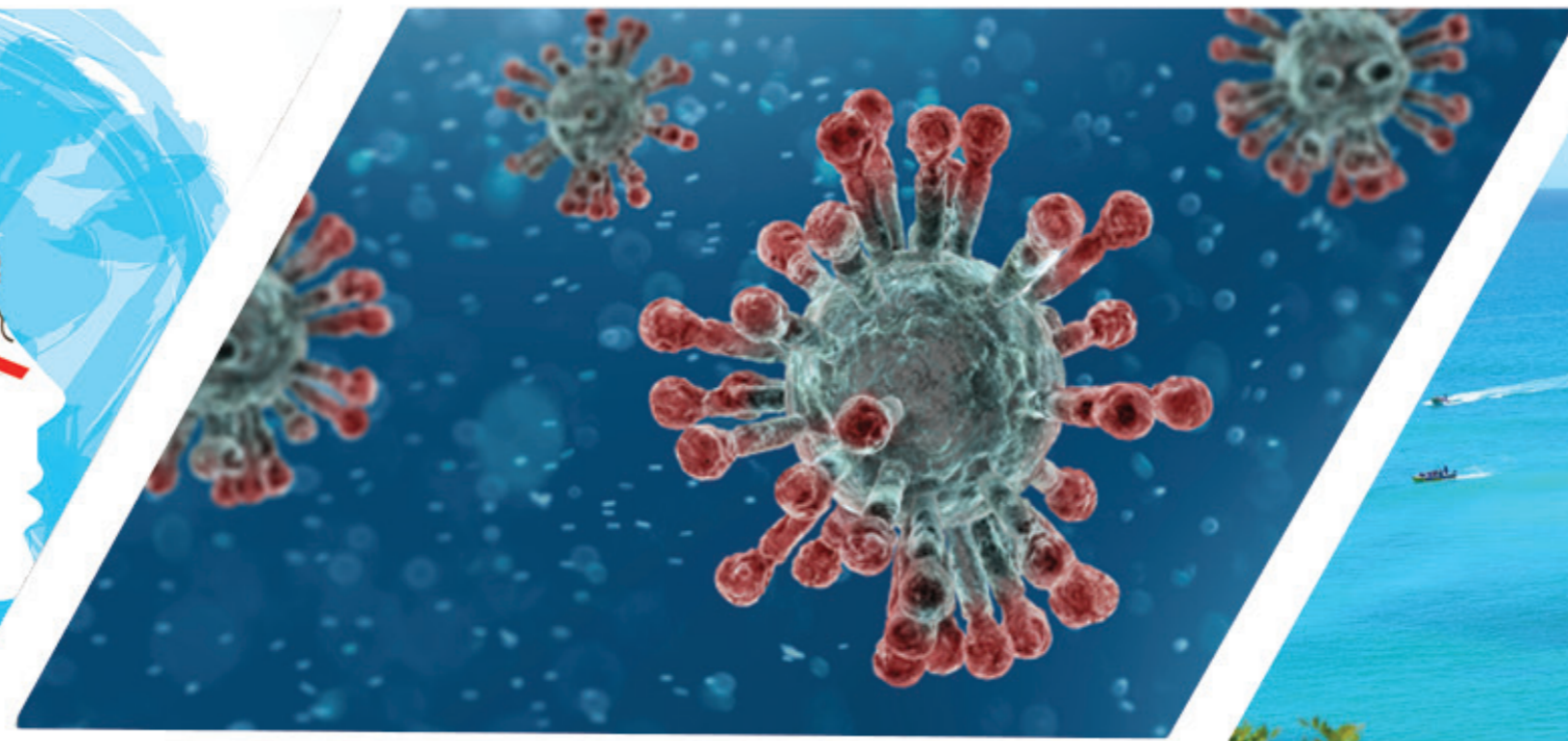




THE
WORD
ISSUE 30
SEPTEMBER
2020
AGSB
ONLINE



HEAD TO HEAD



A warm welcome back to everyone after the summer holiday. A new academic year brings with it a new student leadership team. Having interviewed all applicants during the Summer term, I know that Belema will be leading an excellent team of prefects. We will need their leadership more than ever as we prepare for the full re-opening of AGSB. The chief aim of the full re-opening will be to ensure that we can continue to provide AGSB students with a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum whilst at the same time prioritising the safety of all students and staff in the school by adhering to the latest government guidelines. I am certainly looking forward very much to seeing us all back together.

For all Year 13 and Year 11 students across the country, 2020 has been one of the most challenging years in education. As with all of the difficulties they have encountered, AGSB students who received A level and GCSE qualifications this summer have risen superbly to the challenges posed by the cancellation of their examinations coming in with record results. At A level, I am delighted to report that after two years of hard work, almost all achieved their place at university. A total of 18 students have secured places at Oxford or Cambridge Universities and at least 26 have prestigious places to study Medicine or Dentistry. Similarly, Year 11 boys achieved outstanding GCSE results, which are the culmination of months of effort, application and determination. In an exam year like no other, I am also very grateful indeed for the diligence shown by our teaching staff in producing such carefully considered Centre Assessed Grades.

We are all very excited now that the Teaching Block located in the North yard is reaching the final stages of construction and we look forward to moving in at the end of October. It will be a fabulous addition to the School accommodation.

As always at the start of another academic year, we welcome new colleagues, teaching and non-teaching, who join the AGSB staff. I am sure that they will settle in quickly and will soon become valued members of our successful and friendly community.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families all the very best for the academic year ahead. Given the levels of preparation staff have been engaged in over the last few weeks, whilst I know next term will be challenging, I know it is important and I am confident it will be rewarding.

G.A. Wright
Head Master



Welcome back everyone. Normally I would have followed by writing 'hope you enjoyed your summer', but this summer has definitely been far from the norm. We have come through the height of a pandemic, exam cancellations, recession, the list just goes on. However, lockdown hasn't been all bad.

There were numerous stories of resilience and selflessness not only in the news but within our school. From the long hours put in by our National Health Service, to our Technology Department producing PPE, the lockdown brought with it unity and hope.

For the new pupils starting this term, I hope you find your place here and settle in smoothly. You'll be in Year 13 before you know it, so be sure to stay organised and focused. Last year we successfully launched the House System, with competitions getting bigger and better as the year progressed. Be sure to take advantage of these opportunities as well as the other extra-curricular activities available in the coming year.

As much as I like to think I'm a domineering presence in the corridor, if you need help with anything around school don't hesitate to ask. It is truly an honour to be Head Boy and I am certain that the student leadership team and I will do everything in our power to make this year a memorable one.

Let's finish the year on a high note by seizing the opportunity of this new term. Now is the time to put plans into action and rectify any mistakes made pre-lockdown. Make sure to set goals, whether it is to attend more revision sessions or to make the starting XV in Rugby, do your best to achieve them.

All of that being said just remember to make the most of it and enjoy it!

B Briggs

"A total of 18 students have secured places at Oxford or Cambridge Universities"

STAFF LEAVERS

Throughout lockdown a number of our staff decided to seek pastures new from AGSB, this was after the End of Year magazine was printed so we would like to say thank you to each of them here.

Penny Prentis 1984-2020

Penny first came to AGSB in 1984 as part of a Post Graduate diploma course. She obviously liked the school and its community as she continued to work with us for the next 36 years! As such a long serving staff member Penny has always been an approachable and perennially positive Tuesday member of the staff room.



I, however, got to know Penny well when I started working alongside her after taking over the Careers lead role from Laura Barratt a few years ago. Only then did I start to appreciate the skills she deployed as an expert in the field of careers guidance. She was flexible, didn't mind (too much!) working from a glorified broom cupboard and had a tremendous work ethic, conducting 10 face to face interviews per day, plus a few 'drop ins' at lunchtime. The students were always positive about the guidance interviews, even if a little reluctant about the purpose of the interview initially. Typical responses from students (during the annual careers survey) were, "I didn't really want an interview, but it turned out to be really useful" and "That was so useful, I would like to see her again please".

We have a new Careers Lead starting in September, Mr A Gallamore, an Old Boy of the school. During the handover meeting in July, Mr Gallamore remembered having an interview with Penny and that this had been an inspiration to pursue his career choice. The meeting was pragmatic, useful and enjoyable; such an appropriate way to conclude Penny's long and distinguished career here at AGSB.

Emyr Thomas

Lesley Saunders 2004-2020

Lesley and I started at AGSB together in September 2004 and very quickly became firm friends. We have, over the years, traversed the length and breadth of the school supporting boys, mentoring boys and on a couple of occasions looking for missing boys.



We have sat in the staffroom throughout its various reincarnations, drinking coffee and discussing all things SEND, our families and even the weather.

One of things that that I have always admired about Lesley is her serenity, no matter what comes her way. I have sat in so many meetings with her where all sorts of demands are being made of school and yet there she would be looking incredibly serene. That is typical of Lesley no matter how difficult the conversation she always calm, always collected and always boy centred.

Lesley is actually 'The Queen of the soundbite'. They have been many and varied over the years with highlights being.

"It's about winning hearts and minds"
"Behaviour is a communication tool"
"Give yourself thinking time"
"It's the swan Mary, it's the swan"

Lesley and I are the Ying and the Yang of learning support. We come at things from very different perspectives and usually end up on the same page. In fact, in all the years that we have friends and colleagues there have only been two occasions when we have had a slight disagreement. We can remember the boy on the first occasion but the actual details are a bit hazy. On the second occasion we have no idea what it was about we just know that there were two occasions.

Looking back over the years that we have worked together you could say it's been a little bit like a marriage – we know what the other is likely to think about a something, we know what the other is likely to say about a something and yes we can and often do finish each other's sentences.

Over the last few months Lesley had been coming to a momentous decision – the decision to retire. She hasn't made this decision lightly but she has made it for all the right reasons.

From now on I won't have the privilege or the pleasure of seeing my dear friend every working day. Lesley you have always worked hard throughout your time at AGSB, you have raised the profile of SEND within school and you have made such a difference to so many boys.

Thank you for all the shared lunches, the countless mugs of coffee and the time spent at the end of the day mulling over what went well, what didn't go so well and how we could do it better the next day.

Thank you for being so supportive in my periods of sickness and in health. Most importantly, thank you for the gift of friendship, a gift the I will continue to treasure and enjoy. Finally, the time has come for it be about you so on behalf of all colleagues I wish you a long and very happy retirement.

Mary Farrell

Raji Gaydhani 2016-2020



Raji has worked as the AGSB Physics technician for the past 4 years. Her enthusiasm and sunny disposition have been ever present. She has always been keen to get stuck into all aspects of AGSB from Yoga to Gardening club and everything else in between. She founded the extremely successful AGSB Astronomy club which was well attended, with many pupils gaining excellent GCSE results. She leaves us to study to become a teacher.

Good Luck Raji - you will be missed.

Steven Squire

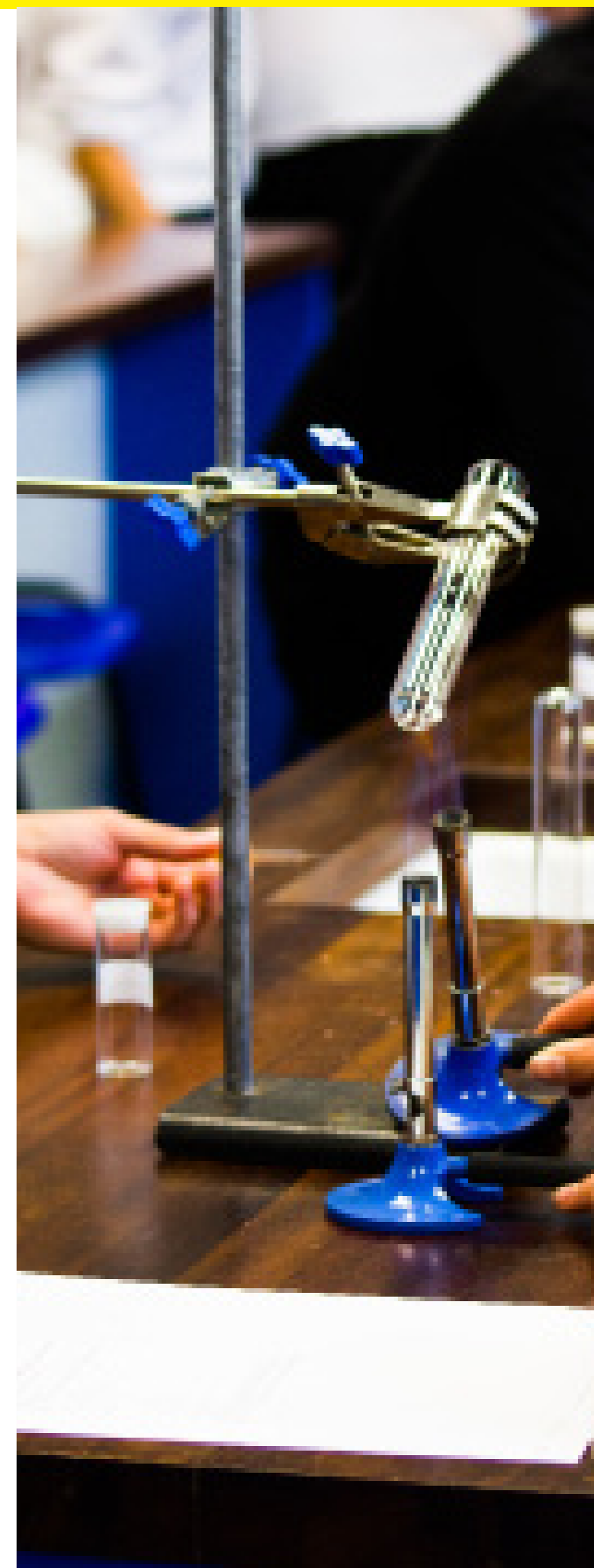
Sumia Ali 2019-2020



As a newly qualified teacher it's never an easy task to come into a school part way through the year and take over from a well established colleague, but Dr Ali has done her utmost to provide a high quality experience for the students.

