

# Principal's Update Newsletter (Sept-Dec)



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*Sept - Dec 2023*

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## **In This Issue**

- Knowledge Connected
- Year 11 Tutor Time - Careers Focus week (6th Nov)
- Remembrance Day (10th Nov)
- CET Choir (10th Nov)
- Public Speaking Competition (before 15th Nov)
- Shakespeare Performances (28 & 29th Nov)
- Ritangle Competition (4th Dec)
- Brass Workshop - NMPAT (6th Dec)
- CET Essay and Public Speaking Prize Final (7th Dec)
- Mock Results Morning (11th/14th Dec)
- Cipher Challenge (14th Dec)
- Barclays Life Skills Workshop: **Session 1** Wednesday 13th December and Thursday 14th December

- Young Carers

### **Careers News**

- Upcoming events
- What are my child's post-16 options
- Future First Alumni Hub

### **Sports**

- Year 7 Athletics event (5th Dec)

### **Charity**

- Macmillan Cake Bake/Fake
- The Great Wrenn Food Bank Collection (11th Dec)

### **Dates for the Diary**

## **A letter from the Principal**

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an amazing first term we have had at Wrenn. There has been so much going on and to finish it off we had the Ofsted call last week. I couldn't be more proud of our staff and students, who all showed what a great school Wrenn is; as soon as I can share the outcome with you all I will. Needless to say, we are very pleased!

All of our year groups have been very busy and there have been some fantastic activities running throughout the term, finishing off with our Attendance Prize Draw today for those students with 100% attendance over the last three weeks of term. The lucky winners all received iPads- Merry Christmas!

### **Year 7 – Miss Fitzjohn**

Well done to Year 7 on a very successful term. The students have continued to strive for excellence in their lessons and beyond. We have had success with the girls and boy's indoor athletics teams who will now go on to represent the district at the County finals in February. This success has continued with the excellence of our cross-country athletes, and we wish Lewis, Massimo and Vinnie all the very best at the County event in January.

Students have enjoyed playing vuvuzelas in a music workshop and what a fantastic noise they made!

We have had two students who have taken part in the Shakespeare School's Festival, this is a great achievement by the students who are performing at such a high level already. The students have formed a year group student parliament and have raised many great ideas that they are keen to develop in the future.

After the Christmas break, students will take their first set of assessment tests (week commencing 22nd Jan). Students will have a report which contains their percentage achieved and an attitude to learning grade for every subject.

I would like to thank you for the donations you have very kindly given to the Wellingborough Food Bank, in particular at this time of the Year. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and restful break.

### **Year 8 – Mrs Mainprize**

Year 8 have had another fantastic term. 33 of them have passed the 200 achievement point mark which is a marvellous achievement (apologies if there is a Cadbury's shortage following all of the prizes!)

Many of the pupils have been trying new things at our amazing after school clubs and have ignited new passions. We are so proud of the efforts that they are putting in to improve and expand.

We had brilliant assembly about building our character delivered by Miss Austin - there was confetti and balloons! The pupils have really taken the message on board and are using the terms resilience, determination, and passion; it is an absolute pleasure to see them embracing this.

During my learning walks I have seen excellent progress being made, students are clearly recording subject specific vocabulary and then effectively using it, purple pen is for improvement which is clear and thoughtful, and presentation is impressive.

I look forward to seeing more excellence in the New Year. Thank you as always.

Have a wonderful break.

### **Year 9 - Miss Lawman**

This term has been a term filled with new opportunities for the year group. Students have taken part in rugby & football competitions to great success; an English Union Public Speaking competition; as well as our Shakespeare's School Festival at Abbeyfield where all schools from our Trust take part in a day of performances. They also have new opportunities through Ms Austin with the Character in the Community project which lots of our students signed up for.

Academically, we are moving towards our assessment point 1, which will take place when students return from the Christmas holidays. This is their assessment point of the year so will be great to see how they have been progressing in year 9 so far. We also launched the criteria for graduation, where all students have the opportunity to earn a place at our graduation at the end of the year.

Looking forward to the new year, we will start to explore the option subjects for GCSEs that they will be able to pick for in the coming terms. This is an excellent opportunity for students to really start to focus and tailor their academic achievements. Lots to look forward to in 2024.

### **Year 10 – Mr Mallen**

This half term we have been busy once again in Year 10. Our students took part in an Armistice assembly and several of them also represented the school at the local Armistice service. We felt very proud seeing our students wearing their cadets and scout uniforms. Many of our students have been accessing GCSEPOD recently to support them on their GCSE journey. Well done to those who have been using this platform to their benefit. We have been busy with extra-curricular activities this half-term. There are some great opportunities on offer so a big well done to those who have got involved with this!

Following on from our 'Be Kind' work we have recently been looking at 'Work Hard' as a tutor time topic. To support this in assembly we have spoken about what a 'Winners Brain' looks like, in particular social and emotional intelligence, motivation and focus. It has been great getting into lessons and seeing how focused many of our students are - I can see why we have amassed nearly 30,000 achievement points collectively this year so far! Well done for those 48 students who have been rewarded for their great attendance, punctuality and achievement points. We took these students Go Karting this week, they had a great time!

Keep up the fantastic work Year 10!

### **Year 11 – Miss Wright**

Our year 11s have had a very busy but productive half term. We started the term with our Assessment Point 1 mocks. These provided a healthy challenge for our pupils as they got to experience for a third time what it feels like to sit examination papers, in the exam rooms and under exam conditions. This is such crucial knowledge for our young people as knowing the content and skills to be successful in each question is important, but removing some of the barriers of the logistics of taking exams can make the whole experience less daunting

and much less worrying when it comes to the real thing. We are proud of our Year 11s and how they worked hard to prepare for these assessments.

We had a Mock Results Assembly and after this, students were invited to collect their results, some breakfast items such as croissant, hot chocolate, breakfast bars or fruit and a reflection sheet. The purpose of this results day was similar to the reason we run mock exams; we want students to know what it feels like to receive results that they will then need to use for their next steps. However, another focus for this mini results day was reflection. We wanted students to consider their motivation and effectiveness of revision, how they feel towards their results and thinking about their next steps. I have included a picture below of the reflection sheet so you can see exactly what reflection your child engaged in.

After mocks, myself and Mrs Trivedi worked hard on tweaking the Year 11 tutor time provision to accommodate an extra forty minutes of maths each week. We are working with the Maths department to provide exam skills and practice of exam questions on a Tuesday and Wednesday tutor time. We will eventually be moving electronically to do this in tutor time as we are awaiting an exciting delivery of some more Chrome Books which Y11 will have access to during these maths mornings, to engage with structured online learning.

Along with this, the Science department have created a fantastic set of resources for students to consistently practice and perfect their answers to 6-mark questions. Students are tackling common misconceptions on a Friday morning by watching revision videos on specific content and then completing an exam question based on this. They are then being modelled an exemplar answer with clear explanations as to why these answers got full marks, so they can reflect on their own responses and improve. We are very lucky to have all of our Y11 tutors, but especially in the fact that we have Head of Subjects in the team who are working tirelessly to support our Y11 cohort, not only within lessons but in the tutor time provision also.

Last term, I wrote to you about the destination assemblies which students received with thanks to our Sixth Form department. This half term, pupils have had external speakers from Moulton College, Tresham College and Starting Off who specialise in advising on apprenticeships, and this concludes our "next steps" suggestions for pupils in assembly time. We do still have careers meetings running and tutors and Year Team are supporting with applications to Sixth Form and colleges too. A big thank you to Mrs Bolton who organised this for us this half term, and continues to support our students with their CIAGS discussions. This would also be a perfect time to say that we have had a wonderful 123 of our Y11s apply to Wrenn Sixth Form, which is also fantastic and lovely news to be celebrated too.

