

# Warwick Prep

SPRING 2023

## Life



### *What's inside*

#### SPACE ROCKS!

Reception have rocketed off to space to learn all things galactic.

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#### SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

Read about Year 6 braving the high wire course at Challenge Academy.

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#### YOUR WORLD BOOK DAY

Celebrate the joy of reading and rapping!

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# Welcome from the Head

I am delighted to welcome you to the Spring Term edition of Warwick Prep Life. Our team of editors in Year 6 have captured brilliantly the essence of life in school, something we know as 'Squirrel Spirit', and I am hugely grateful to them.

This whistle-stop tour, showcasing our highlights of the spring term, introduces the creative ways in which learning has been brought to life for our children and, as spring beckons, they have enjoyed taking their learning further afield through trips and visitors. Our co-curricular provision has continued to fascinate, excite and enrich the children's experiences and, amazingly, the wealth of opportunities continues to grow.

Our sports teams have been far and wide, enjoying tremendous success in cross country, swimming, netball and hockey, and we rounded off the term by hosting our annual netball tournament for over twenty schools. Our music department has seen even more 'firsts' with an informal concert given by our Year 2 instrumentalists and a showcase of the WPSA funded Brass and Woodwind Instrumental Project for Year 3. The Spring Concert was a triumph of joy, with music making at the highest level.

A rightful focus on wellbeing has seen the introduction of our Wellbeing Ambassadors and Children's Mental Health Week, our Digital Leaders have been inspiring safer use of the internet and our councils continue to be pro-active in all aspects of school life. This may seem like an exceptionally busy term but it is quite the norm at Warwick Prep!

All that remains, is for me to thank the inspirational staff who lead every day with vision and vigour to enable all this to happen, and to thank our parents for their tremendous support of all we do. I wish you all a happy Easter, with plenty of time for rest and recreation.

**Mrs Hellen Dodsworth**



# Welcome from the Principal

As always, it is a joy to support our pupils in their many and varied endeavours. On the sports field, in the concert hall, and in their myriad – and growing – activities; the achievements of our pupils are remarkable. These wonderful outcomes are enabled by dedicated and expert staff – both teachers and our professional services colleagues – and of course you, our families and the support you bring, not only to your children but to the schools in their entirety, and by extension to the Foundation more broadly.

Earlier this term, I was delighted to share with the Foundation community our new Strategic Plan. This brings to life our ambitions for everything which sits within the charity of Warwick Schools Foundation.

A particular priority for this year is engaging with our pupils in developing meaningful ways for them to work together. Whilst this is well developed between our senior schools on the Myton Road campus, there are opportunities to enhance this still further and extend opportunities between younger pupils and the pupils at The Kingsley School. To this end, we have held our first Foundation Pupil Conference, workshopped by the Heads, and involving pupils from Year 2 to Upper Sixth. Our pupils are quite rightly very proud of their individual schools and talked eloquently about their educational journeys. They also spoke positively about many of the shared experiences –

the 'added value' of being part of a bigger whole - for example the joint PSHEE programme in the Sixth Form, and the 'link days' between Warwick Prep and Warwick Juniors. I look forward to seeing how these discussions with pupils develop over the months to come, and I am sure there will be hugely beneficial experiences which will grow from them.

Finally, last year we ran our first Future Fwd conference. Details about this year's event may be found here: [futurefwd.org/about](https://futurefwd.org/about). As last year, we would be delighted to welcome parents to this event – but please do sign up quickly, as places are limited!

**Mr Richard Nicholson**

Warwick  
Schools  
Foundation



Enabling transformation through the power of education



# Meet the Editors

Meet our super Year 6 editor team who have been busy working on our spring edition of Warwick Prep Life. Anna, Celia, Theodora, Tilly and Cecilia, all in 6SW, have enjoyed interviewing, sharing Science Week and helping to design our Easter-inspired front cover. Let's find out what they enjoyed most about the role of editor.

*"I have thoroughly enjoyed being an editor this term because I loved working with my friends to conduct and write up the interviews."*

Tilly

*"I have really enjoyed being an editor because I liked having a chat with Mr Parsons. I also liked having a responsibility."*

Celia



*"I have enjoyed being an editor because I liked conducting interviews and writing paragraphs on things we have done. I wish I could be an editor next term as well!"*

Anna

*"I really enjoyed being an editor! My favourite part was interviewing the teachers. It was such a fun experience so if you have the opportunity to be an editor, go for it!"*

Theodora

*"I loved being an editor because I loved working together with my friends but also being able to be independent. Being an editor uses lots of Skills for Life and I would definitely recommend it."*

Cecilia



NURSERY NEWS

# Run, Run As Fast As You Can!

The children have been developing the key characteristics of learning through traditional stories. They loved The Gingerbread Man and were actively engaged with the story, demonstrating how to be critical thinkers by suggesting different ways the gingerbread man could have crossed the river. There were some wonderful ideas such as using a canoe or a space hopper! The children could be heard chanting 'Run, run as fast as you can...' as they made some 'Wanted' posters for the gingerbread man.

Playing dice games are a fun way of developing children's mathematical skills and the Nursery children loved playing a gingerbread man game. They learnt to take turns as they rolled the dice, counted the dots and then counted out the correct number of pennies to place on their gingerbread man. As the children became more experienced at playing with dice, they began to recognise the dot patterns and the numbers they represent.

The children have loved our Squirrels' Shoe Shop, relating to their own experiences as they chose which shoes they wanted to buy and tried them on. The high heels and go-faster trainers were very popular! There were lots of opportunities for playful maths, sorting, matching, measuring and recognising numbers as well as emergent writing in note pads.



Mahnoor, Iwan and Kiara in NHT playing a gingerbread man counting game



Charlie in NHT dressed as The Gingerbread Man for World Book Day



Leah and Joshua in NPB paying for shoes in the Squirrels' Shoe Shop



Abe, Grace, Eliz and Isabella in NWL measuring feet



Ava A and Lottie in NPB playing a gingerbread man dice game



Winter bird scene by Gabriella in NWL



Winter scene by Ava B in NPB



A melt of snowmen by children in NHT



## RECEPTION NEWS

# To Infinity and Beyond!

Reception had a busy start to 2023 learning about 'Space'. We enjoyed learning about the planets in our solar system and worked together to paint all of the planets to display in the Reception corridor. Towards the end of our topic, we were fortunate to have a visit from 'Astronaut Wilby' to find out about visiting the moon. We enjoyed exploring a range of fiction and non-fiction books about space, including 'Aliens Love Underpants' by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort and 'The Marvellous Moon Map' by Teresa Heapy and Ben Litchfield.

After half term, we began our 'Superheroes' topic with great excitement! We enjoyed playing in our year group veterinary surgery and after reading 'Supertato' by Sue Hendra, we created 'superhero veggies'. We have enjoyed visits from several superheroes, including Mrs Mulligan who talked about how dentists help us.

Reception children have also enjoyed completing their weekend homework challenges which have included activities such as making a sandwich, going for a welly walk and making a superhero breakfast. The children have been very excited to share their photos with their class!



