



The Radclyffe School  
"Working Together for Excellence"

## Newsletter

January 2023



**Talented performers  
take their place in the  
spotlight**



## **School falls silent to remember others' sacrifice**

### **Remembrance Day**

The story of a local soldier's experience in the trenches of France during the First World War helped students to understand the sacrifices that were made.

Our act of remembrance has become an established part of the school calendar, enabling students to reflect on individual experiences of wartime. Each year the Humanities faculty create an interesting and informative display. Poppies combined with images of soldiers and thoughts about war and peace.

Finding a local link has been helpful in this - a fallen soldier named Charles Payne grew up close to Hunt Lane. In recent years the school was able to make contact with Charles' descendants who still live in the local area.

The act of remembrance is available to all students and staff, and features music, poetry and a time of silence. The head boy and head girl joined Headteacher Mr Cregg to lay a wreath alongside the remembrance display, helping students to understand how important it is to remember.



## **Has your child discovered the Library?**

### **Hundreds of new books to read**

Extra opening hours for the school library this year are making finding a fabulous read simpler. For reading, gaming, somewhere to do home learning or just a quiet place to relax, the Library is somewhere worth discovering. Whatever type of story students enjoy, or if they prefer non fiction, there is certainly something for everyone.

As part of lessons in English for Key Stage 3, the Library offers a valuable service. Our Accelerated Reading Programme lets students find books that they enjoy and once they finish them they take a quiz on the story, before moving on to more challenging titles as their reading ability grows.

Students are also making very good use of the Library at lunchtimes. They can borrow up to two books for up to two weeks, then either renew or return them.

The Library is also home to our Literacy Support Workers who provide additional support to students to help them make progress with their reading. More than just the ability to read, the team helps students to improve their understanding of what's happening in a story so they can appreciate the book more and make them an even stronger reader.

The Library provides up to 30 computers where students can complete home learning tasks and improve their Maths and English skills with a choice of online educational games.



# Students invited to write their own stories of achievement

## BBC Share Your Story

Stories of challenges overcome, of stepping out of our comfort zones, of facing up to discrimination, and taking risks to push ourselves to achieve our dreams. These were the ingredients of three lessons that students across KS3 involved themselves in, to celebrate the centenary of a national institution.

As a school we were delighted to welcome the BBC Share Your Story tour into school, for a special day. The students heard from two BBC staff members about their career journeys and what they had to overcome to get to where they are.

First up was Melanie Stuart, who currently works as a news reporter for BBC Breakfast, based at Media City in Salford Quays. Melanie shared her parents' stories of growing up in Panama before they moved to the UK, and her own experiences of racism. She was both greatly encouraged by a favourite teacher, but also having to respond to another who laughed at her ambition. She achieved a science degree and postgraduate degree in journalism. Melanie told students "Always remember you are a special person; you can do what you like."



Lucy is originally from Oldham and who now works as a researcher for the BBC in London shared how she overcame challenges of anxiety. She had to travel to the far side of the world to gain the confidence to conquer a fear of speaking in public.

Teaching in China she struggled as a stranger in that country, until she found a speaking club online. Eventually she came second in a public speaking contest. She told the audience, "Sometimes you have to take risks, to push yourself if you want to improve."



Answering our students questions, Lucy advised students who might struggle with their own self esteem to put themselves in new situations. Melanie was asked about preparing for interviews and emphasised how important it is to research the organisation you are applying to, and practice answering questions.

Hosted by BBC reporter Rehana Brown, the event is part of the BBC's 100th birthday, visiting schools across the country and encouraging young people to share their stories.



The BBC Young Reporter project is inviting young people to get involved and use the resources of the BBC to tell their stories. There is plenty of advice available on the BBC website to show them how, at

[bbc.co.uk/youngreportercompetition](http://bbc.co.uk/youngreportercompetition)



# Getting the message on bullying

## Anti-Bullying Week

At The Radclyffe School we take a proactive stance to raising awareness about bullying. We achieve this through a range of strategies involving staff training and presence around the building, dedicated assemblies, PHSE lessons and peer mentoring.



