shaking Steven's 'Merry Christmas Everyone'. The singing was accompanied by an unforgettable choreographed dance with the final chorus being signed. Year 6 played different instruments with Mr Flowers conducting. Mrs Thrower played her clarinet in a duet with Mrs Clarke on the keyboard. Yusuf played two beautiful songs on the keyboard. He was excellent! So talented.

A number of pupil awards were presented and all were received with pride. Kasia did a fantastic question-and-answer session with Mr Bidwell describing the good work the school does. Finally, Mrs Thrower thanked all staff and pupils for their hard work. An unforgettably amazing night with tears and laughter.

Miss Hines



### Careers Update

We have had a great start to the Careers programme this year. As we have been unable to visit workplaces for a couple of years, due to Covid restrictions, it has been wonderful to see students getting to see a place of work in action and finding out about future opportunities.

#### Computacenter Visits (November)

#### Tesco Visit (November)



On Wednesday 7th December, year 9 had the opportunity to spend the day at F&F (Tesco) Headquarters at Shire Park in Welwyn Garden City. The students were blown away with the facilities at the site and enjoyed spending the day in their conference centre. Students met a range of employees at F&F who shared their journey to the company; they also had the chance to ask a range of questions. The students loved being a part of a busy work environment for the day and even got to get their free meal-deal lunch from the Tesco Heart Express store. Tesco arranged some lovely interactive activities for the students: Lennon Clare won a £15 gift card for knowing the most about Tesco and Izzy Eagling won a 'Design a Christmas Jumper' competition. Her prize is that F&F will now make her design into a jumper for her to keep. We are delighted to have had this opportunity and look forward to working with F&F and Tesco again in the future.

Both year 10 and year 11 had the chance to visit Computacenter Head Office in Hatfield for an afternoon in November. Pupils were thoroughly impressed by the working environment. During the visit, they learnt what Computacenter do and which companies they work with. They also learnt about employment opportunities within the company and what Computacenter are looking for in their employees. Students had a tour of the warehouse and saw where much of the technology is created and repaired. They also took part in a fun TikTok cybersecurity challenge. Computacenter have always supported us brilliantly in our Careers programme at the school, so we look forward to continuing activities like these in the future.



Mrs Blake



### PGL Trip to Caythorpe

This years' PGL was an enormous success! Students from years six, seven, eight and nine travelled to Caythorpe in Lincolnshire for 5 days of adventure, fun and friendship. Activities included climbing, archery, tunnelling, and buggy building, as well as team games and challenges in the evenings. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to get to know each other and share their achievements – some got to the top of climbing walls for the first time, some conquered their fears of the dark, and others had their first ever time away from their families. It was lovely to hear the words of encouragement they gave each other during the activities, but it was also great to see them all enjoy sitting and socialising during mealtimes.



Sam said the best part of PGL was abseiling as he liked going up to the top of the tower. Hope liked the giant swing as he felt he managed to overcome one of his greatest fears. He also liked the food as they made his favourite lunches and dinners. Freya said the giant swing was great because she liked the moment she pulled the string, and it sent you flying fast! All the teachers had an amazing time too. Mrs Hazell said what a privilege it was to get to know the children outside of the school. Mr Chaz.....well he said he enjoyed the naps!

Mrs MacDonald

### Outdoor Classroom Update

Although not the weather for it this week, the outdoor classroom is looking amazing and will prove to be a very usual facility, giving an additional and different environment for learning.





### Marking Remembrance Day at School



This year the whole school gathered in the playground to observe the two-minute silence, to mark Remembrance Day. All have discussed with their tutors the importance of this day and how it relates to British Values. After the two minute silence, all sang the National Anthem, 'God Save The King'

The year 10s visited the Memorial in Welwyn Garden City, This commemorates the residents who were killed or went missing in the First and Second World Wars.



Pupils were encouraged to produce a piece of work based on their feelings about what they'd experienced and learnt. There were some thoughtful written pieces and excellent drawings, which are displayed in school.

### Smile Therapy



In June we started our first module of Smile Therapy with two of our year 11 students.

Smile Therapy works on social and communication skills and looks at improving how the children interact with staff and other students.

Rhys and Iyanu from year 11 worked really hard to complete the smile therapy module 1 and both were very proud to be presented with their badges.

Since then, 9 other students have completed module 1 and we are very proud of all of them. The students will now move on to module 2 where they will be taken out of Knightsfield and on a bus to Welwyn Garden City. Many staff have commented on the difference and confidence they have seen in all the students.

Well done to everyone.

Mrs Hazell and Mr. Jones

### Important Information from the NHS

#### Mental Health Support for Hertfordshire's Children and Young People

If your child or teenager is feeling low, anxious, or generally struggling, there are lots of services available to help them all year round. Please always encourage them to talk and ask for help if they need it.

The services listed on Just Talk's webpage are all free and don't need a professional referral, so they can be contacted directly by young people and/or their parents/carers. Services listed include Hertfordshire's new With YOUTH Digital Wellbeing Service for ages 5-18, parents and carers and many more, So please take a look:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mentalhealthsupportforhertsyoungeople](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mentalhealthsupportforhertsyoungeople)

