



## A message from the Principal

M. Gore

*“Winter is not a season, it’s a celebration”  
-Anamika Mishra*

The school community continues to triumph, making the very best out of challenging circumstances. It gives me great pleasure to regularly view the school and see our students engaging in their learning, developing their IB traits, being happy and above all - keeping safe. Over the past two modules, the leadership team has purposefully commissioned a range of external specialists to monitor the effectiveness of our provision achieving excellent feedback relating to the quality of education, SEND, subject foci, wellbeing and safeguarding.

What continues to be clear from all reports received is that our students are very proud of their school with highly effective staff that genuinely care.

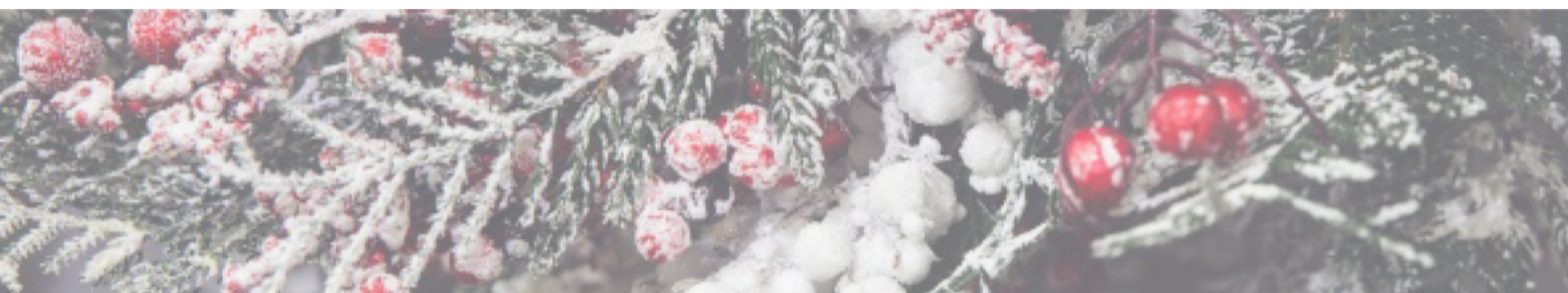
As I sum up the last two modules, I am pleased to provide you with key updates in relation to our whole school actions for this academic year:

**International School Award:** The British council has written to us confirming that our action plan to achieve the full award is well on track for June/July 2022.

**National Wellbeing Award:** We have achieved the prestigious ‘Wellbeing Award for Schools’ by the National Children’s Bureau in November.

**SEND Provision:** We have received a bespoke SEND review from an Ofsted inspector who provided a very positive report on the provision we offer in December.

**Personal Development Opportunities:** We have enhanced students understanding of sexual harrassment and religious education through bespoke single-sex assemblies and through a robust personal development curriculum.



**Cultural Capital:** I am delighted to inform you that we have provided a rich range of opportunities for students to attend external visits this academic year. You will see through the pages of this newsletter that trips and visits are an important aspect to our work enhancing students' experiences, making memories and connections to their learning. We are in the process of planning trips to a range of different countries in 2022 (fingers crossed!)

**Exam outcomes:** From November, we have introduced our very popular 'Reach for the Stars' incentive programme which has been designed by our students.

**Attendance:** Since the academy has come back in September, we have worked tirelessly to ensure our attendance rate is strong. I am pleased to report that we have averaged continuously 10% higher than the national average demonstrating the communities' confidence in what we do.

**Careers:** I am delighted to report that we continue to perform well against Gatsby Benchmark criteria. With the introduction of Unifrog and bespoke face to face careers guidance from January, we are confident that we provide excellent careers guidance information in all years.

**Chromebooks:** Our commitment to our digital strategy has been enhanced further by ensuring that every year group will be provided with a chromebook from January 2022 - three years earlier than planned!

## **Staffing**

### **Wellbeing Manager**

As we come to the end of a full term, we do have one staff leaver at the academy who has finally decided to step full-time into retirement. After 41 years in supporting children in different guises, Nigel Crocker will be putting his feet up and enjoying a well-earned break. From all of the Wilmington family, we acknowledge the life-changing work he has provided students and the legacy he has left behind as the first-ever Wellbeing Manager at the academy. His successor is Sarah West, currently Student Service Manager for Minerva, who has a wealth of experience to bring to the role.

Minerva SSM - Mrs V Couldridge  
Replacing Sarah West as Student Service Manager for Minerva, we are delighted to introduce Mrs Couldridge who is a very experienced practitioner who will add further strength to the effective Minerva Team.

Acting SENCO - Miss S Hawley  
Miss S Hawley will be the Acting Senco from January 2022, moving across from Apollo to have a wider school impact. Miss Hawley has full National SENCO Award and is passionate to ensure the provision continues to be highly effective.