We have given out loads of rewards in Y11 this week. Well done to Shyanne L, Amy C and Kirigo N who all have over 200 achievement points and have received a prize for their

commitment to learning. Well done to 11I who had the best attendance AND the highest achievement points this half term. They have received a pizza party token for next half term. Individual shout outs go to Gertrude for her kindness on results day, helping to set out the treats we provided as part of the celebration breakfast and to Christopher S who won the iPad for 100% attendance in December!

**The Y11 specific dates for next half term are as follows:**

**W/C 8th January 2024** – Y11 PSHEE testing – understanding what Y11 have understood from their PSHEE lessons (September – December).

**W/C 22nd January 2024** – Sixth Form Interviews for those who have applied to stay at Wrenn.

I hope all Year 11 students and their families have a wonderful Christmas break and when the time comes for their well-deserved rest, I will look forward to seeing them rested and ready to take on 2024!

**Sixth Form – Miss Thomas Francis**

The Sixth Form have been quite active this term... In November, we had our 6th Form Open Evening, welcoming over 150 families from within the school community as well as external students from in and around Wellingborough. This was a vibrant and informative evening. Sixth Form applications are still open, and we intend to invite students for interviews in January.

Year 12 and 13 Assessment Point 1/Mocks also took place in November. Students showed great determination to do well, and we look forward to the results of their hard work.

The Sixth Form leadership team and tutors have supported all Year 13 students with writing their personal statements and completing their UCAS applications. Several students have already received offers from their first-choice universities. We expect that all students wishing to study at university will meet the January deadline.

In our PSHE sessions this term, Year 13 had the opportunity to undergo CPR and defibrillator training - a useful experience in the case of an emergency; while Year 12 had a session on cancer awareness on the back of *Stand Up to Cancer*. Students expressed how grateful they were for these sessions and the awareness raised around these issues.

We continue to raise funds for charity including our annual support of the local Food Bank. Our students take great pride in supporting our local community as well as national projects.

On 6th December, 41 students visited the University of Northampton to attend an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) Research Specialist Day. Students commented on how useful the day was in providing guidance for their approaches to academic research and evaluating sources.

Finally, we are super proud of all the students who participated in the CET Essay and Speaking competitions; in particular, Favour John, our essay finalist, and Akua Kwarteng and Pippa Walsh, our speaking finalists who presented on the theme 'Power to the People'.

### **Upcoming key dates:**

Sixth Form Parents' Evening - 18th January 2024

Winter Ball - 1st February 2024

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All that remains is for me to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas; we look forward to welcoming all the students back in the New Year; I'm sure 2024 will be as jam packed as 2023 has been.

Mrs L Parker

Acting Principal

## What we've been up to

### **Knowledge Connected**

Year 8 - 12th Oct

An eventful day with many students using **Structure** as their stimulus.

A peek inside some of our Yr8 classes to see Knowledge Connected in action:

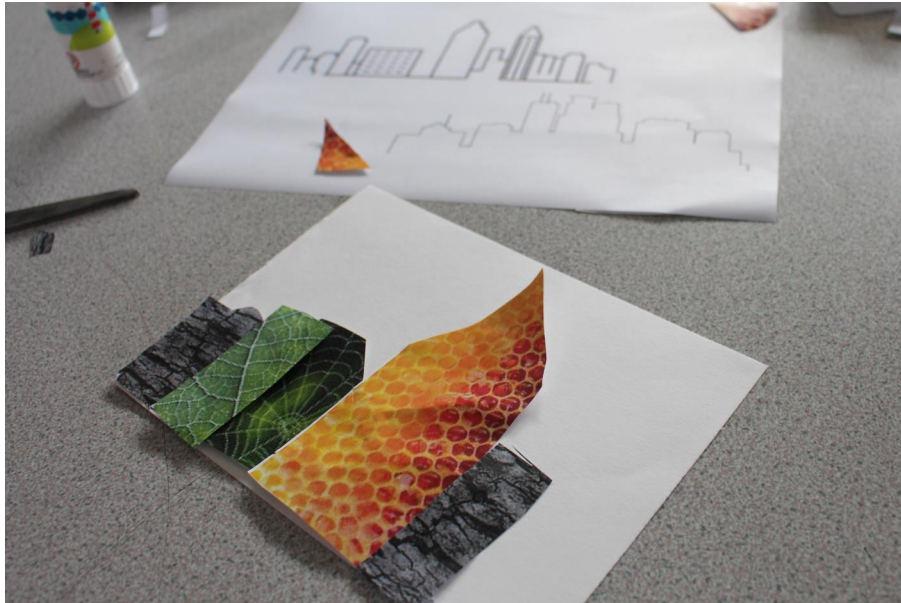
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*Art - Created a cityscape using natural pictures (Building Structures).*

*As I'm sure you know, becoming more Eco-friendly is everyone's agenda. In Art we're looking at buildings in a similar way.*

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### **DT - Creating structures without glue**

The art of design is coming up with new and innovative ways to improve on previous designs. Reducing costs and materials can be a way many companies save money. Taking glue out of the equation here, our students are thinking how they can produce a stable structure. Folding, cutting (and I think I saw one student licking...) is down to them.

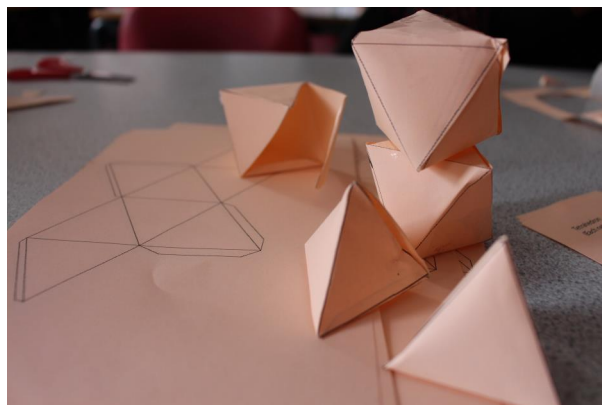


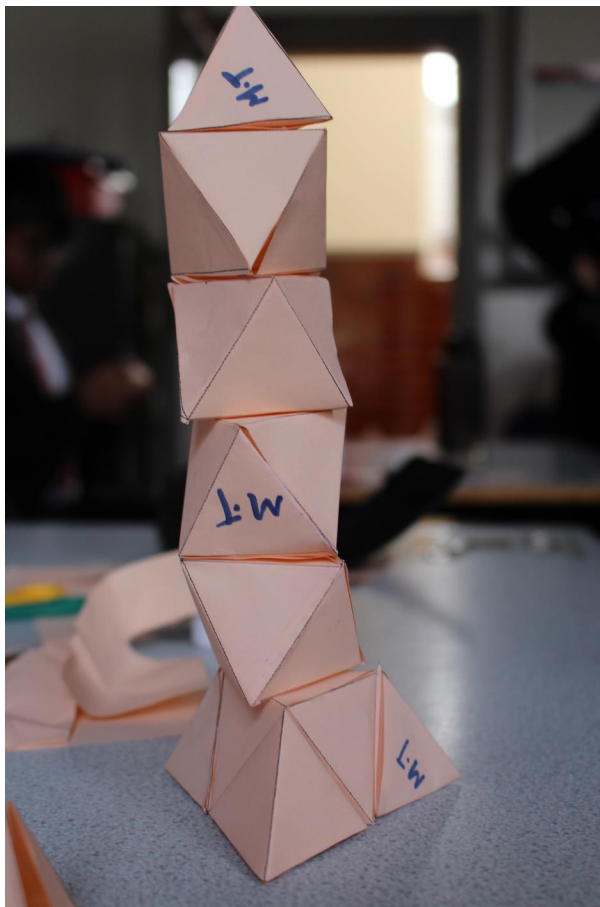
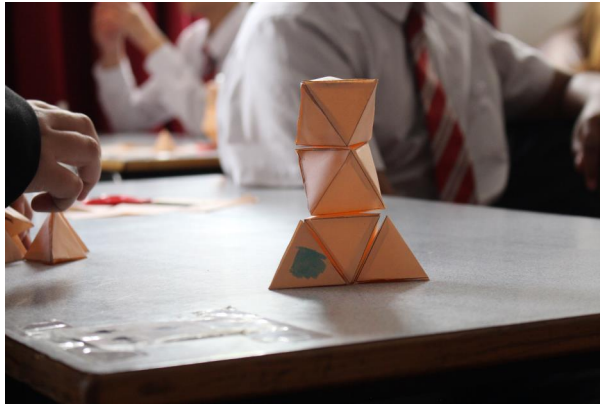


### Maths - 3D Structured shapes

Sure, it looks easy, but when you get to that last tab...