Ruby in RHD taking part in a moon crater investigation



Alien by Lucy in RHE

Snowman by Arabella in REB



Idris in REB and Mrs Mulligan



Alien by Niyam in RSJ



Capucine in RSJ with her 'SuperAubergine'



Supertato by Avi in RHD



George in RHE enjoying a welly walk



YEAR 1 NEWS

# Arctic Adventures!

Year 1 have had a fabulous spring term, filled with curiosity and creative thinking! Our topic has been 'Polar Lands' and the children have loved finding out about life in the Arctic and Antarctic.

We had an exciting flight to the Arctic on 'Brotherhood Airlines'. Everybody made a passport and then, on our date of departure, queued at Passport Control to have it stamped and bags checked. An imaginative flight took place, visiting famous landmarks around the world before landing in the Arctic. Everyone then explored the landscape, making sketches in their passport of any interesting animals or landscapes.

Another highlight was the visit from Andrew Cooney. We all were interested to hear how he became the youngest person to walk to the South Pole and heard his inspiring story of having a diagnosis of dyslexia at university and how you can overcome anything to achieve your dreams. The children loved exploring all the expedition equipment and who knows, one of them may end up being a polar explorer one day!

Our lessons have been full of questions to make us think such as, "Should polar animals wear coats like dogs in England?" or "Is 6 better than 7?", "Would it be good to keep a polar animal as a pet?" or "If stripes were taken off a zebra, what colour would it be?". We have had lots of interesting answers and are becoming confident in suggesting and putting forward our ideas.



1SK ready for their Arctic flight



1HC on their Arctic adventure



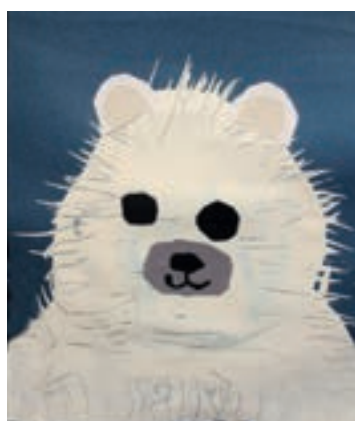
1JF wrapping up for their Arctic flight



Chalk polar bear by Henry in 1SK



Fluffy the polar bear by Elliott in 1JF



Painted polar bear by Ibraheem in 1HC



Florence in 1JB trying on Andrew Cooney's Antarctic clothing



Aurora Borealis by Stephanie in 1JB



## YEAR 2 NEWS

# Story Writing and Shakespeare

The Year 2 children have been working hard in their lessons. Many of the pupils have also spent the two-week Skills for Life Project Fortnight focusing on one, or more, elements of our Skills for Life wheel. Well done, if you have honed some of these incredibly important skills – we are very proud of you! Thank you for sharing them with your classmates too.



To begin the term, the children used their descriptive language skills to write their own extended retelling of 'Cinderella'. Next, we used inspiration from 'The Day the Crayons Quit' to have fun writing different styles of poetry. Before the half term break, we read a book called 'Toby and the Great Fire of London'. Using ideas from this book and knowledge gained in our History lessons, we wrote our own diary entry and produce a historical fact file. We are currently enjoying investigating and writing fantasy stories.

In Maths, we began the term with a huge focus on multiplication and division. Then, we enjoyed exploring different methods of data handling - tally charts, tables, pictograms and block graphs. Recently, we have been exploring 2D and 3D shape properties and using them to create patterns. On the iPads, we have sorted shapes into Carroll and Venn diagrams. In another lesson, we used the iPads to create posters showing photographs of everyday 3D shapes that we found around school.

This term in History, we have enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London and William Shakespeare in preparation for our trip to Mary Arden's Farm. In Geography, we have been working on exploring and making maps. Our Science topic before half term was 'Electricity' and the children had fun building and testing circuits using equipment from the Science department. Since half term, we have been conducting experiments and investigating what plants require for healthy growth.

New to this term, we have devoted 30 minutes each week to working on reasoning and debating skills. The teachers have posed tricky questions that we have then discussed in pairs, small groups or as a whole class; giving reasons and justifications for our side of the argument. This is sometimes made even trickier in that we are told which side to argue, even if it is not actually our personal opinion. The teachers are thrilled that we are now using these skills in other lesson too. We are all enjoying using the new Imagination Station space in school, a room without tables and chairs where we are actively encouraged to think creatively and to write on the walls!



Stella in 2AD playing piano at the Year 2 and Year 3 Tea Time Concert



Henri Matisse inspired collage by Maddie in 2JA



'Waterlilies' by Arjan in 2EC



2EC exploring Mary Arden's Farm



Pupils from 2EC and 2JW re-enacting 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'



2JA performing at the String Showcase



Van Gogh inspired painting by 2AD



YEAR 3 NEWS

# Marvels of Madagascar

What a wonderful term it has been! After the great success of the Ancient Egyptian topic last term, the teachers wondered if the pupils' enthusiasm would be the same for their Pre-History topic; it was! Everyone threw themselves into the new topics with great enthusiasm; 3D models of Stonehenge were made, cave paintings created, shelters constructed, to name but a few.

The Pre-History Day in March coincided with the snowiest day of the year so far, so the Headmaster's garden was filled with Stone Age 'snow people' who then had shelters built for them out of sticks and 'furs'. To link with this, some beautiful narrative writing was produced in English based on the book 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura which helped to expand the pupils' vocabulary and they are now actively using a thesaurus to help them when writing.



Meera in 3LG admiring a lemur at Cotswold Wildlife Park



Observing the giraffes at Cotswold Wildlife Park



Constructing 3D Stonehenge models



Building Stone Age 'snow people'

In Geography, the new topic of Madagascar was introduced. Everyone loved learning about the animals of Madagascar, and this was complemented with a trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens to visit the lemur walkthrough and listen to the keeper talk. The pupils impressed us with their ability to read 4-figure grid references whilst locating key places in Madagascar.

Maths gave prime opportunity to use the new Imagination Station room whilst learning about fractions. Everyone really enjoyed writing on the large walls with the whiteboard pens, drawing out and labelling fractions!

In Performing Arts, everyone has just been introduced to the LAMDA poems for the first time and will start to learn their pieces ready for their exams in June.



Vist to Cotswold Wildlife Park



## YEAR 4 NEWS

# Ancient Romans & Skills for Life

Wow, what a busy term! It seems to have flown by! Year 4 have enjoyed another amazing term with so many exciting and enriching activities including preparations for LAMDA, a sharing assembly for 4WS, World Book Day, Skills For Life Project Fortnight which involved enhancing the lives of others and taking responsibility for themselves, in preparation for our summer trip to Naturesbase.

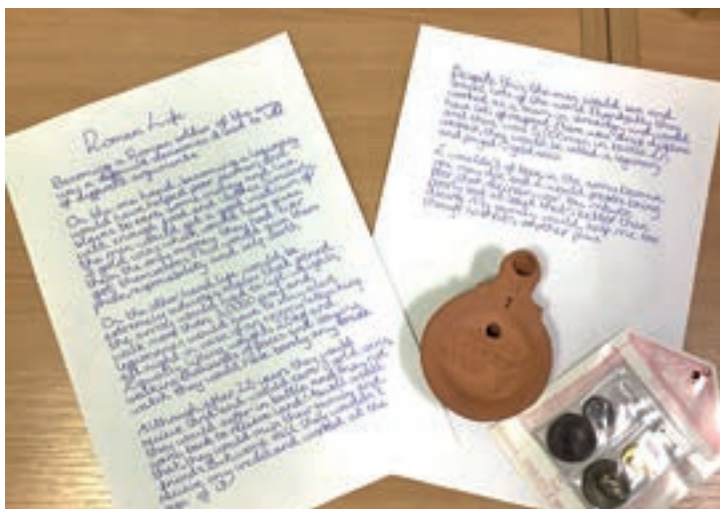


This term, 'Star in the Jar' treats were a real highlight and were a much deserved reward for consistent hard work and good manners. The girls have been researching people who inspire us for our 'Dreams and Goals' theme, as well as working collaboratively in groups to create their very own 'Mr Potato Head'.

