



Wilson's Update

Non sibi sed omnibus

With lessons now underway, teachers are delighted to be in their classrooms, welcoming boys back to familiar spaces. From Monday, all four catering venues will be fully operational and boys will be able to enjoy a much larger outdoor seating area, opposite the Sixth Form Centre and Foundation Building, with views across the playing fields!

The positive reaction to Wellbeing Updates since January has been overwhelming; thank you to all those who made contributions and especially to Miss Banner, who curated each edition. We are delighted that we will be able to include some similar content from the Wellbeing Updates in weekly newsletters in future.

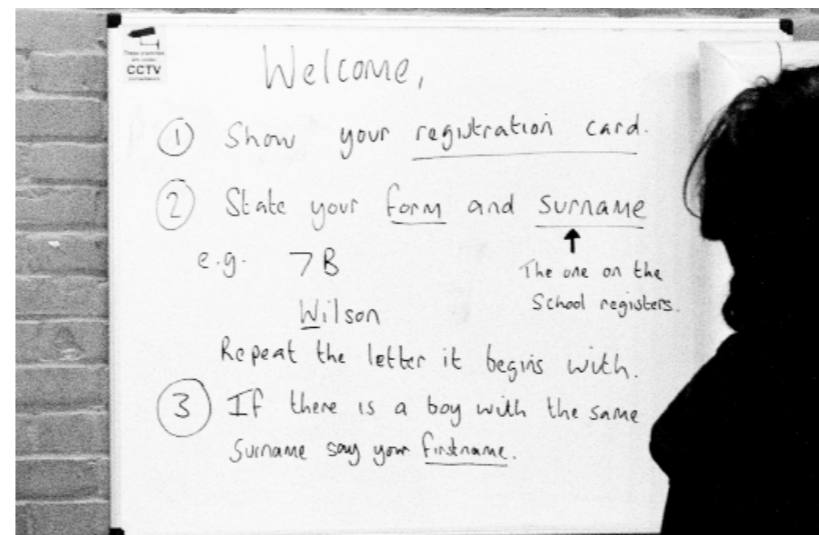
Issue 525
12 March, 2021

Next Week's Menus
Absence Request Form
Calendar

- Wednesday 17 March -1.05 finish for students
- Friday 26 March - Year 9 immunisations
- Monday 29 March - Year 8 final options form return

Stop, Look, Listen!

The roads are becoming busier again. Pupils must take great care to cross carefully. They can prove to us that they are self-aware and polite by giving a little wave and a smile to drivers who let them cross at the zebra crossing outside school!