Anti-Bullying Week is a nationwide event, organised by charity the Anti-Bullying Alliance which offers a focus to reinforce messages for students. The theme of this year's event was 'Reach out'. Our TRS Anti Bullying Ambassadors delivered assemblies to all year groups exploring what behaviour is classed as bullying and how they can contribute to creating a safe and inclusive environment at The Radclyffe School based on how they choose to behave to one another.

Our Anti Bullying Ambassadors led the assemblies, where they placed an emphasis on the importance of being respectful and kind to one another at all times. They also shared advice on what to do should they see, hear or experience bullying, encouraging all students to speak to their Personal Learning Guide, Year Manager or any member of staff to prevent and stop bullying.



During the week, students also watched a presentation on the dangers of knife crime and carrying knives, delivered by Police Community Support Officers.



## Three stories combine for Denver's trail of success

### Presentation Evening 2022

The stories of three students and their experiences after leaving The Radclyffe School kept the audience intrigued at our Presentation Evening earlier this term, leading to an inspiring twist in the tale.

Returning once more to Oldham's Queen Elizabeth Hall, the event was an occasion to celebrate the achievements of our Year 11 leavers of last summer.

Our guest of honour was former student Denver Cooper, now a senior manager at mental health charity Tameside, Oldham and Glossop MIND. In his address he spoke of these leavers singing in front of 35,000 rugby fans at a Grand Final, leaving school with only one GCSE, getting work in a factory doing jobs they didn't like or want.

Denver shared their experiences involving finding work in Australia, pursuing but failing in a singing career and succeeding in sales, overcoming depression, coping with the loss of family members, building their dream of a healthy food business, then training as a counsellor.

The twist was that all of these stories were Denver's story. Speaking to the Year 11 students he said, "no matter what you do or where life takes you, you will leave a trail of success, so be sure to celebrate those successes no matter how small, because we often dwell on failures, despite not realising that those failures and those people who put us down, make our success all the more sweeter!

He concluded, "So, for those of you anxious about the future or worrying you won't achieve, just remember this moment, and know that life is a journey that can take many twists and turns, but if you hold on tight and enjoy the ride, life will lead you to exactly where you need to be."

Denver also shared a poem, '*Sometimes*' which included the lines, "Sometimes when something doesn't work out as you wanted, there's something better coming your way. Although it's difficult to believe in **something better**' from where you stand, sometimes **redirection**

is a helpful **intervention** leading you away from problems you could not predict, and sometimes **mistakes** lead you to lessons learned and growth gained, all of which help you to become more, and get more than you might have become and gotten otherwise."

Alongside the students receiving their GCSE and BTEC certificates, Presentation Evening also sees a variety of subject and special awards presented. Congratulations to all of the students who received awards, and a big thank you to all our former students and your families for sharing the evening with us.





## The success and the taking part

### Sports achievement

From competitions in school to Oldham championships, we have once again had an exciting term of sport. We are proud to celebrate the achievements of all students and emphasise the opportunity for everyone to take part.



Representing the school in any sport is a great opportunity and we are delighted to be celebrating students' success this term. Our boy's badminton team finished second in their competition, but the girl's team went one better, winning all their matches to finish as Oldham Champions.



Inspired by the badminton teams' success, six students in Years 7 and 8 came away with medals.

Congratulations on third place finishes for Oliviya Bryer and Joshua Williams, second place for Megan Smethurst and Liam Hunter,

and on becoming Oldham Champions, Ryan Garside and Coden Shepherd.

Intra School Competitions take place at the end of each half term. The classes compete in the sport they have been performing in that half term in the penultimate week within their classes. These students plus any other students that are performing with excellence are invited to compete against the other classes in their year group.

Students have the opportunity to compete against classes in the other half of their year group which they wouldn't normally. It is an excellent opportunity for students to compete against students of a similar ability, develop their skills and enjoy sport!

## News in Brief

It was our honour to be chosen as the venue this month for the Oldham Festival of Light.

The festival is an inter-faith event celebrating the festivals of four faiths, which brought together members of the community through readings, singing, dance and food.

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At The Radclyffe School we have a fantastic school Charity team. Throughout the year the team meet to organise and plan various charity events, Children in Need, Comic Relief, Anti-Bullying week are a few examples of the events and charities we support.

The most recent event was Children In Need where our school raised a total of £606.21! WE even had a special guest visit us... Pudsey Bear!