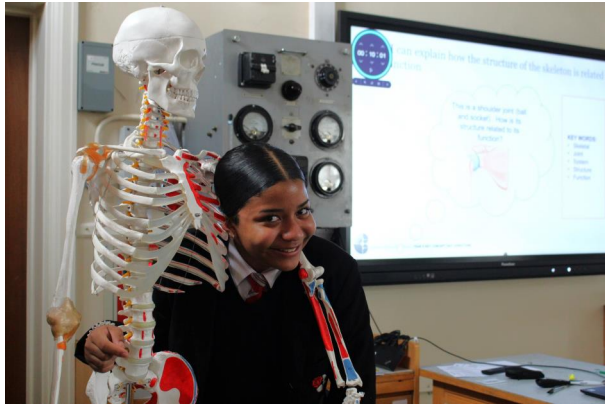
In maths, students were making structures with structures. The building blocks all come down to accuracy. If those measurements are off, even just by a little bit, it could affect the entire design.





### **Science – Skeleton Structure - How do we bend?**

Students love showing all the obscure things they can do, and this day was no exception. We're built similar, but not all the same, so it was interesting to learn about the muscles and bones that help us become such entertaining people.

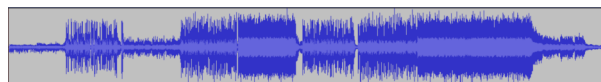
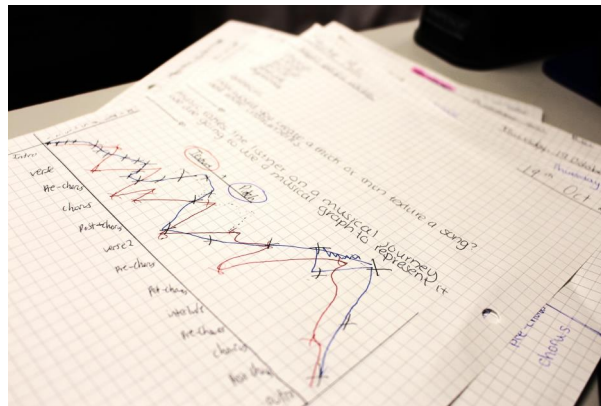


**Music – The structure of a song**

It doesn't look like any song you know right now, but it's actually **Bastille - Pompeii**.

Students were looking at songs and how they are built up of different parts; Verse, Chorus, Bridge etc. and how they affect their audience with different textures/pitch/amount of instruments. Later on they created a song using different sections, just like this one.

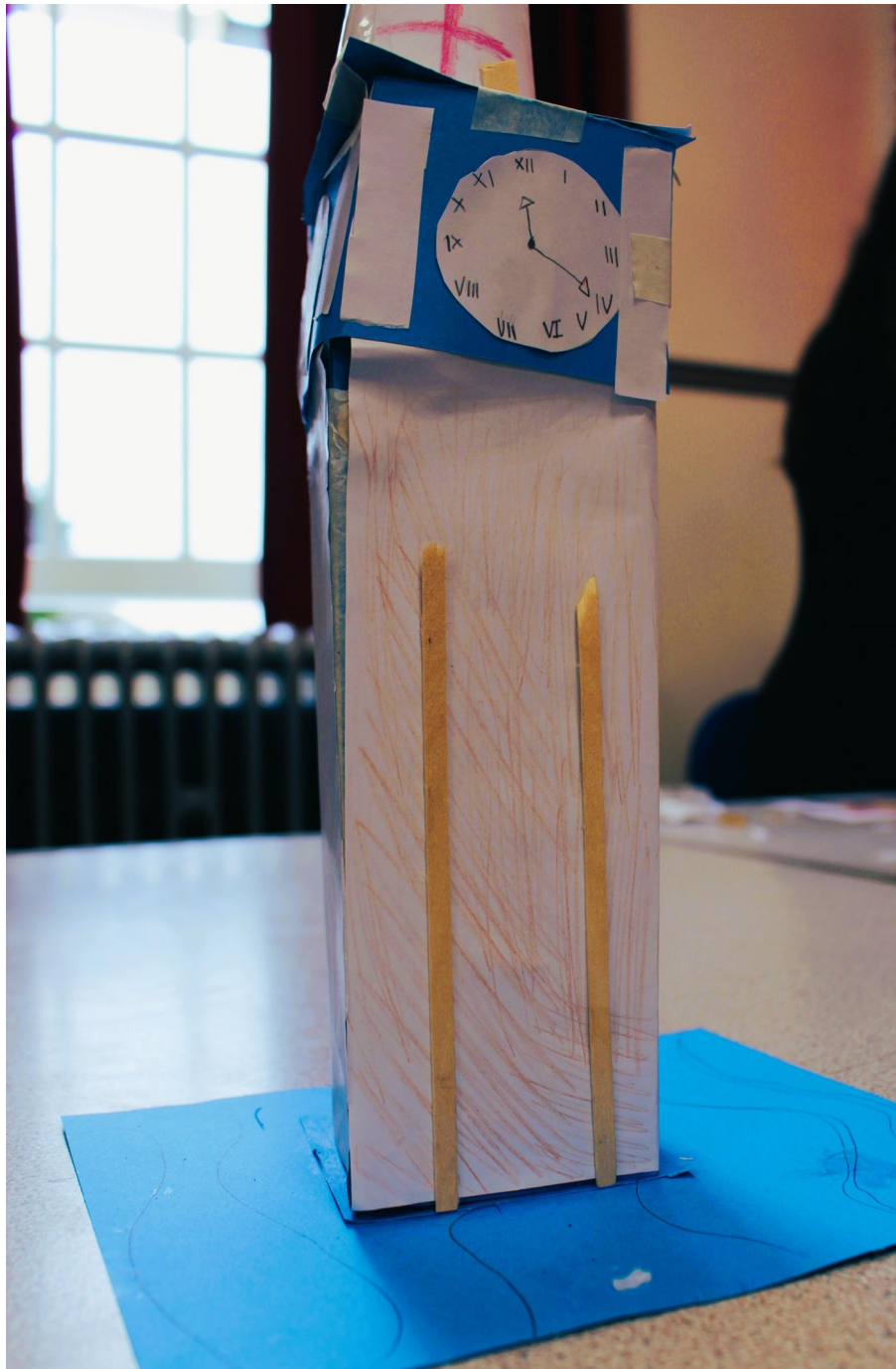
Visuals can be just as important as the music, whether you are the creator of games like Guitar Hero, a music therapist or or a musical engineer.