She has used her extensive research background to interpret the curriculum to provide challenge for our brilliant young minds and she has made some excellent resources during our lockdown time to help students learn effectively. Completing your first year of teaching in this time of COVID is challenging but she has proved she is a dedicated teacher who sincerely does everything she can to help students achieve. We wish her every success in her teaching career.

Andrea Welsby



LOCKDOWN HIGHLIGHTS

For the first time in our history, AGSB closed for an extended period of time. As the UK entered lockdown the air of uncertainty surrounded us all. There were lots of possibilities, Joe Wicks managed to get people out of bed early for at least a week. There were lots of videos on social media with the title 'With the simple exercise.....' (Note for the word simple read impossible). Even Mr Cammack and Mr Sheridan jumped on the bandwagon until the thermometer topped 85°C and they realised that collapsing with heat exhaustion live to the AGSB community was probably a bad move.

Throughout this time, we have developed our skills and learned some new ones I did several laps of the living room when I got a hole in one in Wii Golf. My six-year-old nephew was less than impressed especially as I was shouting "In your face" at him at the time.

So what did your teachers get up to during lockdown? I sent a message asking for responses to the simple question The best thing about lockdown was.....

Here are the responses.

A Williams



Achieving my reading goal for the year (to read 45 books) by April

K Potter



Having a little more time and space to spend with our little boy at home, in the garden and exploring the local area. I think it gave us the opportunity to slow down a little for the first time in years, get to know those who live around us better and really appreciate what our area has to offer.

N Croxton

Willian majestically stroking home a penalty for Chelsea when Fernandinho got mixed up with basketball and football HANDING Liverpool their 19th league title.

A Williams



Spending quality time with my beautiful dogs..... (oh and my kids!)

L Jarratt



Liverpool's Premier League Triumph

E Hall

Running 130km to deliver 64 maths books to our pupils (lockdown running total now 250km). It's been a great way to release stress!

S Chancellor



My garden has never looked so tidy and I haven't had to listen to Mr Hall about how Liverpool has won the league after 30 years

K Lord





Hmmmm it's a tough call between growing plants and food with the photos of mine and Mrs Chapman's horticultural endeavours (her broccoli wins hands down). Or my decision to walk/run the Camino de Santiago all 772/480 KM from France into Spain. A firm feature on my bucket list combining my love of, nature, exploring, travelling and spiritual awareness. Alas, the last thing we could do was jump on a plane. Not one for being defeated, I signed up to a virtual challenge to get out and about with a new sense of purpose. It's amazing how far you want to walk/run after full days at home! I even foraged some wild strawberry plants for the garden, discovered newly planted local orchards and a hidden pear tree in a park! Looking forward to getting my medal when finished!!

V Brennan

Going for walks every day in the local area, mainly by the River Mersey, exploring paths and streets that I had not come across before.

S Morgan

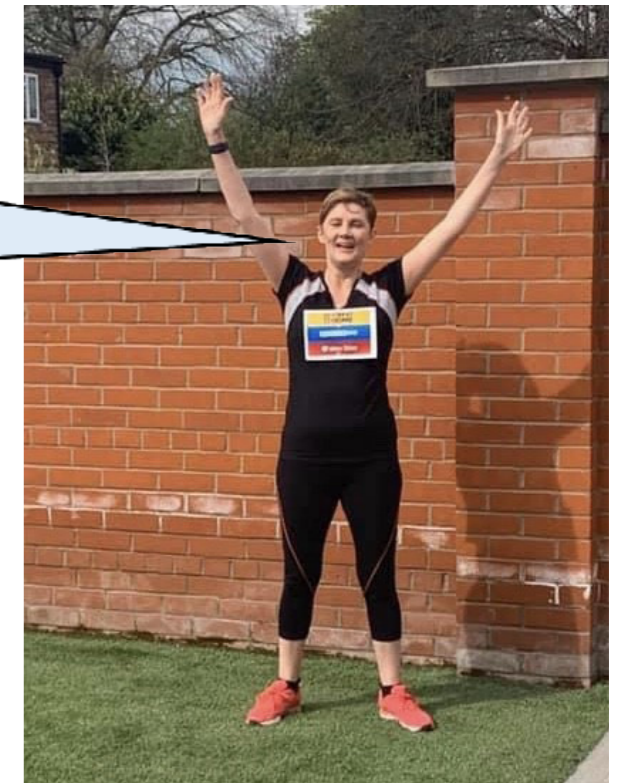


Building a rockery in my back garden

T Lowe

Having time (and the motivation) to exercise and get fit again because you didn't have to commute!

J Harrop



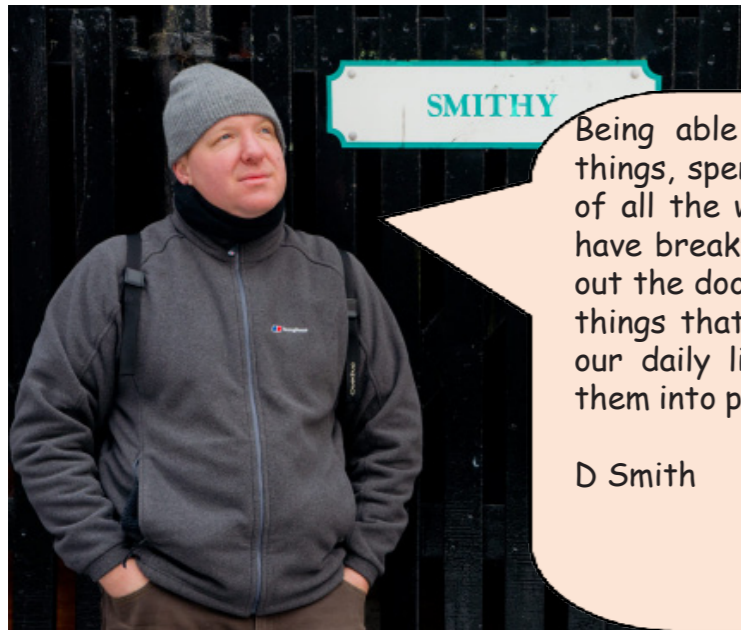
Isaac (My son) teaching me to tap dance. Oh and TEAMS also, I love it.

M Farrell

Listening to Ken Bruce & Steve Wright on Radio 2 every day which kept me sane!

M Brickell





Being able to take the opportunity to reschedule things, spend some time sat outdoors with the sound of all the wildlife whilst still teaching, being able to have breakfast without needing to get ready to rush out the door, being able to spend time getting on with things that are important and sometimes get lost in our daily lives. Also learning new skills and putting them into practise and having the time to practice too.

D Smith



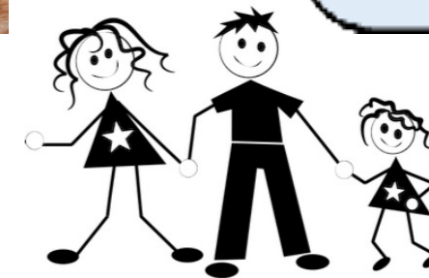
Less traffic, so less noise and less pollution. Also, my mum's face when I took her a leek (we're talking veg here). You would have thought I have given her the finest present in the world! She was so excited.

P Capel



Hmmmmmm..... Paul Williams' lustrous locks. Seriously though, discovering just what a great community AGSB is even when we're not together.

C Mahoney



Spending more time with my family. They seem like nice people - I might spend more time with them in future.

J Timmins

A relaxing morning 'coffee'.
J Wallwork



Not spending nine hours a week on the M56 and seeing friends and neighbours whilst out walking instead of everybody in their shiny metal boxes on wheels.

C Rawson



FIRST STEPS

I remember it well: the sun had barely risen, and a cold breeze swept the air. Such weather could be used to describe a solemn event like the death of a loved one or a fatal accident. However, no such event was to happen on that day, but it was my first day at the Altrincham Grammar School for Boys and I was raring to go!

I woke up with a rush of adrenaline flowing through my veins. It was finally here! All that apprehensive waiting, that horrible examination and the tiring preparation was all going to mean something now! I brushed my teeth, making sure that they gleamed like the stars for such an important milestone in my journey of life. Then I had a shower and put on my uniform. The uniform felt so fresh and so new (UNLIKE IT DOES NOW). After a hearty breakfast and loads and loads of pictures, I was finally ready to make my way to school...

One thing I have learned ever since my first day is that if you don't leave home by 8AM, you will get stuck in heaps of TRAFFIC! Once I got to school, I got out of the car and looked at the towering building in front of me and that was when it hit me: I was one tiny boy in a massive school. Until then, I was used to being the biggest at school but now I was back to square one. My mother and father left me at the gates and that was me all alone. Then I strode through the great, mahogany doors and that small step that would change my life forever...

We were instructed by our Head of Year, Mrs Short, to sit down in the Coleman Hall where I met some of my new-found friends from induction. Shortly afterwards, our new Headmaster, Mr Wright came up to the stage to address the new first years. Firstly, he congratulated us for getting through the rigorous examination and gaining a place at one of England's finest schools. He advised us to take advantage of the new opportunities we have been handed and try our best, even in the face of adversity. After this, teachers from the sports department came to discuss football and rugby trials that would commence the next week. After all important announcements were made, we were led by our sixth form prefect to our new form room where we would register every morning and afternoon for the next year.

We were introduced to learning at AGSB with History and we looked over the scheme of work for the Year. We also made up some class rules and a seating plan. This led us up to lunch where everyone raced down the corridors to be first in line at the Stamford Hall, the school dining area. Everybody I knew bought so much to get a taste for the food and delicatessen at AGSB, but I simply got a sandwich and a raspberry and cherry-flavoured drink. Some of the cuisine at AGSB includes:

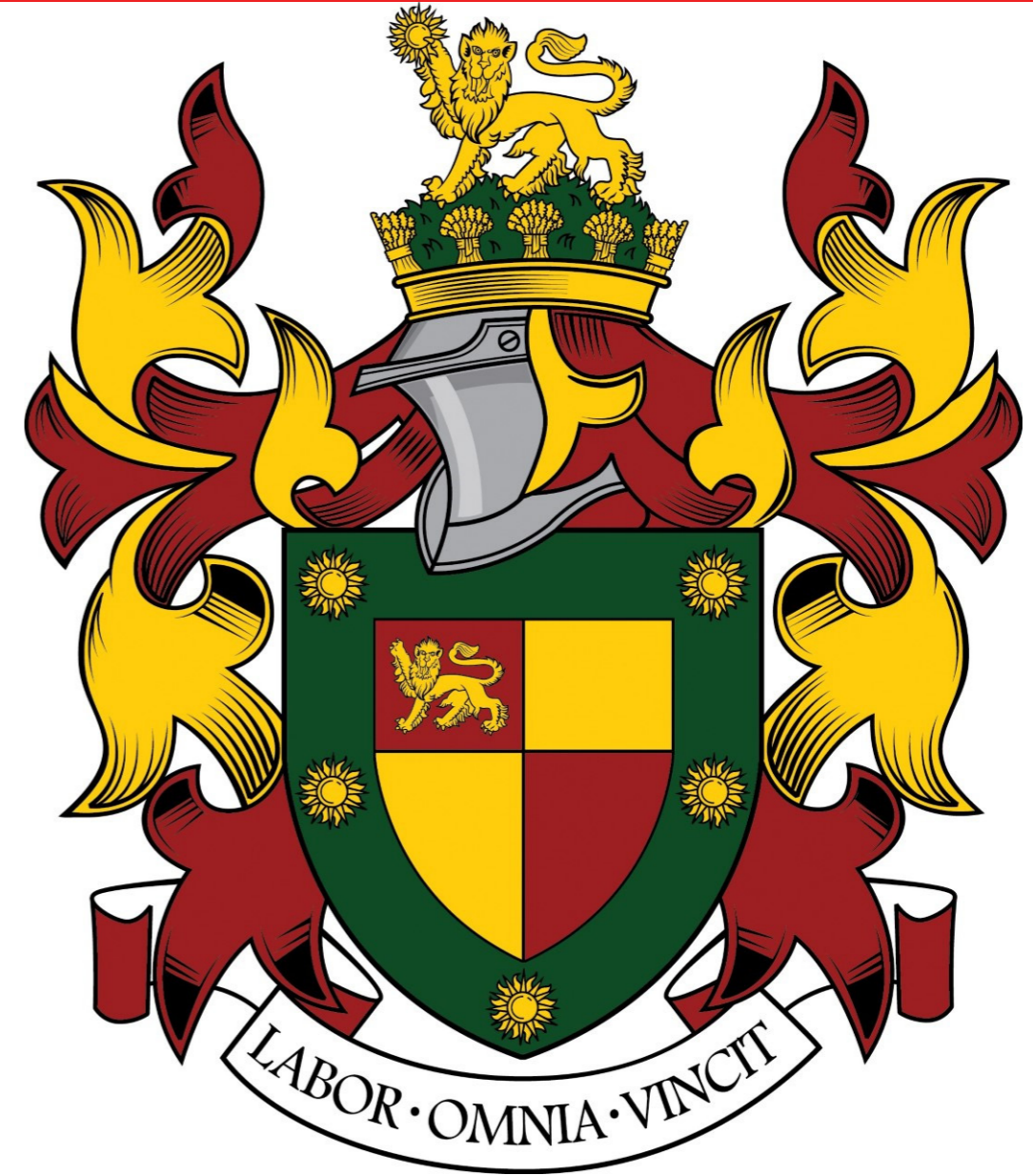
pizza, a range of sandwiches, pasta, salad boxes, nachos, quesadillas and much more.

With bellies full and cards almost empty, we made our way to P.E.

In the Physical Education building 'The Grammar', we were introduced to sports at AGSB and a tour of the sports complex. Lastly, we finished the day with a lesson of Geography which had the same purpose as the History lesson.