We have been inspired by the bravery of Queen Boudicca in our topic on the 'Ancient Romans' in history. We brought battles to life with our dramatisation of Boudicca's rebellion and destruction of Londonium, St Albans and Colchester. The girls were inspired by this fierce female warrior and feel we too are strong and independent and may be called upon if needed to lead a rebellion! In thinking about whether the life of a soldier in Boudicca's time was something to be aspired to, the girls wrote superb balanced arguments showing both the benefits and drawbacks of life as a legionary in the Roman army.



Re-enacting Boudicca's rebellion



Balanced argument about life in the Roman army by Emily in 4WS



Mila, Tuppence and Sophia in 4MC with their Skills for Life Project Fortnight



Mr Potato Head!

Our class representatives have been very busy leading Class Council, Food Council and Eco Council meetings. They are working hard to help us learn our role within society and "be the change we want to see in the world" (Gandhi). Well done, Year 4!



Skills for Life Project Fortnight by Prabhjot in 4WS

YEAR 5 NEWS

# Tudor Exploration

In Year 5, we have been busy learning about 'Tudor Explorers'. We have used investigative skills to try to match artefacts found from the sunken ship, The Mary Rose, to their Tudor-times use. During our lessons, we considered how one's perspective impacts versions of history. For example, Sir Francis Drake is known as a hero in England for circumnavigating the globe; however, Spain sees Drake as a pirate who raided ships and stole goods.

In English, we have come to the end of our study of the novel 'Wonder'. This book has impacted us deeply and we have created amazing book journals to demonstrate the powerful messages found in the book. We loved learning about the themes: uniqueness, friendship, being an upstander, and overcoming obstacles.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day. Year 5 took part in Virtual World Book Day lessons; enjoyed learning more about library services; created story mash-ups with characters from different books; and loved sharing their amazing book-related costumes.



Getting ready for the race during Science Week!

Following our PSHEE lessons which focused on 'Dreams and Goals', we considered different ways of supporting our local community. We were delighted with the enthusiasm the girls showed in collecting items for 'The Warwickshire Trust's Refuge' which helps women and children who have experienced domestic abuse. Many of the girls undertook small jobs at home to 'earn' money towards buying essential items. Guess how many tubes of toothpaste, packs of nappies, packs of dried goods, and bars of soap we have collected?

This term, Project Fortnight focused on Skills for Life and the girls were tasked with germinating and growing seeds. The Year 5 pupils tenderly tended to their seedlings, resulting in some tasty cress to add to sandwiches and salads. The girls showed responsibility though caring for their seeds, and communication skills were developed through presenting the project to the form. Another key Skill for Life demonstrated was resilience, as not all of our seeds germinated.



Darcey, Kylie, Emilia and Molly in 5AM constructing cars during Science Week



Skills for Life Project Fortnight by Khadeejah in 5KC



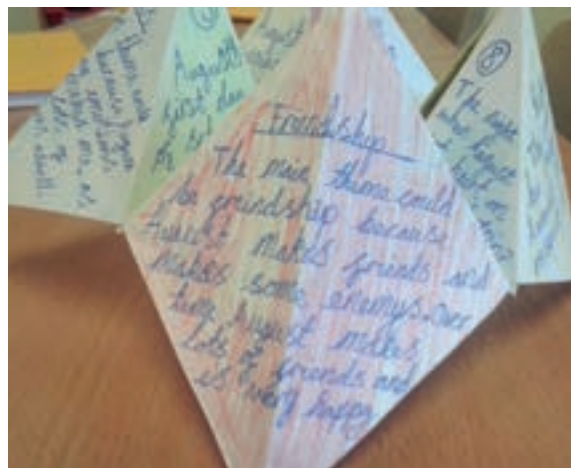
Skills for Life Project Fortnight by Penelope in 5KC



Lydia, Romilly and Pippa from 5AM on World Book Day



Pupils from 5RM enjoying the WPSA Disco



Book journalling



## YEAR 6 NEWS

# Flying High!

Every term in Year 6 is busy, but this one has been even busier than usual with events almost every week, from January through to March. We started with a Technical Theatre Talk from Ian, at the Bridge House Theatre, which we found fascinating. This led to us auditioning and commencing rehearsals for our summer term production which we are really looking forward to performing in June.



Our weekends have been spent working on a variety of Skills for Life modules, from having a budget to create a new design for our bedrooms, to creating islands with new species and researching famous women in history.

We had a lovely morning at Birmingham Symphony Hall, listening to a variety of modern and classical music, appreciating each composers' thoughts and the different sections of the orchestra.

We had a thoroughly wondrous time looking at the science of water during Science Week – counting how many drops of water could accumulate on a penny due to surface tension and then seeing if we could blow a bubble inside a bubble, inside a bubble... We were also treated to a mind-blowing science show by Wonderstruck!

We spent a day working with Tewkesbury based artist and illustrator, Sam Morris, creating amazing work based on the universally loved animal, the cow!

Much of the second half of the term has been spent working in teams, setting up our own businesses and developing a product to sell on market day – fingers crossed that we have all made a profit!



Year 6 LAMDA Show



Skills for Life Paradise Island by Jessica in 6CM



Skills for Life Bedroom Moodboard by Bea in 6CM



Tackling the high wire course at Challenge Academy



Pupils from 6SW braving Challenge Academy blindfolded!



Georgie in 6JJ scaling the climbing wall at Challenge Academy

## Challenge Academy

By Anna and Celia



On Tuesday 7 March, the whole of Year 6 went to Challenge Academy, Sedgley. Throughout the day, we did team building and the high ropes course that went from 1m to 9m high!

The team building activities included: Radiation River where you have a team of 10 people and there are 30 number mats, and you must try to figure out the fastest way to jump on all the mats (in numerical order), using the whole team. There was also an activity where you are in a team of 5 people, and you must find the fastest way to get everybody through two slings. The final activity was the ball activity, where you have a ball on a stand with 10 strings coming off it and everybody holds a string. There are three different tubes, and you must balance the ball on all of them.

The high ropes course included: different courses that were 1m, 3m and 9m high. You could do the different courses blindfolded, backwards and attached to somebody! On the 9m course, you could jump off at the end. That was scary and amazing and made you want to go again! Overall, we really enjoyed Challenge Academy and would love to go back!

# Sports Round-up

What a term of sport! We have had an abundance of co-curricular activities, as well as a multitude of fixtures.

We have been involved in local events such as the county sport hall indoor athletics, where all the girls involved performed with great determination. Eight of our Year 6 pupils competed in the indoor rowing competition, coming 1st in two events and 3rd overall as a team.