## Knowledge Connected

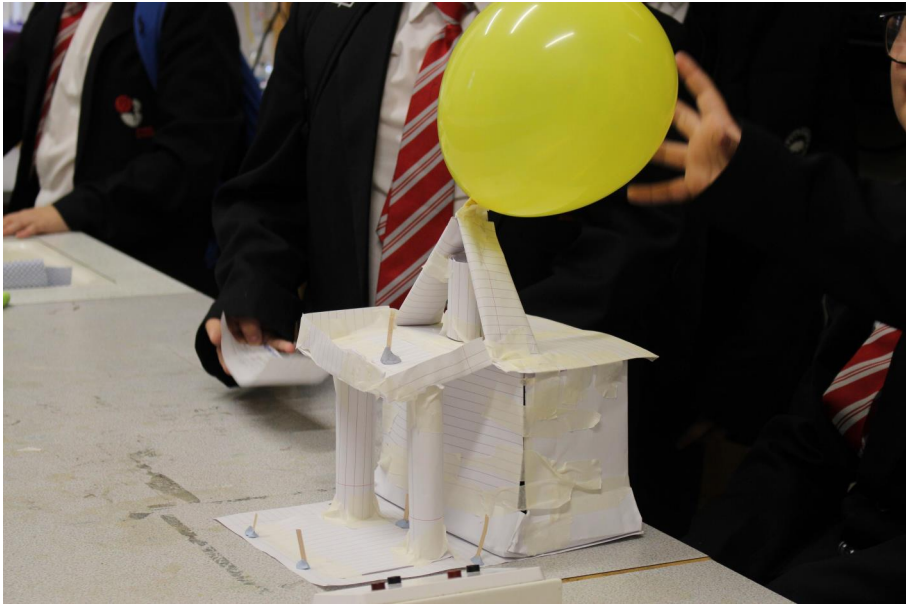
Year 7 - 2nd Nov

Our students put their creative skills to the test to make structures that stand on their own foundations. We hope it's been an inspiring day across the CET Trust. Check out the talent! (some were caught in while still under construction)