### **Other Staffing Arrangements:**

Acting Head of Geography - Mr R West  
Director of Learning for VPA (Visual & Performing Arts) - Ms L Collinson

Coordinator PE - Mr T Cooper

Director of Learning for IB Programmes - Miss K Sanders

Careers Lead - Joanna Bramley

## Senior Pastoral College Structure from Jan 2022

		Apollo	Jupiter	Minerva
Y11	HOC	Mr P Devlin	Mrs S Goodall	Mr P Lonergan
Y10	AP	Ms G Stringer	Mr A Farr	Ms T Salih
Y9	HOY	Mr D Dowling	Mr M Hellyer	Ms J Morris
Y8	HOY	Mr A Schoeddert	Mr S Staunton	Mr R Willington
Y7	AP	Mr I Priest	Mr L Barker	Mrs C Quan
SSM		Mr P Marshall	Mrs D Peeling	Mrs S Duff
SSM		Mrs R Arthur	Ms M McLean	Mrs V Couldridge

The academy looks forward to welcoming you in the new year but appreciate that you now have valuable time with the family to enjoy the festive celebrations.

Yours sincerely  
Mr M Gore  
Principal

## Wellbeing Award for Schools

### *Mr Crocker*

We are delighted to report that Wilmington Academy has received national accreditation for the tremendous work that has gone into promoting emotional wellbeing and positive mental health across the academy since 2019. Consequently, we have been awarded the Wellbeing Award for Schools, in partnership with the National Children's Bureau, and have added the accreditation below to our website.

The Wellbeing Award for Schools focuses on changing the long-term culture of the school by using an evidence-based framework to drive change. Our bespoke wellbeing service, facilitated by two very experienced well being managers, enables daily support for every student, their parents/carers and staff, and has been recognised by our external verifier as an 'invaluable resource'.



In addition some highlights in the final report were:

- Leaders are reflective on the progress made and able to identify and articulate the next steps
- The school's support for mental health and wellbeing and wider pastoral provision is well-led and the school has invested significantly to build capacity to deliver further support
- The small school, college model enables students to develop a greater sense of belonging.
- The school has key individuals with significant expertise of mental health and wellbeing
- Staff, parents/carers and students recognised the crucial role that the pastoral team and wellbeing service play in supporting the needs of students
- Support is effectively coordinated with safeguarding and SEN provision through regular meetings
- There is a strong sense of team and belonging among staff, students and parents who feel valued and listened too
- The school provides additional support before and after transition to secondary school to ensure all students get off to a good start and build a sense of belonging quickly.

Our website was also recognised as a great resource, containing useful links to external agencies.

We would like to thank those students and parents who met with the verifier from the Wellbeing Award for Schools to share their experiences of the support that has been put in place for them.



## Message from Mr Nigel Crocker

Wellbeing Manager

*"What is Christmas? It is the tenderness of the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future."*

*-Agnes M. Pahro*

As I am writing this message, I thought about what Christmas means to me, it is not the food, drinks or presents, (although I do enjoy the food!) but it is being with family and friends. Last year, we all had to make do with our own company due to the lockdown. I hope this year, you are able to celebrate with family and loved ones again! However, please spare a moment to remember that for many people they will still be alone for Christmas. My fervent wish is that you all take on the challenge to talk to others who might be alone even if it is only a phone call, video chat or even knocking on someone's door to wish them a Merry Christmas. It does make all the difference; knowing someone is thinking of you even if you cannot be with them.

This term has seen the end of a long journey for the Wellbeing team as we have successfully gained the Schools' Wellbeing Award. This is a national award recognising the work we all do at Wilmington Academy to support students, parents and staff with their wellbeing. The journey which started before the first lockdown, gave us a chance to celebrate all we do here at Wilmington to improve everyone's wellbeing. The examining team was very impressed with the Academy's commitment to making sure students have someone to talk to when they need it.



One of the pledges for the future is to set up Peer - Wellbeing Champions. These will be students who will be trained to talk with other students about their worries and fears, and then help signpost them to the right support at school. This will mean that we are able to increase the support that we provide to everyone at Wilmington Academy.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I have to say after forty one years of working with young people across Kent and here at Wilmington, that this will be my last Wellbeing message as I retire at the end of this term. Although I will not be giving up working with young people completely

as I will be volunteering with a local charity, 'Slide Away' which provides support for bereaved children, young people and their parents across Mid-North Kent. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me during my time at Wilmington and wish you all a Happy Holiday period, and remember you can make someone happy by just giving them some time to talk.

Mrs West will take on the role of Wellbeing Manager from January and will continue the great work by persevering to support the wellbeing of staff, parents and our students.