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If you use social media please follow the school channels on Facebook, twitter and Instagram.



# The best of Art, Drama, Sport, Dance and Music

## SPA Celebration Evening

An extravaganza of entertainment combined music, drama, art, sport and dance for an end of term treat. Our largest post-pandemic audience enjoyed great performances from the Signing Choir, the MISST ensembles and orchestra, KS3 Drama and Dance clubs and soloist Jacob Jackson. The music and drama were as varied as *Love Story*, *Blood Brothers*, *Hard Knock Life* from *Annie* and *All that Jazz* from *Chicago*.

Courtesy of the KS3 Drama Club, the audience was treated to an extract from the musical *Matilda*, and specially written pieces on hate crime from the Year 10 Drama students.

Students' GCSE art and photography work was on display, together with an opportunity to play some table tennis in Café Mojo. A big thank you to everyone who attended. We hope you enjoyed the show, and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas!





## Making the school run safe and sustainable

### Students' plan to cut congestion and boost wellness

Almost a year in the making, a plan to make travel to school much easier is ready to launch in the New Year. A determined team of students in Key Stage 3 joined a pilot project working with the body responsible for transport across the city region.

The challenge they face is persuading parents and students of the value of making simple changes to their journey to school. They met with staff from Transport for Greater Manchester, and a specialist body who create travel to school plans, Modeshift Stars.

Their aim was to encourage safe and sustainable travel to school. Currently students use a mix of means to get to school, whether walking, cycling, buses - both scheduled and our own dedicated school bus, private cars and taxis. The numbers of drivers in cars and taxis leads to congestion on Hunt Lane, accompanied by levels of pollution that can be a risk to children's health.

In extra sessions the student team visited welcome and wellbeing meetings across the school to survey students on how they currently travel. This helped them to find out just what needed to change, as well as what resources might be required to bring it about.

The team members took some time to see for themselves the problems created when so many vehicles crowd into a limited space in a short time period - both at the start and end of the school day. What they saw did surprise them, and with the expert assistance they put their plan together.

The next step was to pitch for funding from TfGM to promote their plan. The team travelled into Manchester city centre, and at a meeting at the Friends Meeting House they were awarded £500, alongside nine other schools across the region.



## Introducing Five Minute Bubbles

### Can you find your short walk to school?

At the centre of our travel to school plan is the idea of the five minute bubble. Where you currently travel to school by car, would you consider dropping off your child just a short walk away - a maximum of five minutes?

The plan has many advantages, saving you time as you avoid the congestion of Hunt Lane. Even a short walk is good exercise to begin the day. Students learn to be resilient and independent, as well as kind and thoughtful to our neighbours.

You may have seen the two banners on the fence on Hunt Lane - they ask four simple questions:

- Do you travel to and from school by car?
- Could you drop off and pick up just a five minute walk away?
- Could you avoid and reduce congestion on Hunt Lane?
- Could you walk or cycle to school?



## Recycling Cycling!

### Boosting journeys by bike

A second part of the team's school travel plan is to encourage cycling to school. We have extensive safe storage for bikes, which is available for anyone to use.

With funding from Kajima, in the New Year we will be buying a number of bikes which we will use to teach the cycling skills needed for students to get to school safely by bike.

Across Chadderton and Oldham there are many safe routes to travel to school. Often quicker than coming by car or bus, cycling is also great exercise, and no pollution!



## Appeal on behalf of our neighbours

### Please park with respect

We understand that for some families travel by car is the only option, and that some of you will remain reluctant to switch to any alternative. When you are parked on Hunt Lane, please follow some simple rules to respect our neighbours and keep everyone using the road safe.

- \* Switch off your engine when not moving - you save fuel, and reduce pollution.
- \* Avoid parking in front of driveways. Our neighbours need access to their homes at all times, please treat everyone with respect.
- \* Avoid parking on the pavement - for much of Hunt Lane, this is a cycle path and it is illegal to obstruct this route.

## What's the benefit?

### Advantages of a walk to school

Walking to school is good for children's health and the environment.

We know that parents see the benefits of walking to school, including an uplift in mood and behaviour in their children.

From less congestion to higher footfall for local businesses, the whole community benefits when more children walk to school.

However, the number of children who walk to school has been in decline for decades.