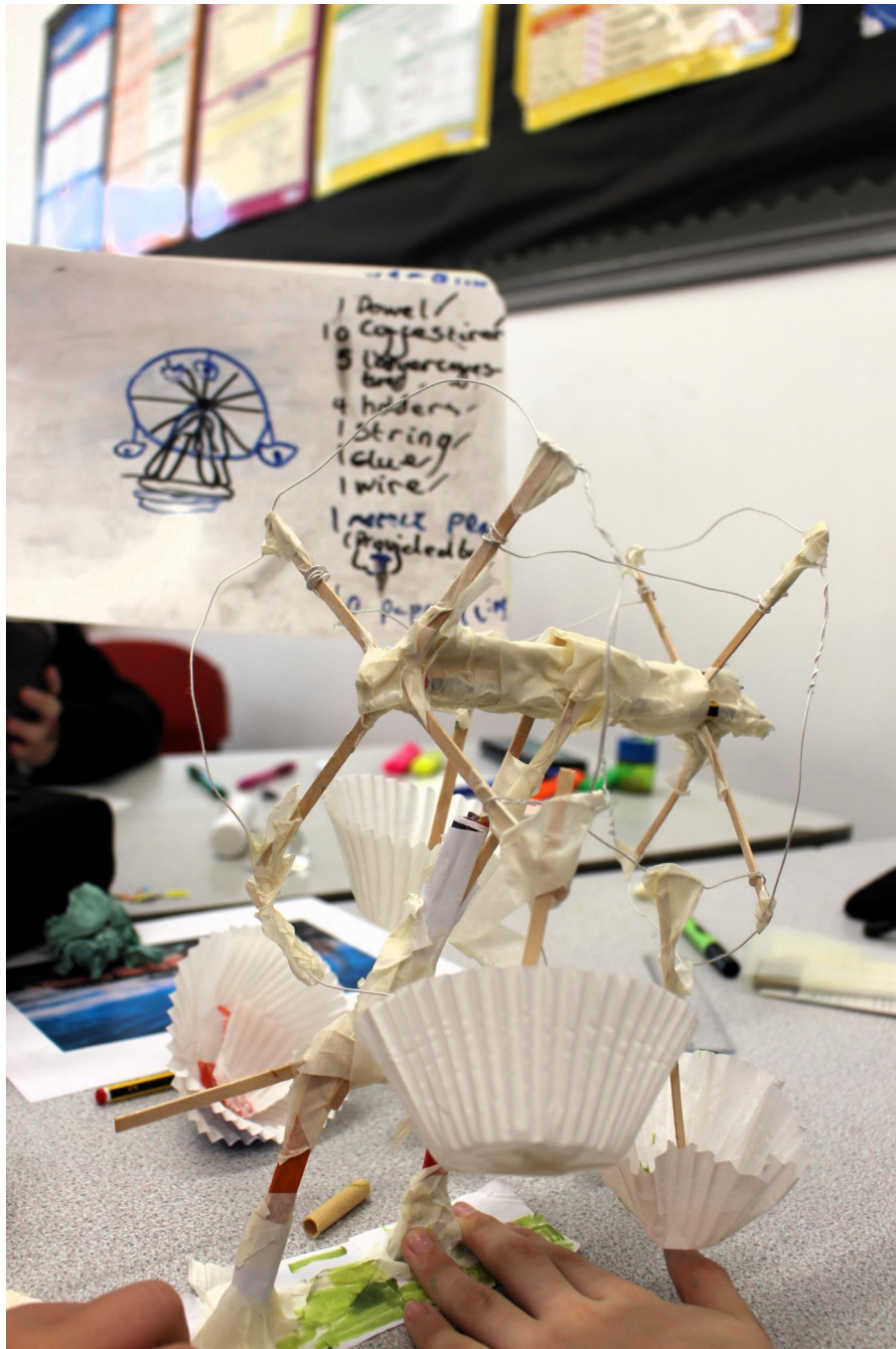


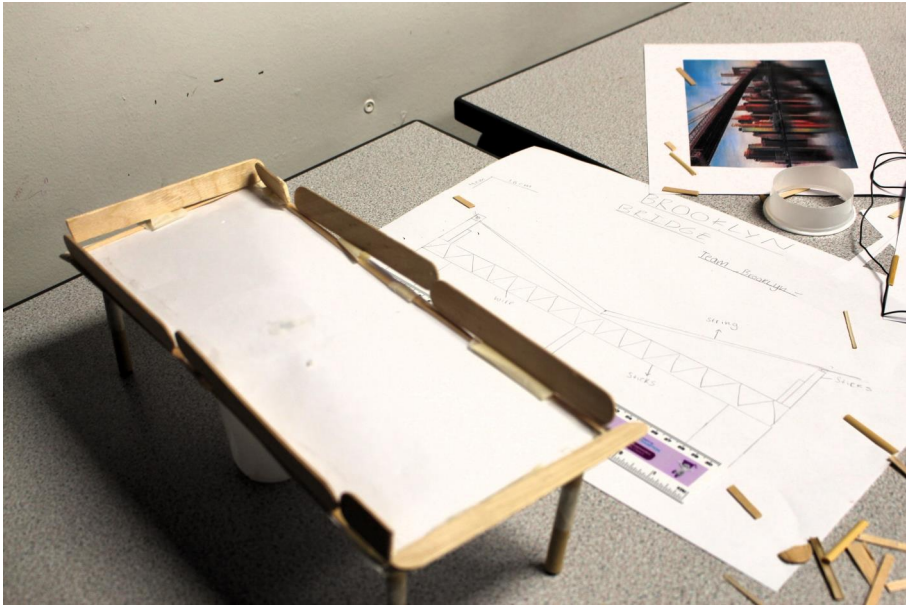




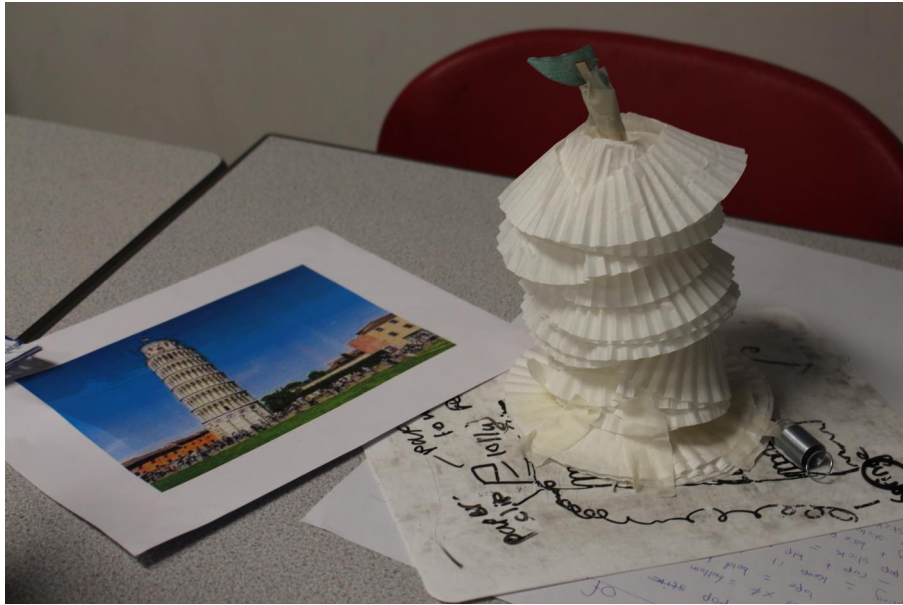






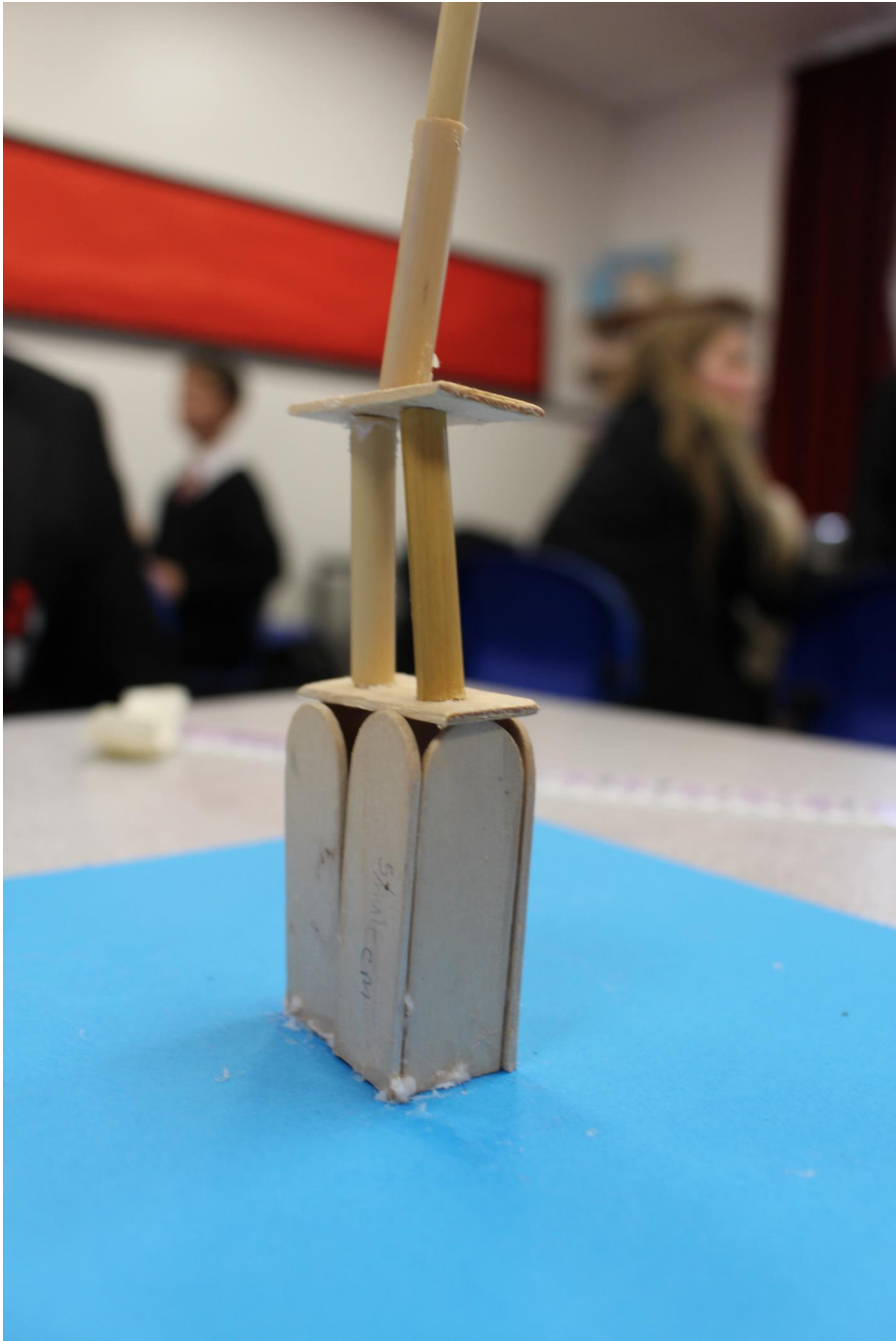


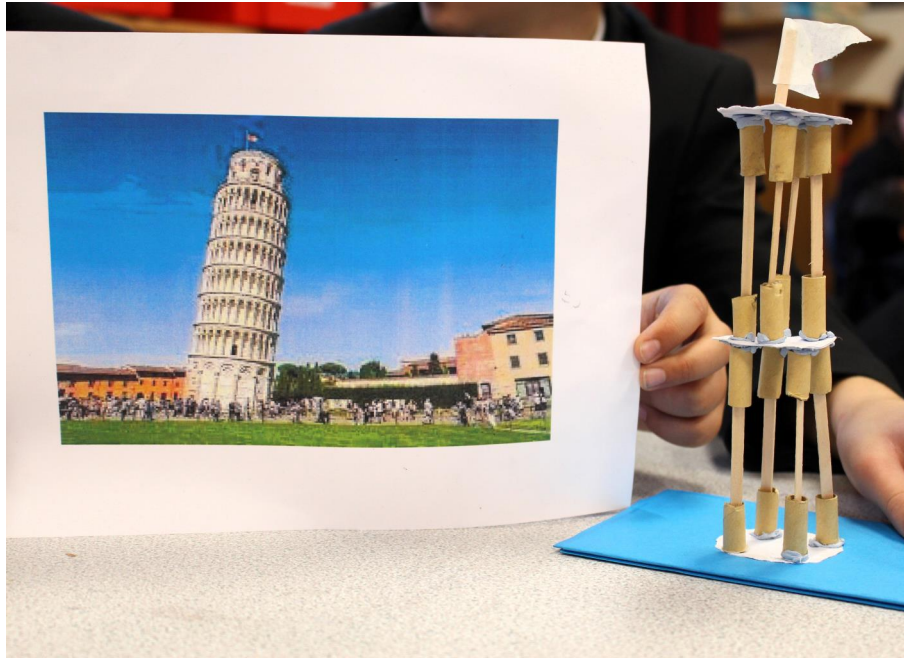


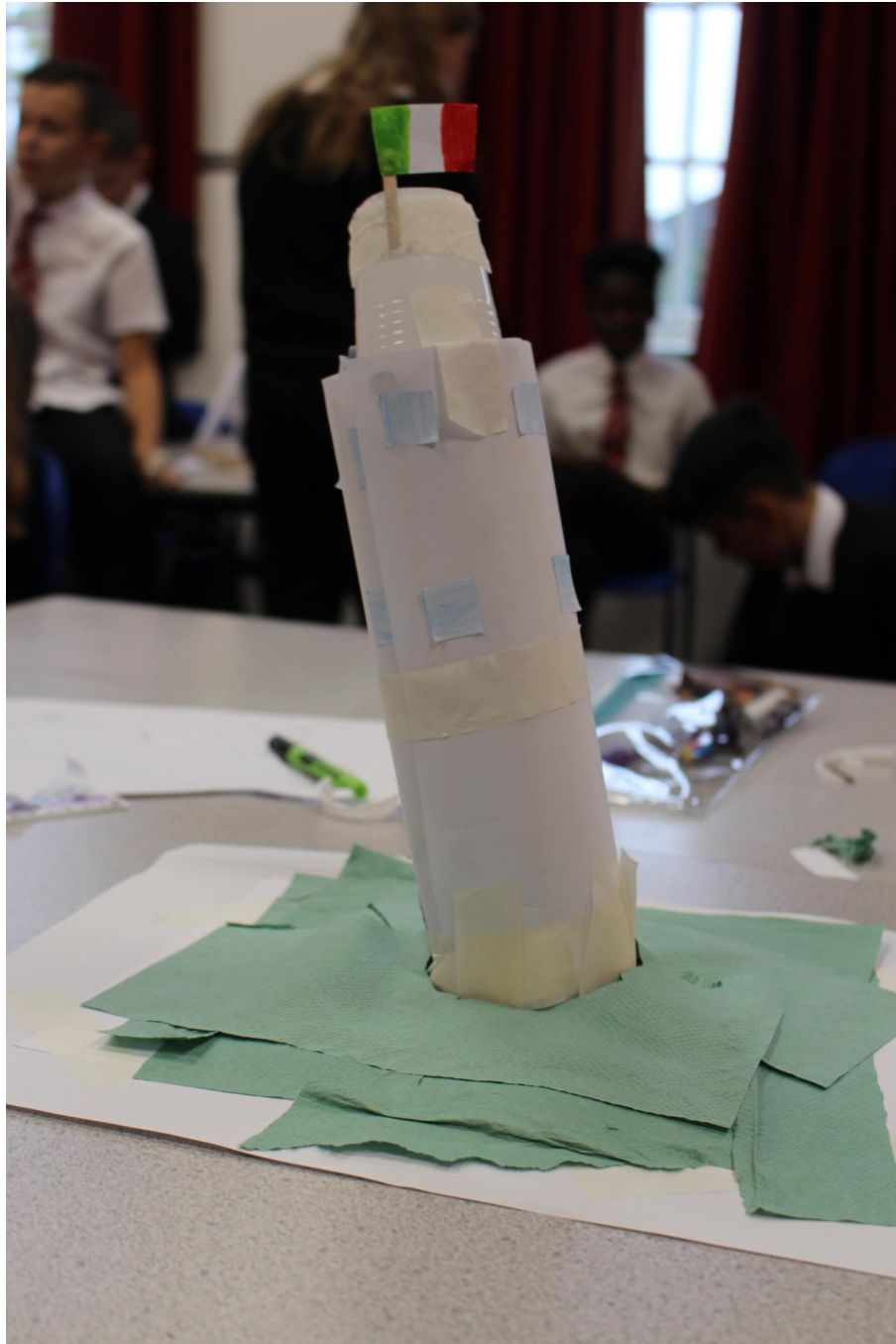














## Remembrance Day



*1 - Scouts, Cadets and Girl Guides*

Year 10 and all of our Cadets, Guides and Scouting students had a respectful assembly for those that were involved in the past wars. WW1, WW2, Falkland's, Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, as well as the current wars in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza and many more.

It's important that we learn from our history to avoid making the same mistakes again. On this day, we also remembered the students that attended Wrenn and the local members of the community that lost their lives in WW2. Numbered houses, streets and some familiar

last names were mentioned in the assembly, which really showed how this has affected the area.

Bombs were actually dropped in Wellingborough and Rushden. You can also see behind the shop in Wellingborough Market Square, there's a commemorative plaque (circled in picture).



## CET Choir



We are delighted to present the cross-Trust Choir of 2024!

Last week we were delighted to take 43 members of our cross-Trust Choir, from 9 of our secondary schools, for their first rehearsal of the year. Kicking off in style, St Giles Cripplegate served as the host of our 'Choral Inspiration Day'. The church is one of the few remaining mediaeval buildings in the City of London, just a stone's throw from the Barbican Centre and Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

Our choir will meet four times over the next year to rehearse a wide range of repertoire, from pop to classical to folk from around the world. What we think is quite special about our choir is that it has participants from Year 7 right through to Year 13. Some have been part of the opportunity for a few years, and some are new hands learning from the experience of others.

Here's a little clip of our singers together for the first time, led by Charles Béquignon-MacDougall and Camille Maalawy of [Voices Foundation](#).



<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/wdyCr9j4d3fhRf3e#content=EnhxrQgTc6Dncw>

## Public Speaking Competition

The year 9 public speaking teams did brilliantly! The boys team were fabulous, but our girls team did even better and are through to the second round of the English Speaking Union public speaking competition (along with two teams from Oundle). The key bit is we knocked out both teams from Hatton

The next round (**the Northamptonshire final**) will be in January. If they can win that then it would be the **Regional Final** in March. From what we saw of the two Oundle teams, it wouldn't be unreasonable to think they could beat them. So, depending on what the other schools are like, we actually do have a good chance of making Regionals!