We had great success in swimming and running. We took a team from each age group to The Manor Prep School's cross country competition and with over 15 schools racing, we did exceedingly well. Our U10s and U8s came 1st overall and our U11s and U9s came 2nd overall! A special mention to Imo, Sienna and Bronte who all placed in the top three individually, out of 40 children.

We have hosted numerous swimming galas with the girls racing with passion and invigoration and are on an unbeaten streak with certain age groups. After quite an adventure attempting to reach the venue in the snow, the girls performed amazingly at the IAPS swimming qualifier. It was brilliant to see them give it their all, with Abigail, in Year 6, earning a personal best time in the breaststroke. We await qualification results in May. At the ESSA qualifying round, our girls won all of their races and have earnt their place in the finals at Sheffield in June.



*ISGA gymnastics*

Once again, the girls have travelled far and wide for gymnastics, competing at national competitions. The finesse and tenacity of these individuals is inspiring. We also hosted the combined King's High and Warwick Prep dance show for the second year running, where many of the parents and teachers came to watch the girls shine on stage.

In football, the U11 team travelled to Fairfield for a tournament. The work the girls have been doing shone through when they came away unbeaten! We also hosted our first indoor football tournament where the girls narrowly missed out after being beaten by Coten End Primary School, in the final. Both teams put on a sterling performance. After half term, our hockey players picked up their sticks for the county tournament.



*Warwick Prep hockey tournament*



*The Manor Prep School cross country competition*



*Whole year group netball at Bromsgrove School*

In the games arena, netball takes centre stage this term, and what a term it has been. Every year group has participated in fixtures and the U10s and U11s have both had multiple occasions where the whole year group has been invited to play. A few highlights have been our U8 and U9 teams traveling to Stamford for a tournament against various schools. Both teams came away unbeaten. Our U10As have won all their games, so far. Let's hope this is a premonition of what's to come. What a season our U11s have had! Most Wednesdays, we have fielded eight teams of girls and they have played amazing netball. Our A team headed to Uppingham for the regional IAPS where they won all their round games. Unfortunately, in the knockout, they lost to the overall winners of the tournament. What an amazing achievement. They played brilliantly! Our final whole year group match of the netball season was against Bromsgrove and all teams came away unbeaten, a real testament to the progress they have made and the work they have put in. We also hosted over twenty schools for our annual Warwick Prep Tournament. Both teams were fabulous and played very well.

The most important thing to us as a department, is that all the children love their sport and we are so proud of everyone who is involved in clubs, fixtures and puts their all in. Here's to another fantastic term of sport!



*Stamford netball tournament*



# Musical Matters

This term, we celebrated all our pupils who play the piano. In a new joint musical venture with Warwick Junior School, we held Piano Party sessions for Years 3 to 6 on two separate mornings. Pianists are, by the very nature of the instrument they play, far more solitary than most other musicians. Each morning was split into two sessions and the children played in a large keyboard ensemble, as well as learning how to have fun with scales on the piano mats. Although there was no cake at the parties, there was lots of fun and laughter.

The Year 2 and Year 3 Tea Time Concert gave another opportunity for our pianists to perform, alongside other musicians, and they created many musical memories. The informal concerts always bring joy and excitement, and everyone has performed to such a high standard. It is always encouraging to see the progress that all the children are making in their own individual studies.



*Year 6 Blue Lagoon Jazz Group at the Jazz, Rock & Pop concert*

Before half term, one of our new ensembles this year, the Year 6 Blue Lagoon Jazz Group, were invited to perform at the King's High School Jazz, Rock & Pop concert in the Bridge House Theatre. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and although very nervous being first on the programme, they performed and improvised as if they had been playing together for years.

At the start of the term, Year 6 took a trip to Symphony Hall to hear a wonderful programme of music from the CBSO. The theme 'This World' took us on a journey around the world and we heard music from new and young composers, as well as some classic pieces from Elgar and Brahms. The presenter, Tom Redmond, encouraged us all to use our imaginations as we listened, and we were all very engaged throughout the whole performance.



*Year 3 Brass and Woodwind Showcase*

The children in Year 2 and Year 3 have enjoyed playing their instruments in the Instrumental Schemes. Year 3 were very excited to start a new scheme with Brass and Woodwind instruments, in the autumn term. We were very proud of all their performances at the showcase mornings to parents and it was fabulous to see the children playing with such confidence and enjoyment.



*Eleanor in 2JA playing in the Year 2 and Year 3 Tea Time Concert*

Our annual Spring Concert is always an exciting evening and a great way to end the term. There were performances from the many ensembles, Senior Choir and our own Music Officials. It really was a super evening: how proud we are of all of them!



*Year 2 String Showcase*

## News from our Digital Leaders

Our Digital Leaders have been busy this term, with presenting an assembly for Safer Internet Day and launching and judging our Safer Internet Day inspired Tech Ted competition.

Safer Internet Day 2023 took place on Tuesday 7 February and was founded to help children across the world learn more about how to stay safe online. This year, it was based around the theme 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. Parents, carers, teachers, the Government and the wider online community were all asked to listen to children and make positive change together. Children across Warwick Prep completed a whole range of lessons, all with an Online Safety focus.



They were also invited to take part in the Safer Internet Day linked competition to sing, rap, design a game, make a poster or do anything they could think of to help spread the 2023 Online Safety message. We were inundated with amazing entries including a fantastic game sent in by Lizzie, in 6CM, as well as some fantastic PowerPoints from Bea, in 4WS, and Eloise, in 5KC. Susannah, in 5AM, created a super Scratch animation project complete with Online Safety messages she had learnt whilst attending Digital Leader meetings.



Our Digital Leaders on Safer Internet Day



Tech Ted winners Elliot in 2JW and Margo in 5AM

But our overall winners were:

- Elliot, in 2JW, who created a super song, written and scored by himself, with a little help from his brother, using Sibelius software. The Digital Leaders were particularly impressed with this entry and even held a round of applause after they'd been shown! They loved Elliot's lyrics and how he'd used his guitar to play along to create his very own music track.



Elliot in 2JW playing his Safer Internet Day song

- Margo, in 5AM, who built an online safety website full of useful information all about Cyberbullying and what to do. The Digital Leaders were very impressed with her links to external sites which were well considered and relevant and her inclusion of a page linked to celebrate Mental Health Week too!



Online safety website by Margo in 5AM



# Charity News

Fundraising and charity work has continued in earnest this term, with a number of organised events and children fundraising individually through their own initiative. Just before half term, the 'Read for Good' Readathon was launched in assembly by the House Captains and the children have done fantastically well to raise £568.80 so far. A special mention must go to Henry, in 1SK, who raised £100! Great work, Henry! The children were encouraged to read what they wanted which included comics, newspapers, magazines and even extended to listening to audiobooks.

Also, just before half term, we joined the Foundation schools by taking part in a non-uniform day to raise money for the Kissing it Better charity. The charity is committed to supporting elderly people in care homes, providing them with entertainment and special visitors. Their overriding aim is to unite generations by putting an end to the isolation of old age. The children enjoyed the opportunity to wear their own clothes and helped the school to raise £575.97.



*Pupils from Year 6 supporting Comic Relief*

Our final charity event of the term, Comic Relief, took place on Friday 17 March, with the theme 'Crazy Hair Day'. Comic Relief continues to be one of the most prominent and well publicised fundraising events in the country. The children looked great on the day, with a hair-raising selection of colourful and ambitious hair styles coming into school. During assembly, we talked about the importance of Comic Relief and finished with a catwalk to show off everyone's creations! Thanks to your kind donations, we raised a total of £394.46.



