

## Newsletter No. 30: 1 September 2022

Welcome to the new academic year – and a very special welcome to all those of you who are new to membership of Magna Learning Partnership. That includes all children and young people beginning their education at one of our academies, staff either starting their career or continuing their careers and you as parents/carers of sons and daughters learning with us. We also offer a very special welcome to the children, staff and parents of Old Sarum Primary School who join us today.

If you've been counting, you would have assumed that Old Sarum becomes our tenth academy in the Trust. In fact, that's not the case – we remain as nine owing to another momentous event taking place today. Officially, Wyvern College and St Edmund's Girls' School become one. The application to the Department for Education was approved, the legal process has now concluded and we welcome the new Wyvern St Edmund's Academy to MLP.

For the final time, we are celebrating GCSE results from Wyvern and from St Edmund's as separate groups as the amalgamation means that boys and girls results will be counted together from next year. We congratulate young people at those schools, as well as at Sarum Academy and at The Trafalgar School. Thursday, 25th August was a very special day for so many young people who have worked so hard for their results; it was marvellous to hear the great news from all our secondary schools. A week earlier, S6C and Sarum Academy welcomed their leavers back in to collect their A Level and Level 3 Vocational results. There are now many young people preparing to go to university this month, take up an apprenticeship or enter the world of work; congratulations to everyone who has achieved so brilliantly through a tough two years of education in the pandemic. We must also congratulate our Year 6s with their SATS results. They were the first group to sit these tests since 2019 and again, had to battle with the challenges of learning through Covid. Well done to them and to all the staff who supported the children.

A new year inevitably sees some change; at the end of last term we said farewell and thank you to a number of long standing staff members in our Trust, including Mrs Nicola Bull, Director of Education and formerly Head of Wyvern St Edmund's. We wish all our staff leavers the very best in their new roles and new phases of their lives. We hope they will keep in contact with us and let us know how they are getting on – and of course, as one of the largest employers in the area, we are getting a bit of a track record in recruiting staff back in after a few years' experience elsewhere.

Also, as a Trust, opportunities for staff to move from one academy to another arise quite frequently. Mrs Louise Henderson, having led S6C for the past eighteen months, now becomes Headteacher at Wyvern St Edmund's. Mr Ben Hillier joins us from Shaftesbury School to be Head of College at S6C. We wish them all the very best for this academic year.

We are hoping that 2022-3 will be a year free from the disruption that Covid has brought to education since March 2020. Certainly, the focus on wider activities, trips and extra-curricular experiences in this newsletter gives a good indication of how much 'normality' we have been able to resume over the last term. We want that to continue and we want to ensure that all our children and young people attend school every day so that they can really benefit from the great teaching in our academies. Here's to a happy and successful academic year ahead.

**Sarah Busby**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

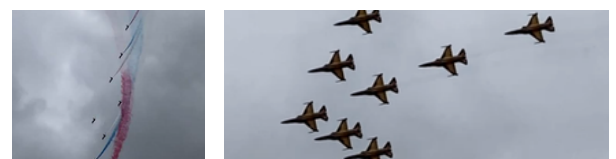


# Amesbury Archer



We ended the last academic year on a real high, with a visit from the South Korean air display team, the Black Eagles. The team had done some amazing stunts over the school the week before, including creating the Archer's arrow in the sky over the school field!

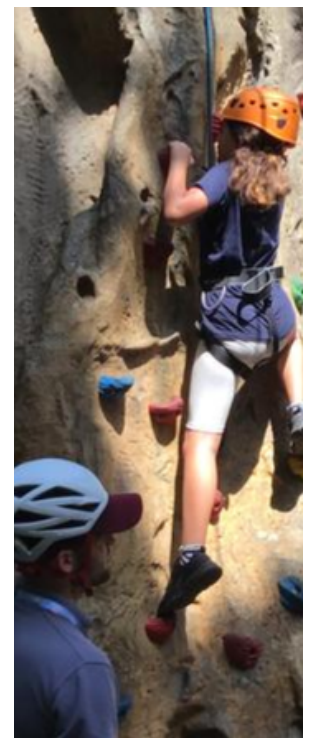
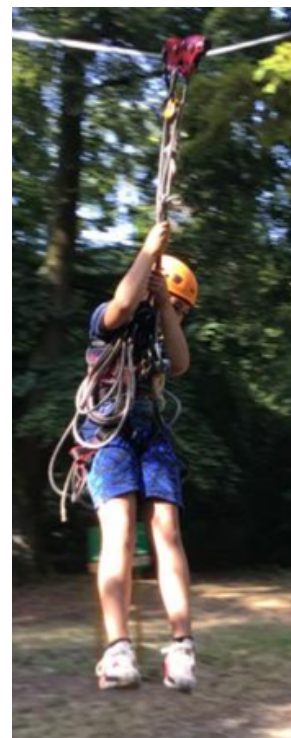
The team then visited our assembly and the children were totally fascinated by the answers to some of their questions. The whole school had the opportunity to have their photos taken with the team and we were presented with a brilliant signed photo, which we will treasure.