Danger

**Stop. Look. Listen.
Beware of vehicles**



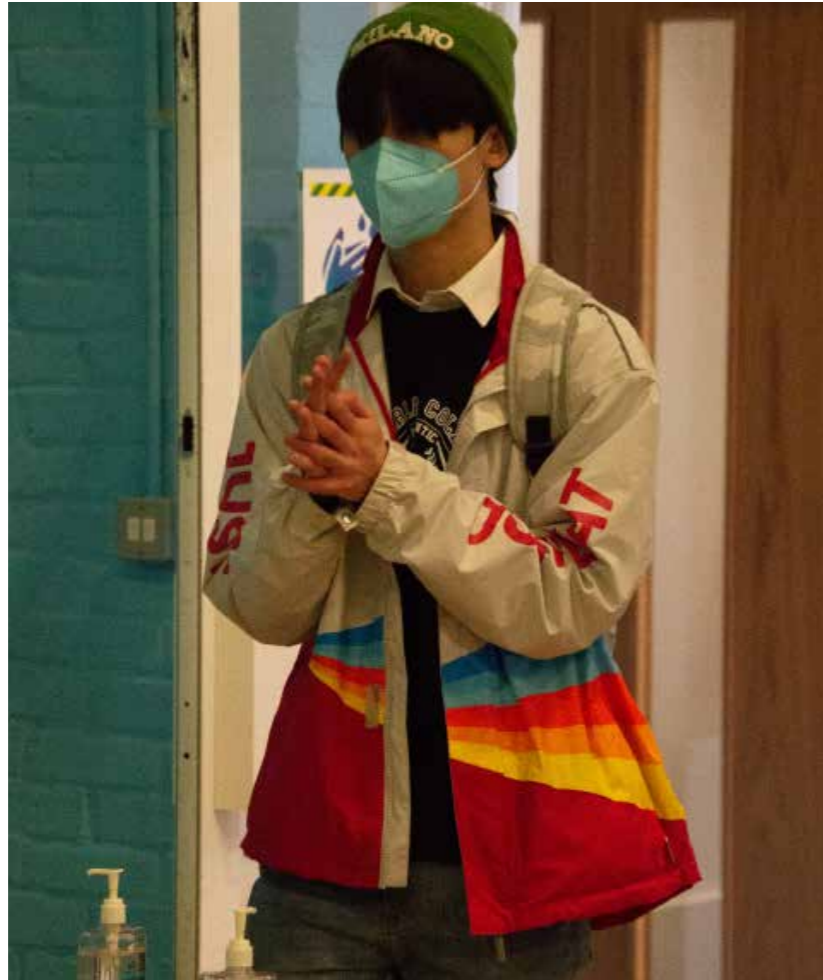
COVID TESTING COMMENCES

WELLBEING

The power of reading

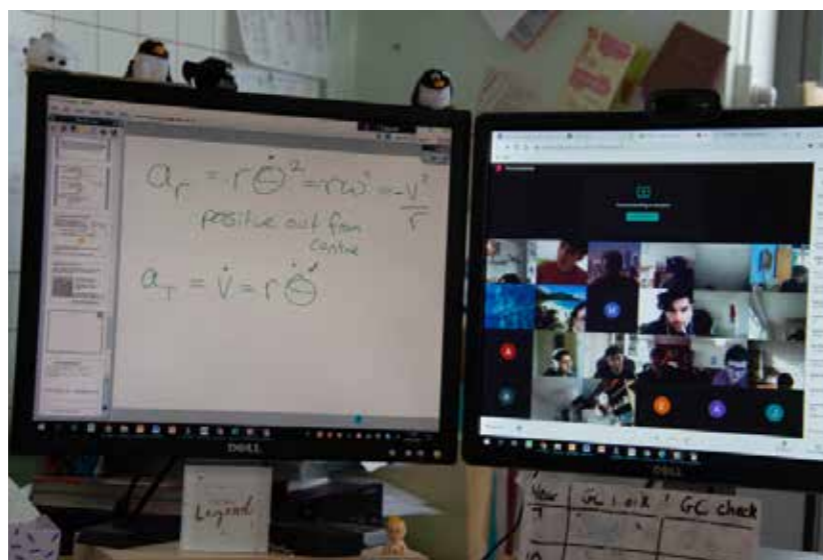
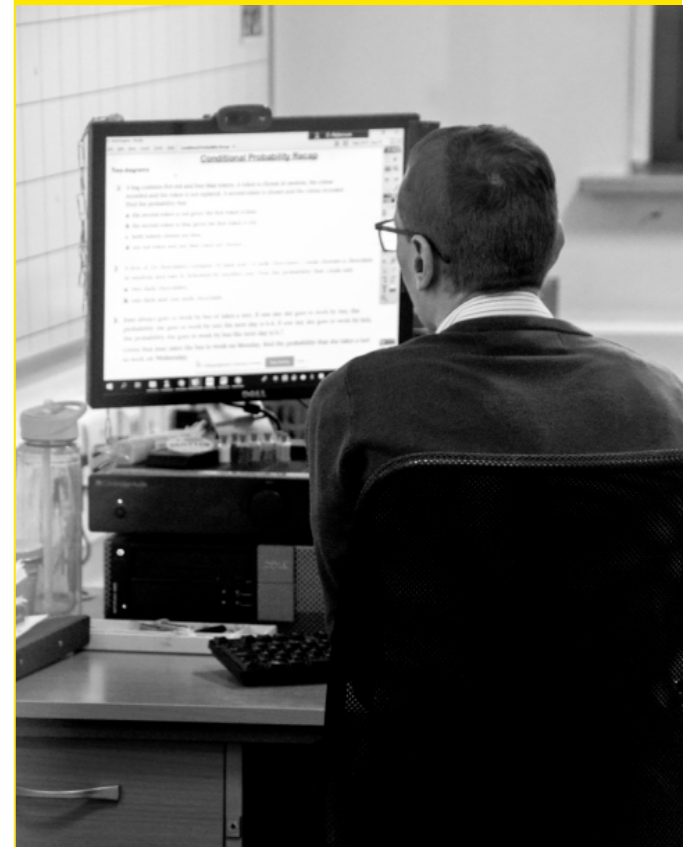
If you were to ask people why they enjoy reading you would be met with a range of responses. For some it is an escape, a chance to focus their mind on something other than any negative thoughts. It may also act as a way of remembering, reminding them of happy experiences or memories from childhood. Other people may enjoy the exposure to different view-points, challenging their perceptions or the experience of different worlds that reading can offer. Whatever the reason, and whatever the genre, reading can help to elevate mood and renew energy. It is also proven to strengthen brain connectivity, improve our ability to empathise, increase vocabulary and comprehension and help ready us for a good night's sleep. While it may feel like we don't have time to read, Mrs Fletcher, Head of English, vows that this is not true if we prioritise it and at the moment we definitely have the opportunity to do so. It is also fantastic way to unwind without looking at a screen. If you want to start reading more, but you are not sure where to start, here are some tips.

- Ask friends for recommendations; chances are they like similar things to you and can give you an honest review of something you are likely to enjoy (or not).
- If you try fiction and can't seem to get on with it, try non-fiction instead, or vice-versa. Similarly, try a few different genres.
- Short stories are a great option if you find it hard to concentrate on a longer storyline.
- Start with a classic and popular novel, or check bestseller lists for new and current books.
- Set a target to read a short amount every-day.





AND ELSEWHERE IN THE SCHOOL



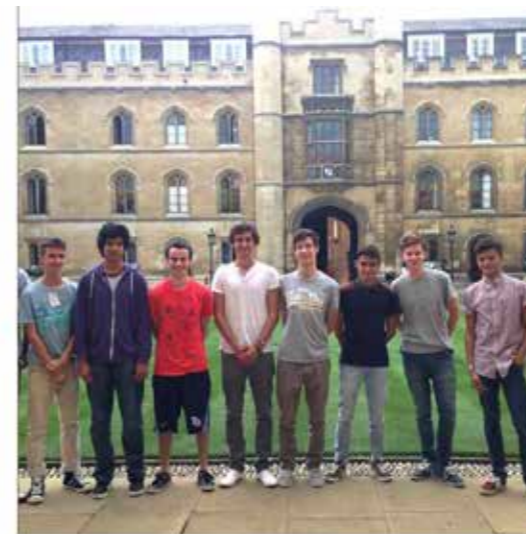
OXBRIDGE UPDATE

Students at Wilson's attain places at a range of universities and we are proud of them all. At this time of year, we are particularly pleased to congratulate students who have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge. This year twenty-four boys in Year 13 have been offered places in a wide variety of subjects including: Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Medicine, Music, Natural Science and Physics.

A successful Oxbridge application requires that a student demonstrate real dedication to his chosen subject, far beyond what is taught in lessons and over a long period of time. What is tested in the application process is the intellectual flexibility, curiosity and resilience of the candidate, not recall or answers learned by heart! Can the candidate apply familiar knowledge in unfamiliar contexts? Does he enjoy the intellectual challenge

of divergent questions? Does he demonstrate by his actions over time, rather than his words, real commitment to and love for the subject? As such you can't really 'prepare' for an application once you enter the Sixth Form, instead the boy who is thirsty for knowledge and willing to test himself to his intellectual limits is one who will inevitably shine. Even then, the application process is highly competitive, with applicants from across the world. Not everyone can succeed.