*More crazy hairstyles for Comic Relief*



*Amaya in 2JA and Ava in NPB packed 340 hampers for the charity Seva*



*Martha in 5KC raised £35 for Mary's Meals and donated £15 of her pocket money*



*Hair-raising locks by Madeleine in 6SW*





# Link Days with Warwick Juniors

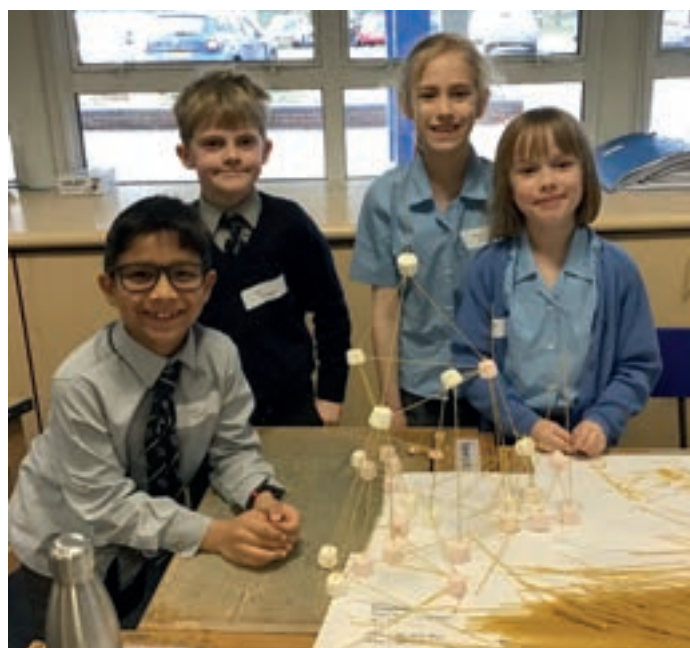
This term, Years 3, 4 and 6 enjoyed very successful link events with Warwick Junior School.

The Year 3 girls walked over to Warwick Juniors to take part in a morning of art, creating some wonderful collaborative pictures of Warwick Castle and enjoying philosophy games and questioning activities.

The Year 4 boys came over to Warwick Prep and spent the morning in groups competing in a 'Guess Who' tournament, a competition to build the tallest tower from marshmallows and spaghetti, as well as a philosophy activity in the hall.



Year 3



Year 4

The Year 6 boys visited Warwick Prep and spent the morning working in mixed groups to create a wonderful, themed outfit from recycled paper. They then had a lively fashion show in the hall to show off their amazing creations! Some groups made chess themed outfits, knights, mermaids and ballerinas, to name but a few.

It was lovely to see the girls and boys all getting along so well and we are looking forward to our summer link events!

## Behind the Scenes – Head Chef

By Anna and Celia



Anna and Celia interviewed our Head Chef, Mr Parsons, to find out what happens behind the scenes in our school kitchen.

**Q** How long have you been working at Warwick Prep?

**A** I've been working at Warwick Prep for 2 years. Before working here, I worked in fine dining restaurants.

**Q** Have you always been a chef?

**A** Yes, I have been a chef for 37 years. If I were to choose another job, I would be a blacksmith because it is one of my hobbies.

**Q** What is your favourite dish to make and why?

**A** My favourite dish to make would be crab risotto with pan-fried scallops and for pudding, sticky toffee pudding with clotted cream.

**Q** Do you specialise in a specific type of cuisine?

**A** I specialise in fusion cuisine which involves bringing together different elements to create a unique flavour combination.

**Q** Are there any new dishes you would like to introduce to the school menu?

**A** We have been introducing lots of new dishes on the menu, by breaking the dishes into single parts, so they are simpler for the younger children, then the other parts of the dish combine to make a more interesting dish for the older children.



**Q** Have you ever had a disaster in the kitchen?

**A** I've blown up a microwave with a jacket potato inside! It blew up because I didn't realise how powerful the microwave was and set it for 10 minutes.



## Eco News

Throughout the term, the Eco Councillors have been mindful to keep positive messages going with their forms about; recycling paper in class, not dropping litter in the playground and preventing food waste.

After a successful litter pick earlier in the term, the Eco Councillors were very surprised about how much litter they managed to collect whilst out and about on the campus. The bus stop area near the Bridge House Theatre being the biggest culprit! The Councillors are planning another litter pick to check if there has been an improvement.

After an assembly about Fairtrade, the Councillors encouraged their forms to collect wrappers/stickers which showed that households are making positive steps towards choosing Fairtrade produce over others.



*Eco Councillors on a campus litter pick*



*India, Anna and Izzy in 3LG with their Fairtrade labels*

Towards the end of term, food waste was the focus. Some of the older Councillors led an assembly about the importance of preventing food waste, both at home and school. Each Eco Councillor was put in charge of motivating their forms to only take what they need at lunchtimes and try to make a big effort to throw less food away.

The Eco Council members are looking forward to Eco Week in May!

## Forest School

At the start of the term, the children went on a winter walk looking for frozen puddles, evergreen trees, holly and other bushes with berries on. Nursery children made bird feeders to hang in the Nursery garden, so they could watch a variety of birds use them.



*Thea in RHE with her Love Bug*

We have had fun celebrating the many festivals this time of the year brings. The Nursery and Reception children made either a dragon kite, blossom tree or ribbon wand for Chinese New Year. This was followed by Valentine's Day 'Love Bugs' and friendship pebbles, to share with someone special. To celebrate Shrove Tuesday, Mrs Lees cooked pancakes over the fire. These were very popular, and the children devoured them whilst drinking a cup of hot chocolate.



*Mrs Lees making pancakes on the fire for the Nursery children*

Towards the end of the term, we looked for signs of spring (the bulbs we planted in the autumn have flowered!), then lit another fire to toast hot cross buns. Eating outside is a mood booster and it's such a pleasure to see the joy on the children's faces as they share simple snacks around the fire circle.

Children from Nutkins also visited Forest School where they enjoyed an Easter bunny hunt, exploring all around the garden to find where the bunnies were hiding.

With the environment and wildlife in mind, the children in Reception made seed bombs for Mothering Sunday gifts. They also took part in a litter pick and found not only rubbish but a sock, money and lots of tennis balls!



## Wellbeing Ambassadors

At the start of February, our Wellbeing Ambassadors led an assembly launching their very first whole school event – ‘Kindness is our Superpower!’. They shared how everyone can play a part in continuing to make our school a safe, happy environment for all and invited pupils to take part in completing a ‘Kindness Bingo Challenge’. All children received a ‘Kindness Bingo Card’ with 8-12 acts of kindness listed.

Pupils were encouraged to complete each act of kindness and then colour in the bingo square. Once all the tasks had been completed, each pupil was awarded a ‘Heart of Kindness’ which formed part of a special display for our whole school community to see.



International Women's Day assembly



Our Wellbeing Ambassadors

This year's theme for International Women's Day was #EmbraceEquity and our Wellbeing Ambassadors led an assembly which focussed on the meaning of equity, equality and prejudice. We celebrated inspirational women of the past such as Marie Curie and Jane Austen and two Year 9 pupils from King's High School joined us to talk about their female 'Changemaker Gallery', sharing two inspirational figures; Ellie Simmonds and Malala Yousafzai. To further mark International Women's Day, the Ambassadors invited all Prep girls to strike their #EmbraceEquity pose.