As I finished school on that wet Wednesday afternoon, mixed feelings revolved around my mind: feelings of joy, apprehension, expectancy and hope. Though all these feelings seemed to be overwhelming, all I did was muster a smile and I walked out of school for the first time. Day 1 done. 7 years to go!

T Ariyo



MUSIC IN LOCKDOWN

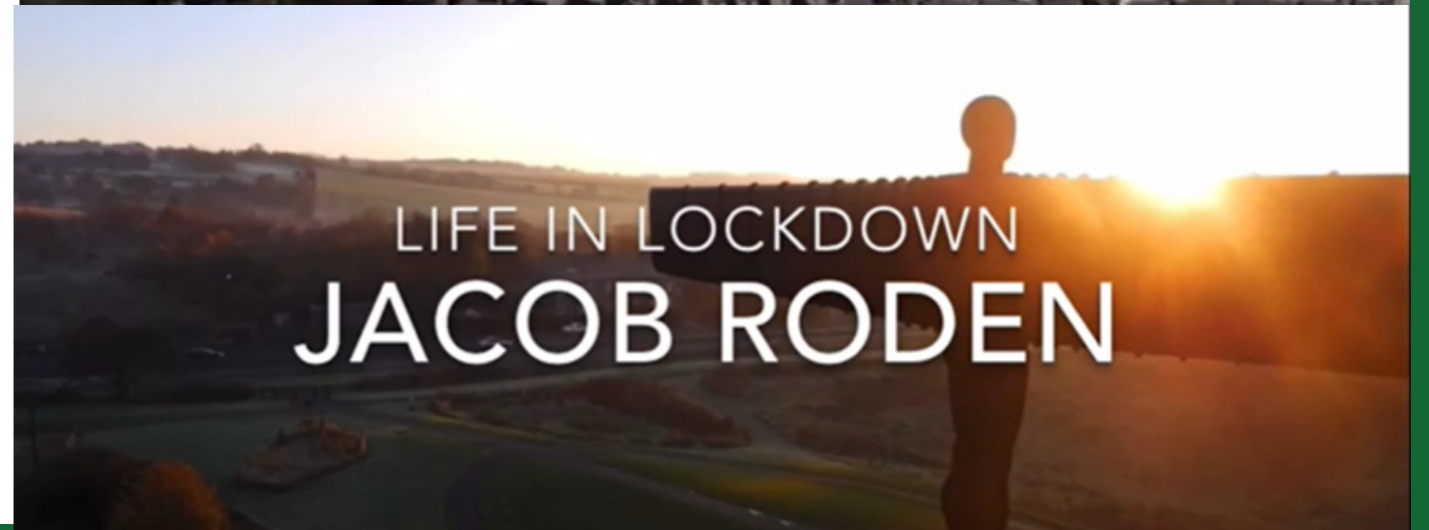
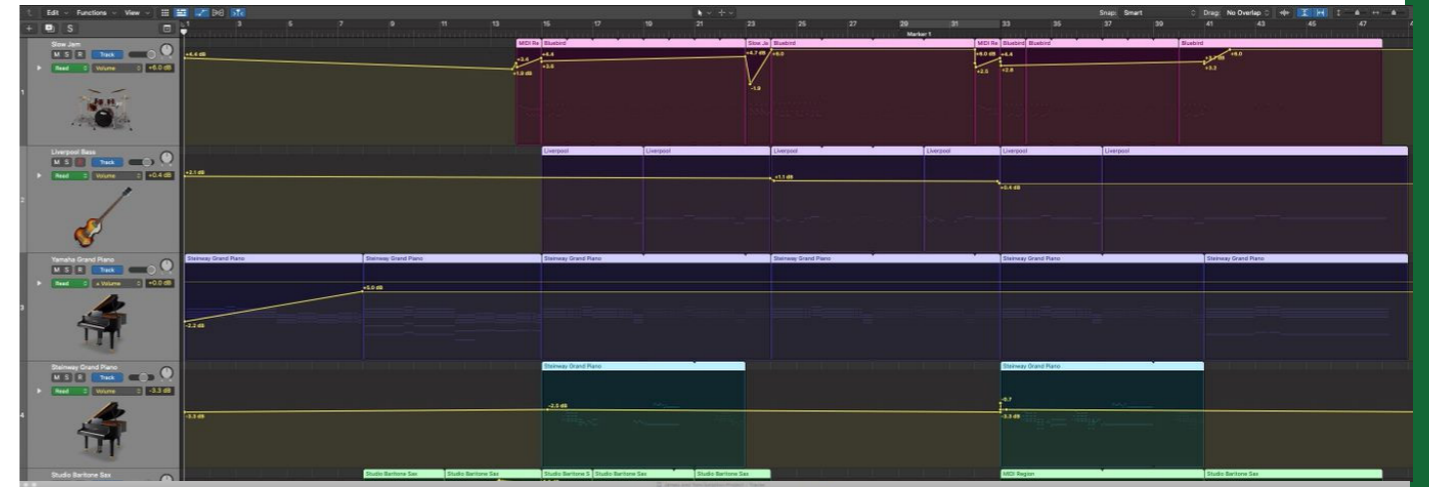
James L and Tom Q in Year 10 have created a Life in Lockdown music project, inspired by their experiences whilst staying at home. They used fully digital instruments on Logic Pro X, which is the music software used in school. They began with creating a base of chord sequences, then came up with the parts and shared ideas, and eventually came up with the finished piece. As it was hard to share screens etc. whilst being apart, James and Tom made their own individual versions and merged them after half an hour or so, and the whole project took about seven hours on and off. They took inspiration from the school swing band, (hence the baritone saxophone part), with jazzy chords and a piano solo of sorts over the top of the baseline. They also included a break in the middle of the piece to stop it feeling too repetitive. The music is jazzy, relaxed and chilled which seemed appropriate as it was composed in the summertime. The smooth saxophone creates a feeling of calm as do the overlaying chords. The chords over it are for the same reason. After the introduction, it switches to a funkier version of the previous part, to switch things up a bit. There were solos that included the sax (as in the first bit), the piano and later, the bass. We decided to make it 5/4 time because it is a change from normal, which is exactly what lockdown feels like. But it can be a good change. I would like to thank Mrs Jarratt for the visuals on the video, and James and Tom for making this creative and relaxed piece, and for providing me with this information. Again, a QR code to scan can be found here so you can listen to it too.

Jacob R in Year 10 also created a life in lockdown music project. He has written some information for me to include in this part of the article. 'I think we can all agree that lockdown and Coronavirus has evoked many different emotions in us as individuals and us as a community. So when we were given the task to create a piece of music which reflected this topic, I knew that it would have to show different emotions, which is why I created the piece that I did. It starts with the sound of a heartrate monitor, which acts as a metronome throughout the whole song, keeping a constant tension and uneasiness, and then I have many different newsreaders

and politicians talking about the virus shifting ear to ear, which I think shows how confused we all were at the start of the pandemic, we had lots of information and views but were still scared and uninformed. The first verse is inspired to some extent by post punk artists of the late 70s/early 80s, and you can hear resemblances to songs like Transmission by Joy Division and One Hundred Years by the Cure. It uses brooding bass and tense guitar to create a tense atmosphere. The second section is more upbeat, showing the short period in which we as a country were enjoying lockdown to an extent, this is when we were still interested in the gimmicks and fun virtual activities were going on. It's softer and more poppy, uses lighter guitar and bass and draws more parallels to the likes of Two Door Cinema Club and Vampire Weekend. The third section is more sombre and mellow, using acoustic guitar as opposed to electric like the other sections. One of the lyrics is "The fear has gone now, but so has the fun" which I think reflects the fact that we were past the nervousness but also past the interest and optimism, the reality had sunk in that we were lonely, sad and many people had died as a result of the virus. I enjoyed writing and recording the piece over a few days and when I finished it Ms Jarratt added some topical images for it to play over which really added to its effectiveness. It was a fun and engaging way to fill the time and be productive during the lockdown.' Again, a QR code can be found here.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this article; Mrs Jarratt, Jacob R, Tom Q, James L and Kai S, but also everyone who has been involved and contributed to music in lockdown and in the rest of the year. This year also marked Mr Myer's final year as the AGSB Head of Music, but in times like these we cannot dwell on the misfortunes and sadness of the past, but we should look to the future so we can build on this and come back stronger.

T Hill



You cannot help having seen or read about the construction of the new state of the art block which is springing up behind the main school building. When completed, it will provide much needed additional classrooms, alleviating pressure on space around the school. It will be a facility fit for the 21st century. But how does a school go about raising the money for such a multi-million pound development?

The key to this lies in the hands of parents, carers and supporters of the school, both past and present. Through the channel of Altrincham Grammar School Developments Limited (AGSD) - which is a registered charity committed to developing the excellent education available at the School - parents and others can make contributions on a monthly basis. These contributions provide the all-important 'seed funding' which unlocks the door to securing public and private funding. For the new classrooms, AGSD has committed £300,000 to support the cost of the building and fit out works. Without this demonstration of commitment, the School would simply not be able to bid for these kinds of capital grants.

And AGSD has been behind so much of the development of the School buildings, from The Grammar to the all-weather pitches, and from the Arts Centre to the Physics Labs, all supported by money raised through AGSD. But it isn't just the bricks and mortar that AGSD is involved in – we have just invested over £60,000 in upgrading the IT equipment across the School, enabling students and teachers to work as effectively as possible.



AGSD



At AGSD, our mission is simple. Our aim is to support the School in providing the best possible resources to enable pupils to achieve their full potential. We aim to ensure that all areas of the School benefit from our investments.

So where does the money come from? Put simply – it comes from those parents, carers and supporters who make a regular financial contribution to AGSD. What's more is that these contributions can be donated under the Gift Aid scheme, meaning that the government effectively adds a further 25p to every pound we receive! Clearly the more people who give, the quicker we can raise the funds needed to invest in the necessary facilities of which we can all be proud.

We are grateful to all those who already make the commitment to help. Yet there is so much more we want – and need – to ensure this School can continue to deliver its outstanding results. We know there are many demands on your money. But perhaps you might feel that a small investment each month is a practical and very significant way you can contribute towards improvements to the school from which today's generation of students will benefit and which will also leave a lasting legacy for tomorrow's students.

Not already a contributor to AGSD? It is easy to start. Simply contact the Headmaster's office and they will provide you with the simple to complete form for you to fill in and return.

F Ghafoor

Credits: The Chair of the AGSD Board, Mr Robin Russell-Fisher

Since lockdown began, it has been difficult to get out and stay fit, but government guidelines are slowly relaxing to let us out a bit more. During school, we were all at least able to walk around but at home, most of us sit around working, playing, eating and sleeping every single day. But getting outside is essential; even if you just walk round the block or go for a short cycle ride, it's important that we all get a little bit of fresh air. I have been trying to go on hour long walks every day, using the same route, but you can change the route that you take every day to give yourself a bit of variation. Especially while you are bored at home, doing lots of homework and following the same routine almost every day, it is good to have a bit of something different to look forward to.

To ensure that we're all getting a workout during lockdown, the PE Department has been offering live workout sessions and fitness challenges for Years 7 to 10 to keep us active. The live workouts are on Wednesday's, usually running from 2pm on a Teams call and all you need is a drink. They are led by Mr Cammack and Mr Sheridan, who are trying hard to make sure we're staying well at home and are keeping healthy by providing these workout sessions. In addition, the PE department has been setting challenges on Show My Homework that have so far included an accuracy challenge where you try and throw, kick or hit an object at a bin, bucket, fence post, etc.



P.E IN LOCKDOWN

60 Second Challenge

Tuck In Tuck Out

Do you keep trying even when you want to give up?

The Physical Challenge

How many times can you tuck your legs up to your chest and then extend them out in 60 seconds?
Bring your legs up to your chest and then fully extend them out.

#StayHomeStayActive

Equipment

A bench or a step

If you do not have a bench or step complete the challenge in a raised position on the floor.

Achieve Gold

15 tuck in tuck outs

Achieve Silver

10 tuck in tuck outs

Achieve Bronze

5 tuck in tuck outs

Believing in every child's future

The aim was to try and hit the target, or get it in the target, and then increase the distance or the difficulty, e.g. throw the object backwards and try and hit the target. The second PE challenge was a set of skills and drills all aiming to improve reaction time and coordination.

On behalf of all of us who took part, many thanks to the members of the PE Department who devised so many clever schemes to help us with our fitness whilst we were away from school.

I Jamal

FOOTBALLER

DAREBEE WORKOUT @ darebee.com

LEVEL I 3 sets LEVEL II 5 sets LEVEL III 7 sets REST up to 2 minutes

20 jumping jacks

10 split squats

10 body saw

20 side planks

10 superman

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Games, Apps, Computers, Videos. They are all the norm in our lives but what do these all have in common? They are all created with computing. Computer Science in lockdown has been eventful and exciting. Here are some of the things happening in lockdown Computer Science:

E-Safety:

The phrase "e-safety" may be overused, but there isn't a greater time to stress the importance of being cautious with internet links and "50% off" online products. Many people use computers, laptops and mobile phones for hours every day so a few tips don't do any harm. Here are 3:

1. Click Carefully

Whether you are surfing the internet or playing a mobile game, looking out for risky links and making sure not to carelessly tap on a suspicious advertisement is paramount to keeping your personal information in the right hands. Avoid being tricked into revealing sensitive information by spam emails, "phoney" free offers and other such scams. Be aware of offers that sound too good to be true.

2. Keep up to date

Keep all software on devices updated to be sure to have the latest security patches. Consider turning on automatic updates so you don't need to think twice about it and make sure your security software runs frequent scans.

3. Use Security software

This is perhaps very obvious but is essential in keeping safe online. Using good security programs like McAfee or Norton automatically use a firewall to filter unauthorised access to your devices and devices like webcams and microphones.

Computer Science in lockdown has been eventful to say the least with advances in technology and emergence of new companies such as Zoom. Although, the COVID-19 Lockdown has pushed us apart, technology and computing have presented alternative options to connect with each other and innovating together. Finally, however amazing computing is, limit screen time! Too much is bad for your health!