Year 6 finished their time in primary school on a real high with their brilliant production of "What's The Crime, Mr Wolf?" The children performed the play amazingly, working as a team to ensure everything ran as smoothly as possible. Not even dodgy microphones fazed them!

They also enjoyed a fun-filled residential to Foxlease, where the children took part in adventurous activities such as zip lining, abseiling, climbing and the leap of faith. We cannot forget the mountains of sweets, children's attempts at all-nighters and a late night fire alarm! Children and staff alike thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We had many comments from staff at the Centre and visitors saying what fantastic ambassadors our children were for the school.

This has been a theme throughout the year and we are so proud of all our children and their model behaviour outside school. All our Archers continue to aim high in their learning and behaviour and we look forward to seeing this continuing next year.





# Bemerton St John

## Year 6 Performance

Our Year 6 children performed their end-of-year play at Sarum Academy on Friday 8th July. Their performance was a hard-hitting show about the environment and how our actions through time have affected the world we live in.

The performance was based on the global impact on animals' habitats and how we need to change what we do daily to try and recycle, reuse and reduce our carbon footprint.

Well done to Mrs Young, Mrs Sanger and the Year 6 children. We would also like to thank Anya and Sarum Academy for their help and support to put on a wonderful play.

We wish our Year 6 pupils all the best as they move on into their secondary schools. They have been amazing and have achieved excellent end-of-year results which were significantly above the national average.

## Bemerton's Got Talent

On Wednesday, 20th July, the final of Bemerton's Got Talent took place. Every year the school council decides who goes through to the final. The school choir sang two songs whilst the decision was being made on this year's winner. Congratulations to the singing Year 6 boys' group, they were our worthy winners! Well done to everyone who took part.



## A Wonderfully Wild Time!

On Tuesday 5th July, Wrens, Robins and Swallows enjoyed a fantastic visit to The New Forest Wildlife Park. This was the children's first 'big' school trip since being part of Bemerton and they all behaved impeccably and had an amazing day. They saw a range of animals, including otters, wallabies, deer, owls, bison and wild boars. The otters were a firm favourite, especially when they were playing with a ball in the water! Whilst there, children observed quietly and demonstrated their inquisitive natures and impressive knowledge. We finished the day with a refreshing ice lolly!

Well done to all the children for representing our school brilliantly and thank you to all the volunteers who joined us and helped ensure the children had a wonderful experience.



# Pembroke Park



## Pembroke Park Primary & Nursery

At Pembroke Park, we certainly had a busy and exciting Term 6. Firstly, we celebrated great success in our Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and our Year 4 Multiplication Check. These results are an absolute testament to the hard work and dedication of our amazing pupils and staff, leading to incredible progress and outcomes. Well done!

We were honoured to be invited to open Salisbury's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the Market Square. Our choir demonstrated bravery and pride when singing the National Anthem to an incredible turnout. Thank you to everyone who came along to support us. This will be a memory that lives with the children forever.

We had a great turnout for our new Reception information evening and a good take-up of our home visits and transition sessions, meaning our lovely new Nightingale class are ready to start with us straight away in September. We are so excited to see them in their uniform! Due to additional demand for spaces since Offer Day, we have now also appointed a second Early Years Teacher and TA and will be opening a second Reception class in September – Rosen class. Very exciting times!



Year 6 celebrated their final week with us with an amazing Prom organised by our small but mighty PTFA. The pupils had a red carpet, disco, pizza, selfies and plenty of fun! This was followed by their Leavers' Assembly with some funny memories shared and Leavers' Hoodies handed out. We wish all our Year 6 pupils success and happiness as they move on to their Secondary schools in September.



Finally, to celebrate the hard work and dedication of all in Team Pembroke, we had an Activity Day to leave the academic year smiling. We had an inflatable assault course from Jumparoo, dance and yoga from Panthera, sports from Astrella, circus workshops from Wessex Circus and a very exciting guest appearance from Herbie the Unicorn!





## S6C - keeping young people safe online

We are proud of the active participation that our students have with processes and policy writing in the college. Student forum groups are now having a more active say to ensure they understand the policies that are there to support and protect them.

The college was recently contacted by the National Online Safety (NOS) to discuss a joint venture to work with our Esports students. They tasked our Year 12 Esports students to create guidance for parents/carers. The students had huge involvement with the content of this project and worked with Nathan David, their course teacher, on the style and format before they presented it back to the NOS.

