



April/May 2020

**NEWS**

newsletter@birchwoodhigh.org.uk

## Birchwood rallies to support their community!



### Amazing PPE from our Technology and Science Departments

As well as teaching during lockdown, some of our amazing staff have been making essential PPE equipment for the NHS and Carer community. We were initially contacted by a local nurse (and school parent) who was desperately short of PPE for her and her team asking if we could help.

Mr Stephens and Mr Newman set to work designing a face shield that they could manufacture. An amazing 11,500 face shields have been delivered so far....

A huge thanks to the following people who have worked tirelessly to make this happen:

Mr Stephens, Mr Newman, Miss Munro, Daniel Stephens, Christopher Stephens, Ashleigh Stephens, Rob Newman, Mr Osborne, Mrs Farrell, Jess Farrell, Miss Payne, Mrs Appleby, Mrs Augustine, Mrs Young, Mrs Crowther, Mr Creed, Mrs Jackson, and Dr Ingate.

Continued on pages 2 and 3 .....



Nurses in Newmarket



Williams Day Chemotherapy Unit



Miss Payne (left) models the new improved face shield with the added peak for more face protection and Miss Munro (right) is modelling the original design. Some of our local nurses modelling the PPE (right).



Hertfordshire Police

# Birchwood rallies to support their community.....

A special thanks must go to all the people who have kindly donated either money or materials, without this happening we would not have been able to do the project.

Special thanks to:

Mrs Day - clear PVC sheets

B&Q - metal rivets

Tilgear - clear PVC & many personal deliveries to save time

Technology Supplies - clear PVC

Mrs Osborne and Miss Osborne both donated riveting tools and materials

Eastman Chemical Co. (Old Harlow) – clear visor plastic

H Webber & Sons, Dorking - 5,000 rivets at cost price with free delivery – these were kindly paid for by the parent of a member of staff who wishes to remain anonymous. The same family also donated two rolls of clear PVC.



Presco, Swindon & Seawhite, Brighton - ensured all our deliveries were received next day

Mrs Augustine - for help with all the logistics

Here are just a few of the many thank you messages we have received:

“We just wanted to send a message to your D&T Department: We have just received the face shields you made, which are brilliant. You should be very proud of what you are doing to help the community, you too, are amazing. Our staff will feel much more secure and protected wearing the shields, which we have been unable to get hold of.” Thank you from all the staff at **Apton Road. Kirsten Jennings Senior Administrator, Adult Care Services**

Thank you so much to all of you at Birchwood High School in the D&T department, for the face shields. The staff here are wearing them already and report they're really comfortable to wear. We really appreciate the time and effort you have all put in.”

**Hilary Donnellan. Deputy Matron, Emergency Department.**

“**Care by Us** would like to thank Birchwood High School for creating and supplying PPE for our carers.”

**St Elizabeth's** also said “they were very grateful for the PPE that Birchwood supplied.”

“I would like to convey our immense gratitude for your gift of face shields. You have clearly spent time considering the design for our clinicians, and come up with a design which will be of great benefit in times of need. Thank you all so much for your effort and energy. Keep well and keep safe, and look after yourselves.”

**Professor Nancy Fontaine Chief Nurse Norfolk & Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

“Visors have gone down a treat here. They are fab thank you soooooooooooooooooo much for them!”

**Williams Day Chemotherapy Unit**

# Birchwood rallies to support their community.....

Here are some of the many organisations we have distributed to:

- Herts & Essex Hospital - who first approached us
- Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow
- Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford
- Southend Hospital
- Basildon Hospital
- Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield
- Norfolk & Norwich Hospital, Norwich
- Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge
- Chelmsford Prison
- Cambridge Prison
- Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Service
- GP Surgeries & Pharmacies across Hertfordshire & Essex
- Care Homes and Care Companies across Hertfordshire & Essex, but everyone in the Stortford district (contacted by Mrs Augustine)
- Hospices in Barnet & Harlow
- Stortford Fire & Police

Numerous media personalities have helped us to spread the information on how to make the face shields, including Mr Stephens and Mr Newman appearing on the Steph Show on Channel 4 and even Dara O'Brien commented on his Twitter page!

We raised an amazing £13,673.00 through the Just Giving page, which closed on Friday 8 May. We now have enough funds to buy sufficient materials to meet the foreseeable demand for this form of PPE. We would like to reassure you that once we have used the necessary funds for manufacturing, we will pass any surplus monies over to the two NHS COVID-19 wards at 'Herts & Essex Community Hospital' and 'The Princess Alexandra Hospital', to be used towards whatever they see as their highest priority.



Mrs Jacobson and Mrs Feather Levey, with the help of Mrs Feather Levey's daughter, have been busy making scrubs for our local Stort Valley District Nursing team. They launched a crowdfunding appeal to help them raise money for fabric and haberdashery needed to make the scrubs. Over £400 was raised in an hour from the generous contributions of friends and colleagues. They have donated twenty sets of scrubs to the nursing team so far and plan to donate any left over funds to an NHS COVID-19 charity.

## **WE ALSO DONATED PENS TO LOCAL HOSPITALS**

With green ink the scarcest, Birchwood came up trumps with 900 green and 250 black pens in a bundle of 1,050 following an appeal from local hospitals.

# HEADLINES

I hope you enjoy reading this rather unusual edition of Birchwood News. Mrs Barnard, who does an excellent job producing our monthly newsletter, asked me at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis whether we could produce a May edition? I must admit that my initial thought was that this would be difficult – with no children in school, no trips and no sporting competitions – how could we put together something meaningful? At the same time, one of my Year 7 Science students emailed me the most amazing piece of homework on everything she had learnt in Chemistry this year and suddenly I saw the answer. We contacted all our teachers and asked them to forward any outstanding work and list names of super students working brilliantly at home.

The responses flooded in. This edition is really uplifting – if you see your name listed or your work displayed – well done. Your teacher has selected you from many others to say congratulations! If your name is listed, you will receive 10 House points and if your work is featured you will receive 20 House points.

We also know that online home learning is regularly being completed by over 85% of our students, and we are phoning those who seem to be struggling at home to complete work. I am hoping to repeat the same format in June so well done to those of you mentioned in the May edition and I hope that you feel inspired and want to see your work featuring next month.

Other than the super work undertaken by our students, I would like to thank the dedicated teaching staff for setting work online and encouraging students through feedback, games and quizzes. Some of our staff have also come into school every day to help produce 1000s of face shields and plenty of scrubs to assist NHS staff in the Eastern Region. Up until last week, demand remained high. With better supplies of PPE coming to hospitals and care homes from the government and a drop in the number of people in Covid wards this week, it has been really uplifting to see how we helped during a period of national emergency. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Just Giving Page which raised over £13,000. Any remaining funds will be given to the two NHS COVID-19 wards at Herts & Essex Community Hospital and The Princess Alexandra Hospital.

As to the future, whilst things remain uncertain, we can see some signs of things getting back to some kind of normal. I will continue to write a weekly blog on the school website and teachers will continue to set work and give feedback. We have responded to the recent DfE guidance on getting some students back to school and you can see the details of this in the letter sent to parents on Tuesday 12 May via schoolcoms (a copy is on the next page). Once we have further details, particularly around Year 10 and 12 students, we will inform you accordingly.