Whether your son is in Year 7, Year 11 or somewhere in between, we would encourage him to develop areas of interest in the subject (or subjects) he loves, by throwing himself into wider reading. Not because of a future application to a possible university, but because it is fun and motivating for bright boys to do!



TRANSPORT UPDATE

Please consider the following advice as we return to school:

- If you live a short distance away, walk or cycle to and from school providing it is safe to do so.
- Avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble.
- If you are using public transport to get to school, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey.

When travelling by public transport, don't forget to:

- Wear a face covering (unless you are exempt). It is important to wear it for the entirety of your journey, including inside a bus or train station.
- Physically distance from others where possible.
- Wash or sanitise your hands regularly.
- Be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.



STUDENTS' LOCKDOWN EXPERIENCES

Throughout this lockdown, despite the difficult times, I have tried to make the most of it. Online school, through staring at a screen for much of the day, was exhausting, so pursuits such as exercise were and still can be engaging. Since social contact is not a possibility right now, seeing people through calls and online platforms was uplifting. Even if just once in a while, when I did exercise, or went for a walk, it really boosted my mood. It can be hard to get motivated, so I used the 2 minute rule; say to yourself that you'll only do it for a short time, but then your body feels encouraged to carry on. This is a rule applicable to many areas, such as reading or baking, both of which have been favourite pastimes of mine in lockdown. Reading interesting books, although hard to get in these times, relaxed my brain from stress, and immersed me in a different world, also helping with ideas for writing. Another relaxing hobby I took up was baking at home with my family, and since last year, we have been baking a lot more in the leisure time we have had. The delicious items we've baked include: lemon cake, chocolate chip cookies, flapjacks, almond cake, apple and blueberry crumble and toffee apple upside-down cake (a mouthful both in speech and taste). I really enjoy baking, so to learn even more, I baked a cake by myself: a cookies and cream cake, with chocolate Oreo frosting. Also, in honour of Pie Week, we made a spicy chicken and vegetable pie; our first pie, in fact, and for a first try, it was great! These activities can be good ways to adapt to the 'new normal', until we can get back to the old normal, so let's keep on going to the finish line. by Haresh, 7D



During the lockdown, I did many activities to try to keep myself from getting bored. One of the most memorable things I did was playing board games with my family, from Snakes & Ladders to Dominoes. My favourite game is Monopoly: the game is so interesting and there are lots of twists and turns. It is very engaging for me and my family. In addition, my mum and I baked a cake which was delicious. It was a two-layer cake and was covered with homemade buttercream and blue icing. Another one of my favourite things during the lockdown was going on bike rides and walks in the local parks. My family and I would spend at least an hour and a half at the park every week (it was so much fun). We also went on walks to the local high streets. One of the great things right now is that there are not many vehicles on the roads; it makes the air fresher, and the atmosphere is more tranquil. I am glad that online learning is almost over – it has been a long two months – and I am eager to meet my friends and teachers face to face again. by Rohan (Year 7)



Life in lockdown was very boring at times, but a few easy and fun activities helped to pass some of my time. When I was bored in lockdown, I decided to pass the time with some activities. I baked cookies and cakes, which genuinely looked nice and tasted delicious. It took quite a lot of time, but that was okay for me because it helped me pass the time. Keeping yourself active during lockdown, would be important especially when you cannot exercise in PE due to the restrictions. Another activity I did to get some fresh air was going on lots of bike rides in the park. It helped me to get more active and get a break from sitting all day indoors. If it was a rainy day, then I would do some mindful colouring whilst listening to peaceful music and reading. It really helped me to be mindful and whisk my way off to another world. Some books that I read were His Dark Materials, Noughts and Crosses, The Lie Tree and Sabrina. Lockdown also helped me find some time to teach my sister how to improve in chess and allowed me to get to know my family a lot better as we spent more time together since we are in our own bubble. For example, we walked miles exploring our neighborhood and if lockdown had not started at all we would have never taken that opportunity. Instead of using the car we used our bicycles which was more environmentally friendly. I also became independent by doing household chores and helping my mum. In conclusion, lockdown was not all that bad. Yes, I couldn't meet my friends in real life, and online studying from home was quite different to what I was used to, but these fun activities helped me feel content. by Keshav, 8D



My Lockdown
Over the months that we have been going through lockdown, I have begun to start finding new hobbies to pass the days away. One of these hobbies has stuck out to me the most, and one that I have been spending countless hours on every day. What I mean by this is that I have been spending most of my days making marble tracks with Ravensburger's Gravitrax interactive track system. I love making tracks with my Gravitrax and recording them. I also sent them to my friends and family and once I have finished, I break it down and make a whole new one! I have also been going to the park or going for a walk most days and online school has also been keeping me busy so I am normally occupied and getting through the pandemic bit by bit! by Jahan, 7S



Issue 526
19 March, 2021

Links

[Next Week's Menus](#)
[Absence Request Form](#)
[Calendar](#)

Looking Ahead

- Friday 26 March - Year 9 immunisations
- Monday 29 March - Year 8 final options form return
- Wednesday 31 March - Term Ends.

Deputy Head's Reminder

National Day of Reflection

On Tuesday, 23 March, we mark Marie Curie's National Day of Reflection to remember the many people whose lives have been cut short since March 2020, and to think about the millions who have been bereaved.

Parents are urged to find out more about the day and to "take a minute to reflect and a moment to connect".

<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/get-involved/day-of-reflection>



LOCKDOWN EXPERIENCES CONTD.