Introduction of Live lessons:

The lockdown period has also seen the introduction of live lessons on Microsoft Teams. This new way of teaching has helped students massively as they can interact with fellow classmates as well as the teacher with questions and help.

Although live lessons are not perfect, this new way of teaching and learning has certainly been effective for teachers with providing hints and suggestions that would otherwise not be practical to implement.

However, as with all online resources, there must be a standard of conduct. The following shows some of the rules:

- **BE ON TIME** Be on time and ready to contribute to the online meeting. Ensure your device works 5-10 minutes before the start time.

- **MUTE YOURSELF** Mute your camera and microphone right away. Only activate your microphone when you wish to contribute, and the teacher has given permission. All communication must be respectful.

- **PRESENTATION** You must wear appropriate clothing for a School event (you do not need to wear your uniform) and ensure your surroundings do not cause any offence. Any inappropriate behaviour will be reported.

- **CAMERAS AND HEADPHONES** you will not take photos or record students or the teacher during the online lesson. If you have headphones, please wear them. Always follow the instructions of the teacher.

- **CHAT RESPONSIBLY** Contribute to the online meeting respectfully and responsibly. Only use the chat function when needed and the teacher allows.

Useful apps in lockdown:

Having these apps on your phone and desktop are lifesaving and really handy to have through lockdown. Take a look:

- **Zoom:** Zoom is handy for staying connected. Whether it be a music lesson or a science club, Zoom is great for keeping in touch with school activities as well as out of school activities.

- **Microsoft Teams:** This is free to download on Android and iOS. You can get the software free on your PC as well, with your Microsoft 365 account.

- **Python:** This is great for learning to code and develop as a hobby. You can install this from the Python website (www.python.org).

Python Challenges:

Coding is a big part of computing, so Year 8 has been busy completing Python Challenges which both improve the quality of learning (hands-on experience) but also show a different approach to learning computing. They were given by the teachers a set of 20 challenges to complete, progressing from difficulty from a simple age calculating program to a full hangman game.

We had two months to complete the challenges with very limited help given by the teachers for the sake of the challenge. The challenges were aimed at improving our research skills so scouring the internet, digging up coding books was crucial. Another important aspect of the challenges was the different ways you can approach a brief and design accordingly. Overall, the experience this has given us has been immense and has not only taught me coding but has sparked an interest to program more.

Economic impacts on tech companies: - Companies have had mixed success in this lockdown period. Some internet-based companies have seen tremendous growth in users while others have struggled with the effects of the pandemic.

Winners:

A few examples of companies with huge success in online meetings and chatrooms are Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Zoom, relatively unheard of before the COVID outbreak jumped from 10 million daily users to 200 million after the lockdown period began. Its stock price has also doubled since December despite problems with its security and privacy policies. Even, the Prime Minister uses it for daily Coronavirus briefings. There are many uses of it for school purposes as well. Most live music lessons conducted through school, use Zoom.

However, it isn't alone. MS Teams usage rose 40% in one week hitting 44 million users as well as work chat app 'Slack' setting all-time user records day after day.

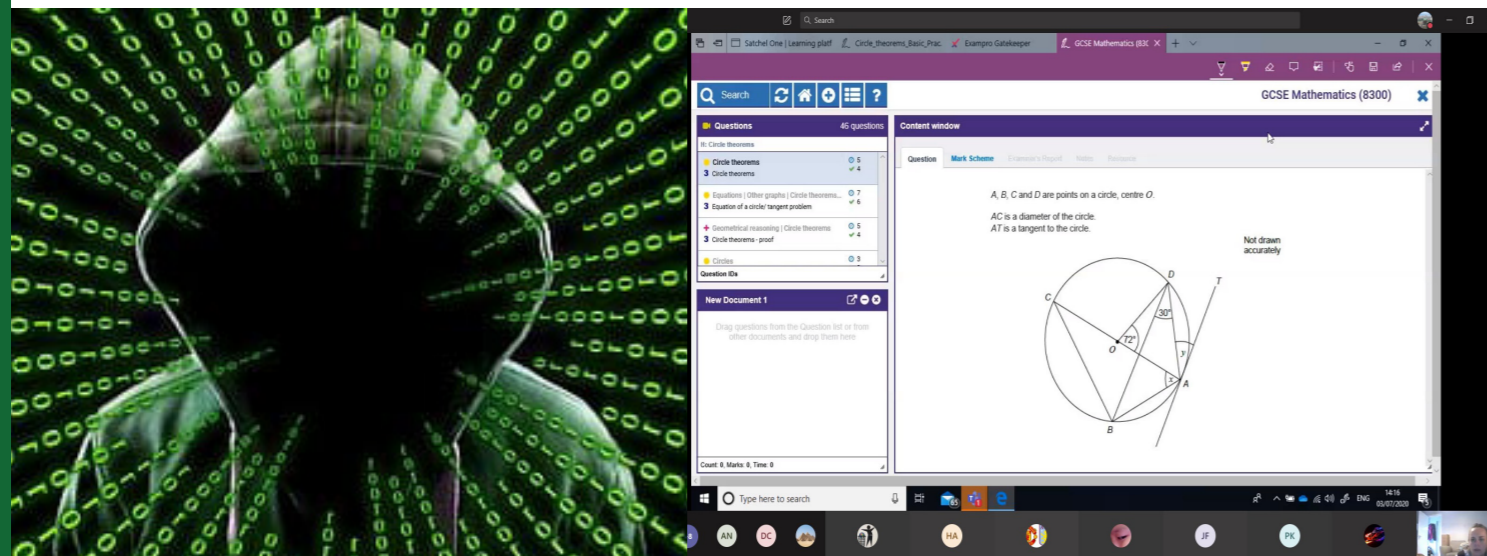
Streaming also is a winner in the pandemic: Netflix has already attracted 16 million new users to its subscription-based streaming service. The company also says that there is fresh content ready to be released on the platform in the months to come. Disney +, Disney's venture into streaming, released at the perfect time. At the end of March, it was announced to be launched just before the lockdown began. Before the lockdown, it had 33 million users and after, 55 million users.

Losers:

The most hard-hit sector of the tech industry is transport. Uber is cutting thousands of jobs due to the pandemic in its offices. This makes up 14% of its total workforce. Fear of infection has deterred many Uber regulars from taking the service to commute to work. Uber's business model also means it is heavily dependent on big cities. These include London, San Fransisco and New York which all have seen the worst of Coronavirus. In fact, these 3 cities made up 23% of all money spent on the platform in 2019.

It is fair to say that Uber and other transport companies have suffered in lockdown.

M Dave



Python Challenge

Create a version of the Hangman game using Lists.

- The program should randomly pick a word from a text file.
- For every guess you should update the user with which letters they have guessed incorrectly, as well as replacing the letters in the guess word with the ones they have guessed correctly.
- Draws using text the hangman character when an incorrect guess is given.



You will need to use:
File Handling,
Selection,
Functions,
Variables,
arrays

Save the file as **Challenge 19** and copy your code and results on OneNote.

FEDS Score achievable upon completion: **S**

YEAR 8 QUIZLET

Lots of Year 8s have participated in the Quizlet live sessions at 12 noon every day. They both improve our French knowledge and are fun to play!

Remote Learning for me and for many has been interestingly successful and has been handled very well in all subjects. French has been particularly fun and useful through the availability of many resources including VocabExpress and the many language websites (Languages Online and Quizlet Live etc.).

The latter has become a part of my daily routine and blends the usual learning aspects of a language and adds a competitive aspect in terms of a 'race to get the most questions right'. This dimension of contest engages me and many others with the learning and helps make concepts that may otherwise be unclear, comprehensible.

The idea of playing with your friends and against them drives people to try harder and to learn the vocabulary that is used to play. Learning French (as well as other subjects) in lockdown has been a special challenge for many pupils. The support of teachers and friends and talking to them face-to-face is sorely missed and remote learning can't completely replace the feeling of being in a real-life classroom. However, learning online currently is certainly working well.

With the support of teachers, friends, parents and the language websites, French will become easier to learn as we become more accustomed to this new way of learning.

M Dave

I contacted other members of my year who also loved the engagement this is what they had to say.

"Quizlet Live is a website on which the teacher chooses a topic and provides the students with a game code and the students then go onto a website named 'Quizlet live' and there they type the game code, provided by the teacher. Once the students have entered the game the teacher can then start the game. Players are grouped into teams of 3 or 4 and answer the questions as quickly as they can.

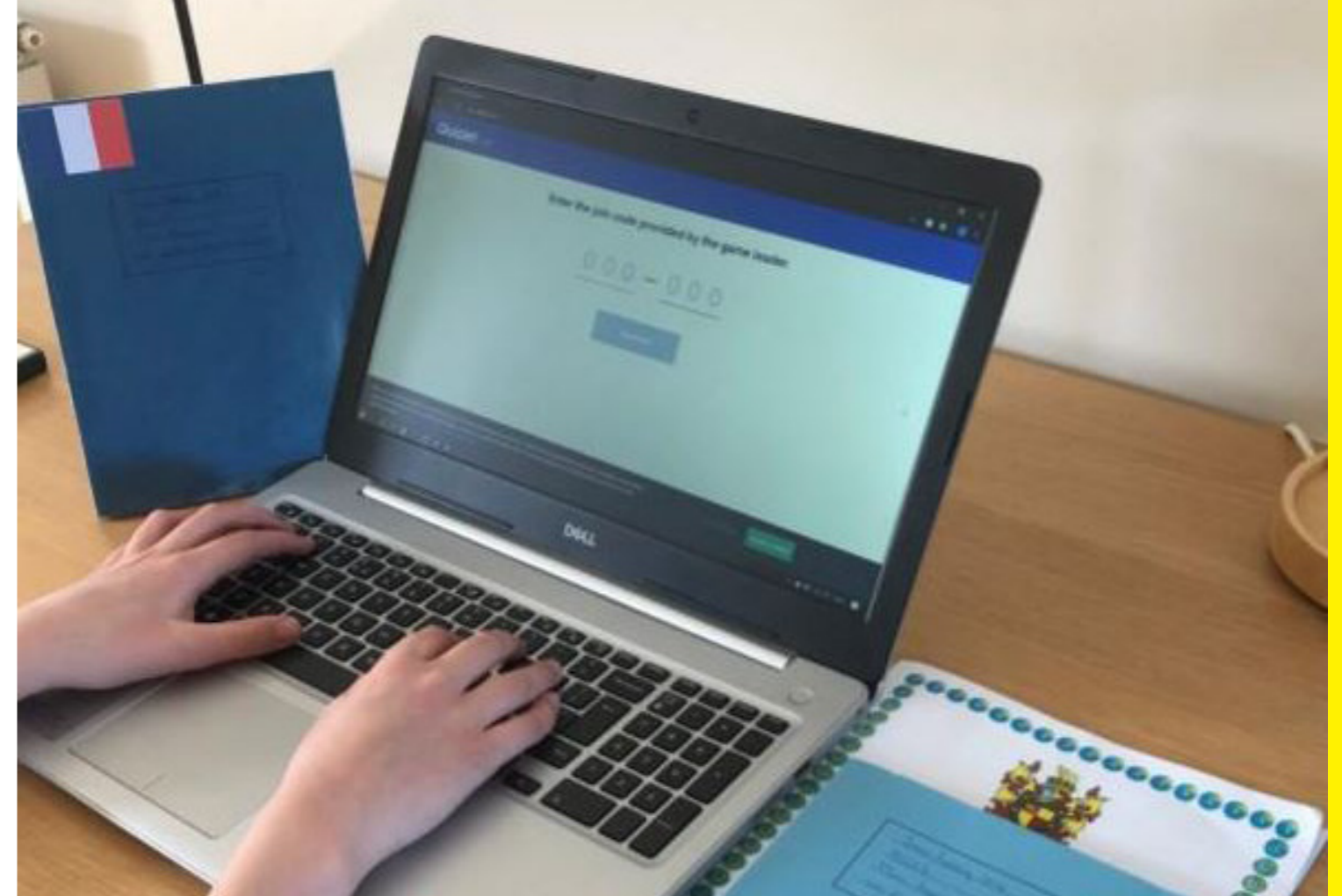
As the game progresses the students move their team towards victory. Quizlet Live is great fun and engaging and has helped me improve my French. It was always something we did at the end of French Computing lessons to make the lessons more interesting and enjoyable, but during these tough days of COVID-19 and having to stay at home, Madame Brennan has organised Quizlet Live's for us to do at home, to help our French learning.

Every day 30-40 people join on Quizlet Live and we tend to play 4-5 rounds. I make sure to play every day, as it is fun, and I am developing my French skills. Students, who win a game receive a house-point from Madame Brennan as reward for their hard-work. I have really enjoyed Quizlet Live and I hope it continues."

A. Agrawal

"Every day at 12 prompt, Year 8 French classes get together and play a brilliant, competitive game called Quizlet Live. Its popularity is growing as it should. It is fun and informative on what you should work on and what you know. I have joined some of the Quizlet Live games and I have found that it helps to retain key vocabulary and sentence structures from that language. I enjoy the fast pace of the game as it makes it quite thrilling and exciting. Quizlet Live is great and helps you academically but also has a fun side to it."

J. Fielding



Home > Languages > French > Verb Tenses

The perfect tense with être introduction

Leave the first rating

STUDY

Flashcards

Learn

Write

Spell

Test

Play

Match

Gravity

Live BETA

Je suis allé

1/32

With the ongoing construction of the school building, many teachers are moving away to new, bigger classrooms. With the investment from the Hamblin Education Trust, we are able to provide students with many more learning opportunities with new and improved equipment, especially in the science departments.

After over 10 years of operating out of N8 and N11, the Geology Department will be moving into two bespoke classrooms on the top floor of the new quad building from October 2020.