Take care and keep safe.

Dr Chris Ingate

Principal

12 May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer of Year 7-10 and Year 12 students

I am writing to outline our response to the DfE guidance on opening schools from 1 June announced yesterday. We are not expecting Year 7-9 students to return to school until September and we will be exercising extreme caution with regards to getting Year 10 and 12 students back into school, remembering that the health and safety of students and staff must be uppermost in our thinking.

We will continue to set online work after half term for all students and will look for sensible solutions in terms of allowing Year 10 and 12 students to come back into school. This might include 1:1 meetings, small workshops and some optional lecture style lessons in the larger spaces of the school, but the concept of having even 15 children in a classroom is fraught with difficulties, let alone corridor and communal space use. Based on current information, our initial thoughts are that if you would rather keep your child at home learning remotely for the duration of the Summer Term, this is perfectly acceptable, but there will be increased opportunities for them to come into school if preferred.

We will continue to accommodate key worker and vulnerable students in school and there is guidance on this on the school website.

I thought you should be aware of the approach we are taking so you do not become concerned about your child potentially returning to school full time on 1 June.

I will write to you again when we have more clarity on the national situation and how this might impact on our plans at Birchwood.

Yours sincerely

*Chris Ingate*

Dr Chris Ingate  
Principal

Principal - Dr Chris Ingate

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# English

**Commendations to the following students for their hard work and commitment to learning:**

## **Miss Cuddington**

Year 8 - Matthew Reader and Harrison Pickard, both have gone above and beyond in English so far during lockdown.

Year 10 - Toby Hollins and Harry Ford both have completed amazing work since lockdown.

## **Mrs de Graaf**

Cameron Vernon

Millie Law

Aishah Alim

Sharjeel Asim

Charlotte Cross

Abbie Pinnington

Jamie Harper

Chloe Elliott

Daniel Howe

Katie Brealey

Dillon Browne

Luke Taylor

Consistently completing their online tasks.

## **Miss Boittier**

Year 9

Charlie Harvey has completed EVERY task! He goes above and beyond.

Ruby Roberts has grown in confidence in English and proved she is capable of producing excellent work independently. She has worked extremely hard.

Jack Eley

Gracie-Mae Blaney

Mackenzie Lewin

Emily McNie

Charles Spencer

Kaley Walsom

Ivy Felsted

Year 10

Tain Richards-Farr has an excellent understanding of *The Sign of Four*.

It is not easy to read a 19th century novel independently, but Tain has analysed the characters and language in detail.

Zara Borg

Caleb O'Neil

## **Mrs Goddard**

Emily Sturgeon Year 7 has worked extremely hard and completed every single piece of English work to her very best ability and also produced a fantastic assessment, gaining her highest grade yet!

## Our Environment

At school we have added and are still adding items to make the environment at our school greener. Before we left, you may have noticed the new recycling bins in the Café. These are for plastic ONLY. We are also getting a food waste bin, which is only for uneaten food. We are also planning on getting a Terracycling bin, for crisp packets, and seeing if we can become the drop off point for terracycled waste, which will help the community. So keep your crisp packets, take them to your nearest drop off point, and they will be turned into picnic benches and watering cans. When we come back, we will also be running an environmental council, who will help create a greener school.

I know lockdown seems bad, but it is doing wonders for our planet. The hole in the ozone layer above the Arctic has healed itself, you can see the Himalayas from India and pollution in cities is down 60%. Only 9% of people say they want to go back to normal. This is a chance for us to change our lifestyle for the better and fix the problem we created. As Viktor Frankl said: "When we are no longer able to change a situation - we are challenged to change ourselves." The Avengers aren't going to save us from the Climate Crisis, we need to save ourselves. Get involved in whatever you can, litter picking, tree planting, anything. If you are buying a new car, consider going electric. "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step"- Lao Tzu. If we all contribute, no matter how small, we will make progress. Thank you.

*William Gilbank Environmental Council Chair, Student SNAG Chair and BBC Reporter*

# PLC

**Commendations to the following students for their hard work and commitment to learning:**

**Mrs Garner**

Oliver Simons in ASDAN

Jake Devlin in ASDAN

Amelia Haynes in ASDAN

**Mr Stock would like to commend**

Kay Walsom Year 9 for her kindness and helpfulness in helping another student working remotely.  
Mrs de Graaf for going above and beyond to contact a member of Year 8, talking her through the work, and making sure she was ok.

## Birchwood Cycling keeps going through lockdown



Just before the lockdown started Birchwood Cycling were planning to embark on their annual trip to Belgium. This time to cycle 140km of the tough gravel and cobbled roads of the Gent Wevelgem Sportive. But unfortunately, because of the coronavirus all travel was cancelled, so the team have had to train locally on the roads of Hertfordshire and Essex and in the Pain Caves on turbo trainers, with the new age of smart cycling in virtual worlds, such as Zwift.

Mr Barratt and Mr Brown have concentrated most of their training on cycling but also can be seen running as part of their daily routine. Mr William Powlett and Mr Chumbley have concentrated mainly on turbo training while Mr Heydinger and Mr Gilbank have been fortunate to be able to mix road riding with indoor cycling. Miss Peet has not only trained indoors but has also begun to race in the virtual world! Doing very well, as to be expected.

Not having the commute to work has meant for all of us that there is more time to train and with the longer evenings we are able to commit to getting fit and staying healthy. Overall the team over the past six weeks, both on real roads and virtual ones, have completed 7,756 km or 4819 miles. This would get us from London to Bhutan!

Just prior to the lockdown Birchwood Cycling, who have continued to be supported by TLC Live, were also delighted to announce a new sponsor, The Belgian Brewer #drinkresponsibly. The Belgian Brewer, a great supporter of the school's PSFA now has their logo on the jersey alongside TLC Live and Palmer and Martin Vehicle Hire. Based on Raynham Road industrial estate, the local brewer has been able to continue trading due to his Key work!! He certainly has enabled the Cycling team to have a welcome drink #inmoderation after all those miles. You can follow the team and it's supporters @birchwoodcycling on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

It has been wonderful to see and hear of so many students and parents taking to their bikes, as the roads have quietened and daily exercise has become a must. May this joy of bikes long continue.

We would love to hear from students and parents of any fantastic fitness feats they have been involved in for our next issue of Birchwood News.

Mr Gilbank

# Humanities

## Geography and RS

**Commendations to the following students for their hard work and commitment to learning:**

### Geography - Miss Diver

Emily Sturgeon in Year 7 and Frances Mackinlay in Year 10. Emily produced an outstanding project on Brazil and Frances has done all the work including challenge tasks and her own additional research.

### Geography - Mrs Franklin

Year 7

Chloe Allmark  
Abby Kruller-Robson  
Chloe has done a tremendous Brazil project, complete with GCSE level extension calculations and Abby A Design Your Own Country - complete with model and wars.....both completed the most fabulous geography work in the time since lockdown.