Walking has these fantastic advantages:

**Health** - regular exercise makes children healthier and reduces the risk of a range of health issues, including heart problems and diabetes.

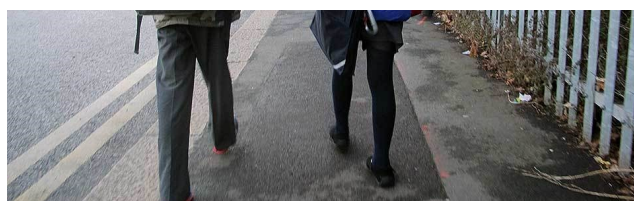
**Road sense** - by walking to school children are better able to learn about risk, how to look after themselves and stay safe around roads.

**Ready to learn** - walking to school helps children to feel more wide awake for the start of the school day and therefore more ready to learn.

**Good mental health** - research has shown that walking helps children sleep well and be less stressed, making them happier.

**Safety** - By reducing the number of cars travelling to school, the roads in the area become safer for everyone, especially around the school gates.

**Independence** - Walking to school is sociable for children and helps them become more independent.



## Media City seen through students' lenses

### Salford Quays Photography visit



Forty cameras clicked away around Salford Quays earlier this term as GCSE Photography students got a practical experience of capturing the architecture and environment from every possible angle.

The students took a wide-ranging brief and came up with a huge portfolio of intriguing images. Salford Quays is home to the Lowry Theatre, the Imperial War Museum North, and of course Media City, alongside dozens of other offices, residential and industrial buildings. Very little escaped the students' busy lenses.



Amongst the tasks were instructions to obtain birds' eye views, worms' eye views and abstract images. While the students each had high quality digital cameras, it was their imagination that was most important as they discovered the unusual perspectives in the spaces around them.

Having photographed the outside of so many buildings, the students found additional inspiration from the jagged angles and varied materials indoors at The Lowry centre itself.



The GCSE Photography course involves much more than just taking pictures. Students produce a portfolio of work to study particular themes which relate to the work of a range of past and contemporary artists and photographers. Developing ideas through digital techniques and media, and using programmes such as Photoshop, form a major part of each assignment.



### Students inspired with art visit

#### Art of Banksy

In a separate visit to Salford Quays, gifted & talented art and photography students enjoyed a visit to the Art of Banksy exhibit in Media City.






Keeping up App-earances

Get the most from our applications

Technology can be a great help in so much of what we do, so at The Radclyffe School we are making the most of the opportunity to provide parents and carers with information you need.


 Free to download onto a smartphone, the MyEd app gives direct access to information including attendance, timetable, absence records and behaviour. It also has a messaging feature that enables free communication with the school.

Once installed we will be able to send you messages via the app whether about your child individually or news items and events taking place in school.

Now that we are a cashless school, we use ParentPay for all the payments you need to make. This secure online system allows you to pay for your child’s meals in Café Mojo, pay for visits, trips and equipment by bank transfer or by credit/debit card.



The app allows you to see exactly what your child is buying in the café.

 Introduced this year, Satchel:One is our Home Learning platform. It’s where teachers will assign any home learning to students, and parents can see exactly what has been set. Students and parents can access Satchel:One either via the app for Apple or Android devices, or through a web browser.

Using the app also has the advantage of notifications direct to your device, so you and your child will always know when teachers have set home learning. Alerts will also tell you the night before and the morning when home learning is due to be handed in.

Using any of the apps should be very simple, and details to create personal accounts on each platform have been sent home. If anyone needs any further support with any of the platforms, helpful information is available on the school website, [theradcliffeschool.co.uk](http://theradcliffeschool.co.uk)

Finally, another option to provide you with information on how your child is doing at The Radclyffe School is Cloud School Parent - similar to MyEd you can receive up to date information and use this as a free communication tool with school.

News in Brief

The MiSST Play Day saw students from schools across the north come together to learn and perform new pieces of music.

Our membership of the Music in Secondary Schools Trust is enabling students across KS3 to learn to play violin, cornet or trumpet.

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Attendance is directly linked to achievement. Students are required to attend school for 190 days each year.

If students do not attend school every day they are compromising their education and potential achievement.

Please note that since September 2013 the law gives no entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any activity, holiday or event should be arranged during the 13 weeks when school is closed.