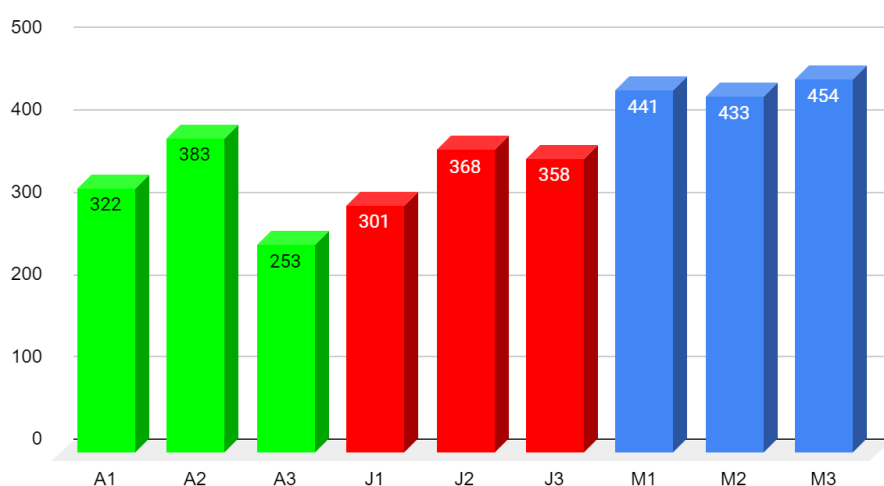
## Reach for the Stars

We are delighted to announce the launch of our successful rewards programme 'Reach for the Stars' for 2021/22. This has proved an excellent motivational tool in the past to help support and encourage exam students to strive for the best grades possible, whilst earning rewards along the way.

The programme is used to motivate and engage students in the run up to both GCSE and KS5 exams, and a year 11 and 13 'Raising Standards Student Group' has created a four module programme where all students can achieve rewards for their effort in class, attendance at school and attendance at revision sessions.

Students can monitor their progress via their key stage 'Reach for the Stars' tracker and rewards range from a 'fast-track' lunch pass, food from our restaurant, a Bluewater or Amazon voucher, or a voucher towards a summer prom ticket.

Total Points by Tutor Group



# Student Librarians

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Mr Chapman (a former student) is our new Librarian and he has wasted no time in implementing some exciting new initiatives in our library, including the provision of Student Librarians. Students had to complete an application process which included having a teacher reference, so that they could be considered for the position. Not only does the position involve helping out in the library, but also includes peer mentoring of younger students who are struggling to read fluently.

The Student Librarians have started their roles with a real gusto and are really enjoying making a difference:

“Being a student librarian meant that I was a caretaker for all the information and knowledge of all books of literature. When I got the news that I’ve been awarded the role of being student librarian, I was astonished. To be a student librarian, I assist with the library to maintain the proper operation of the library on a daily basis. I have always had an interest in books, especially books surrounded by crime, human behaviours and life in general. I was chosen for this role because I portrayed leadership skills, communicative skills and organisational skills. My duty as a student librarian is to shelve and evaluate books, as well as to assist students in properly using the library and to render assistance to library staff when necessary, and most of all to be a role model for the younger years, so they may also aspire to be student librarians. My goal is to make the library a joyful and secure environment for all book lovers.”

***Chidinma E - Year 11***

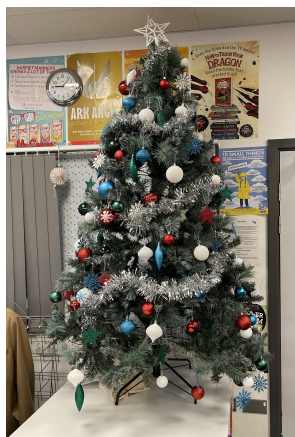
“...But what is a student librarian, you may ask? Well, a student librarian is a student that helps within the library to assist and aid individuals needs. Our job is to motivate and ignite students’ love for reading and learning. We help to assist throughout the library either if students need assistance with selecting books, completing homework or sharing opinions about various books. We additionally aid the librarian with tasks such as putting the books away, cleaning up and keeping the library in good condition. The student librarians contribute to the efficiency of the library by providing us with a sense of responsibility and pride with the badges we wear every day and knowing that our job is to help throughout the library and assist those to the best of our capacity. But we all get to share one common love - reading!”

***Grace O - Year 11***

# Literacy at Wilmington

*"The rooms were very still while the pages were softly turned and the winter sunshine crept in to touch the bright heads and serious faces with a Christmas greeting."*

*-Louisa May Alcott, Little Women*



We have had a very busy, exciting and fulfilling experience in the library and throughout the academy since the start of the new academic year. Since the arrival of our new librarian Mr T.

Chapman, events, celebrations and activities have exploded in the LRC, bringing back that old, familiar buzz to the place.