## Ritangle Competition



This term five of our brightest and best year 12 mathematicians have been taking part in the **Ritangle Competition**. The competition started back in October, with one question a week to solve, before increasing to three a week after half term. The questions are based on the A level maths syllabus but require some serious problem-solving skills and out of the box thinking. Most questions require students to make use of technology such as graphing software, spreadsheets and coding. Each question answered then revealed part of a clue to create and solve a cross number grid and break a code to access the final task. The last round of questions was released at 4pm on 4th December and from then on it is a race to the finish. Miss Morris has been very impressed with the students' dedication, patience and resilience with tackling the questions, they are not easy! It is a delight to see students spending their lunchtimes and evening talking and engaging with maths. They have learnt plenty of new skills along the way, which will help them with their A level courses and

beyond. Most importantly though they have had fun! We are keeping our fingers crossed for them as they tackle the final optimisation question, based around the games in a chess tournament. Congratulations to **Dawid, Bohdan, Lewis, Natalia and Visheicaa**.

**Get involved next time:**

[mei.org.uk/ritangle](http://mei.org.uk/ritangle)

## Brass Workshop- NMPAT



Thank you to **Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust** Brass Recital Team, for delivering a brilliant day for all of our students interested in learning a brass instrument. Keep a lookout for a sign-up email if your child has enjoyed one of these sessions.

Students enjoyed listening to some very famous songs including the theme tunes to Star Wars and Jurassic Park.

The session ended with students playing along with the team either on the Vuvuzela or the Hosepipe and Funnel!!

Miss Zoboky who helped organised the event is hoping for that we have found the next budding brass player. A great time was had by all.

For more information, please visit:

[NMPAT.co.uk](http://NMPAT.co.uk)

## CET Essay and Speaking Competition Finals



Although we did not win, the judges commended our finalists for their exceptional presentations. to get this far is a tremendous achievement. Keep at it and next time could be your time!

### **Essay finalist:**

Favour John - far right

### **Speech finalists:**

Akua Kwarteng - centre

Pippa Walsh - far left

## Mock Results Day

### YEAR 11 MOCK RESULTS DAY

We provided students with the opportunity to experience a mock results day. This took place on the 11th December 2023. Students had a brief assembly from Mr Culpin about Minimum Expected Graded (MEGs), what they are and why we use these. You can find a recording of a similar presentation by following this link <https://www.wrennschool.org.uk/your-target-grades>. After this assembly, students were invited to collect their results, some breakfast items such as croissant, hot chocolate, breakfast bars or fruit and a reflection sheet.