Year 9

Luca Cordery  
Tom Cowler  
Mackenzie Lewin  
Jack Pillinger  
Abigail Read  
Lucy Robinson

Year 10

Amelia Barton  
Patrick Bowyer

John Cornwall  
Scarlett Ellis  
Harry Ford  
Isobel Gordon  
Isabella Grassi  
Paige Gunner  
Ellie Henderson  
Ava Salisbury  
Olivier Shellard  
Jessica Smith  
Joe Stacey-Edwards  
Isla Thomson  
Adam Tyler  
Sam Winder

### Geography - Miss Robinson

Year 9

George Berry  
Phoebe Corner  
Lauren Gore  
Amber Mayer

Year 10

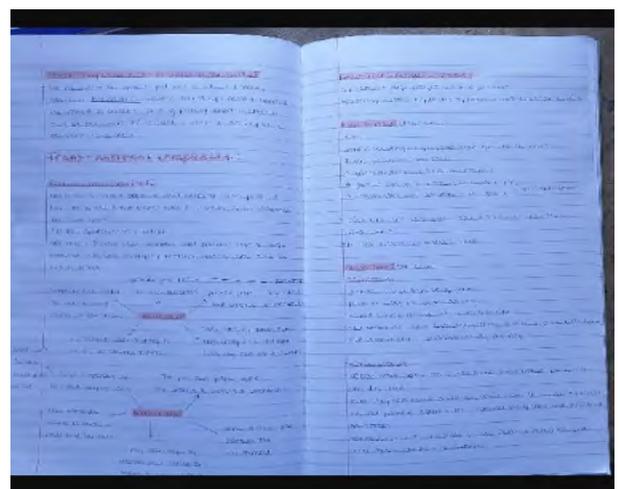
Matt Morris-Pretio

Year 12

Finlay Clark  
Charlie Wood



Emily Sturgeon



Frances Mackinlay



Abby Kruller-Robson

### RS - Miss Waring

Daniel Baines in Year 8 has sent me lots of great work on Sikhism.

# Humanities

## History

The History Department have launched the "Virtual History Club" which includes links to a huge range of videos and podcasts as well as historical competitions and games! There are resources and challenges aimed at those doing (or aiming to do) GCSE, A level or Degree level History. Anyone interested in joining the club should either click the link in their SMHW or email Mr Morton asking to be added to the club. Once added, they will have full access via MSTEams which can be found by clicking on the nine dots in the top left hand corner of your Outlook emails. In the files tabs are reading lists and video lists linked to our GCSE & A level specifications and in the conversations tabs a collection of games, resources and competitions for all the family!

Mr Morton  
Head of History

**Commendations to the following students for their hard work and commitment to learning:**

### History - Mrs Feather Levey

Year 7

Sienna Clifton - a well researched project about Rosa Parks, "a passionate, independent woman who was brave."

George Culley - unusual project about the roles of Andorra, Luxembourg and Newfoundland in WWII.

Thomas Howe - project about the conspiracy over the first moon landing.

Emily Sturgeon - interesting project about Victorian clothing.

Samantha Utley - well researched project about the clothing of Georgian women.

Charlie Smith - project about Martin Luther King.

Year 8

Gabriella Crowland - project on the break up of the former Yugoslavia.

Louisa Halkyard - project on the fight for female suffrage.

Morgan Moralee - project on the Black Death.

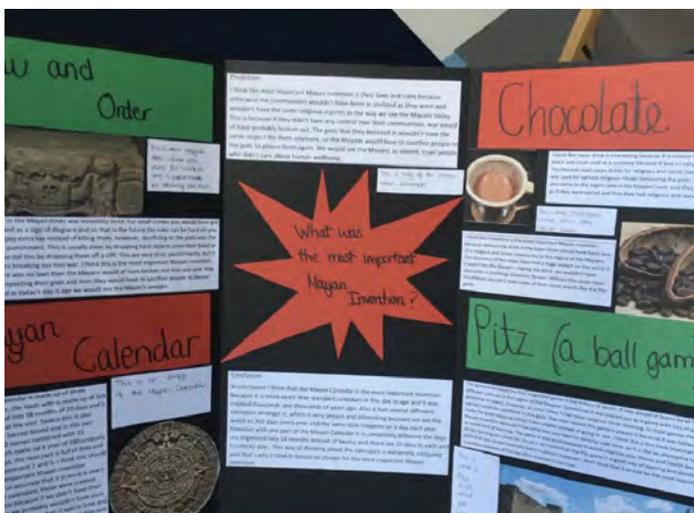
Findlay Smith - project on the Mayans.

Matthew Wilson - project about the Russian Revolution.

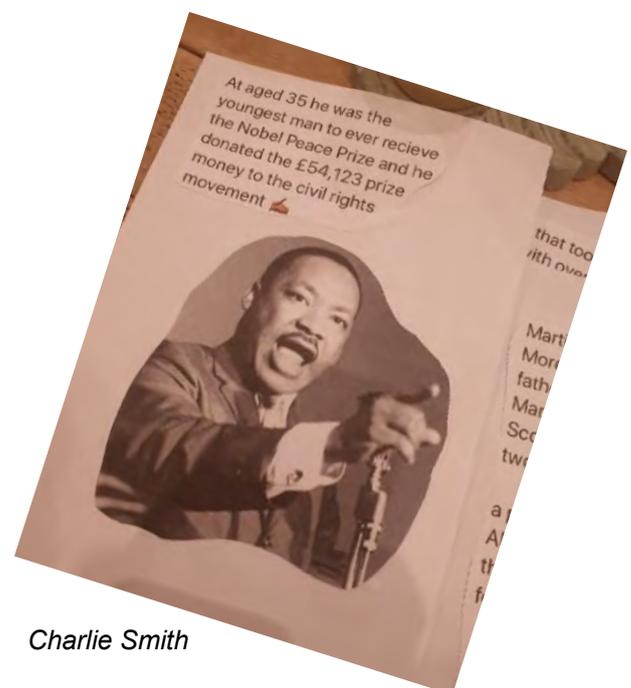
### History - Mr Jankovskis

Katrina Zune has gone above and beyond completing all the work ahead of time and to an excellent standard.

As have Charlie Harvey, Matthew Winder, Poppy Braulik, Madeleine Gilbank, Ethan Kirkpatrick, Emily McNie, Harry Shillam and Scarlet Dillon.



Gabriella Crowland



Charlie Smith

# Humanities History

Commendations to the following students for their hard work and commitment to learning:

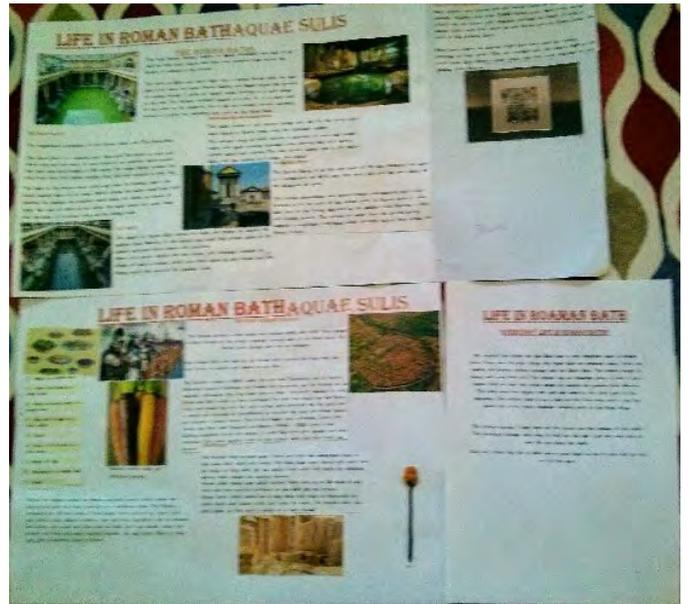
## History - Mr Morton

Daniel Howe Year 8 - a brilliantly planned and executed essay, well in advance of what I would usually expect from KS3 students.