#EmbraceEquity

## Children's Mental Health Week

We started off Children's Mental Health Week with an assembly led by Helen Webb, our school counsellor. Following this year's theme of 'Let's Connect', the focus was on the importance of making meaningful connections with others to support our mental wellbeing, and how being kind to one another is a way in which we can all connect and make a difference.



Children's Mental Health Week assembly



Relaxing with Ollie



Nursery children taking part in yoga

Pupils took part in mindful activities throughout the week such as colouring, yoga and listening to relaxing music. The children welcomed the opportunity to connect with our school dog, Ollie, who provides a therapeutic and calming experience, and always puts a smile on everyone's faces!



# Artist in Residence

By Anna and Celia



On 9 and 10 March, Year 6 welcomed Artist in Residence, Sam Morris. Throughout the day, we were painting step by step cows with Sam. She makes a living by painting cows and has been doing it for 11 years.

Even though a cow may seem hard to paint, with Sam, she made it easier and if you were struggling, she would help you. Although we all followed the same instructions, all our cows looked so different and interesting together in a big herd. We had the choice of what colour background we wanted (most people chose blue and yellow), what size canvas we would like and, of course, we cannot forget the accessories. They included a head band (with or without a bow), a bee and/or a flower in the mouth.

It was really exciting having a real-life artist (not including our teacher Mrs Hemming!) to teach us for a whole day. We are so lucky to go to a school that means we could experience something like this. Everybody really enjoyed having a visit from Sam and her cows, and we all hope she had a good time too.



By Sophie in 6CM



By Ashley in 6JJ

## Question Time

Mrs Hemming, Head of Art, Design and Technology

By Tilly, Cecilia and Theodora



Tilly, Cecilia and Theodora met Mrs Hemming, in the Art room, to discuss all things art!

**Q** How long have you been teaching at Warwick Prep?

**A** I started in 2007 so this is my 16th year. I love working at Warwick Prep!

**Q** Have you always had an interest in Art?

**A** I have, always. Art was my favourite subject at school, and I was inspired by my wonderful Art teacher to become a teacher myself, and share my passion.

**Q** What is your favourite part of your role?

**A** Sharing my love of art with all the school and encouraging and inspiring pupils. Art is a very specialist subject, using lots of Skills for Life which are useful for the future.

**Q** Who is your favourite artist?

**A** Probably Mark Rothko, an Abstract Expressionist. There is a room at the Tate Modern dedicated to his paintings which I could sit in for hours!

**Q** What is your favourite style of art?

**A** I don't think I could choose one. I love the stories within art, especially pieces from the Pre-Raphaelites. I do like contemporary and abstract art and have lots of this at home.



**Q** What advice do you have for keen, young artists?

**A** I would say you have to love your own art for other people to love it. Never give up and accept criticism. There are lots of jobs in art but not many jobs as artists so you must keep going.

**Q** What did you want to do when you were younger?

**A** When I was much younger, I wanted to be a florist. Now, if I was not an Art teacher, I would like to own a wedding shop.

**Q** What is the best holiday you have ever been on?

**A** For a big birthday I took my family to New York and we had a fantastic time. I had been to New York before but only on school trips and I didn't think I would like city life but I loved it!



# Science Week

By Cecilia

To start off Science Week, Miss Wilby and Mrs Charl gave us a great introduction to Wondrous Water. They showed us lots of experiments, including what happens when you add substances to water. The best part, according to many of the pupils and teachers, was when we took out our bubble pots and started blowing! We also enjoyed lots of exciting activities in our science lessons. For example, Year 6 tried to blow bubbles inside bubbles.



*Mrs Taylor being a brave volunteer during our Wondrous Water assembly*



*Mrs Charl creating giant bubbles!*

By Tilly

A great highlight for many Prep pupils was Peter, from Wonderstruck, coming in to perform his fabulous explosion-based science show. It was great fun for many pupils and was thoroughly enjoyed. A lot of explosions were performed, and many big bangs went off! Peter even laid on a bed of nails! Another great highlight was the science-themed workshops for Years 3 to 6. Years 3 and 4 designed and created rockets which they launched onto the playing fields and Years 5 and 6 created cars which they raced to find the overall winners.



*Explosive Wonderstruck science show*



*Building rockets*



*Preparing for take-off*



*Rocket launching!*



*Ready, set go!*



*Congratulations to the racing car winners*



The Squirrels Nursery children investigated the properties of water. They took part in an icy experiment to observe how water changes state from a liquid to a solid when frozen and enjoyed trying out different ways to melt ice.



*Icy experiments in The Squirrels Nursery*

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 welcomed the fantastic Domanique, from ZooLab along with some of her animal friends. The children listened to animal facts before being given the opportunity to hold Professor Slugmore, the Great African land snail and Medusa, the corn snake!



*Intrigued by Medusa the corn snake*



*Holding Professor Slugmore*

At the end of the week, we welcomed Marie-Claire Barker and her guide dog, Dee Dee. Marie-Claire talked about how Dee Dee helps her and how she uses some fantastic apps daily. Marie-Claire explained how science has been invaluable in her everyday life and how wonderful it must be to invent something useful to help others.



*Marie-Claire and her Guide Dog Dee Dee*



**By Theodora**

This year's WPSA 'Science Week' Disco was full of fun! We had a great time participating in many activities such as getting glittery tattoos, seeing a telescope outside and even the limbo! A highlight of the disco was, of course, the dancing! The fabulous DJ played many favourite tunes and introduced us to fun games, and I must say, even I had a great time dancing! After that, we had a raffle and there were great prizes such as space-themed stationery and many other intergalactic prizes. We also had the option to get tattoos (which I did) and there were many varieties such as squirrels, hearts, and of course stars! Finally, whilst leaving, everyone was given a space-themed bag full of puzzle books, stationery and much more space-themed fun! The disco was a key part of Science Week, and thoroughly enjoyed by Years 3 to 6!



*WPSA Prep Disco*

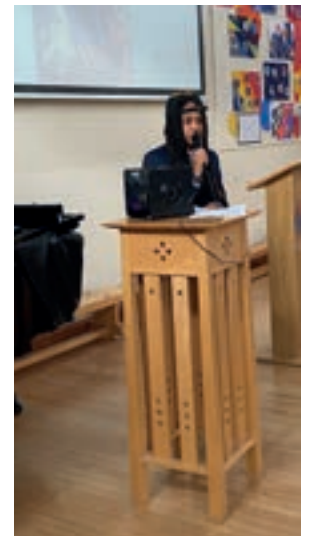


*Time for the limbo!*

A special thank you to the WPSA Uniform Shop for funding our Science Week.



There were some super themed costumes, many with homemade elements from Willy Wonka to Gandalf and Isadora Moon to Mary Poppins. The joy of books was felt by all!





# National Storytelling Week

National Storytelling Week is an annual celebration that emphasises the power of telling stories. Stories teach us about the world; allow us to step into the shoes of others; and help us relax. Storytelling is the oral precursor to printed books; they develop our sense of cultural identity.