The purpose of this results day was similar for the reason we run mock exams; we want students to know what it feels like to receive results that they will then need to use for their next steps. However, another focus for this mini results day was reflection. We wanted students to consider their motivation and effectiveness of revision, how they feel towards their results and thinking about their next steps. I have included a picture below of the reflection sheet so you can see exactly what reflection your child engaged in.

Do not forget to write who you are so this can be given back to your tutor!

What methods did you use the MOST?

Be honest here... we want to know if you struggled getting into the swing of revision or if you feel you put in lots of effort and time!

|                                                                                               |                                          |                                                                |                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NAME _____                                                                                    | FORM _____                               |                                                                |                                                                                                                          |
| When did you start preparing for mocks?                                                       |                                          | How many hours revising per week? (include NTP/ P6 attendance) |                                                                                                                          |
| What did you do to prepare?<br>Circle/highlight all that apply and add any others not listed. | GCSE Pods<br>Created flashcards          | Self-quizzing/testing<br>Attended P6s                          | Created notes summaries<br>Got a friend or family member to test you<br>Past papers/questions and mark schemes<br>Other: |
| Do you think your preparation was effective?<br>What advice you do more or less of next time? | Learning Scientists strategies<br>Seneca |                                                                |                                                                                                                          |
| How motivated did you feel to revise?                                                         |                                          |                                                                |                                                                                                                          |

NAME *Miss W* FORM *11*

|                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                |                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| When did you start preparing for mocks?                                                       | <i>1 month before</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | How many hours revising per week? (include NTP/ P6 attendance) | <i>Approx 15</i>                                                                                                         |
| What did you do to prepare?<br>Circle/highlight all that apply and add any others not listed. | GCSE Pods<br>Created flashcards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Self-quizzing/testing<br>Attended P6s                          | Created notes summaries<br>Got a friend or family member to test you<br>Past papers/questions and mark schemes<br>Other: |
| Do you think your preparation was effective?<br>What advice you do more or less of next time? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I think the PE / NTP were effective as these are run by a teacher or mentor who could guide me.</li> <li>At home I went through my notes and did some GCSE Pods but didn't do any past papers to practice in my own time. I would do more of this next time.</li> </ul> |                                                                |                                                                                                                          |
| How motivated did you feel to revise?                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Somewhat motivated. I was motivated in the sessions I attended at school and I started revising early but I got distracted with my phone when revising at home.</li> </ul>                                                                                              |                                                                |                                                                                                                          |

Write here the AP1 grade you have just received

Here, write a word to describe how you feel about this score.

Add in your option choices here

| Reflecting on the grades you have just opened: |                         |                                 |      |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| Subject                                        | AP grade did I achieve? | How do I feel about this score? | Why? |
| English Lang                                   |                         |                                 |      |
| English Lit                                    |                         |                                 |      |
| Maths                                          |                         |                                 |      |
| Science                                        |                         |                                 |      |
| History                                        |                         |                                 |      |
| Geography                                      |                         |                                 |      |
| Option 1:                                      |                         |                                 |      |
| Option 2:                                      |                         |                                 |      |
| Option 3:                                      |                         |                                 |      |

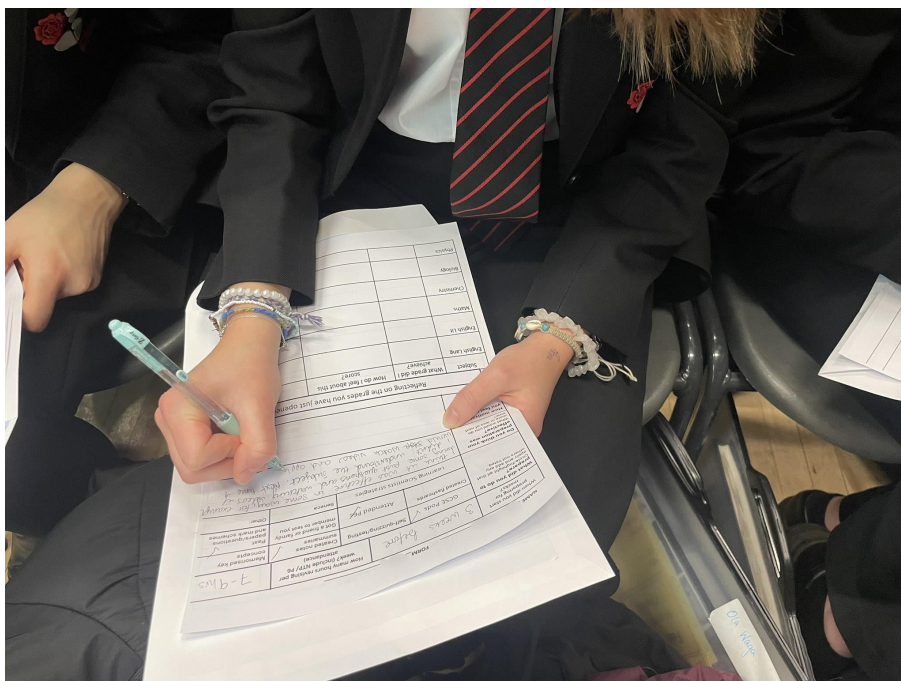
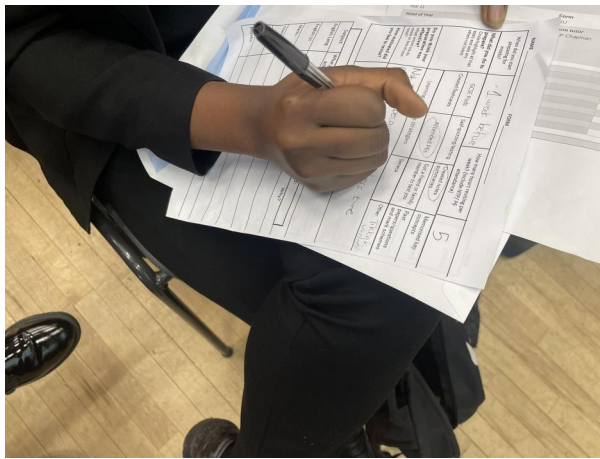
Now help us to understand WHY you feel this way.

This adds context and helps us to understand how your teacher / tutor / year team can support you.

NAME Miss W FORM 11

|                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |                                                                |                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| When did you start preparing for mocks?                                                       | <b>1 month before</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       | How many hours revising per week? (include NTP/ PG attendance) | <b>Approx 15</b>                       |
| What did you do to prepare?<br>Circle/highlight all that apply and add any others not listed. | GCSE Pads                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Self-quizzing/testing | Created notes summaries                                        | Memorised key concepts                 |
|                                                                                               | Created flashcards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Attended PGs          | Got a friend or family member to test you                      | Past papers/questions and mark schemes |
|                                                                                               | Learning Scientists strategies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                       | Seneca                                                         | Other:                                 |
| Do you think your preparation was effective?<br>What would you do more or less of next time?  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I think the PG / NTP were effective as these are run by a teacher or mentor who could guide me.</li> <li>At home I went through my notes and did some GCSE Pads but didn't do any past papers to practice in my own time. I would do more of this next time.</li> </ul> |                       |                                                                |                                        |
| How motivated did you feel to revise?                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Somewhat motivated. I was motivated in the sessions I attended at school and I started revising early but I got distracted with my phone when revising at home.</li> </ul>                                                                                              |                       |                                                                |                                        |







## Shakespeare School Festival



2 - *Ryan Early, Actor in The Crown, Coronation Street*

**The Tempest** was a tremendous success! All the time and hard work has paid off. Thank you to our *special guest* **Ryan Early** for all the advice, and of course to our Drama teachers **Miss Lawman** and **Mrs Hance** for directing the production.

It's wonderful to see a thriving Drama department with so much interest. We hope to see many familiar faces next time at auditions and if you are new to Wrenn, maybe started in year 7 this year? Please express your interest to our Drama teachers on how you can get involved in future performances.