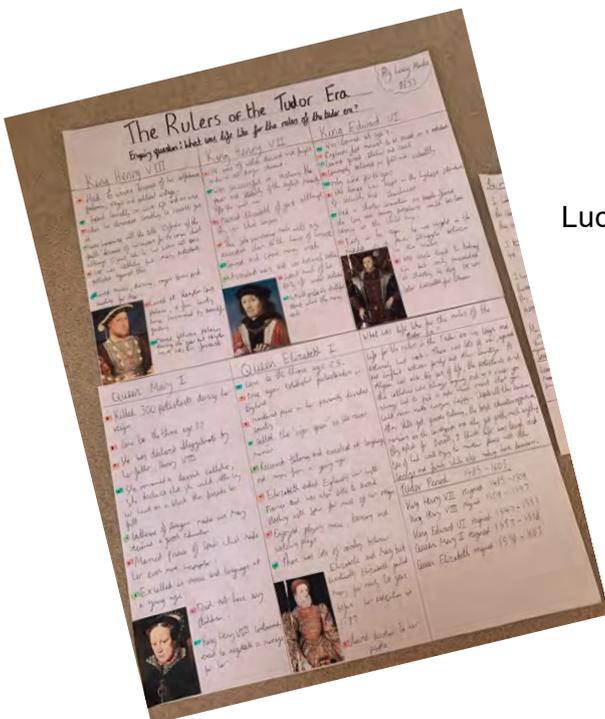
Evie Newman Year 8 - excellent research and work on WWII rationing and food supplies.

Abbie Pinnington Year 10 - she has completed her work to a very high standard since we've been in lockdown.

Adam Tyler Year 10 - superb attitude to learning and effort levels during lockdown!



Bruno Gordon Year 8 - for his work on Life in Roman Bath. Excellent research and explanations.



Lucy Monks Year 8 - lovely summary of the Tudors.

Callum Campbell Year 8 - brilliant research on the Christmas Truce of 1914, combined with a cracking mock up of a WWI era football.



# 75th Anniversary of VE DAY

Last Friday was a bank holiday celebrating "Victory in Europe" when, 75 years ago, Germany surrendered and WWII came to an end. During the war, which had lasted almost six years, 85 million people worldwide had died and in the UK alone 450,900 civilians and servicemen had died.

At home in 1940, it wasn't loo rolls, or indeed just flour that people struggled to buy in the shops; from 1940 onwards rationing was commonplace with an adult being allowed to buy just 50g of cheese and one egg a week. Butter, bacon, chocolate and even clothes had to be rationed in order to avoid starvation. Then as now, Britain was not self sufficient and we relied on shipping supplies from abroad, however all supplies had to dodge German submarines in order to get their cargos to our shores. Additionally, on the "Home Front" children were evacuated from cities and the bombing of cities and even of towns like Bishop's Stortford meant that people lived in constant fear of attack. There is a bomb shelter in the cheese shop on North Street and Hockerill Teacher Training College (as it was then) was hit by bombs on 10 October 1940, leaving three students dead.

As "Key Workers" soldiers, airmen, members of the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy as well as medics had been away from home and separated from their families for months at a time. Many of those separated (such as members of the Women's Land Army) were volunteers, however conscription (forcing men to join the armed forces) had been introduced in 1939, so large numbers of those involved in WWII, including Bishop's Stortford's own Cyril Banks, who visited Birchwood in 2018 to help mark the centenary of the end of WWI, and talk about the importance of Remembrance, were "enlisted" to help the war effort without much choice.

The war meant that families did not know when or even if, they would see loved ones again and the risks they took were huge. Two years ago, Cyril told a group of our students what it was like serving in Minesweepers in the Russian Convoys and during the preparations for D Day and so it was with understandable joy that parties and celebrations broke out nationwide on VE Day. It meant that the end was in sight and that normality, or at least, a new normal, would return. As it happened, the events of WWII changed Britain forever with the invention of the NHS in 1948 as a result of the WWII Beverage Report, conscription lasted until 1960 and rationing was not ended until 1954.

In Year 8 many of our History students undertake Family History Projects and it is always fascinating for their peers (and our History team) to see their research and find out how our students relatives were involved in conflicts from the War in the Desert in WWII, or fought on the Eastern Front for the Russians or as part of the Chindits in Burma. As we celebrated our bank holiday on Friday, it was perhaps a time to remember and reflect on what this day was for and to commemorate and remember the sacrifices of our grandparents and great grandparents. It's a huge event historically and one which I hope you took the time to remember.

On the following page you will find a wide selection of photos showing how some of our students celebrated the 75th anniversary. Thank you to everyone who took the time to email your photos.

Mr Morton  
Head of History

*Biscuits, cakes and  
homemade ginger beer helped  
Harry Gowlett and his family  
celebrate!*



# 75th Anniversary of VE DAY

Birchwood staff and students celebrated the 75th anniversary of the ending of WWII in style.



*Matthew Reader, Year 8 - learnt to play the Last Post. He performed at his home at 3.00pm on Friday. Which was very moving!*



*Molly-Sue Wedgbrow - made this bunting to decorate her house.*



*Tom Cowler, Year 9 - made Flapjacks to a WWII recipe.*



*Maddison Spencer Year 7 - made some yummy cup cakes.*



*Zoe Lloyd Rossi Year 7 - decorated her front of her house in style.*



*Chloe Allmark Year 7 - made bunting for her house.*



*Louie Ebbles Year 9 - decorated his house in style with lots of bunting and interviewed their Nan about her VE Day experience.*



*Mrs Madsen supporting a very patriotic hair do.*



*Abigail Sear Year 8 - created bunting and helped organise a socially distanced street party for her neighbours.*



*Kiera Picton Year 8 - made some bunting for her house.*



*Ben Nightingale, Year 8 and his sister decorated their house with flags and bunting.*



*Mr Morton - made bunting, hung out the Union Flag and had a VE day tea party with his grandfathers WWII RAF Officer's No1 cap for remembrance.*



# Maths

**Commendations to the following students for their hard work and commitment to learning:**

**Mr Ainge**

Year 8

Molly-Sue Wedgbrow - super, super effort from the word go, and has not stopped.

**Miss White**

Year 7

Rebecca Bedwell, Ethan Ford, Amy Lenihan and Aimee Suttle.