Fitted with sinks and electricity sockets on typical science classroom raised desks, both rooms will be able to operate as a typical science laboratory. The three new year 10 Geology groups (Geology is the most popular GCSE option choice next academic year) and two year 12 Geology groups, as well as the existing year 11 and year 13 groups, will be able to use these state-of-the-art rooms to delve into the delights of the science of the Earth. Lucky them!

Dr Stephen



GEOLOGY ON THE MOVE



This year, the lockdown has seen esports receiving a larger presence in mainstream media including the BBC broadcasting the League of Legends UK Championships live on BBC iPlayer. This year's championships were particularly exciting as Harry A, a former AGSB student who left last summer, was competing for one of the most prestigious and experienced teams in the country.

He is competing for Barrage Esports Academy this year in the UK League Championships. The UKLC is the top-level League of Legends competition for UK based teams and the third tier in Europe. The eight competing teams play each other over a seven-week season and the top two teams at the end will have the opportunity to advance to the Northern League of Legends Championship (NLC). This is the ultimate goal for Harry as the NLC is the pathway onto the EU Masters, one of the biggest esports events globally, with teams from all over the continent facing off against each other.

Barrage got off to a shaky start, losing their first game to 'Enclave Gaming' 1-0. 'Enclave Gaming' were formidable opponents and although Barrage did their best, their opponents were an unstoppable force. That same week, they also narrowly lost to 'Munster's Rugby Gaming Academy' with the final score of 1-0. Week 2 saw similar results with a 1-0 loss to 'Nvision Esports' followed by a close 1-0 defeat by 'Demise'.



E-SPORTS UK LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS



Coming into the third week, Barrage changed pace and went on to win 1-0 against 'London Esports'. Their victories continued with another win against 'Bulldog Esports', giving them a much-needed win-streak of 2.

They currently stand in 7th place but at the time of writing, there is still plenty of time to climb up with four more weeks of competition still to come. If they keep moving with their current momentum, there is potential to finish in a strong position.

Overall, the season so far has been thrilling with many close and exciting games. If you are interested in watching, the BBC is streaming these matches and many more online.

A Khawaja

YEAR 8 SCIENCE FAIR

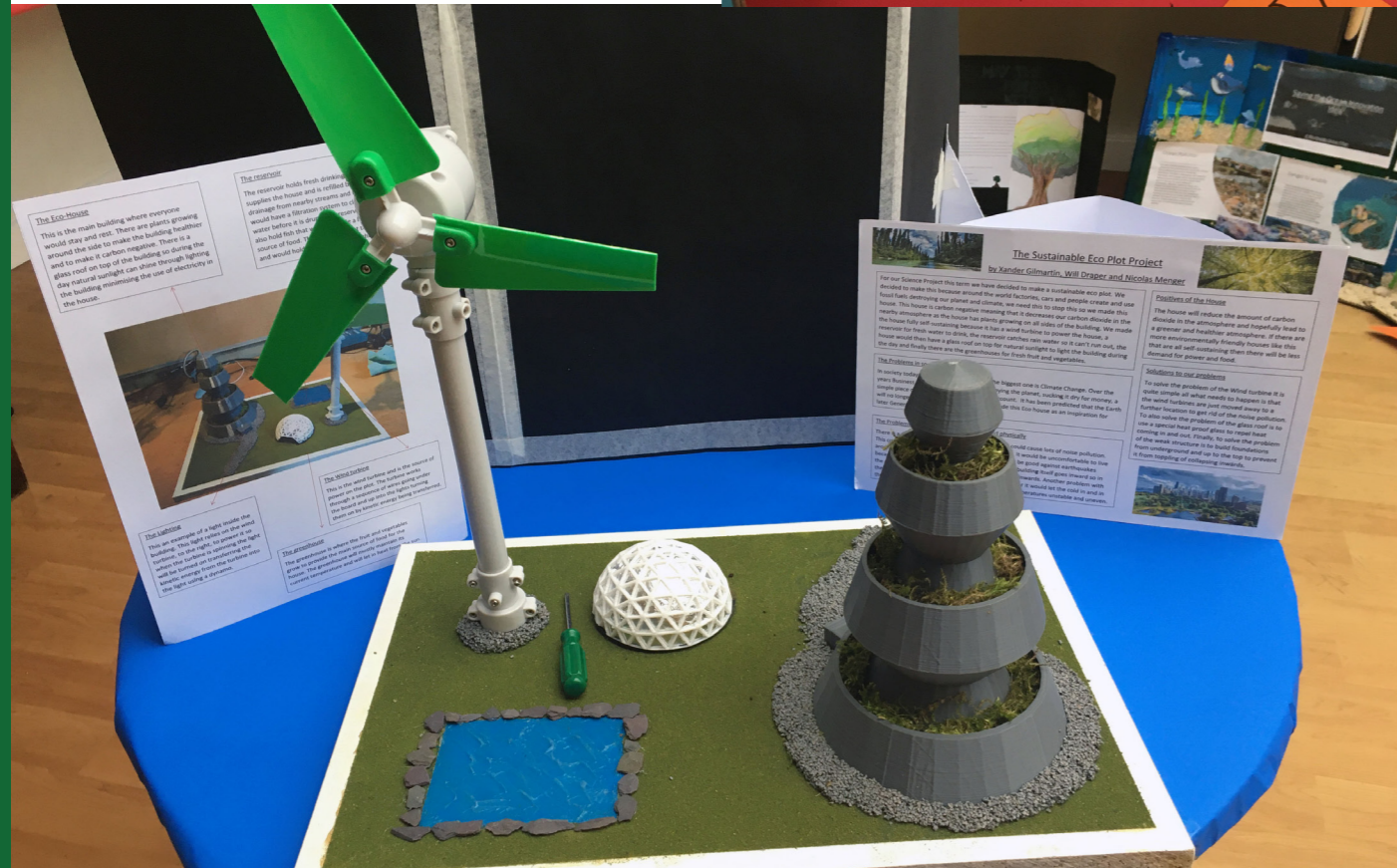
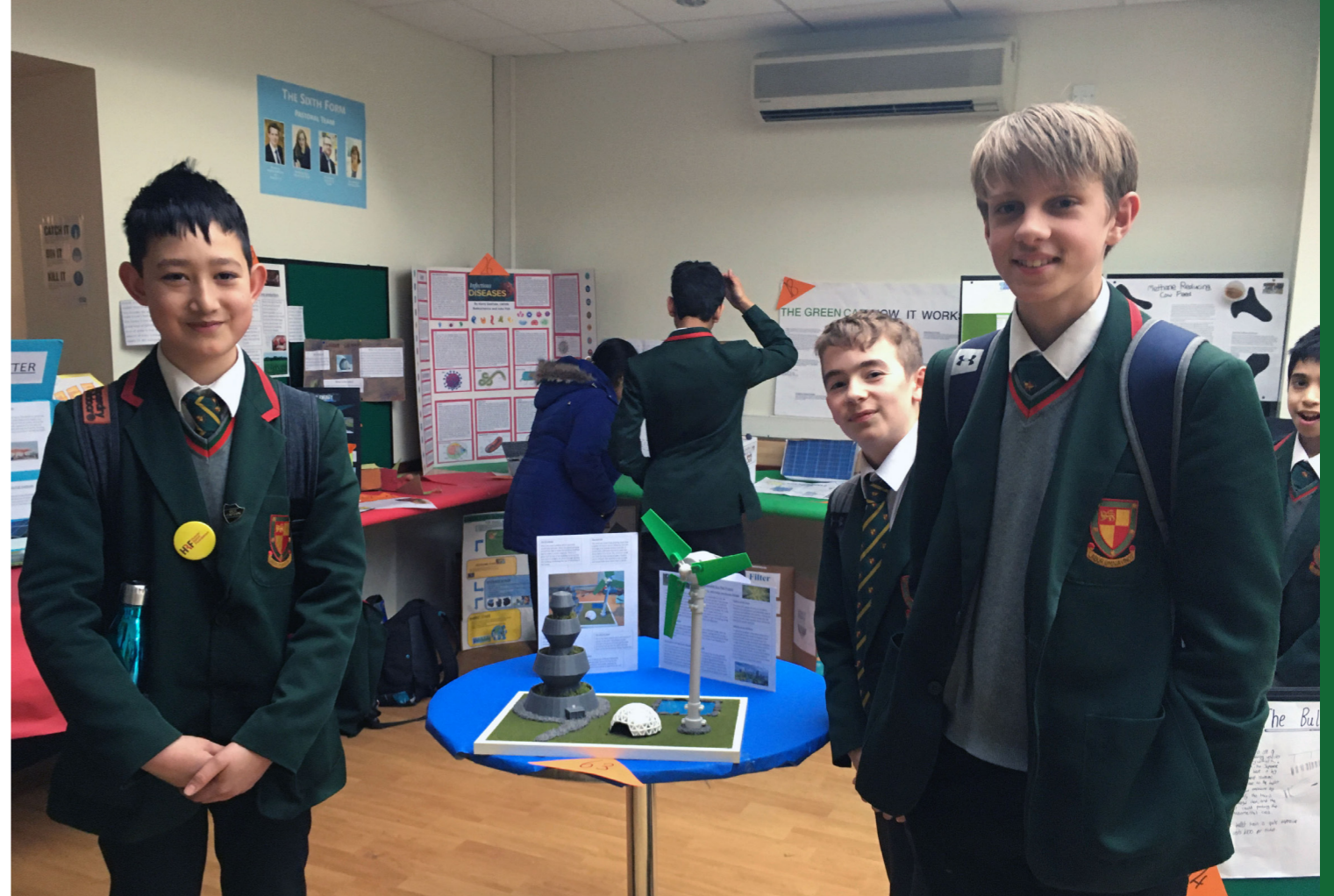
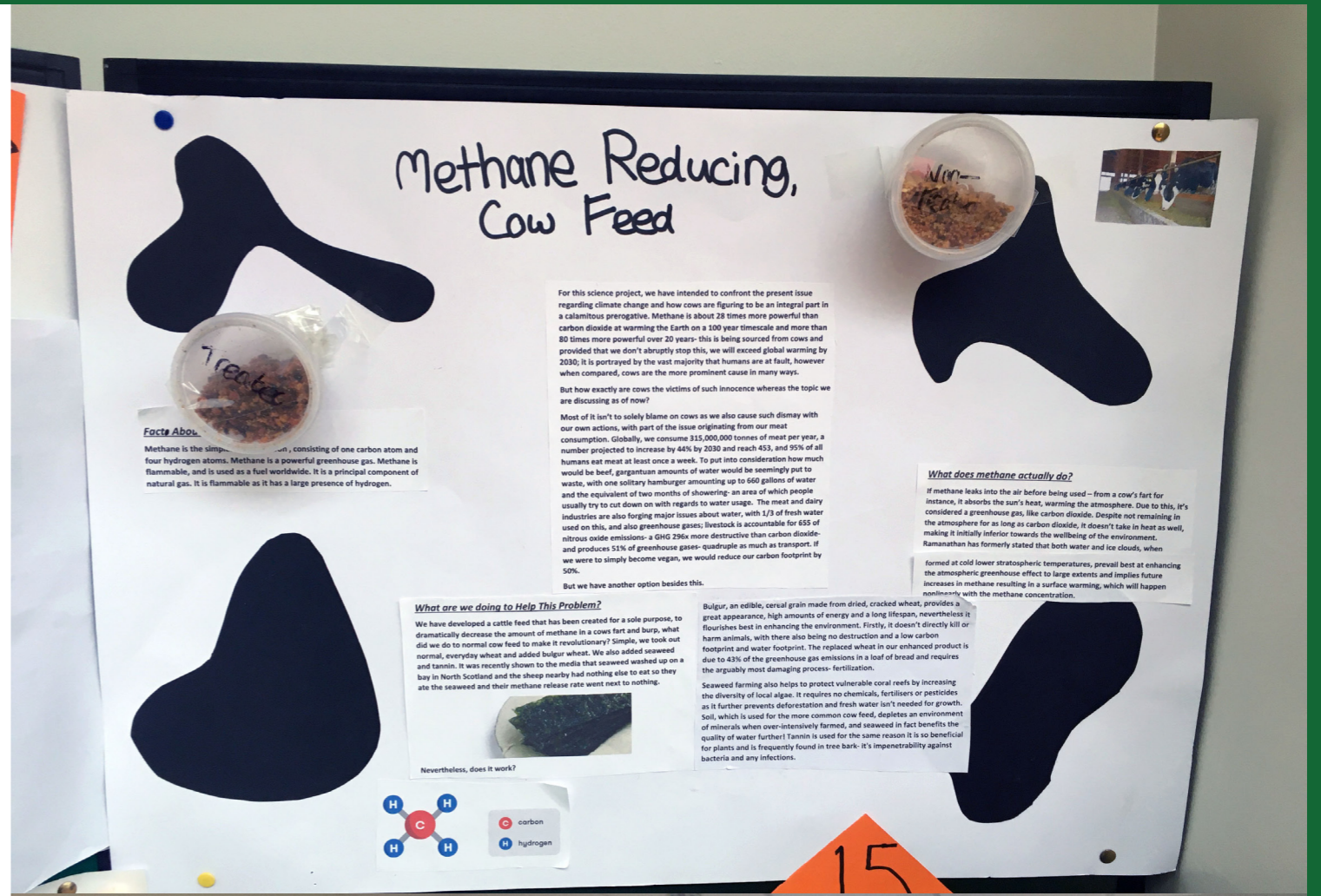
British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of STEM for all ages across the UK. It provides a platform to encourage scientific studies for students, and also to commemorate those who have dedicated their lives to such careers. AGSB observed the week in its own way, whilst keeping in mind the global situation.

All Year 8 pupils were involved in producing group science projects, which were completed in time for British Science Week: 6th-15th March. The projects were centred around the theme of "Saving our Diverse Planet" and were produced entirely through independent learning by the students.

