

Seasons Greetings from the Principal

Despite new constraints from Covid, the mood in College over the past few weeks has been very positive. UCAS applications have been sent and offers are coming in. Year 13 students are understandably delighted!

Much to the relief of the students, the mock examinations finished in time for the College's Christmas celebrations, which included a traditional Christmas dinner and carol singing, with all students performing in their houses - congratulations to Aldermaston House for winning the House Music competition. Overall, an extremely good time was had by all.

Other highlights this term have included Year 10 students finally being able to experience live theatre, enjoying Macbeth by candlelight at the Arlington Arts Centre, Newbury. We have also had a number of universities present on campus (further details below).

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Lorraine Atkins
Principal



As the end of term approached, residential staff and students enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner, complete with turkey and all the traditional trimmings. Albi, our resident Labrador, was on hand to keep an eye on proceedings!





NCUK - New University Partnership

Padworth College is an accredited Study Centre for the delivery of NCUK's International Foundation Year (IFY) programme. Students who successfully complete NCUK's IFY qualification are able to progress to 40+ top-ranked universities in the UK. Last month, NCUK announced that it has partnered with Queen's University Belfast. Established in 1845, Queen's University Belfast is a member of the prestigious Russell Group, which is made up of 24 research-intensive universities that combine excellence in research and education with a student-centred ethos. We are delighted that Padworth College students enrolled on the IFY will now have the option to consider Queen's for their undergraduate degree.

Hour of Code and DigData Online Career Challenge

Last week all Year 10 and Year 11 Computer Science and IT students took part in an Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week (December 6-12). This was an opportunity for every student to learn how the technology around us works. The students were able to create their own apps or games. The activities were hands-on and interactive and the students learned computational thinking skills in an approachable way.

Separately, Year 13 IT students took part in an Online Career Challenge. They interacted with data experts from a leading brand in a work-experience challenge using data to solve a real business problem. They gained an insight into the skills required for a career in the data industry.



Year 10 Trip to Hamlet by Candlelight

One of the highlights from the Autumn Term was the Year 10 trip to see Hamlet by candlelight at the Alington Arts Centre, Newbury. The 'fear factor' that often occurs when watching the Scottish play, with its witches and regicide, was increased by the extra element of candlelight. Watching the actors through the flickering gloom chanting that famous spell, 'hubble, bubble, toil and trouble,' elevated the tension. Year 10 students will be studying this play for coursework in the New Year and we were very glad to have had the opportunity to see the play in these uncertain times.

Global Languages Event at the Willink School

On Friday 15 October, our Year 11 and Year 12 students attended a Global Languages event at the Willink - a large local secondary school, situated in close proximity to Padworth. Our EAL students prepared mini lessons and cultural presentations for small groups of Year 7 students at the Willink, spending two hours teaching a selection of topics to 11 and 12 year olds. Our students were able to see what life is like in a British state school and also challenge their English language skills. They were all thrilled with how things went and were rightly proud of how they conducted themselves.

UCAS Applications and University Visits

Throughout the Autumn Term, staff and students alike have been focused on university applications, with all UCAS applications submitted before the end of term. Many of our students have already started to receive offers, which is very exciting!

During the Autumn Term, we have also been able to welcome a number of universities on campus. Students enrolled on the NCUK International Foundation Year programme had a talk on 'Life at University' from Aston University. Some very good questions on university life were asked by our students! Our sixth form

students also benefitted from a presentation from Cardiff University on what Cardiff has to offer.

Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children

Finally, congratulations to all students and staff who participated in Christmas Jumper Day. We raised over £100 for Save the Children!



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