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## A little bit extra brings new skills and interests

### Extra curricular guide

Question. What do we remember as the best thing about being at school? It may be the lessons and the learning, but for many students it is the extra events that take place, often away from the classroom. As we continue to recover from the pandemic, this important part of school life, our extra-curricular offer is bouncing back. There are more and more opportunities to get involved with exciting clubs and activities.

The clubs we offer are often a chance to learn new skills or develop existing interests, or to give back to the school community by helping out in many different ways. But above all the extra activities help students to have fun, to relax and make friends across the school. So what will your child get involved with? The table below sets out the choice on offer. Please encourage them to give what interests them a try.

Every morning, Breakfast Club takes place in Café Mojo, 8am - 8.25am.

### Lunchtime Clubs

What?	Where?	When?	Who's it for?
Drama Club	1F01	Tuesday Week 2	Year 8, 9, 10
Drama Club	1F02	Thursday Week 1	Year 7
	1F01	Thursday Week 2	
Geek Club	2C05	Wednesdays	Year 9
Careers drop-in	Personal Development Hub	Each day	All year groups
PiXL Edge drop in	1B07	Monday	Year 8, 9
English Study Club	2B14	Monday	Year 10
Art Club	2G	Thursday	Year 7
Bee Club	2G	Thursday	Year 8
Foreign Film Club	2B02	Friday	
Learning Mentors Wellbeing sessions		Each day	All year groups
Music - Radlads boys music club		Monday	Year 7
Trumpet Club		Tuesday Friday	Year 8, 9 Year 7
Violin Club		Wednesday	Year 7
Signing Choir		Thursday	All year groups, both lunchtimes
Guitar Club		Friday	Years 8, 9, 10
Jewels Club	Personal Development Hub	Thursday	Years 8, 9, 10

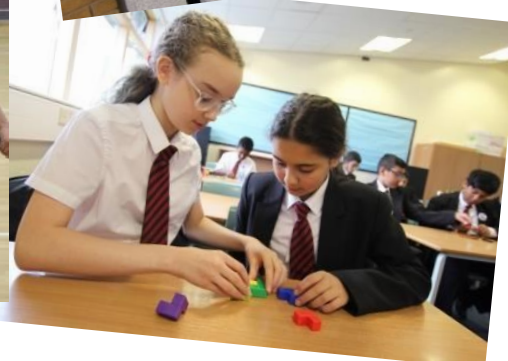


## After School Clubs and Revision sessions

What?	Where?	When?	Who's it for?
Business and Enterprise revision		Monday	Year 11
GCSE Computer Science revision		Friday	Year 11
Business Studies		Friday	Year 11
BTEC ICT revision		Monday	Year 11
Maths revision		Tuesday, Thursday	Year 11
English Study Group		Monday	Year 10
English revision		Tuesday	Year 11
Literacy Leaders		Monday	Year 7 and 9
High Attainer University lectures		Friday	Years 10 and 11
MFL revision	2B02	Monday	Year 11
Music revision		Monday, Friday	Year 11
Textiles NEA		Monday	Year 11
Product Design NEA		Wednesday Week 1	Year 11
Engineering		Wednesday Week 1	Year 11
Homework Club	Learning Mentors	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 2.50 - 3.50pm	

## Sports activities

There is a wide choice of sports activities taking place after school each day. Choose from netball, indoor climbing, trampolining, football and more. Students should look out for the notices in school as the exact sports offered may vary.



## Elite support equips students for success

### Varsity Academy

Support from academics at Oxford University will equip some of our most able students for life at university. We have joined a partnership with Oldham Sixth Form College and nine other Oldham schools to 'stretch and challenge' the young people so they will be well prepared for study at sixth form and beyond.

Over the course of the Varsity Academy programme, the students will visit the college once each term, with the first visit held earlier this autumn. On each occasion, the students will take part in four sessions - covering Science, Maths, English and Humanities.

During the year, they will also engage with online lectures, tutorials and competitions. In addition, the Varsity Academy is proud to be linked to the prestigious OxNet project, established by Pembroke College at Oxford University, and will be receiving extra support from Oxford academics. At the end of the programme the students will enjoy a graduation ceremony in November 2023, at which all their efforts will be celebrated.