The Prep staff have many favourite books including fables, hymns, fairy tales and myths. During National Storytelling Week, the Junior Librarians enjoyed reading some of their favourite books to the Nursery children who listened intently.



*NPB children listening to a story*



*Reading to children in NHT*



*Children from NWL enjoying a story*

# Lights, Camera, Action!

Our Warwick Prep school dog, Ollie, recently took part in a Foundation dog photoshoot with Agnes, from Warwick School, and Parsnip, from King's High School. After managing to photograph three dogs and six pupils who miraculously all looked at the camera at the same time, the dogs decided a game of chase was in order, to let off steam!



Guided by Reuben, in 2AD, Ruby, in 6CM, and Mrs Crafts, it was time for Ollie to strut his stuff around the campus, to the admiring gazes of many King's High students who peered out to watch. Ever the professional, Ollie was a superstar!

# Art Gallery

## Nursery



Winter collage by Freddie in NPB



Penguin painting by Kiara in NHT



A frosty snowman painting by Esha in NWL

## Reception



Alien painting by Charlotte in RSJ



Snowman painting by Arthur in REB



Alien painting by Theodore in RHE

## Year 2



Winter scene by Amber in 2EC



Penguin by Nia in 2JA



'Sunflowers' by Hattie in 2JW



## Year 5

Year 5 have been creating mixed media observational drawings of butterflies.



By Imogen in 5RM



By Darcey in 5AM

## Year 6

Year 6 were inspired by an Artist in Residence workshop led by Tewkesbury based artist and illustrator, Sam Morris, who is particularly well known for her love of painting cows!



By Nefeli in 6SW



By Connie in 6JJ



By Maira in 6CM



**WPSA**

Warwick Preparatory School  
Association

## WPSA News

By Clare Phillips, WPSA Communications

### WPSA Committee

On Friday 27 January, girls from Years 3 to 6 put on their best party clothes for a night of fun and dancing at the WPSA 'Reach For The Stars' disco. Using their 'Treat Me' cards, they were able to enjoy some yummy snacks to keep the energy levels high for lots of dancing! Many chose to have some glittery tattoos to add even more sparkle to the evening. There was also an option to view the sky from the telescopes on the Hogan playground. It was a very fun evening for all and ended Science Week with a bang!

Years 1 and 2 came together on a Friday evening to enjoy a film night. Dressed in their pyjamas and onesies, they brought their blankets, pillows and teddies with them for this treat of an evening to watch 'WALL-E'. They enjoyed snacks throughout the film and an ice-cream intermission. They had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



Thank you to Amelia, in 1JB, and Maya, in 4WS, for braving the rain to decorate the WPSA phone box for Comic Relief. Despite the drizzle, the girls were still smiling!

We hope you had a wonderful and fun afternoon on Saturday 25 March for our popular Easter event. Thank you for all the entries to our 'Design an egg' competition. We were eggremely thrilled to receive so many designs!







### WPSA Uniform Shop

We were delighted to donate approximately £2000 to the school Science department to support Science Week where pupils enjoyed visits from ZooLab and Wonderstruck.

We had been planning to support Science Week for some time, as the funding was initiated by Viv Bosworth whose daughter, Hannah, moved onto King's High School in September 2021. Viv ran the WPSA Uniform Shop for a good number of years so, upon departure, wanted to leave a memorable donation from the Uniform Shop to the school Science department.

It's been a great experience for the Uniform Shop team to be involved in and has had such a positive impact on the children. Hopefully, with the continued support of the WPSA Uniform Shop, we will be able to support the school in similar ways again in the future.

Our next sales are:

- Friday 5 May 7.45am-8.45am in the Main School Hall
- Saturday 1 July 9.30am-12pm in the Main School Hall



### WPSA supports local charity Evelyn's Gift

WPSA donated £2000 to Evelyn's Gift, a Warwickshire based charity established in 2014 in memory of Evelyn Mary Smith, who passed away suddenly in September 2013, aged just seven years old.

Evelyn's Gift has two objectives; to provide 'little acts of kindness' to people in need, and train as many people as possible in CPR and life-support skills.

The idea behind the 'little acts of kindness' is to do thoughtful and kind things that can make a big difference to people's lives, but often lack funding. The charity's 'little acts of kindness' include work with Myton Hospice, Children's Community Nursing, local schools, youth groups, social services and night shelters.

Evelyn's Gift supports families in poverty by providing essential items such as school shoes and uniform. It also provides essential toiletries and underwear for rough sleepers and vulnerably housed people, as well as supplying wash bags for victims of trafficking and abuse.

The charity also produces packs of resources to support bereaved children and their families, which include fiction and non-fiction books, as well as information about organisations that can provide further support.



Ruth Harrison and Naomi Courtenay (WPSA Committee Members), Hellen Dodsworth, Helen Smith (Founder of Evelyn's Gift), Amita Lovatt (Evelyn's Gift), Julie Moon (WPSA Chair)

In addition to supporting people in need, Evelyn's Gift works with its partners, Warwickshire Hearts, Warwick District Community First Responders and Waterside Medical Centre in Leamington Spa, to train people in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED).

Helen Smith, Founder of Evelyn's Gift said, "The range of 'little acts of kindness' that we carry out continues to grow and we try to respond to any crisis situation caused by poverty, homelessness, illness or bereavement. The funds from WPSA will make a massive difference to our small charity and will touch many lives".

Hellen Dodsworth said, "Evelyn's Gift is such an important charity for our local community, as well as across the schools within the Warwick Foundation. We encourage our students to embrace 'little acts of kindness' on a daily basis, whether it be at home, at school or within their own communities. Evelyn's Gift allows us to engrain the values of kindness, caring and compassion into our curriculum, and we very much look forward to continuing our support in the years to come".

Julie Moon, Chair for WPSA added, "On a personal level, Evelyn's Gift is very close to my heart. Having lost my partner Paul to cancer last year, the charity has supported my family with packs of resources and funded silver jewellery featuring Paul's fingerprints for our three children. These 'little acts of kindness' cannot be underestimated when a loved one dies, and we are truly grateful for the support".

f @WPSACentral

t @WPSA10

i @wpsa\_prep

# Foundation Community

## Canticum

We were delighted to welcome you to Canticum's concert on Saturday 18 March, in the Bridge House Theatre. Karl Jenkin's iconic 'The Armed Man, A Mass for Peace' was performed superbly by the Canticum choir and orchestra, predominantly drawn from Foundation pupils and staff.

Whether you are an experienced or first-time singer, you will be warmly welcomed to join Canticum. Please contact [a.wheals@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:a.wheals@warwickschools.co.uk) for more information.

## Orchestra of the Swan

The Swan's Principal Conductor Michael Collins returned to a sold-out Warwick Hall, this time with trumpeter Aaron Akugbo and Foundation pupils, for a superb evening celebrating the music of Vienna.



Their next event, on Saturday 13 May, will take you into the woods to experience two classic tales, wickedly retold by legendary author Roald Dahl, in a family-friendly concert at Warwick Hall. Book your tickets via [bridgehousetheatre.co.uk](http://bridgehousetheatre.co.uk)

## Warwickshire Youth Choirs – Charity Singathon!

Warwick Schools Foundation was thrilled to support Edward Button, King's Singer and Old Warwickian, in helping to run a major Singathon event. Organised by Warwickshire Youth Choirs and supported by Warwick – A Singing Town, the 12 hour Singathon aimed to highlight the joy of singing while raising funds for Kissing it Better.