The end result was a huge success and is now available nationally for all educational institutions to use. We are really proud of our young ambassadors at S6C who are actively involved in reviewing E-safety procedures at the college. They show great maturity and understanding of the risks of being online.



**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ESPORTS**

British Esports describes 'esports' as 'competitive gaming, human-vs-human, usually with a spectator element to it'. In recent years, the esports industry has grown significantly – and is expected to reach an overall worth of \$1.2 billion, with around 30 million monthly viewers, by the end of 2022. This rapid evolution has presented even more opportunities – but, of course, opportunities usually come with a risk. Here, we've highlighted some of the potential hazards within the esports arena and suggested ways to help young people stay safe so they can make the most of this exciting space.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**MICROTRANSACTIONS**  
Microtransactions are the small purchases that unlock new features or give players special abilities (characters or content). There can cost anything from 1p to £1 (and sometimes more!). The range of microtransactions is vast, and heavily marketed – with characters that have bases of being a source of contention for gamers and governing bodies in recent years.

**MENTAL HEALTH**  
Esports shows that esports competitors face the same level of mental health issues as athletes in traditional sports, along with some specific additional elements. Like traditional professional sport, esports is an incredibly tough industry. 'Performing' on this level can lead to 'burnout', which is a mental health condition, 'situational' situations and facing criticism.

**INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT & BEHAVIOUR**  
Only 22% of gamers globally are aged between 16 and 20 – meaning the majority are over 20, which is not appropriate for children. It is not always clear what age many esports and 'paradoxically' to look up to. However, it is important that young people are aware of how influenced they are by the people they follow, and whether the athlete is age appropriate.

**TROLLS & TOXICITY**  
An internet troll is someone who tries to offend people and cause trouble by posting inflammatory comments. Toxicity, as in the real world, refers to negative behaviour like harassment, verbal abuse and inappropriate comments, which can be as toxic as physical. Toxicity is often linked to its prevalence, particularly competitive and high-stakes esports.

**POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION**  
The revenue in esports is enormous – vast. Organisations often look to esports players and content creators to help grow their brand, in exchange for the organisation's backing, a salary, and marketing and sponsorship benefits. However, the industry is still in its infancy – and as it is very nascent, it is very easy to be exploited. As a result, esports players don't know what they're doing or who they're working with.

**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**  
The common perception of esports involves a sedentary lifestyle, an unhealthy diet and very little physical activity – which has obvious health implications. As a result, many esports players sit at their desks for hours, looking tired and stressed. Some professional esports players have musculoskeletal, personal trainers and dietitians. Individuals to protect their health.

**Advice for Parents & Carers**

**ENCOURAGE BALANCE**  
Dedicating oneself intensely to any activity – including esports – can be harmful, both mentally and physically. Make sure your child's gaming is in balance with exercise, outdoor breaks, healthy food and plenty of sleep. If your child spends long hours gaming, using chat and voice, it's important that your child stays aware of how influenced they are by the people they follow, and whether the athlete is age appropriate.

**GET EXPERT HELP**  
If your child does start on the road to becoming a professional, get in touch with an esports-specific agency who has experience in industry, sponsorship and contracts. Our advice on how to get your child should be coming from them – the esports industry is changing quickly, so there might be better and more secure offers out there.

**UNDERSTAND GAMING**  
Chat to your child about the games they play, ask to watch or even take part to get an idea of how appropriate they are. This will give you an overview of the phrases esports players and content creators use, helping you understand young gamers' slang. If you find some of the games unsuitable, talk to your child about why. You can also explore age-specific settings on apps like YouTube and Twitch.

**BLOCK TOXIC USERS**  
Monitoring in-game chats, or disabling them altogether (either through the console or in the game itself), is a conservative way to avoid negative experiences and reduce the risk of toxic messaging. Your child also has options to block messages from particular players – and only interact with their friends. This can also help to prevent them from encountering the blocked users in future games.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Nathan David is an experienced games teacher and online role course leader for the BTEC Esports programme at Salisbury Sixth Form College. Nathan has more than 10 years' experience working in schools and colleges, and holds a Masters degree in Sport Psychology.

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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## Salisbury International Arts Festival

Over 5 intense weeks, 21 of our Year 7 students took part in various workshops with music leaders from the Bath Philharmonia Orchestra to compose two pieces of music. These pieces of music became part of a headline performance at the Salisbury International Arts Festival, with our students performing alongside the Bath Philharmonia Orchestra at the Salisbury Cathedral to over 1,000 members of the audience.