Miss Arnold, said, "We are delighted to be taking part in the Varsity Programme. It is an incredible opportunity for students to develop their knowledge and academic skills so that they can feel more prepared for future study and gain confidence in themselves and their abilities."

Dr Richard Lee, Assistant Principal at OSFC, and founder of the Varsity Academy, said, "Research suggests that it is never too early for students to work at developing higher level knowledge and skills, or to begin thinking about their future progression routes. The Varsity Academy is our way of contributing to this process, we are grateful for the schools' wholehearted support in establishing the project."

## La visite au Marche de Noel a Manchester

### Manchester Christmas Markets with MFL

It was a test of French language skills for GCSE students as they travelled into Manchester for the famous Manchester Christmas Markets.

Visiting the many different food stalls around Exchange Square and St Ann's Square, students had to discover the names of the stalls serving French cuisine, together with food from a dozen other countries across the world.

They visited other stalls to explore many other goods that are on sale for Christmas. All of the clues to what they were looking for were of course in French. Their final test was to visit one particular stall, La cuisine Provencale on King Street, and ask eight questions of the stallholder, in French, and write down the answer they were given.

Our thanks to all the stallholders for being so helpful to the students with a practical demonstration of their language skills.



## Help is close at hand to cope with cost of living

### Christmas holiday support and more

We are all facing pressures as a result of rising prices, especially for energy costs, but it's important to remember there is help available, from many different sources.

Oldham Council's We Can Help project offers support for many varied circumstances - whether you are facing serious difficulties or just need a little support. They can help you to maximise your income, get help with your household bills, help you to manage your money, and find support with childcare

Visit the Oldham Council website at [We can help | Oldham Council](#)

During the school holiday, the Holiday Activities and Food programme will be in full swing. Between 17th December and 2nd January, the Council is working with over 30 local providers to host some amazing activities for children and young people to enjoy.

The activities include everything from sports camps, family cooking and craft sessions to Christmas themed theatre shows. Every activity provides a healthy meal too.



Children aged 5 to 16, who receive free school meals in Oldham, can book these sessions for free as part of our programme, with unique booking codes being sent out in the post directly for them to use when booking.

Those who are not eligible for free school meals can still participate but these places usually come at a small cost, and parents and carers are advised to contact providers directly before booking.

Oldham Council says, via their website, "In the meantime, for those of you who haven't taken part in our HAF programme before, these sessions are a great way of supporting our children and young people to have a great time socialising with people their own age while learning and playing new games over the holidays."

### Meals and uniform - we're doing our bit

Every day our student restaurant Café Mojo provides hundreds of high quality hot meals for students, as well as snacks and drinks. For many families for whom the cost is a barrier, the right to free school meals is an important benefit and we encourage you to claim what you are entitled to wherever possible.

You don't need to apply if you already receive or have applied for Housing Benefit or help with your Council Tax. Oldham Council will use the information and evidence you have already provided to confirm your entitlement to free school meals.

And please remember, our Uniform Exchange is available throughout the year if you could reuse preloved uniform items. We have a good stock of shirts, blazers, trousers and skirts, as well as ties, trainers and bags. If your child has grown out of items, please donate and take away items if available.

## Taking a look back

### November 2019 - Students take in a world of learning

Exercises in construction techniques, working out compass directions across a map of the UK, and discovering landmarks around the city centre of Liverpool - these were amongst the tasks set for Geography students as we welcomed staff from North West construction firm Wilmott Dixon into school.



### December 2016 - Voices raised and students praised



Students at The Radclyffe School were put through their Gospel paces by two professional Gospel singers at a wide ranging singing workshop, ahead of a performance at Newman College at the end of November.

Our students worked with Tyndale and Kadria Thomas from Voice Assembly, to learn the techniques of Gospel, as well as four songs that students performed at the concert.

### November 2013 - Our Day of the Doctor

Strange alien visitors walked among us, made themselves a cup of tea and even taught a few lessons.

The school joined in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Dr Who, with a special day as staff dressed up in a Dr Who theme. There were many doctors, from the recent to those further back. There were several long knitted scarves.

Our author in residence Mark Wright, writer of many Doctor Who stories as well as the best-selling 'Who-ology', worked with students in Year 7.