Pupils carried out research on a topic of their own choice, which produced a wide variety of projects. Some of the best projects showcased pupils' knowledge, enthusiasm and creativity in science. The projects were presented on A2 paper and displayed in the Sixth Form Common Room for other pupils, staff members and parents to view. Some examples of their work can be seen around the Science Department laboratories.

Thanks to Ms Blaize for running the project this year. Thanks also to the science teachers of Year 8 who gave helpful advice and answered some tricky questions from pupils! Lastly, a big thank you must go to the Science Technician, Mrs Bridgeman, who provided resources and support to ensure the final projects looked their best.

S Hill



All throughout the lockdown, the Physics Department has been working hard to ensure that all students, in every year group, can still get involved and learn more about the subject.

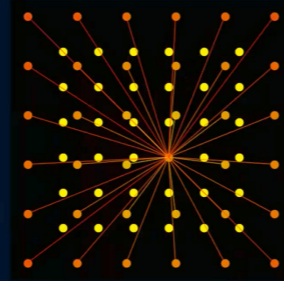
Our Physics teachers have been setting regular work and many have taken full advantage of the remote learning tools we have available to make sure that the lockdown does not hinder our learning and we are still prepared for the next academic year. This primarily involves teaching lessons through Microsoft Teams or perhaps, distributing files with notes and information.

Some have gone above and beyond, even recording themselves carrying out experiments that would normally be demonstrated in school, allowing us to fully comprehend the topics we are learning.

As well as the online lessons there are a multitude of other activities to get involved in during lockdown if you are interested in Physics. The Physics Concepts Society is a student run club that normally meets on Wednesday lunchtimes at school. However, during lockdown, they have continued to present a variety of interesting topics to other students through Zoom. Presentations include "Quantum Entanglement" and "Time Dilation" with many more interesting concepts to come.

Hubble's Law

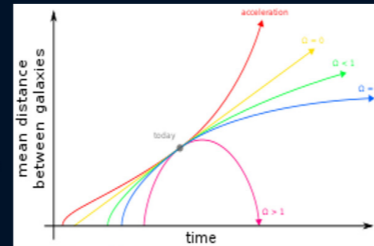
- Most galaxies moving away from us - redshift
- Further galaxies moving away faster
- Every galaxy moving away from every other galaxy



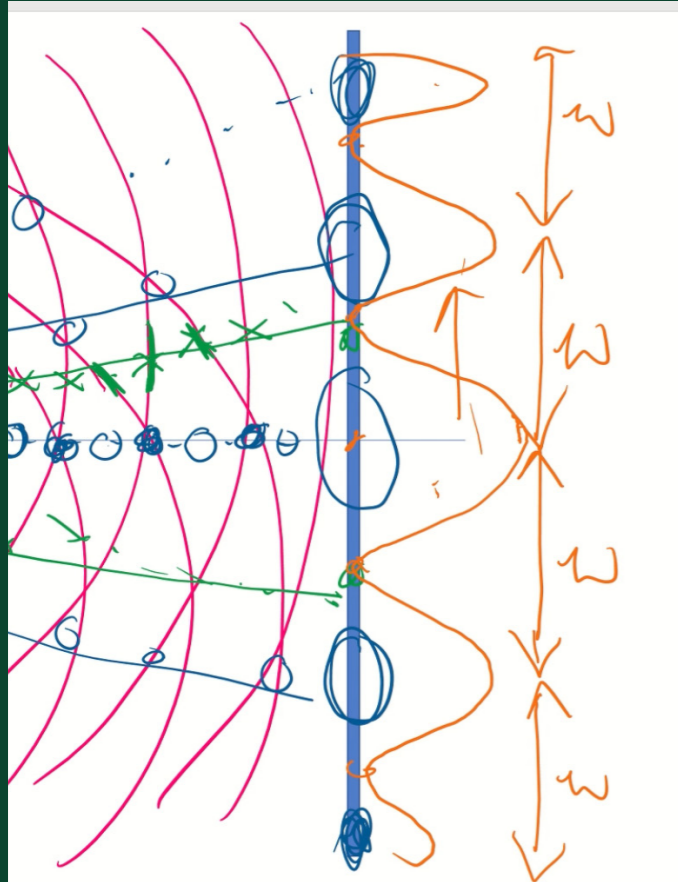
Density Parameter

$$\Omega_0 = \frac{\rho}{\rho_c}$$

- $\Omega_0 = 1 \rightarrow$ Halt expansion
- $\Omega_0 > 1 \rightarrow$ Reverse Expansion
- $\Omega_0 < 1 \rightarrow$ Slow Expansion



PHYSICS IN LOCKDOWN



Many organisations have also been broadcasting online events which provide a great way to further your Physics knowledge and take full advantage of the extra time we now have. One example of this is the Cheltenham Science Festival. The festival organisers have been uploading a series of amazing, free online lectures to their YouTube channel featuring a wide range of the world's foremost scientists. They even hosted a Kahoot quiz that people all over the country could join and participate in.

Even if you are stuck at home there is still plenty to do and I highly recommend keeping your brain engaged and learning something new.

A Khawaja

WHAT IS A 'WAVEFUNCTION'

It governs the probability of finding the particle in a particular configuration (e.g. spin up or spin down)

We cannot know the particle's configuration before a measurement is made.

DIANA AWARD

Alex S, in Year 13, is an outstanding pupil who has made massive contributions both in and around the school community during his time here. Many of you may know Alex as the current Head of Bradbury House but recently he was the recipient of the prestigious Diana Award. The award, established in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, is an accolade awarded to young people between the ages of 9 and 25 all over the world for social or humanitarian action.

This year, 184 people from across 35 countries received an award, Alex being one of them. He is a courageous role model who has worked hard over the past years to raise awareness of many issues facing young people today. This includes promoting respect and inclusion of the LGBTQ community and aiding anyone who feels they have been treated differently because of their beliefs. He has delivered many though provoking and powerful assemblies within school, addressing topics such as the prevalence of homophobic, misogynistic, or racist language as well as talking about mental health. Alex also wrote a poem inspired by his own personal experiences of feeling like an outsider which was so well received that it is now being used in training sessions with school nurses working with vulnerable teenagers.

As a school, we are extremely proud of Alex and all that he has done and wish him well in the next stage of his life.

A Khawaja



Lockdown has been hard for many of us: not being able to see friends and having to self-isolate; but one of the main aspects of lockdown that almost everyone is finding tricky is self-learning.

During this unprecedented time, we have had to self-study for all subjects. But which subjects have been the toughest? In my opinion, it would definitely be PSHE as this subject often requires lots of interaction and talking. In our lessons this is something we are always encouraged to do. We have break out groups face to face discussions and role play. All of which we cannot do under the current guide lines.

If anything, it is this subject that will equip us best to deal with these incredibly strange times. Instead we have had to almost 'learn on the job' and truly apply those facets of learning to ensure our everyday survival. Looking at the impacts of stress and anxiety has been a real help and having the opportunity of live lessons has reassured pupils that we are all in a similar position.

There have been many resources available to help us, including videos, live lessons and many PowerPoints and worksheets to help us fully understand the topic at hand. Interestingly, having self-taught the theory, everyday life has forced its practical application.

There will always be instructions on the defibrillator for you to follow.

If the instructions are obscured but the defibrillator is I working order, the 999 operator can talk you through the steps of how to use it too.

PSHE LOCKDOWN SESSIONS

Overall, there has been many different resources to help us learn the topics ourselves. If you didn't understand something from one source, there is always another source that may be even clearer. The resources are infinite and impeccable!

Thanks to the resources, we have used lockdown to bring out our best self, showing us what we are capable of. For example, in Year 7, we have learnt about credit and debit cards. Why is this important you may ask? Before lockdown we would have continued spending money without a second thought. However, now we are spending what we have on essential things like food. However, we have witnessed at the start of this pandemic what happens when people stock pile and don't think logically. As a result of our improved spending habits we have not been building up financial debts and have had the opportunity to ease our learning ones.

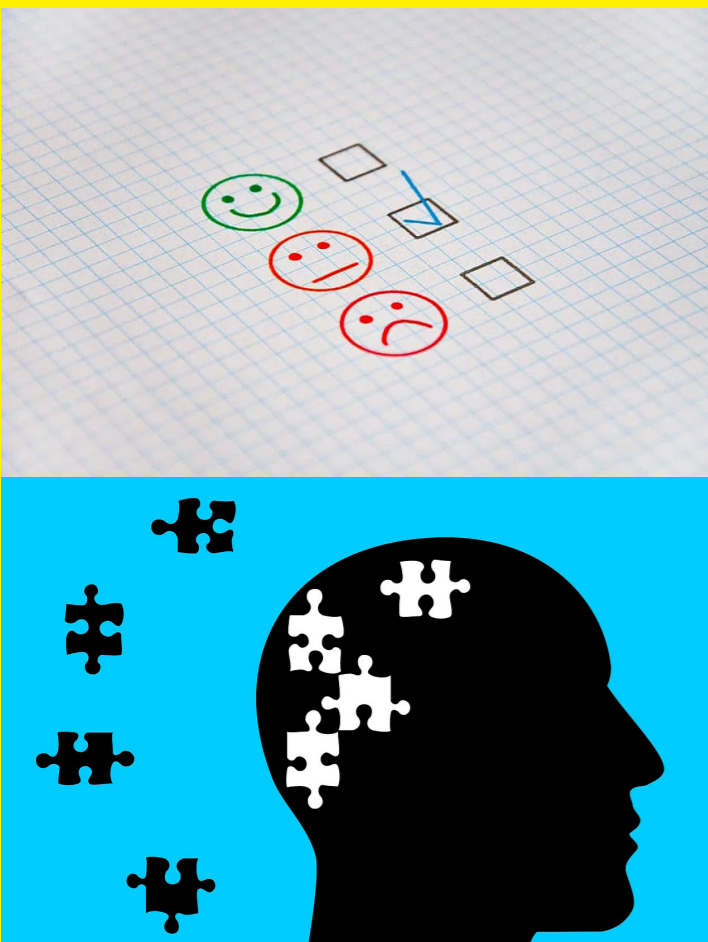
E Sattar

MATHS IN LOCKDOWN

On 23rd March, the Government announced the UK's lockdown and schools were forced into a phase of remote learning. The Maths Department responded well to this scenario and began a host of daily loom videos, live lessons on Microsoft Teams as well as weekly PowerPoints outlining the content required. Although it was difficult to keep to the same standard of teaching in school, the Maths Department's efforts were a success.

Daily reminders on Show My Homework lead to work always being completed and understood well. Teachers quickly responded to emails regarding extra help and detailed notes and sheets were sent out to students. Thanks to Microsoft Teams, learning at home has brought some other benefits such as shorter lessons and greater flexibility in the teaching strategies of our teachers.

T Arshad



Question 10 53% of students got this correct.
[AQA IGCE FM Practice paper set 4 P1 Q12]

The diagram shows a straight line ABCD.
A is the point $(-260, 480)$ D is the point $(620, -180)$ The line cuts the y-axis at B and the x-axis at C.

Work out the coordinates of B and C.

find $m \rightarrow y = mx + c$
 $m = \frac{480 - (-180)}{-260 - 620} = \frac{660}{-880} = -\frac{3}{4}$
 $m = -\frac{3}{4}$
 $y = -\frac{3}{4}x + c$
 $480 = -\frac{3}{4}(-260) + c$
 $480 = 195 + c \Rightarrow c = 285$

GEOGRAPHY PHOTO OF THE YEAR

Thank you to everyone who entered the competition this year. We had twice as many entries to choose from this year compared to our inaugural competition last year with nearly 40 submissions. We were very impressed with the range of Geographical topics your photos captured, the quality of your written paragraphs and, of course, your photography skills!

3rd Place - Barney M:

I took this picture in Tatton Park during the flooding at the end of February this year. I took this picture because flooding has been a massive problem, especially this year. This picture shows the reflection in a large puddle that appeared during flooding. The clouds appear to be cumulus and contrast against the outlines of the bare leafed trees. I wonder if more of the hill will be submerged next year?

2nd Place – Oliver W:

I took this photo earlier this week from my garden during lock down. It is a photo of the night sky and St Mary's Church, Bowdon which was built in 1860. Despite the difficult times with Covid-19, the moon continues to orbit our earth. The St Mary's Church clock continues to strike every hour and all through the night. This photo is a mixture of physical (moon and tress) and environmental (church building) geography. I find this photo very reassuring when so many other things are uncertain at the moment.

1st Place – Dominic H:

This photo was taken last summer holidays, 2019, outside Keswick, in the Lake District. I took this picture as I walked down a windy road in the deep countryside and I saw an arête. An arête is a narrow ridge of rock which separates two valleys and it is an amazing geographical feature. I took this photo because of its geographical significance and its beauty as the cumulonimbus clouds filter over the arête. An arête is quite interesting because it forms from when two glaciers erode parallel U-shaped valleys which means that this area dates back 21000 years to the Ice Age.