Year 9

Grace Attfield, Tom Cowler, Jack Pillinger, Nathan Poole, Molly Smith, Katrina Zune, Seb Fegan, Mahdi Huseinov, Mackenzie Lewin and Emily McNie.

Year 10

Amelia Haynes, Tegan Smith and Holly Taylor.

**Mr Summers**

Year 9

Poppy Braulik - has completed a huge amount of work to a very high standard over the last few weeks.  
Hunnie Collins - given that Hunnie had been at Birchwood for four days before Year 9 were sent home, she has done really well. Well Done Hunnie.

**Dr Allen**

Daisy Blackery, Alex Bond, Harry Mansfield and Alfie Pichel for working extremely hard on their Maths at home.

**Mr Loney**

Lois Harper Year 10 and Olivia Peacock Year 7 have been amazing thus far.  
George Linsell Year 10 - completing everything, emailing with questions. Stars!

**Mrs Moore**

Amelia Dean Year 10 - has completed all the work that I have set to a high standard. She has also completed some additional MyMaths tasks.

**Miss Bull**

Matt Davidson Year 12 - for his excellent commitment to his studies and communication at these difficult times.

Olivia Nineberg Year 10 - for determination to understand everything set and completing extra work to consolidate her learning.

**Miss Parkyn**

Year 7

Lola Anderson, Isla Blanchard-Rust, Charlie Booker, Chloe Allmark, Gemma Beazley and Thomas Howe.

Year 10

Aishah Alim, Daniel Alfieri, Chloe Elliott and Chloe Noel.

**Mrs Parkyn**

Year 10

Noah Horwood, Olivier Shellard, Cameron Vernon, Francis Mackinlay, Sam Cooper, Olivia Nineberg, Ben Hamilton, Nyah Warner, Connor Brady and Scarlett Ellis.

Year 12

Charlie Wood

**Mr Chumbley**

Year 9

William Gilbank and Lauren Gore

Year 10

Isobel Gordon, Matthew Morris-Prieto and Ruby Westbrook.

**Statistics**

Year 9

Bradley Monks, Jack Morris and Harriet Nineberg.

# MFL

*Commendations to the following students for their hard work and commitment to learning:*

**Mr Bowman**

**Year 7 German**

Poppy Barton

Anna Baros

Jessica Taylor

Millie Evans

Harry Gowlett

Emily Hyams

Charlie Rowelle

For outstanding enthusiasm and commitment to learning and brilliant scores on quizzes!

**Year 7 French**

Sienna Clifton

Sophia Coles

Amelia Davies

Katie Leslie

Luca Silva

Samantha Utley

For outstanding enthusiasm and commitment to learning and brilliant scores on quizzes!

**Year 8 German**

Dillon Browne

Grace Ramsden

Molly Range

Anya Seifert

Jamie Sibley

Rosie Thorpe

For outstanding enthusiasm and commitment to learning!

**Year 9 German**

Annabelle Baker

Cameron Donohoe

Jessica Newton

Lucy Robinson

Katrina Zune

For outstanding enthusiasm and commitment to learning!

**Year 10 German**

Frances Mackinlay

Andra Stoica

For outstanding enthusiasm and commitment to learning!

**Year 12 German**

Abi Kinch

Excellent independent work and commitment to developing understanding.

**Mrs Madsen**

For all working hard in French

John Cornwall Year 10

Courtney Sparkes Year 9

Aimee Suttle Year 7

Charlie Smith Year 7

Matthew Reader Year 8

Harrison Pickard Year 8

Aidan Lucas Year 8

**Mrs Fowell**

For working hard in class

**Year 7**

William Byers

Darcie Cross

Tallulah Hunt

Poppy Rolfe

Ryan Gilbert

Mia-Rae Pekris

Nathaniel Robinson

Alexander Todorov

**Year 8**

Miguel Perez Iranzo

Libby Taylor

Katie Brealey

Callum Hynes

Layla Ellis

Evie James

Jack Gaulton

Abbie Nicola

Daniel Baines

Naeema Khan

Aidan Lucas

Kieran Van der Noort

Michael Stables

Findlay Smith

Matthew Reader

Louieza Pike

Harrison Pickard

Louisa Halkyard

**Mrs Mangin Griffiths**

Abigail Kinch, Abigaela Popescu and

Tyler Clayton-Walker Year 12, for supporting each other in French.

**Miss Roderick**

Anna Baros Year 7 - for her all-around superb performances in quizzing and written, reading tasks too.

Isabel Smith Year 10 - for her fantastic commitment, nearly always being the first person to hand in tasks and to a really great standard.

Isabella Grassi Year 10 - for her fantastic work and excellent communication.

# MFL - Quiz Corner April

## Top in April for QUIZZET LIVE & QUIZZZ LIVEquizzers

### Miss Roderick

Year 7

1st: Anna Baros  
2nd: Millie Evans  
3rd: Harry Gowlett

Year 8 French

1st: Jamie Sibley  
2nd: Tom Wildman-King  
3rd: Anya Seifert

Year 8 Spanish

1st: Aidan Lucas  
2nd: Naeema Khan  
3rd: Angus Mackinlay

Year 9 Spanish

1st: Abigail Read  
2nd: Joseph Haslam  
3rd: Poppy Young

Year 10 Spanish

1st: Ellie Gibson  
2nd: Matthew Morris-Prieto  
3rd: Quin Seifert

### Mrs Defay

Year 7

1st Nathaniel Robinson  
2nd H A L  
3rd Daniel Wilson

1st Chloe Allmark  
2nd Hugo Williams  
3rd Louis Browning

Year 8

1st Ethan Gillson-Hill  
2nd Toby Gregory  
3rd Molly-Sue Wedgbrow

1st Jessica Smith  
2nd Jack King  
3rd Molly Anderson

Year 9

1st Madeleine Gilbank  
2nd Soraya Johnson  
3rd Gavin Gardner

Year 10

1st Aishah Alim  
2nd Nyah Warner  
3rd Lucy Morris



### Mrs Madsen

Top Year 8 Quizzer in Quizlet Live is Aidan Hancock!

### Top quizzers in April for MEMRISE are:

Year 7

Nathaniel Robinson, H A L, Daniel Wilson, Chloe Allmark, Hugo Williams and Louis Browning,

Year 8

Ethan Gillson-Hill, Toby Gregory, Molly-Sue Wedgbrow Jessica Smith, Jack King and Molly Anderson

Year 9

Madeleine Gilbank, Soraya Johnson and Gavin Gardner

Year 10

Aishah Alim, Nyah Warner and Lucy Morris

Miss Roderick's and Mrs Madsen Quiz competition Memrise - Year 8 Hobbies and Sports

1st: Aidan Lucas  
2nd: Matt Reader  
3rd Jamie Sibley

Memrise - Top Year 9 Quizzer

Abigail Read

Memrise - Top Year 10 Quizzer  
Ava Salisbury

I have been so pleased with the high number of people taking part and competing!

*Miss Roderick, Head of MFL*



## The PSFA celebrates it's second year!

What a successful two years it has been! The PSFA would like to thank everyone who has attended our events, participated in the monthly Birchwood Bonus Ball and donated raffle and tombola prizes.