Our students showed real tenacity and professionalism over the whole process from composition to performance, and were (quite understandably!) exhausted after the adrenaline of the final performance. Every member of the group had a key part – it was not a case of the orchestra and then some children playing along, our students were very much part of the whole ensemble. This was an experience the group will take with them for years to come, and we are immensely proud of their achievements. Well done to all the students involved.





# The New Forest School



The children at The New Forest School continue their commitment to the environment and sustainability. The Eco-council have promoted three key areas of the Eco-School's code. These are increasing biodiversity, recycling and improvement to the school grounds.

The whole school were actively involved in promoting their concerns around climate change when they wrote to the UN COP-26 convention in Glasgow in Autumn 2021. This work was followed up in school with assemblies and a commitment to make a difference by ensuring that we achieved the Eco-School's Green Flag award.

The Eco-council worked hard at promoting a variety of recycling events. We had three 'Fill the Bag' days where families brought in old clothes and fabric to be recycled. We held two sustainability days using old clothes and material to upcycle and make something new from something old. In addition, we continue to recycle a large variety of items including batteries, stamps, water and computer equipment. We installed a new water butt from a grant obtained from Wiltshire County Council and our local parish council has agreed to fund a 'hot composter' after petitioning by the children.

We have built a new 'Bug Hotel' at KS2 to increase opportunities for insects to have a home and a new 'Bee Cafe' is being created with donations from the local community to create a habitat for pollinators. At our KS1 site the youngest children have been growing wildflowers and have their own allotment, as a commitment to improvement to the school grounds.

All this work has led to the school being awarded the 'Green Flag' for the third time. This is a huge commitment to the environment and one that we are proud to be involved in. Our children are committed to ensuring they have a say in the future of their Planet, and this is shown by their actions.



# The Trafalgar School



The Trafalgar School  
at Downton

## Sponsored Walk

On Monday, 11th July the Trafalgar School held its annual Sponsored Walk. Over the years this event has raised a significant amount of money for good causes and this year was no exception. In spite of the heat all students and staff tackled the beautiful 12km route around Downton with commitment and enthusiasm; guided by our intrepid DofE students. With Mr Godfrey upfront there was no chance of getting lost (we left Mr Cole bringing up the rear through past experience). The Trafalgar School would like to thank all those who donated to this worthy cause with all the money going to charity. The final charity total for the year has exceeded our £10K goal!



## Activities Week

Our Sponsored Walk this year kicked off our inaugural Activities Week here at Trafalgar School. With students taking part in nearly 50 activities both off and on site, as much fun was had by staff as well as students. Everything from fishing to surfing, from high ropes to mountain biking, from Indian cookery to doggy day care, students had the opportunity to try new experiences or demonstrate their abilities outside the classroom. A really fun week with lots of great memories. We are already excited for next year. Thanks to staff and parent volunteers in supporting this great event.

## Ypres 2022 – Battlefields visit

It's fantastic to be able to resume visits overseas. If a Sponsored Walk and Activities Week hadn't tired the students out why not follow this up with a visit to Flanders Field and the site of the area of the First World Wars Western Front. A terrific educational experience and one that will live with students for a lifetime. Thank you to Mr Whitelock for being such a brilliant guide.





# Wyvern St Edmund's



Wyvern St Edmund's  
Learning Campus

The final term of the school year is naturally a time for celebrations and a look ahead to new beginnings. It's also a time for goodbyes – not least to our Year 11s who finished their exams and enjoyed their prom night at Salisbury Racecourse.

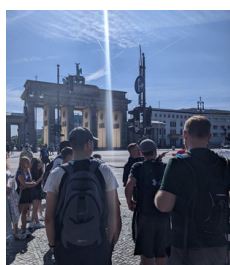
Sports Day 2022 was a huge success – organised brilliantly by our PE department, it brought the entire school community together. The PE department also had the opportunity to celebrate the talented young sportsmen and women we have at WSE at the Sports Award Evening with British Triathlon's Performance Director, Mike Cavendish, as the guest award presenter. The coveted 'WSE Sports Personality of the Year' was awarded to Daniel B – the captain of the Year 11 boys' football team – whose sporting talent has been recognised by the footballing community as he has just signed a professional football contract with Forest Green Rovers F.C.

Our Summer Concert, the first in 3 years, showcased the musical talent we have at WSE – the standard and range of performances was a delight.

The highlight for many this term, though, was our activities week. With residential trips abroad to Zanzibar, Paris, Berlin, Barcelona and the Netherlands; UK residentials from the Brecon Beacons to Cornwall; day trips from London to Cadbury World and many school-based activities, we have no doubt that students will have made life-long memories.



*WSE Sports  
Personality of the  
Year - Daniel B*





# 2022 EXAM RESULTS