## Art Exhibition

As part of the Warwickshire Open Studios, artwork from Warwick Prep pupils will be showcased at the King's High School GCSE and A Level Summer Exhibition from Friday 30 June to Saturday 1 July, in the King's Art department. Please come along!

## Landor Association - A Ramble Through Thespian Life

Comedian, actor and Old Girl Gemma Whelan's Landor Association Lecture in January was a delicious ramble through the uncertainties of thespian life.

Gemma Whelan was deemed 'shy and retiring' by the Headmistress at her King's High interview, but she soon willingly embraced the mantle of 'class clown'. She came to the attention of her Head of English, Miss Mary Clark (KHS 1976 – 2005), a guest of honour in the front row at the Lecture. Miss Clark encouraged Gemma's dramatic talent, urging her to take the title role in *Daisy Pulls it Off*. Memories of other teachers, some of whom were present, delighted the Old Girls in the audience; it had been easy to distract Mrs Sherren in Maths lessons by asking her to talk about marathon running. Mrs Thornton had clamped down on Gemma's clowning while secretly admiring it.

Gemma's Landor Lecture was endearing, but also forthright and candid. She did not hold back over her health issues which foreshortened her King's High years. She gave credit to her mother for urging her to take her A levels to have something to fall back on in case her career as a performer did not materialise, for Gemma trained as a dancer before she dipped her toes into acting.





A degree in Musical Theatre followed, in addition to training at the London Studio Centre, but then began the precarious path to acting success. Gemma amused us with her tales of a less-than-wonderful agent named Brian, auditions leading to acting work as third woman on the left, alongside several waitressing jobs to pay the bills, and excursions to the Edinburgh Fringe as her comedic alter ego, Chastity Butterworth. While nurturing her dramatic talent, Gemma cast her employment net widely, once even dancing around coffins in a funeral parlour! In addition to her obvious talent, it was clear that dogged persistence played a great part in achieving the success she enjoys today.

Members of the Landor community had sent in their questions for Gemma, and a Q&A session was skilfully chaired by Landor prefect Charlotte. It allowed Gemma to elaborate more on the vagaries of her chosen profession. Her most challenging role, and in many ways the most rewarding, had been Karen Matthews, the real-life child kidnapper from a northern council estate in *The Moorside*; playing a character from a different social background proved as big an obstacle as the accent – although Gemma overcame both with apparent ease.

While growing and developing as an actor, Gemma's key inspirations were her family, historical characters, other actors like Olivia Coleman and Suranne Jones, and herself. Self-belief was a prime motivator. Once, Gemma saw a role at National Theatre Live, which she knew would be touring soon. She knew she could play that role, and knew also that if she could be in the same room as the director, she would get it. She wasn't being cocky, but she believed in herself, and she won the role. Her idol in her formative years had been the American comedy actor Lucille Ball, whom Gemma used to watch on loop. Olivia Coleman, Kate Dickie and Hal Holbrook were others worthy of Gemma's adoration.

Had Gemma ever turned down a role? She joked that actors' ego are so fragile, they seldom turn down anything. However, once she turned down a role because she, laudably, didn't want to leave her infant son to go on location. On another occasion, Covid had struck on Day One of filming, so she had withdrawn from the role, which had to be recast.

Did Gemma have any tips for drama school auditions? Although Gemma hadn't gone to drama school per se, she knew that the key to such events was to relax and be yourself. Show who you really are. Do your homework. Be prepared. Prep is key. Oh, and someone at musical theatre college said 'Don't wear perfume in case they don't like the way you smell'!

Although Gemma often played strong female characters, she thought the term 'strong woman' was a horrible one. Women ARE strong, she reiterated, and applauded the fact that more women writers these days ensured that women were better represented in drama.

Alas, her acting career had not yet afforded her many dazzling and glamorous trips to the Caribbean, although a single and secretive trip to Spain for *Games of Thrones* provided a pleasant change from the quirky Belfast landscape where the series was primarily filmed. Metaphorical slapped wrists were meted out to Ben Elton, writer of *Upstart Crow*, who, although a genius writer, had an annoying habit of writing a whole page of script to learn, just before it was due to be delivered.

Gemma was not sure what her favourite Shakespeare role was and apologised for letting Miss Clark down! She had enjoyed playing Helena, and also 'all those women who were dressed as men', with a slight nod to her character Kate in *Upstart Crow*. She recalled a school trip to *Twelfth Night*, but only wished she could remember the name of the actor playing Sir Andrew Aguecheek! His actions on stage showed how an actor could use his whole body as a vehicle for performance. The body can be funny in different ways. Gemma said, 'His legs were hilarious. He was hilarious. This showed how an actor could incorporate their whole body in the role', something that appealed to her dance training.

Did any King's High staff or pupils informed the way she played her characters? No, replied Gemma, but it was a great idea and she might do so now!

Gemma had enjoyed playing Yara Greyjoy in *Games of Thrones* the most of all her TV roles, partly because the show's budget was so huge! She recalled that instead of their usual filming location of Belfast, the whole cast had been flown out to Spain in order to film during one hour of perfect light. Not everyone had been needed on set, so the rest of the cast had to be 'decoy characters' and were seen around Seville to confuse the media. It had been exciting and grand for Gemma, and so special because Yara only went to Belfast, and outstandingly beautiful place though it was. Starring in *Game of Thrones* was a revelation. 'They drive you place, they sit you down, they dress you, put your make up on, sit you down again. You're like a baby', she mused.

A former Governor had asked what Gemma had taken away from playing a Pinter role, and she jokingly replied, 'Don't dry in Pinter'! Although the rambling scripts and long silences that categorised Harold Pinter's writing would appear to make his work easy to improvise, Gemma urged the audience never to try this.

What other roles had she enjoyed playing? She had loved acting in *Killing Eve*; her character had been useless but she enjoyed hanging out with Fiona Shaw and also Jodie Comer! She had also loved working with Patrick Malahide who played her father in *Game of Thrones*, and with Sheridan Smith who had cried with her on set even when it wasn't her scene, to make her tears authentic, which was so helpful. Gemma recalled 'there was a lot of snotty crying in *The Moorside*'!

Finally, what did Gemma think was the hardest things about acting. That was easy, she quipped. 'It's the bit in between jobs when you think you're never going to work again. You have to trust that it will be OK.'

A vote of thanks to Gemma was given by Landor President David Stevens on behalf of an enraptured audience, and Landor prefect Charlotte presented her with a bouquet with the gratitude of the whole Landor community.

# Key Dates Summer 2023

**Term Commences:**

Tuesday 18 April

**Bank Holidays:**

Monday 1 May

Monday 8 May

**Half Term:**

Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June

**Term Ends:**

Friday 7 July

**OPEN EVENTS 2023****Entrance Assessments:**

Thursday 8 June

**Open Classrooms:**

Thursday 4 May

Tuesday 14 November

**Open Morning:**

Saturday 16 September

For more information about our events,  
please visit our website  
[warwickprep.com](http://warwickprep.com)



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Warwick Preparatory School is part of the Warwick Schools Foundation, together with King's High School, Warwick School and The Kingsley School, providing high quality education for girls and boys aged 3-18.