A special thanks to the businesses who have supported us with sponsorship and advertising, Chantry Associates, Belvoir, Premier Contract Flooring and Décor, Pioneer Europe and Haus Maids.

We have been able to support various projects in and around the school, donating a total of £5,700 to date. The projects the PSFA have supported so far are;

The Red Box Scheme

Cycling Club

Year 8 STEM Day Experience

32 Atlases for Geography

Fridge for Food Technology

Decoration of the Counselling Room

Young Carer's Gardening Club

Plants for 'Jamie Oliver's Kitchen Garden Project'

Science Day

Wildlife Garden Project

At our recent AGM we committed to supporting the following projects;

Construction materials including a new shed

Hub Area for the Personalised Learning Centre

Table Tennis Table

Cycling

Year 8 STEM Day Experience



*Pictured here are some of the projects the PSFA has helped, from left to right...*

*Birchwood's Cycling Club, Science Day and The Red Box Project.*

## Update

Even though the PSFA are unable to hold any events in light of the Coronavirus outbreak, you can still support us by contributing to the Birchwood Futures Foundation and taking part in the Birchwood Bonus Ball. Over the coming months, the PSFA will be looking into fundraising virtually, so if you have any ideas please do let us know.

To make a donation to the Birchwood Futures Foundation, please find details on the Birchwood PSFA page of the school website. We are using Virgin Money Giving to collect donations for the BFF fund. As a registered charity this is the easiest way for us claim Gift Aid, which means that if you are a UK tax payer you are able to boost your donation by 25p for every £1.00 you donate. Donations of any value are voluntary and collectively will make a huge difference for the School.

## Birchwood Bonus Ball

Congratulations to Donna Millard who was the winner of the March draw. Ball 2 was drawn by Mr Gilbank. Congratulations to Lisa Silvester who was the winner of the April draw. Ball 16 was drawn by Mr Gilbank.

The Birchwood Bonus Ball is a raffle style club, with up to 5 numbers available to purchase per person, per subscription period. If you would like to take part by purchasing one or more numbers, please email [birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com](mailto:birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com) confirming your name and contact telephone details. Tuesday 19 May is the closing date for subscriptions to be included in the ninth draw. Full terms and conditions of the Birchwood Bonus Ball Club can be found on the PSFA page of the school's website.

# Gardening continues at Birchwood

Last term, working in partnership with Birchwood Parents Staff and Friends Association (PSFA) Well Bean Gardening secured some funding from the Stort Valley and Villages Primary Care Network to run a gardening session once a week in school to promote a healthy lifestyle and good mental wellbeing. Then COVID-19 struck....

However, with the extension of lockdown, and the fact that the school is still open to vulnerable and key workers' children we've decided to run a session on a Tuesday afternoon for students and staff to attend. We have been gardening in the sunshine, keeping well apart, planting seeds, two rows of potatoes and started sorting out the compost bin. The aim is to create a green, restful space full of colour and good things to eat and to have some fun while we're doing it!



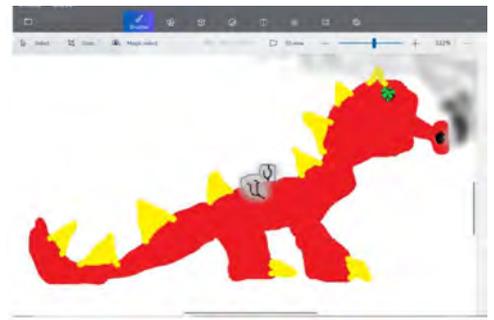


**Georgia Cope**  
Painted this lovely landscape just for enjoyment having watched an inspiring TV programme.

# Art



**Molly-Sue Wedgbrow**



**Maximillian Hunt**  
Completed a task on metamorphosis of two animals and he made a 'DragonFly'



**Andrea Bannerman**  
Andrea created this Super Villain for a set task.



**Nyah Warner**



**Tallulah Hunt**



**Hunnie Collins**



**Miguel Perez Iranzo**



**Emma Spencer**



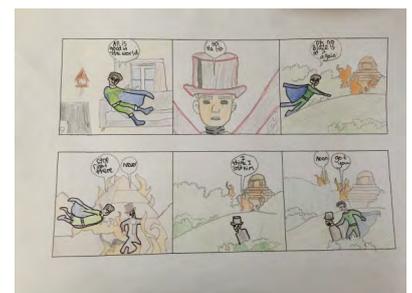
**Abigail Read**



**Hunnie Collins**



**Tegan Smith**



**Severin Fleet**

# Art

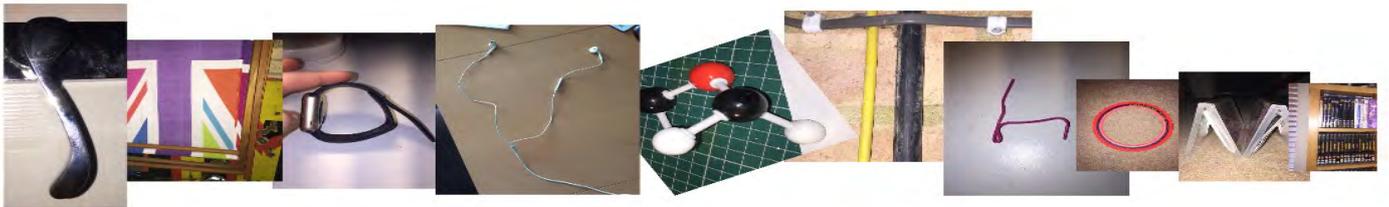
## Stay at home art competition



Riley Townsend



Maggie Kellard



Nyah Warner



Findlay Smith



Museums asked people to recreate their favourite artwork. Mrs Fowell and her husband accepted the challenge.

Here is their version of.....Liberty Leading the People.  
Painting by Eugène Delacroix.

# Dance Challenges



*Ami Shad*



*Chloe Whale*



*Roni Woollard*



*Ella Gregory*

Miss Adams has been setting some amazing dance challenges via Show My Homework, while we have been in lockdown.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part.

Keep sending Miss Adams your pictures.



*Matthew Reader*



*Amelia Dean*



*Ella Parkes*



*Ella Gregory*



*Matthew Reader*



*Jess Taylor*



*Karina Longley*

# Music and Drama

Mr Grogan and Mr Stock would like to congratulate the following students who have recently taken their exams:

Louis Altham - Saxophone - Grade 6 - Merit

Sam Chandler - Piano - Grade 3 - Pass

Lauren Gore - Violin - Grade 3 - Merit

Daniel Howe - Saxophone - Grade 1 - Merit

Daniel Lunn - Violin - Silver music medal - Pass

Angus MacKinlay - Cello - Grade 3 - Distinction

Kieran Mok - Guitar - Grade 3 - Merit

Jessica Newton - Piano - Grade 3 - Merit

Alice Nugent - Cornet - Grade 3 - Pass

Alice Peacock - Piano - Grade 1 - Distinction

Alice Peacock - Flute - Grade 5 - Pass

Emily Port - Clarinet - Grade 7 – Distinction

Molly Range - Clarinet - Grade 5 - Pass

Abigail Read - Clarinet - Grade 3 - Pass

Matthew Reader - Clarinet - Grade 4 - Distinction

Lucy Robinson - Clarinet - Grade 4 - Pass

Willow Robson - Flute - Grade 5 - Pass

Charlie Rowelle - Clarinet - Grade 3 - Pass

Anya Seifert - Violin - Grade 1 - Distinction

Rebecca Smith - Violin - Grade 6 - Pass

Toby Stanley - Trumpet - Grade 5 - Pass

Leo Swanepoel - Flute - Grade 8 - Pass

Leo Swanepoel - Recorder - Grade 8 - Pass

**Commendations to the following students for their hard work and commitment to learning:**

Mrs Hassani nominated:

Emily Kennedy because she has put SO much effort into completing work from home and has met every deadline!