During lockdown I did all the usual little things - read my library, watched telly and spent endless hours speaking to friends on the phone every week. Aside from that, I also carried out community service to help people during this time of worry, anxiety and poverty. Firstly, with my Dad, I weeded and planted trees in our local Addiscombe Railway Park. These trees help biodiversity and the environment by taking carbon dioxide out of the air and improve people's mental wellbeing. As they stroll through the park, they see young trees with small buds on their branches, waiting to burst out into blossom. It really brings a smile to my face. I have also helped contribute to people's physical wellbeing. On Wednesdays, I go with my Dad, to a local church to collect food packages and ferry them to the foodbank and occasionally to people's houses. It is a good thing, knowing you have helped someone not go hungry on a cold winter's day (not that going hungry on a hot summer's day is advised). I also help Croydon Nightwatch, which distributes food to homeless people. My Mum and I make three loaves worth of sandwiches every first Friday for people who need it.

Aside from helping others during lockdown, I have also helped with household chores. My Mum is working for up to 13 hours a day and is on call on the weekends and on her days off. So, when I wake up, I put the kettle on. I take plates to the sink. I help with the laundry. Every little thing I can do to ease the burden on my parent's shoulders. All the little things add up by Kiran 8B

My experience of lockdown as a student has had its ups and downs as you would imagine. Being confined to our homes with no outside social interactions with fellow humans is tough and goes against our human nature. Nothing compares with going to school and experiencing the first secondary school year student life of interacting with friends and teachers. While a global pandemic has brought this all to a halt, I have been lucky enough to have a family that continues to support me during these uncertain times, who are always allowing me the time and space I've needed over these past months to study independently. My knowledge and experience in exercise and health has allowed me to continue to keep my health and well-being in check. Exercise has been my lifeline through these times, keeping boredom far away. With all this said, I've kept a positive head, always looking towards the current challenge of lockdown as an adaptive learning experience that we're all faced with. by Tayyab 7H

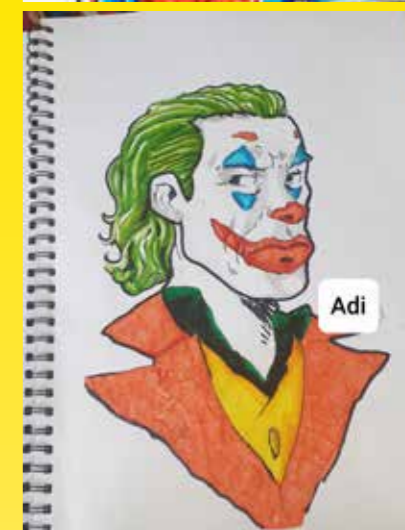
My lockdown was not very interesting, yet we made the most of staying at home for a long period of time. As both of my parents worked in the NHS we weren't able to go outside as much as we'd like to. I was in front of the screen for most of my lockdown, attending online lessons or doing my homework. Sometimes I would make myself a sandwich if I was hungry. If the weather was nice, I would have a water balloon fight with my brother using a water balloon kit we bought last summer. by Manuel 7C

In this lockdown, my main highlight was hatching and caring for my baby goldfish. I currently have two 1 year old goldfish. One is a male Black Moor (which are a type of fancy telescope goldfish) called Joy and one female, white Oranda (which is another type of fancy goldfish), called Pearl. When I got Pearl, I noticed that her stomach was pretty round. This is common in female goldfish, but what initially seemed worrying, was that her stomach seemed to be swollen. I thought that she had a stomach ulcer, which would need immediate attention, but I calmed down after I realised that she had a sac full of eggs!

By this lockdown, it had been a few months and Pearl still hadn't laid any eggs. But a few weeks later, I came downstairs, to see dozens of white/brownish eggs at the bottom of their tank. We quickly separated all the eggs - because goldfish eat their own eggs - and intently waited for even one, to hatch. After 2 or 3 days, I noticed small dots in the eggs, which in fact were their eyes! On day 5, I was lucky enough to see the first one hatch! I was so happy as I saw its tiny body dash around the tank, before finally sticking on to the side until its body grew. More fish hatched and by Day 7 there were about 100 fish swimming around in the tank. It has been about a month since they have hatched and there are about 50 baby goldfish (as many aren't fit enough to survive) that have grown quite big, and have even started to turn orange! I can't wait for them to grow! by Raghav, 8H

The long, monotonous lockdown felt like it would never end and I was confined to the four walls of my home. However, I found different ways to entertain myself. Every day, after my online lessons, I enjoyed going on long walks with my family and had lots of fun playing table tennis with my dad on my dining table; we just had to place a table tennis top on it. Playing the piano which my dad bought for me in the middle of the lockdown helped me to relax and pass time. I was proud to develop my baking skills when I baked a delicious, chocolate sponge cake. by Shyamak 7G

I usually play video games at home in lockdown on Saturdays. Everything works fine for me except having too much screen time. Suddenly, I decided to go on an adventure to visit London Bridge not by rail, nor by any motor vehicle, but by human powered bicycle because I feel I have nothing to do at home during lockdown. Unfortunately, HMS Belfast and London Bridge are hidden by the train bridge in my picture. Relieving boredom is easy thanks to this adventure. It took me just under four hours to go to London Bridge and back via Southwark Bridge. by Houting 7C



Pictured above: Artwork from Aditya, 7B



Pictured above: Houting, 7C on Southwark Bridge

CCF LOCKDOWN EXPERIENCES

RSM Flowers:

The past few months have been an interesting, yet rewarding, opportunity to learn and develop the contingent during a period that can only be described as bizarre. The Army's expression 'improvise, adapt, overcome' has really come to embody the nature of lockdown learning with the battle between the online medium and some of our 'older' instructors yielding a host of amusing encounters. My role as WO1 (RSM) has seen me directing the learning and teaching of all year groups over the past few months. This has been a huge step up, but one that I have thoroughly enjoyed, taking the time to learn from those around me and develop my own skills to lead the contingent through lockdown 2.0. Developing our methods of delivery has been a key area of focus and alongside my team of senior NCOs, we have explored new online methods of teaching, such as A Company's military knowledge Kahoot quizzes and B Company's ongoing inter-section competition. Hopefully, as restrictions further ease, the contingent will be able to gain some long awaited 'green' experience, with plans for field exercises early in the Summer Term allowing our junior NCOs, and NCO hopefuls, to develop their leadership skills alongside years 9 & 10 who will at last be able to apply the content they have been learning over the past academic year. With the promise of further exercises on the horizon, including a Summer Camp sometime in June, the efforts of both the adult and SNCO body will soon come to fruition, exemplifying the high standards that Wilson's School CCF upholds, and no doubt being remembered for the indisputable success that lockdown training has become, something we can all take immense pride in.