Co-created with [HMDT Music](#) in 2014, the Creative Education Trust Shakespeare festival invites students from across our secondary schools to engage with the language of the Bard. In 30-minute productions, directed by school staff and designed by teams of students, our performers create inventive worlds to reimagine these familiar stories. This year almost 300 pupils participated in the project, with 170 of those taking to the stage across two days.

***"I loved it so much, and it has opened up a career path I may consider."***

**STUDENT PERFORMER, CET SHAKESPEARE 2023**

At Creative Education Trust, we believe it's important to support our students to connect their learning and skills with life beyond the classroom. This project gives every participant the opportunity to work with a theatre professional; actor Ryan Early provides a voice and text workshop for our performers and theatre designer Mark Friend works with our student design teams, helping them realise their director's vision.

Whether our pupils go into the performing arts or not, we hope that participating in our Shakespeare Festival has given them confidence, teamwork skills, and great pleasure.

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*This is just one of many co-curricular opportunities offered to pupils in Creative Education Trust schools. [Find out about our other cross-Trust enrichment activities.](#)*

For Wrenn's performance, please follow the link below.

If you loose your place, please skip to **5:19:38** (unless you want to watch 5hr 50min of all the schools)

[CET Shakespeare Festival 2023](#)











## Careers News

**Welcome to the first section of Wrenn Schools Careers news.** In this section you will see what is coming up with regards to Careers Education and some useful information regarding Careers Education.



## Careers - Upcoming Events

### Year 11 and 12 Careers Meetings

Navigating what the next steps are can be confusing for our students, therefore to help them make this decision we offer all of our Year 11 and 12 students a meeting with a fully qualified Careers Advisor from Prospects. Each student receives a 40 minute scheduled appointment in which they can ask any questions they may, or just listen to what their options are.

### Open Days

To help students decide where they may like to continue their studies Post GCSE's local colleges have open days / evenings throughout the year.

These are a fantastic opportunity for students and parents to walk around the college and find out more information about particular courses or locations.

You are required to register a place on an open day.

## Careers - What are my child's post 16 options?

### Sixth Form

Sixth form typically focuses on A-Level (Advance Level) qualifications—These are 2 year courses that end in an overall examination and a grade between 9-1, It has a similar structure to GCSE's but looks at the subject in more depth.

At Wrenn Sixth Form students are able to choose from both:

- \* A levels
- \* BTEC Level 3 Qualifications.

### Colleges

Colleges offer a whole range of different courses and study programmes ranging from those that do not need any specific GCSE grades such as an entry level course through to apprenticeships, higher education degrees and professional or technical qualifications.

Rather than choosing 3 different subjects like at sixth form students will specify an area of interest at college and will study just one course.

Each local college has a digital prospectus online that can be looked at for more information

### Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is:

- \* ...is a real job with training allowing you to earn and learn whilst gaining a nationally recognised qualification.
- \* ...can take between one and five years to complete and cover 1500 job roles in a wide range of industries, from engineering to accountancy, public relations to veterinary nursing.
- \* ...is now available up to degree level and beyond, and anyone over the age of 16 is eligible to apply.

The benefits of doing an apprenticeship are:

- \* You earn as you learn
- \* You receive training in the skills employers want Progression opportunities - whether looking to study further or climb the ranks within the workplace



**Please note entry requirements are different for each college / sixth form so it is best to check.**



### **Calling all former students**

As a school we work closely with Future First to help develop an Alumni network.

If you are or know of any previous Wrenn School Alumni please can you send them this QR code link for them to sign up to our Future First Alumni Hub.

Your experiences could help motivate and inspire the future generations.

### **Your Feedback**

We are always looking to improve our Careers Programme and your feedback is important to us to be able to make sure that what we offer is what is needed. Therefore if you have any feedback to offer us with regards to the Careers Programme at Wrenn then please email the Careers Lead at [Joanne.Bolton@Wrennschool.org.uk](mailto:Joanne.Bolton@Wrennschool.org.uk)

## Sports



### Year 7 Athletics Event

Our Year 7s smashed their first district indoor athletics event and were victorious!! The boys team won the whole event and the girls team came 2nd. This also means that both teams will represent the whole district at the County event in February.





## National Cipher Challenge

Each year the University of Southampton run a cipher competition. This takes the form of a story with secret messages between the characters that the students need to decrypt each week. The competition takes place over ten weeks, with two ciphers to solve each week. The faster they can decrypt, the more points they will get, and the ciphers get progressively harder. Students are not allowed to use online decryption sites, but they can program their own if they wish. **Dawid Durka** has set himself the challenge of taking on the competition and is getting to grips with programming his cipher solvers. Last year the final round was so difficult it took until January for anyone to be able solve it. We wish **Dawid** the best of luck, when this year's final challenge is released next Thursday.

Take a look:

[Cipherchallenge.org](http://Cipherchallenge.org)

## Young Carers

We have had a busy time with our Young Carers this term with the start up of our allotments in September. The students have designed and helped to build raised vegetable beds and planted their first crops ready for Spring. They have been on a trip to FlipOut and also had a great day this week making Christmas Wreaths, gingerbread and mince pies to take home.













## Charity events



### Macmillan Coffee Morning

Many of our staff members have been baking/faking cakes to raise money for the Macmillan Charity. Between both donation boxes on London Rd and Doddington Rd, as well as the online donations (which totalled **£93**, Thank you again!), the **total** came to a **whopping £251.01** (every penny counts)

**WARNING: Images may cause peckishness**







## The Great Wrenn Food Bank Collection

**Success!!** Thank you all for your incredible donations. The Wellingborough Food Bank has collected and sent these items to those in great need this December. For many, you will have made their Christmas, offered a life line, and possibly restored some much needed faith in our local community. With many choosing between heating their homes, and feeding themselves, The **Wellingborough Food Bank; Daylight Centre** couldn't have helped feed as many people as they have without you.

Wrenn have delivered assemblies across all year groups that have shown how people in our local community are in great need, now more than ever during the cost of living crisis. With over **9.3 million adults in the UK struggling to afford to eat**, and over 7 million adults living without basics like food or eating, our research is showing that over 46% of people are going without a proper meal in the last month. Surely it make sense to pass on that can that's going to sit in the back of your cupboard for that "just encase meal", which if we are perfectly honest with ourselves, we more often than not find it's gone out of date by the time that day has come and end up throwing it away to add to the... yep, you guessed it, the **9.5 million tonnes of food that gets wasted** every year. *That's on average £350 a year per household according to Divert.co.uk.*

For more information if you would like to contribute further or in need yourself, please follow the link below to their website:

[Daylight Centre Fellowship Food Bank](#)



## Dates for the Diary



**Wed 20th Dec 2023** - 1:30pm End of term

**4th & 5th Jan** - Teacher training day

**Mon 8th Jan 2024** - School open

**Mon 8th - 12th Jan** - Longtown, Year 8 trip

**Fri 17th Jan** - Science Museum, Photography trip - Year 10

Tue 23rd - Thur 25th Jan - Sixth Form interviews/Curve theatre trip **(To Be Confirmed)**

**29th Jan** (Week Commencing), Knowledge Connected yr 7 & 8

**Mon 29th Jan** - Yr 11 Maths residential

**Thur 1st Feb** - Sixth Form Winter Ball

**Tue 6th Feb** - Knowledge Connected Reps reward trip

**Fri 16th Feb** - Last school day. Half term break

**Mon 26th Feb** - School open

**Thur 28th Mar** - Last school day. End of term (Easter Holidays)

**29th March & 1st Apr** - Good Friday & Easter Monday

**Mon 15th Apr** - School open

## **PROUD TO BE WRENN**

"AMBITION AND EXCELLENCE WITH CARE FOR ALL"

## **Wrenn School Contact Details**

General enquiries: [enquiries@wrennschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wrennschool.org.uk)

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