Well done to Ruby-Willow Sudbury for singing a selection of her favourite songs live via facebook and on youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDot8RqnnLg>).

Also well done to Matthew Reader for learning to play the Last Post for VE Day.



**Mrs Fowell singing a song to the tune of 'These are a few of my favourite things' to her local village shop for all their hard work and for serving the village so well. Mrs Fowell made sure to maintain the correct social distance!**

**The song was very well received by both those who run the shop and by the waiting customers queuing outside.**

# Alumni

It's pretty cool when your secondary school form tutor provides PPE that supports you and your team in the NHS at a time like this. Shout out to Mr Stephens. Life works in funny ways 💙



Birchwood's Alumni community have been busy over the past few weeks. James Grant who owns Copper in the Clouds distillery switched his production to make free hand sanitiser for local surgeries.

James Brundle owner of EAT17 has been offering free, same day home delivery of groceries in response to the coronavirus crisis.

Kirsten Dalby, pictured, is wearing one of our PPE masks from the Technology Department, while she supports people in the NHS!

Laura Clark has been working with AGE UK to send out more than 145 cards to vulnerable and lonely people.

Just before lockdown, Sam Eaton struck Gold for Bishop's Stortford Judokwai at the English Cadet Open in Thetford. Eaton produced a fine performance to claim top spot in the under 55kg category.

# Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh Award continues despite the current situation, whilst we are uncertain as to what will happen with expeditions at the moment, it has been great to see participants from Year 9 and up continuing to work hard on their DofE Physical, Volunteering & Skills sections. The DofE has launched new guidance and alterations to make sure participants are not disadvantaged by the current circumstances and has put out guidance of how you can continue with your award through "DofE with a Difference" for details about how you can keep going or adapt your award, have a look at <https://www.dofe.org/dofedifference/>

We wouldn't be able to do what we do, if it wasn't for volunteers. These individuals give up their time to support young people with their DofE because they want them to gain the skills they need to get ahead and develop into rounded, confident characters, ready to take on the world.  
[www.dofe.org/](http://www.dofe.org/)

## The Brilliant Club receive marvellous grades

The seven students that submitted work for the Brilliant Club have received marvellous grades! The work set is to a standard **above** their Key Stage – all are in Key Stage 4, so the work was set at an A level standard. There were some last minute changes for the students to accommodate during the course, the deadline for submission was after the lockdown had started and the tutor, Elena Sottilotta, had already returned to be with her family in Italy. So, this high level of work was completed under rather stressful and unusual conditions and the students should be congratulated for their outstanding perseverance and determination!

All essays were marked in line with university marking and the grades awarded were as follows:  
Three 2:1s were awarded and four 1<sup>st</sup>s.

Mrs Feather Levey

Megan Palman	9RGD
Lydia Bretherton	10IDR
Ben Mapp	10IDR
Devlin Hunt	10MLY
Alistair Coomes	10RNN
Ayesha Ahmed	10ZBR
Frances MacKinlay	10ZBR

# PE

One of the many PE challenges the PE department have been running during lockdown.



**Mrs Tooze = 5**



**Mr Clift = 13**



**Mr Ruggins = 13**



**Miss Perrett = 2**



**Miss Payne = 5**



**Mr Noblett = 12**



**Mrs Chapman = 8**



**Mr Torrance = 17**

## **Commendations to the following students for their hard work and commitment to learning:**

Mr Barratt nominated: Hope Wright in Year 12 for her efforts and quality of remote work for the newsletter during this time. Her attitude and submission of work has been outstanding.



### **Harry runs a marathon to raise funds for the NHS**

I completed a marathon last week, running fifteen miles and cycling 11.2 miles with my parents. I did this to raise money for the NHS. So far, I have raised £271, which I am very pleased with.

My running included a tough intervals session set by Bishop's Stortford Running Club and a longer 5.5 mile run. I also did a fun bike ride which was a post box challenge set by the running club. I had to see how many post boxes I could find in 45 minutes and I managed 7. I decided to compete a marathon to raise money but also because all spring marathons have been cancelled and lots of our friends at the running club have been running their own marathons instead. I wanted to see if I could do it too.

*Harry M, BBC Reporter*

# Science

**Commendations to the following students for their hard work and commitment to learning:**

## Mr Cusumano

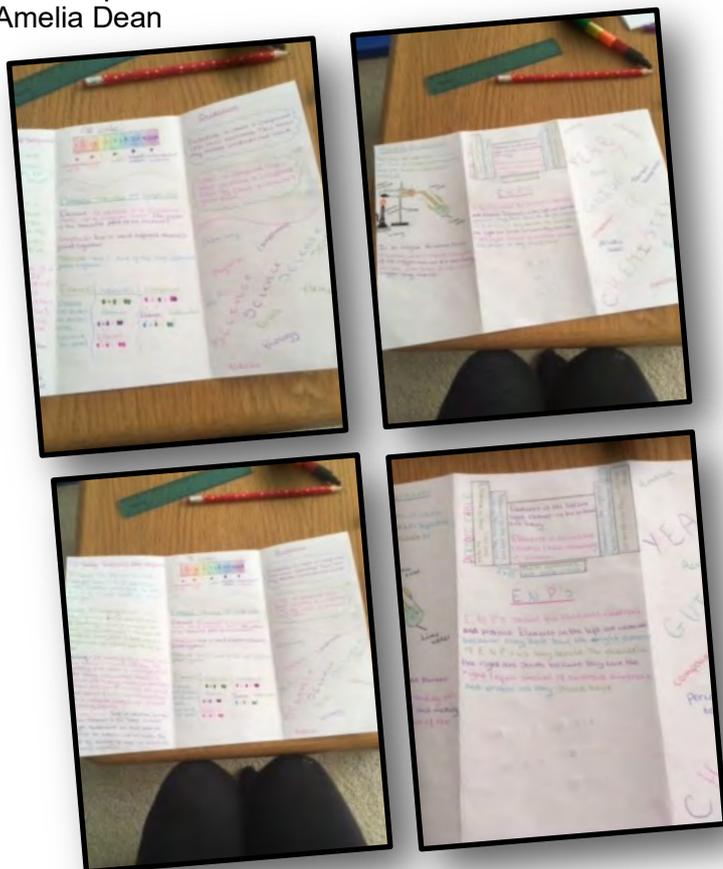
Year 7  
 Connie Blackwell  
 Luca Silva  
 Olivia Powles  
 Maddison Spencer  
 Georgi Cope  
 Evie-May Thornewell  
 Melanie Wedgbrow  
 Katie Shaw  
 Cerys Searl

## Year 8

Daniel Baines  
 Samuel Chandler  
 George Geddes  
 Toby Gregory  
 Daniel Howe  
 Naeema Khan  
 Matthew Reader  
 Michael Stables

## Year 10

Creativity and imagination  
 making a crane "forces and balance"  
 Ryan Brealey  
 Tain Richards  
 Lois Harper  
 Amelia Dean



### Rate of reaction

LO

- Describe what is meant by a chemical reaction (6)
- Explain the different methods of collecting data for rates of reaction (7)
- Explain activation energy and collision theory in relation to the rate of a reaction(8)

### Temperature

- When you increase the temperature the particles have more energy and the particles move faster.
- When they move faster they collide more often.
- More collisions = faster rate of reaction.