Cpl Guha:

As fun as sitting behind a screen for four hours a day learning about organic chemistry and statistical hypothesis is, the average lockdown week is fairly dull. However, one of the more exciting moments in my week happens on a Tuesday evening when we meet for online CCF. Although I would not normally use "exciting" and "lockdown" in the same sentence, we have had several fascinating experiences that would not be possible without zoom. Whilst virtual training for younger cadets continues, many of us have had the opportunity to listen to ex-WSCCF cadets, who are now army officers, talk about joining the army and valuable lessons on their experiences with leadership and dealing with failure. One of the Zoom sessions even included a virtual tour through the battlefields of France and Belgium, following old Wilsonians who fought in WW1. The speakers having been in our shoes at one point have provided insight into what is possible for us in the years to come.

Cdt Daykin:

Although I never anticipated having to learn fieldcraft through a computer screen, the last 3 months have definitely not been wasted, especially since we have finally been back as a whole for the first- time learning, since the first lockdown last March. We have learnt lots of useful information which will help us

in our future CCF careers. Unfortunately, due to online learning, we have been unable to learn any drill, but we have been keeping up with our advanced fieldcraft knowledge as we learnt new information (about platoon harbours, platoon attacks and how to identify locations of the enemy). We have also recapped our previous knowledge of the 6 section battle drills and much more. I can't wait to return back to CCF in person and continue to learn putting our new knowledge into practice and returning back to drill.

CWO Morgan:

From the senior perspective, training in lockdown has made me miss the atmosphere of CCF at school. Although sadly I don't have long left in the CCF, I and the other senior NCOs owe it to the younger years to keep it running as smoothly as possible, as well as keeping it fun and varied too, so particularly the Recruits start to see CCF for what it is, a place for making new friends and personal development, instead of another virtual activity after school. It's been a welcome challenge keeping the training dynamic as well as educational, and although I never expected my last year to be like this, I have enjoyed having a more hands-on role in the training, more than the usual overseeing I would be doing in face-to-face training. Overall I've found the experience useful as I feel it has made me more versatile and prepared for change in the long run.

Cpl Dayal:

Even after three lockdowns, Wilson's School CCF marches forward unhindered. The RAF section has taken these pauses to really question what the section is about and to kickstart a new era focussing on cadet engagement. This has yielded in innovative new teaching methods such as Skribbl, Kahoots, crib-sheets and an "obnoxiously visible scoreboard" in Biscay Squadron to promote the RAF's competitive spirit. The SNCOs have also taken it upon themselves to self teach completely new content to further broaden the scope of teaching and engagement for the cadets. This is perhaps best highlighted by Sgt Vishwanathan's ASTC preparation, in which we learned how to distinguish over 90 new, nuanced ATC aircrafts, as well as Cpl Garg's brilliant First Aid Quizlets during the fortnightly ASTC sessions. The progress of the RAF over lockdown has been incredible, fuelled by the hard work of staff, FSs and SNCOs, and we look forward to returning to in-person parades with the same energy and enthusiasm.

LCpl Patel, Aadin:

Throughout the course of lockdown, I have realised that life at home can be improved and enjoyed to its full extent. The weekly zoom parades and training sessions have been the focal part of my week and I owe a great deal to the perseverance of all involved in helping to set them up. They provide a much needed escape from the repetitive and sedentary lifestyle we have become used to at home and show that socialising is possible online. The sessions are designed perfectly, to

be engaging and fun, through Kahoots and interactive quizzes, while also being educating and contributing massively to our development as members of the Wilson's school RAF section. Undoubtedly, my progression and enjoyment during these hard times is due to these brilliant weekly sessions and the dedicated people who sacrifice their time to make them possible.

Cdt Mukherjee:

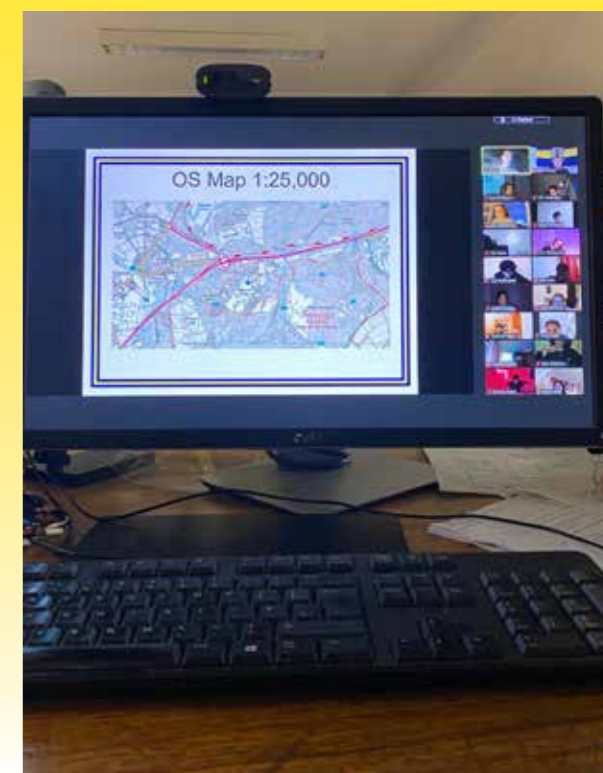
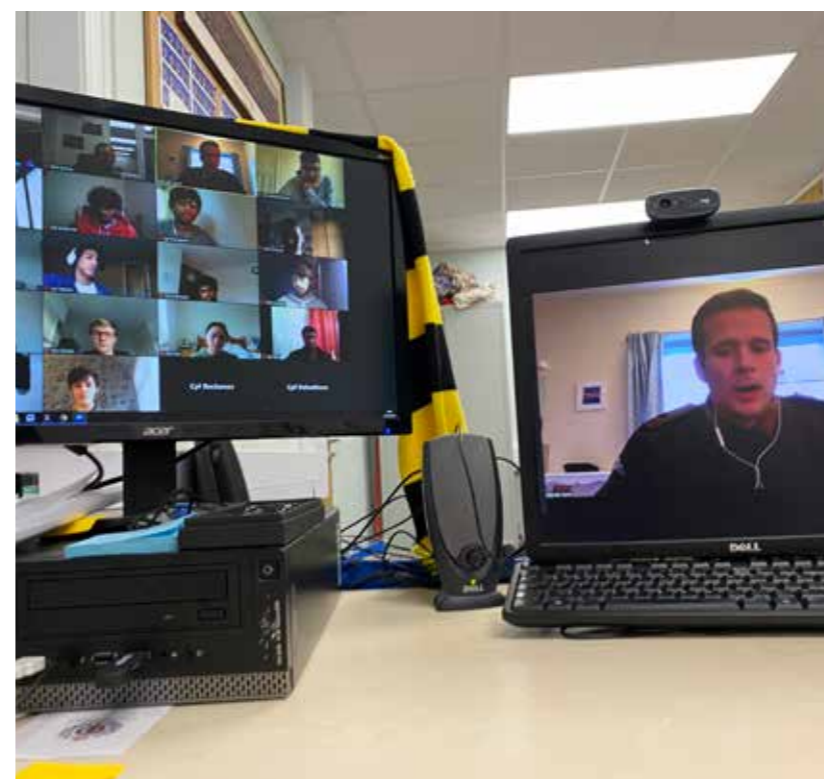
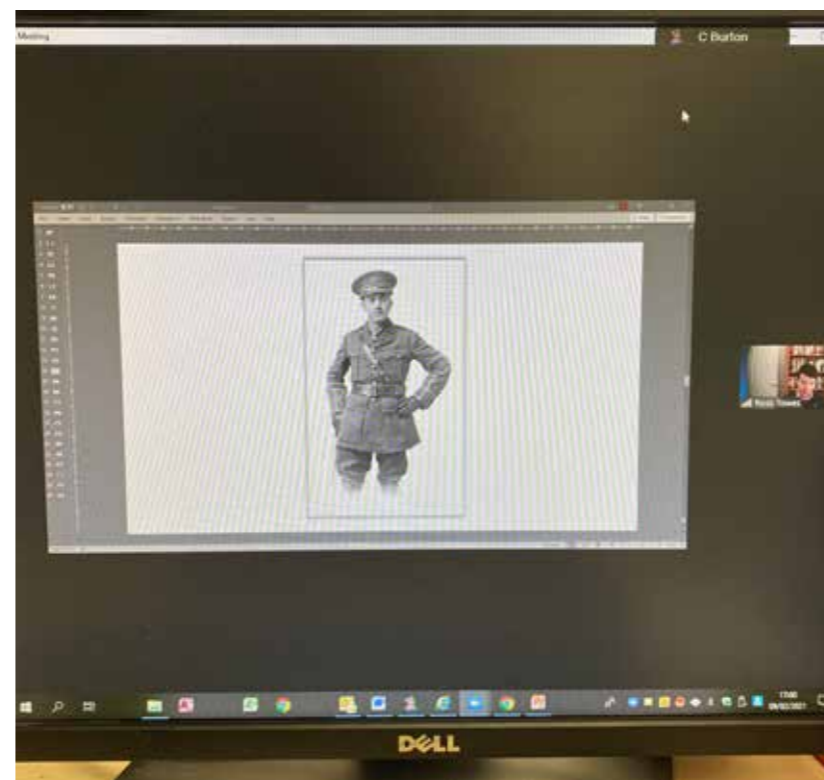
"During lockdown, time feels slow," seems to be a common issue felt by whomever I ask for their perspective on the subject. Therefore, am I glad that I had the opportunity to continue with CCF training online as a vital distraction to the gloomy reality of the situation- we're trapped like rats in our own homes. Online training has been able to fill a gap as something to look forward to, something to strive for, where the bandage solution of listening to music incessantly has failed to serve as a sustainable motivator! Not only does online CCF keep social interactions alive, but I have found that I am able to finish my school work quicker after hearing one of my fellow cadet's jokes, and the subsequent branding of it as "mediocre," or entering a zoom call but forgetting to mute myself. It is moments such as these that make online training invigorating.

Rct George:

Being thrown into a lockdown has been an arduous struggle for everyone, meaning it was no surprise that the CCF was affected greatly. However, the way we have pulled through has been incredible, despite challenges and road-blocks such as all training being conducted online. Over these challenging times, we have learnt a lot from our online lessons, which were highly informative. The first aid lessons, the air recognition and the military knowledge lessons were beneficial to our unit in teaching us both life and military skills, and we learnt a lot from everyone who taught us. Engaging activities such as virtual games and our first official test were also immensely helpful as it helped us remember content that had been taught. Muster parades also helped inform us about the upcoming week, and news across the CCF. Overall, the CCF has been outstanding during these times and I am immensely proud!



CCF - A NEW WAY OF WORKING



DEBATING UPDATE

Debating at Wilson's has continued to flourish in spite of the lockdown period, with two debating competitions and a Model United Nations conference held in February alone!