P Williams

Leo B



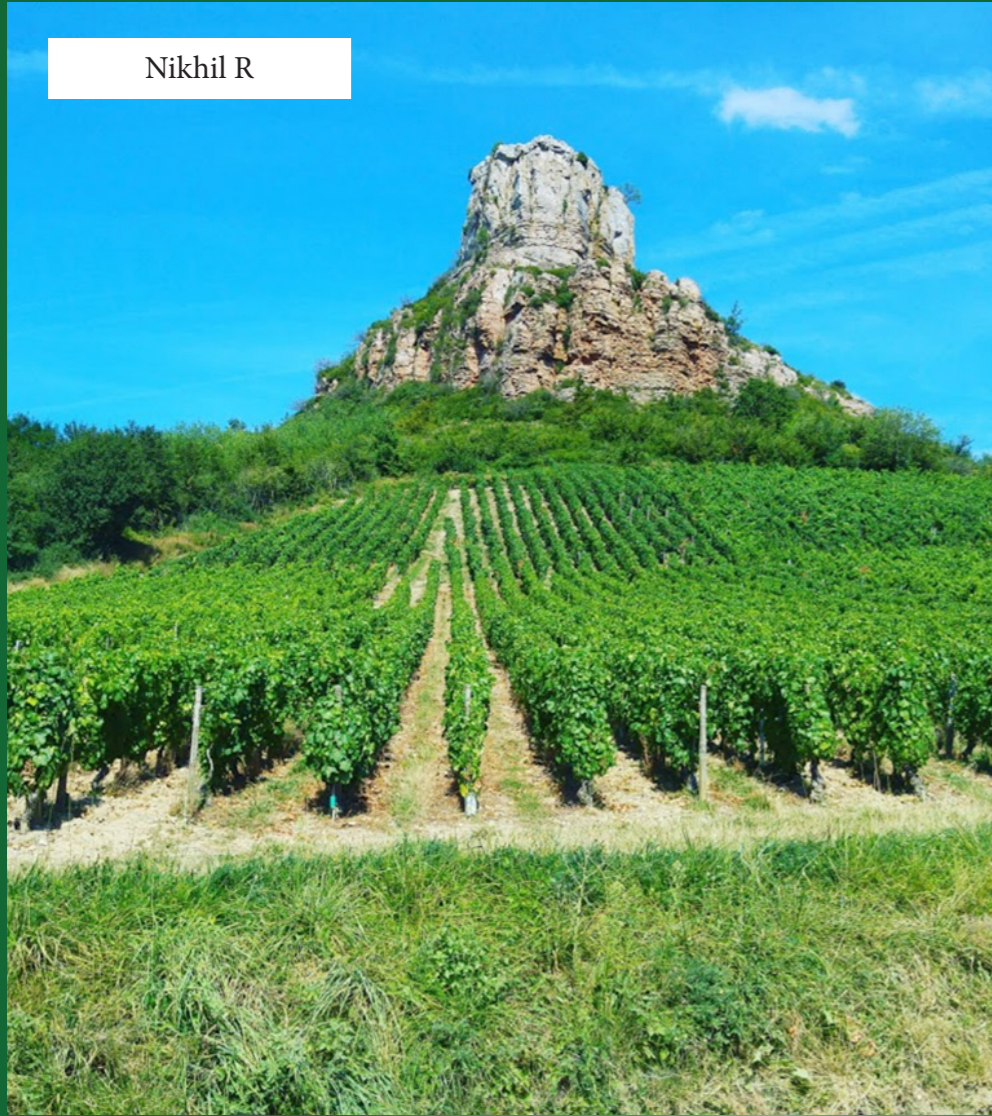
Tom W



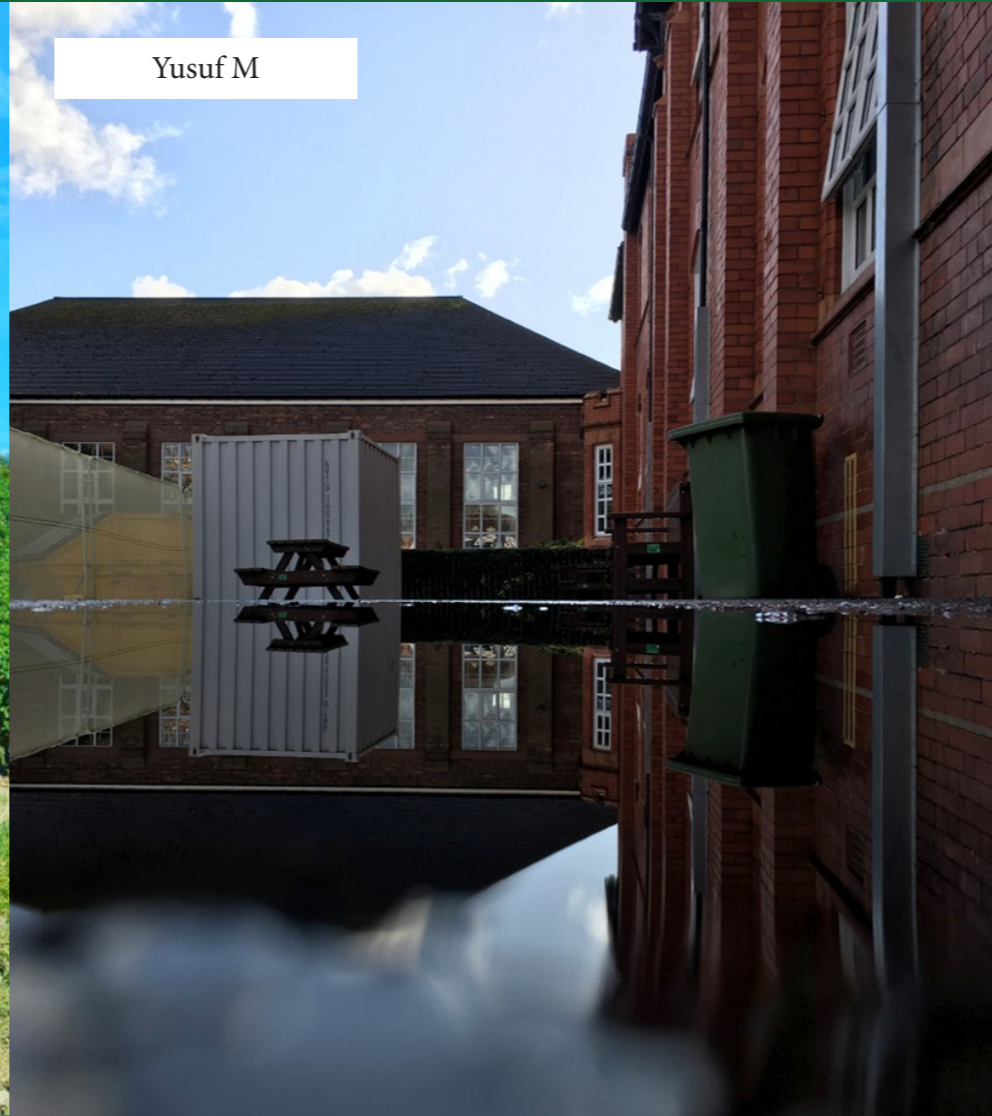
Laurence M



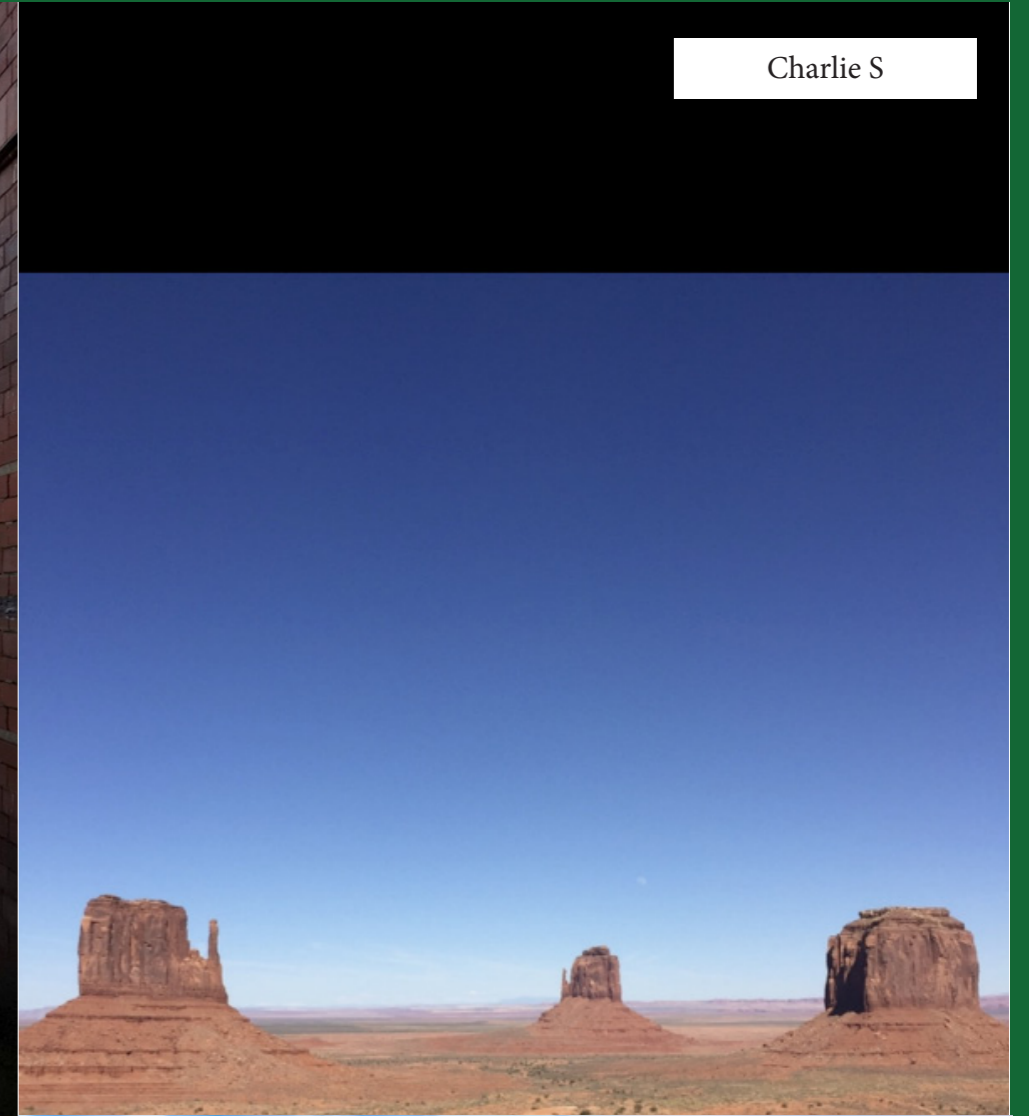
Nikhil R



Yusuf M



Charlie S



Asa D

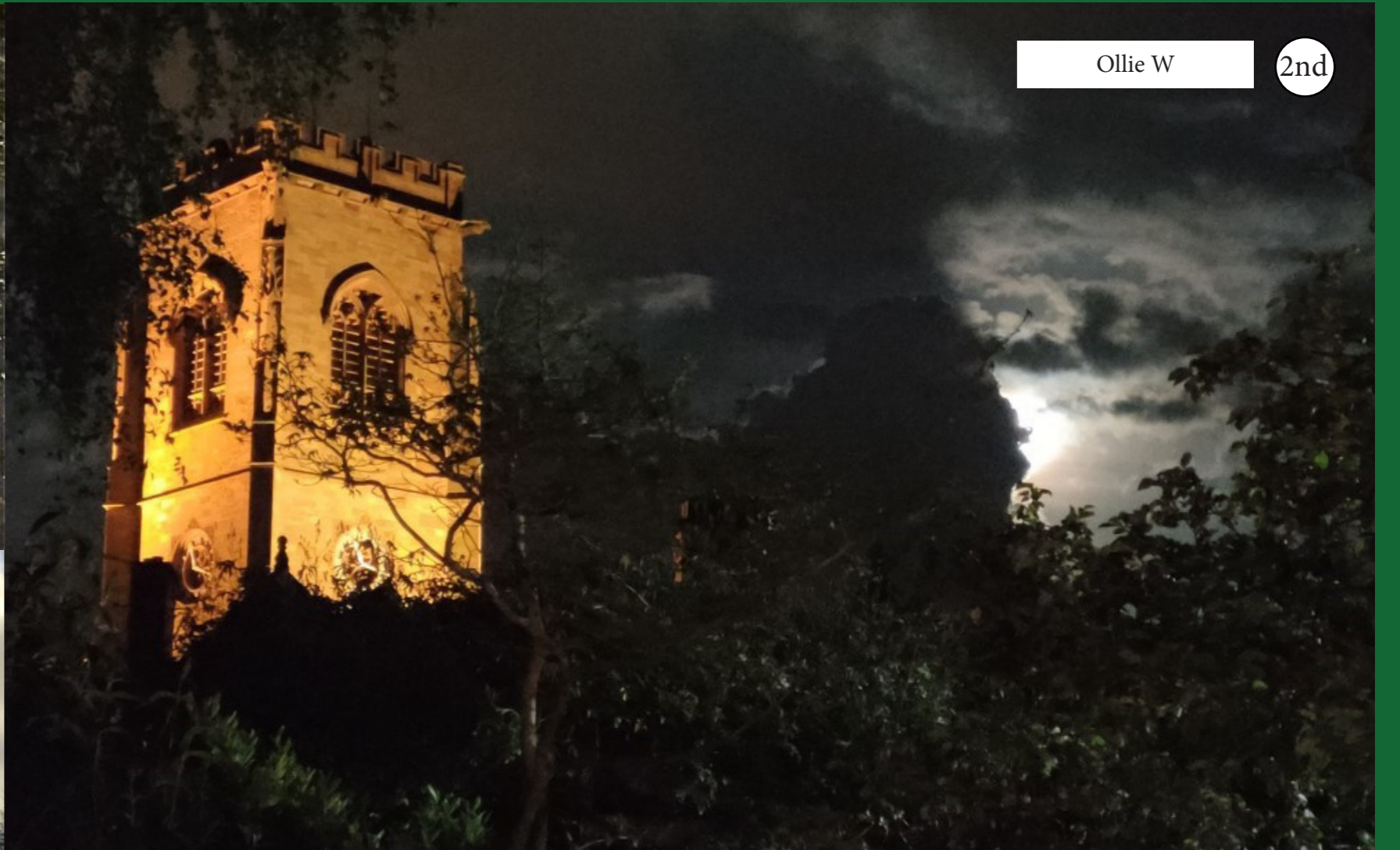


Labib A



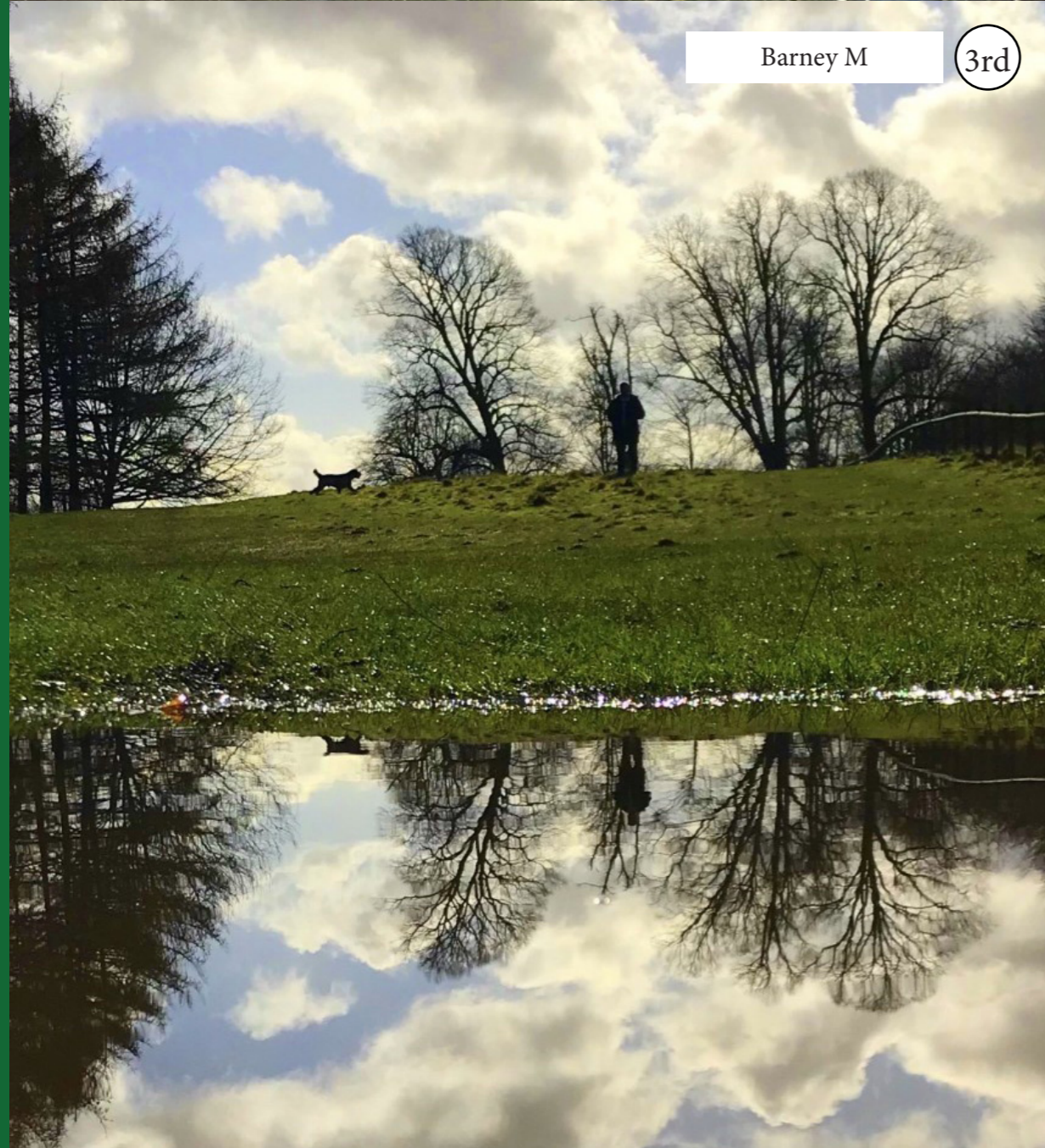


Harry G



Ollie W

2nd



Barney M

3rd



Dominic H

1st

As we all know, life in lockdown has its ups and downs. Family time and freedom are amongst the highlights of this period but there are also some issues that come with living at home for sustained periods of time. One thing that we are all feeling is the lack of practical work in the Tech Department. Not having hands-on learning and only having access to the designing world takes away a part of the subject. But it is fun designing things anyway.

Design and technology is a phenomenally important subject. Logical, creative and practical, it's the only opportunity students must apply what they learn in maths and science. It gives young people, like us, the skills and abilities to make our own world and to harness our skills in ways that benefit society. With STEM skills becoming of utmost importance in our ever-changing world, the Tech Department has the incredibly important job of making sure that we are fully equipped to face the world beyond our window.

Online Learning in the Technology Department has taken the form of Team Meetings, SharePoint resources and, most importantly, the E-Portfolio. The E-Portfolio is a technique coined by the Technology Department in order to keep life as normal as possible. The way it works is that you would be given PowerPoint presentation and you would have to do all the necessary stages involved in planning and designing a product but you have to do it on paper and put the

Reinvent the Toothbrush

Using the boxes below, create four designs to reinvent and redesign the toothbrush. What could you change to improve upon its design?



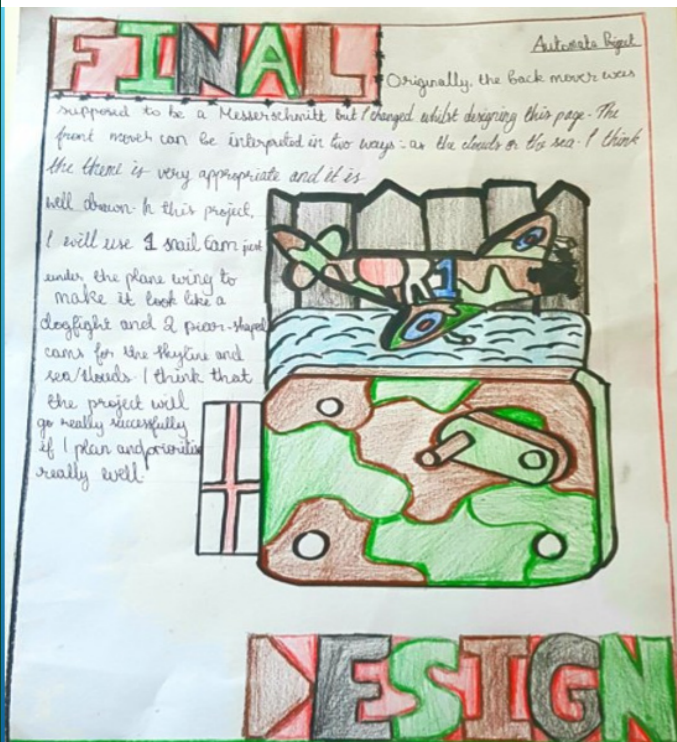
TECHNOLOGY IN LOCKDOWN

photograph onto the PowerPoint. This is not only effective, but it also keeps us working and thinking creatively.

In addition to schoolwork, the Design and Technology Department has also set us assessments to do. These assessments did not test the general knowledge that we had learned over the year but introduced us to never-before seen tasks that tested our creative thinking and our ability to be original. For example, in Year 7, we were asked to reinvent the toothbrush, considering ergonomic factors such as anthropometrics, psychology and physiology: all very good training for the more difficult tasks that are to come in future years and projects.

The tech department did not stop there: they have also tried to inspire us to try competitions and keep on thinking of new ways to keep our brains engaged and learning something new. All in all, Technology has seen a few changes during lockdown but sustains its challenging and rewarding legacy that it is renowned for across the school.

T Ariyo



SHINE AWARDS 2020

There are so many things that have been cancelled as a result of Covid. The trips that are arranged by staff who want to ensure that our students get the best educational experience available. Sporting activities, music concerts, competitions and award ceremonies to name but a few of the extra-curricular activities that have been almost taken for granted over the last few years. Indeed, our annual trip to London for The Shine Awards was cancelled, but the competition, like so many others, still took place.

This year, ironically, was our most successful and on 26th June the awards were broadcast via YouTube. Shine state that "The Shine School Media Awards is a national competition that rewards a diversity of talent from secondary schools across the UK who work on the writing, editing, design and fund-raising for a school newspaper, magazine, podcast or website".

We were delighted that Awais was a finalist for Best Editor. This was the second year that Awais made it through as a finalist and reflects all the hard work that he has put into the last two Annual Reviews. His attention to detail on the Moon Landing & VE Day themes were outstanding and his commitment to the group has been exceptional.

Aiyush was a finalist for Best Shine Scholar reflecting the work that he does not only with the Publications Committee, but also his work on the Back to the 80s programme and the numerous competitions he enters for 'fun'. Remember this name for Aiyush is a star in the making.

We were also a finalist for the Best Online section, however this has prompted Aiyush to consider how we currently produce The Word online.

However, the highlight of the afternoon was Isaac winning the award for Best Business Strategy. Isaac has twice been a finalist in this section and has developed how we raise money for overheads throughout his time in charge. I was delighted to see Isaac receive his award in front of a packed Stationers Hall with the applause ringing in his ears. Or at least I would have been had Covid and its restrictions not intervened.

The lack of ceremony does not detract from his outstanding achievement and there is no doubt that Isaac and the committee have to rethink how we raise money in our new socially distanced environment.

A Williams
(Stationers Foundation crest from <https://www.shine-schoolawards.org>)



ELTON JOHN(S)