### Rate of a reaction

Reactions don't happen unless the substances are in contact.

### Catalysts

- Catalysts reduce the activation energy needed for a reaction.
- They do this by offering an alternate route for the reaction to take.
- Less activation energy means more effective collisions.
- More effective collisions means faster rate.

### Why?

The particles of the reactants need to get together so that they can react.

### Surface Area/Particle Size

- Using smaller particles increases rate.
- Increase in surface area allows more collisions at surface.
- More collisions means more effective collisions means faster rate.

### Collision theory

For a chemical reaction to happen:

- reactant particles must collide with each other
- the particles must have enough energy for them to react
- A collision that produces a reaction is called a successful collision.
- The **activation energy** is the minimum amount of energy needed for a collision to be successful. It is different for different reactions.

### Rate of reaction

The rate of a reaction is a measure of how quickly a reactant is used up, or a product is formed.

### Activation Energy

The minimum amount of energy needed to start a reaction is called the Activation Energy

The steeper the line, the greater the rate of reaction. Faster reactions - where the line becomes horizontal - finish sooner than slower reactions

### Factors affecting rate

- Concentration
- Temperature
- Catalysts
- Surface Area

The gradient of the line is equal to the rate of reaction:

- the steeper the line, the greater the rate of reaction
- fast reactions - seen when the line becomes horizontal - finish sooner than slow reactions

### Concentration

- When you increase the concentration the particles are more crowded and therefore there is more chance of the particles colliding.
- More collisions means = faster rate of reaction.

*Dr Ingate nominated Emily Sturgeon for an excellent home learning. Well done Emily.*

# Science



In Chemistry, Year 10 students have been carrying out a home investigation into the effect of surface area on the rate of a chemical reaction. The main purpose of this investigation for the students was to use a simple model, a potato, to explain a complex concept of the surface area.

They compared the time it takes to cook a whole potato and a diced potato and explained their findings using the Collision theory.

Which potato had a larger surface area? It is not as straight forward as it seems!

The students came up with the hypothesis and followed the steps of a proper scientific investigation, including presenting the results as a graph, concluding, interpreting and evaluating their findings.

The investigation was a success!

It was fantastic to see how this simple model made our Year 10 students think about very complex processes, such as energy transfer in the chemical reactions.

Ava Salisbury, Samuel Cooper, Ranna Abidia, Joshua Ballisat, Samuel Fuller-Lewis and Maisie Taylor were among the first students who submitted their full reports much before the deadline, whereas Olivier Shellard took the best photographs of the experiment that undeniably had a lot of evidence for controlling the variables.

Ben Mellors improved the validity of his findings by comparing the time it takes to cook five potato cubes of different volumes, bringing up the idea of the surface area to volume ratio in his conclusions. Ben obtained a very elegant set of data showing a directly proportional relationship between the two variables.

There was a lot of investigative work and research going on behind the scenes for many of these students and I couldn't be more proud of them.

*Dr Rodionova*

## Scouts hike to the moon for the Big Night In

A number of Scouts have taken part in the Hike To The Moon event, where members walked a mile (roughly 2,000 steps) or more each, whether that's around the garden, on the spot in the living room, or even a 20 minute walk in the park, to raise money for the "BBC's Big Night In" on 23 March. £240,000 was raised for the Big Night In, which went to charities supporting those in need during the pandemic.

As of 11 May, over £340,000 has been raised with an extra £67,000+ Gift Aid. It is still an ongoing event, and details can be found on the Scout website- <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/scouts-at-home/scouts-helping-others/hike-to-the-moon/>- as can a link to the donation page if your Scout wants to get involved. There is also a badge which can be bought off the website to mark this event, all profits go to the Big Night In and the charities it is supporting.

We would like to say a massive thank you to our NHS staff and to those who are working to help others during the pandemic. From everyone at Birchwood, thank you.

*Niamh Payne, Year 12 BBC Reporter*

# Technology

Mrs McEwen has been really impressed with the amount of baking which has been done and sent in by students. As everyone knows we love cake at Birchwood!



*Findlay Smith,  
Year 8*



*Simon Gardner, Year 11*



*Bonnie Wright,  
Year 9*



*William Beaumont,  
Year 8*



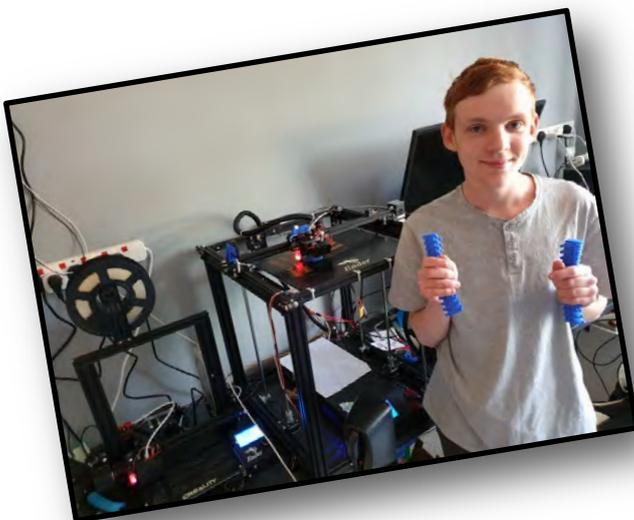
*Georgia Peel,  
Year 8*



*Layla Ellis,  
Year 8*



*Callum Campbell,  
Year 8*



## **John makes ear guards for the NHS**

John Cornwall Year 10 has shown great initiative during this period. He has used his own personal 3D printer at home to manufacture ear guards to which medical staff can hook their face masks, thereby reducing pressure around their ears. Very important when they can be wearing them all day. He has made over 400 so far!

We guided him to send them to the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, where the Director of Nursing, Sharon McNally said upon receipt "they will make a difference to our staff – thank you so much. We will happily take more."

*Mr Newman, Technology*

# Technology

Mrs Reynold's challenged her Year 7 students to the following task:  
Make a block print of one of your earth designs by first making a block out of anything that works  
and then use it to print a design on paper or a scrap of fabric.  
Here are some of the many wonderful designs.



*Mehmet Turner*



*Isabelle Sones*



*George Port*



*Millie Evans*



*Archie Smith*



*Abby Kruller-Robson*



*Jess Harlow*



*Luca Silva*