Kiran Lee and Finley Pointing represented the school at the prestigious LSE Open tournament which was held online. They spoke in five debates over two days on topics such as modern medicine's push for longevity over quality of life, working from home as a "new normal" after COVID, and political consumerism (the practice of factoring in companies' political ideologies when buying their goods). Kiran and Finley came up against some very strong speakers (including medical students in the debate about longevity and several university teams) but nevertheless spoke well and presented strong and convincing arguments.

We also sent four teams to the annual UCL Schools competition, held online this year. This competition was especially significant for five members of the debating society - Aditya Jain, Tomás Mayorga, Devanandh Murugesan, Neil Da Gama and Divy Dayal - who represented the School at a debating competition for the first time, along with Aditya Vishwanathan, Harsh Sinha and Utkarsh Sinha. The tournament consisted of three rounds of British Parliamentary debating amongst some of the finest schools in the country. Over the course of the day, the teams debated interesting, topical motions on paying interns, political transparency and feminist child-rearing. Our teams spoke well, especially considering a number of speakers were speaking for the first time. One team, consisting of Aditya Jain and Harsh Sinha, came incredibly close to qualifying for the final. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day and are looking forward to the next competition.

Under the leadership of Neil Da Gama, the Model United Nations (MUN) Society re-launched and has been preparing for their first conference in several years. Mr Lynch is delighted to be sending nine students as Delegates to take part in the YouthMUN hosted online by LSE this month. As the name suggests, MUN is a society where we act as delegations of countries assigned to us and debate current affairs and issues of global significance such as COVID-19, the economy, human rights, the environment and resolutions to tensions and conflicts, and what the UN should do to solve these problems.

As a society we are looking forward to more competitions in March hosted by Imperial, Durham and Cardiff. We are planning a workshop for juniors to try debating for the first time and, for those who attended lunchtime sessions, opportunities to refresh and build on their debating skills. Further, Senior, Intermediate and Junior Debating are all, after an unavoidable lockdown hiatus, back in business in-person!

ECF ONLINE UNDER 19 SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

Congratulations to the Wilson's team who were runners up in this national event. With 4 of our best 5 players in years 7 and 8 perhaps in future years we will go one better and win a national trophy!

It was also wonderful for our 4 upper sixth players, who had lost most of their final year of normal inter-school chess.

Overall it was a great team performance – do congratulate those in your form/year group.

Board	Name	Form
1	Denis	7H
2	Shlok	7B
3	Shivam	8H
4	Henry	10D
5	Raghav	8H
6	Aurideep	13H
7	Kiran	13S
8	Shivank	13D
9	William	12B
10	Koushikk	13B



INTER HOUSE CHESS BATTLE

Last Wednesday saw the first online inter-house chess tournament in Wilson's, where approximately 200 students participated in total. They were split up into their 6 houses, and the winning house was determined by the greatest total points from the top 10 players from each house. For each game, each player had 5 minutes plus 3 seconds increment (time added to each move), making the games enjoyable to play in, as they could still concentrate on each move whilst also not being bored waiting for their opponents to move.

Being a player in the tournament myself, and also from my peers' experience, it was fun and relaxing, where although there was a huge turnout, there wasn't much tension and people played simply for the fun of it. Congratulations to Hayes, who ended up being the winning house, with Brecon second and Camberwell third only a point ahead of Datchelor. Thank you to Dr Cooper for being the one behind it all, and the 6 sixth form chess mentors who ran the house teams.

Henry, 10D



Photograph from 2019 tournament.



BRITISH PHYSICS OLYMPIAD SENIOR CHALLENGE

The entire cohort of L6 Physicists sat the Senior Challenge paper and did amazingly well!

- Three boys came in the top 100 in the country, including Siobann who came 18th.
- Every single boy achieved at least a Bronze, which is really impressive.
- 27 students achieved Gold, 40 Silver and 18 Bronze.

Nationally, 15% of entrants achieved a Gold. This paper is only sat by high achieving students, so the 5270 students sitting the paper would have been some of the best in the country and the Physics Department are very proud of the results Wilson's boys achieved.

STEM 700 CHALLENGE

During the February half-term holiday students were given the opportunity to enter the STEM700 Challenge by writing an 700-word essay on the topics of Science, Technology, or Mathematics. I had the privilege of judging the entries within the Under 14 category for which there were over 150 entries! It was a learning curve for me, with several of the entries discussing concepts that were entirely new to me. I particularly enjoyed one piece by Hritesh (8S) that explored the notion that if the Perseverance Rover were to discover signs that intelligent life once existed on Mars or elsewhere, it could have worrying implications for the future of the human race. Another entry by Houting (7C) wrote his own python code in order to draw a mathematical shape known as the Spiral of Theodorus, which is a beautiful geometric shape that he explained could be used to estimate the value of π . There were too many fantastic pieces of writing to mention them all, but ultimately I chose the following winners: 'Science in my day' by Kiran (8B), 'The magical world of Vedic mathematics' by Rohan (8B), and 'Cybersecurity: the CIA triad' by Aditya (8H). Whilst some entries tried to impress with the most complicated university-level concepts imaginable, the best essays tended to be those that did not lose sight of the fact that it was a writing competition.

PUT A LITTLE SUNSHINE INTO YOUR LIFE!

After a gloomy year full of COVID-19 restrictions, join our sunflower growing competition and spread some sunshine! Along with brightening your garden, sunflowers have lots of nectar that can attract bees. Watch them grow into something majestic and enter our competition to win three £50 cash prizes in the following categories - tallest, widest & best picture.

To take part & for more information, visit:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/sunflower-competition>

Sunflower Competition

Prize - £50
(£50 cash prize for each category listed below.)

Tallest sunflower
(Height in cm).

Widest sunflower
(Width in cm).

Best Picture
(Can include wildlife & people.)