"You could never know what it's like" is the opening line of Sir Elton John's 1983 hit single 'I'm still standing'. Using the song as inspiration Mrs Jarratt decided to rally the staff to produce our own version during lockdown. Despite the song being older than most of the staff, there were some notable contributions. Mr Cammack demonstrated that he has a future in River Dance if his teaching career comes to an end. Mr Hall filmed himself in the sun with his factor 5000 on. Mr Herrington showing that he has some strange items in his wardrobe clearly wishes that Stars in their Eyes would make a comeback. Mr Baker took the time to meticulously learn the chords for the guitar solo, Mr Flanagan revealed a horrific onesie while Mrs Wallwork found yet another excuse to dress up as a schoolgirl!

My three second click took me twenty-five minutes to film as I couldn't even hold my cards up the right way. Miming in my back garden whilst the neighbours looked on perplexed was certainly a first for me. It was great to see so many members of staff taking the time to join in, and thanks go to Mrs Jarratt for arranging this.

Clearly inspired by the togetherness of the staff the AGSB Session Orchestra produced a version of Bill Withers Lovely Day. Mrs Jarratt writes; "This has been the biggest and hardest project yet, but I'm sure you'll agree that they've done an awesome job. I can only take credit for the 3rd Trombone part, the rest is all down to the impressive wizardry of Kai Simpson & Alex Patel"

If you haven't seen this, you can here

https://youtu.be/Pim7uMD_2Ck

A Williams



INTERVIEW WITH DR STEPHEN

What made Geology stand out to you that you didn't find in other subjects?

Geology is multidisciplinary- it brings together the interesting aspects of many other subjects, synthesises these concepts and applies them to understanding how the Earth works. As such it makes you different. There is much that is still poorly understood in Geology even at an elementary level and it is this uncertainty that makes the subject a challenge and rewarding. The opportunity to travel and see the best landscapes on the planet is an additional attraction that you do not get in most other subject areas.

Have you always wanted to do Geology? And if not, what was your dream job growing up?

Absolutely not! Like all boys growing up in Essex I wanted to be a footballer. The dream of course would have been to lead out The Arsenal at the FA Cup final, being known as the hard-tackling midfield playmaker of the team. However, the downside to this dream, as I discovered very early on, was that I am rubbish at football, as anyone who has played with/against me in the staff 5 a-side games can surely testify!



What's the biggest/most positive change in your time at AGSB?

The most obvious changes in my 24 years at AGSB are linked to technology and buildings both of which have heralding significant improvements in the provision of teaching and learning at AGSB. A much less obvious positive change has been the transformation in the demographics and diversity of the staff over this period. After all it must be remembered that it is the staff that enthuse, develop and encourage intellectual curiosity in the boys at AGSB; technology and buildings are just useful tools for this goal.



If you could time travel back to 1850, what item would you take to the past with you to cause the most havoc?

The Ramones' first album: Hey Ho Let's Go!

Second to Mr Herrington, you're a bit of a pin-up amongst the lady members of staff - how does that make you feel?

Gutted that I am evidently just second and slightly concerned about the delusional aspects of Mr Herrington's psyche.

Is it really worthwhile to mine the moon?

A potentially huge debate for the next century. Is it feasible? Are there sufficient reserves of economic resources? The engineering and geological answers to both these questions is yes. Is it economical? Not yet. Is it ethical? I guess that will be in the hands of those wonderful politicians.

What is your favourite vegetable to grow in your allotment?

Believe it or not I have a strange fixation for spinach. It's easy to grow in abundance all year round, weather tolerant and versatile to cook- I've just made a batch of spanakopita cigars which will go down excellently with smacked baby courgettes marinated in garlic (both from the allotment) and olive oil.

What's your favourite rock?

It must be the eclogite from a quarry about 100 miles north of Bergen, Norway. Eclogite is formed under high-pressures and high-temperatures as oceanic crust is subducted into the Earth's mantle. Eclogite contains pink-red garnets, pale green pyroxenes and if you're lucky black amphiboles and blue kyanite. It's simply gorgeous yet surrounding by an enigmatic origin as it is not really known how such rocks work their way back to the Earth's surface!

What's your favourite rock band? (pun intended)

Continuing the pun, then The Rolling Stones 'Metamorphosis' compilation album is a cracker as are the songs 'Lava' by the B-52s, 'Like a Rolling Stone' by Bob Dylan and 'Landslide' by both Fleetwood Mac and Tony Clarke. Anything by the Stone Roses isn't too bad either.

Who was the first person to call you "Doc Rock"?

I think it was Mark 'Forsterite' Forster a year 13 student from aeons ago. NB forsterite is a Mg-rich olivine and I do like nicknames for my students!

What is your most exciting geological find?

In financial terms, it was amazing to be part of the team that found a new oil 'pay-zone' in the Middle Jurassic sandstones of the Tern field, northern North Sea. In terms of sheer exhilaration, finding a vast horizon of previously undiscovered, exceptionally preserved, terrestrial invertebrate megafauna on a Geology trip to southern Albania was just awesome.



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