£10 to join:
(Includes 20 giant sunflower seeds & growing instructions.)

Postage:
£1 per pack.



Join today & spread a little sunshine!

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/sunflower-competition>

Send your measurements & photo evidence to:
info@wilsonspfa.org by 31st Oct 2021



Wilson's PFA
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WALK LIKE A WOMAN

In 2019, the organisation Plan International Australia started a campaign to show men what it's like to 'walk like a woman' on the streets at night. The campaign's aim was to advise men on how to make women feel safer on the streets. Many men have revisited the campaign's seven tips this week:

- **Keep your distance:** When walking behind a girl or woman at night, remember that the closer you are, the more threatening you seem. So make sure to leave a good amount of distance between yourself and her.
- **Don't run up from behind:** Having someone run up behind you at night can give anyone a fright, but for a girl or woman it can be terrifying. Next time you're out for an evening jog and see a woman walking ahead cross the road or make sure to leave a good amount of space while passing.
- **Don't stare:** If you're by yourself, being stared at is intimidating and unsettling. Taking out your phone and focusing on something else can go a long way to showing you're not a threat. Look out the window to focus on something else, or call a friend to have a chat.
- **Keep comments to yourself:** What you might see as just a bit of fun, or even flattery, is actually harassment and can be terrifying to lone women and girls.
- **Keep your mates in line:** You may not harass women, but if you stay quiet while your mates do then you're part of the problem.
- **Be an active bystander:** If you notice a woman is uncomfortable with someone's behaviour, show your support by being an active bystander. It can be as simple as standing between a woman and her harasser to block their line of sight. Ask her if she is OK, and back up anyone else who is intervening.
- **Share the walk:** Keep the conversation going by sharing these tips, and helping girls and women feel safer at night.

Any pupil who would like to talk about these tips should speak to their Head of Year. Through PSHE and discussions in tutor groups, pupils will also be advised on talking to male friends about misogyny and harassment.



COLOURS TIE PRESENTATIONS

This has been a really challenging year for people working in performing arts – including many parents and members of staff in our school community. Our Director of Music (Ms Burton) and Director of Drama (Mr Kavanagh) have done a fantastic job of keeping opportunities open to pupils and this week we celebrated commitment to Drama with the distribution of colours ties to Guy, Luke and Andrei (Year 11), Daniel (Year 12) and Tunmise (Year 13). The drama colours are awarded based on a 'school lifetime' of service. Mr Kavanagh only awards these where a student really has spent tireless hours on productions. Usually this means having been involved in several shows, spending whole weekends in the dark and dingy corners of the wings, and above all, caring about the success of the shows and the department. We congratulate them all most heartily.

Drama has been a difficult subject to teach and learn remotely, but fortunately there have been some excellent online resources, with iPlayer and National Theatre at Home offering students the ability to reach great productions from the comfort of their home. Year 7 watched Uncle Vanya (which tied in nicely with the Senior Production), and analysed the great performances before going on to write their own piece in the style.

Co-curricular Drama has continued, even during the recent lockdown of spring 2021. The senior production of The Seagull will now be a professionally produced audiobook; the drama studio has acquired its own audio recording booth. It's an unusual end to the production, but everybody is committed to a meaningful and high-quality outcome. The Junior Production will go ahead and begins at the very start of summer term for Years 7 and 8. More details will be revealed after Easter!

In a time when so many theatres are closing and social interaction is at a minimum, we need Drama more than ever. Thank you to everybody who has supported performing arts at Wilson's this year.



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26 March, 2021

Links

[Next Week's Menus](#)
[Absence Request Form](#)
[Calendar](#)

Looking Ahead

- Monday 29 March - Year 8 final options form return
- Wednesday 31 March - Term Ends.
- Monday 19 April - Term begins - late start for students (10.50 a.m.)

Deputy Head's Reminder

Een nieuwe lente, een nieuw geluid

This Dutch expression ("A new spring, a new sound") is one of many that conveys the great benefit of seeking out new opportunities and experiences at this time of year. We hope to see many activities and events restored in the coming term and we urge every pupil to think about how he will renew his full participation in the life of the school. Happy Easter!

BPHO COMPETITION RESULTS



Year 11 British Physics Olympiad

The BPhO is to encourage the study of physics and to recognise excellence in young physicists through ten annual physics competitions.

181 of our Year 11 students took part (with 4710 sitting it nationwide). As with the L6 recently, only the stronger students nationally would have sat the paper.

The Physics Department were impressed with the results achieved, which included: 61 gold, 102 silver and 13 bronze awards. Nationally the results were as follows; 18.4% achieved Gold, 46.9% silver and 28.2% bronze awards.

Our top scorers were: Andrei with a very impressive 39/40, Ugas with 36/40 and Will and Leo both with 35/40. Nationally only one person in the country achieved full marks and Andrei is one of only 3 students in the country to achieve 39/40 which is extremely impressive. Ugas came in the top 50 nationally and Will and Leo were in the top 100. Our congratulations go to all four of them on their very impressive results.



*Pictured above: Andrei and Ugas
Pictured below: Will and Leo*



BAAO COMPETITION RESULTS



Year 13 British Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad - Round 2

Ansh (Year 13) was invited to take part in Round 2 of the competition. This is a fantastic achievement. Students always find this paper difficult, it is taken to test for stamina, determination and resilience, not merely knowledge of physics topics and technical skills. It is set as a direct challenge to academic strength. Those invited should certainly include their participation in their personal statement for university applications.

The majority of students would not even try the level of questions set in this paper. The paper is set at that level in order to set an extreme challenge.

Ansh was awarded a silver medal in the competition. Award Boundaries

	Mark range	Number of students	%
Gold	46 – 100	21	26.6 %
Silver	30 – 45	37	46.8 %
Bronze	0 - 29	21	26.6 %

Our congratulations go to Ansh on this considerable achievement.



Pictured above: Ansh (Year 13)