We have always maintained that it is the heart of the school, and looking at it today with the bustle of happy faces buried in books, to tinsel and fairy lights on the library Christmas tree, to the children engaged merrily in angel-making workshops, one can feel the steady heart of Wilmington gently beating away!

More reading books have arrived, showing off in their new covers, new shelves are

being erected as window sills abound with new reads, students are pouring in to tuck in to a good read (especially when it's cold outside) - it's never been busier! Mr Chapman has



certainly added his enthusiasm and charm to the place. New displays, new posters and of course new books! The LRC is also now the home of a brilliant new Book Club and a very popular Games Club.

Y7s students have happily settled into their new routines regarding the Accelerated Reader lessons, Y8s are working harder to achieve more points in their quizzing and reading and even the post 16 students are hopping along to partake in the new library buzz!

This year, we have promoted student leaders and have seen the new cohort of library prefects. They were sworn in by Mr Gore, our principal, in a beautiful function at school in module 2. We are incredibly proud of their commitment, risk-taking and leadership skills.



Our new library prefects are:

Scarlett A (Y8)

Shyla B (Y7)

Chidinma E (Y11)

Nicole K (Y7)

Kanna M (Y7)

Grace O (Y11)

Mercy O (Y7)

Darcie P (Y13)

Hiya P (Y7)

Jude W (Y7)

### Word Millionaires:

Terry C (Y8)  
David O (Y7)  
George A (Y7)  
Brandon N (Y8)

### Most Quizzes Passed:

Joshua P (Y8) - 45  
Salman A (Y8) - 32  
Micky C (Y8) - 32  
Magdalena S (Y8) - 31  
Terry C (Y8) - 29  
Henry J (Y8) - 26  
David O (Y7) - 25

**Number of books borrowed from the LRC so far:**  
3,809

**Number of books read on myON so far:**  
3.63K

## Form Time Literacy:

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Lessons during form time have become even more successful with whole form readings in module 2. This module the KS3 classes read non-fiction material from MYON based on the theme of Science, Mystery and Adventure while KS4 students explored the reading of non-fiction texts from MYON on the theme of the Supernatural. Throughout these lessons, students focus on the exploration and development of new tier 2 vocabulary as this forms part of our literacy strategy at Wilmington. Spelling tests take place at the end of each module to assess whether our students have embedded the Word of the Week key words into their vocabulary. The new vocabulary books have been a great tool ensuring, that students are remembering these tier 2 words and that they are enhancing their word hoard over time to be even more successful after they have moved on from Wilmington Academy.

There has never been a better time to visit our LRC at Wilmington.

Come in and tuck into a new read today.

Come in and 'travel' to new places with thousands of new books.

Come in and embrace the spirit of Christmas in one of our workshops.





# The Literacy Football Quiz

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The Wilmington Academy Literacy Team has had a very successful module, fielding a team to the first ever National Literacy Football Quiz!

A focused group of Year 7s tackled a series of questions in a competition hosted by Match of the Day magazine favourite, Jake Wilson, with award-winning authors, Tom Palmer and Rob Williams, authors of the Roy of The Rovers series. The team worked well to maintain possession, and look forward to competing again next year.

*"Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"*

*-Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

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## Unifrog

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*"Successful people have fear, successful people have doubts, and successful people have worries. They just don't let these feelings stop them."*

*- T. Harv Eker*

Unifrog is the complete destinations' platform, a one-stop-shop for whole-school careers guidance. It's impartial, user-friendly platform allows students to explore potential career pathways throughout school, evidence key activities and competencies, and draft CVs to submit the strongest possible applications.

Our aim is to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next step after school. Students in years 10, 11 and Post 16 will follow a tailored careers programme of

study during form time; with years 7-9 following a programme of study during their morals and ethics lessons, using the Unifrog platform.

Unifrog has proved to be a massive hit with students. One year 7 student said: "it's really exciting to think about what I'm good at and what jobs I could do going forward. I'd never thought of being a physiotherapist, but now I'm excited to find out more!"

Another year 10 commented that: "Unifrog helped me to learn about higher level apprenticeships. It has shown me what I need to do to get to where I need to go next, and given me lots of support to get there."

We are so excited to use Unifrog as a tool to support our students on their own journeys to success!

# Modern Foreign Languages at Wilmington

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## *“Mis mejores deseos para Navidad y Año Nuevo”*

The language department has been making a lot more ‘noise’ this year, which is just the way we like it! Speaking exams are back after a two year break and our year 11s have ‘kicked this off’ with a grueling few days of speaking mock exams. They have shown true resilience, through weekly revision sessions and we are very excited for what’s to come from our talented KS4 language students.

We have also been able to start up a language club for our year 9 students in preparation for our summer trip to Spain. These open-minded students have been using a broad range of skills to create content around British culture. They have been creating videos to show off school life at Wilmington Academy, with particular emphasis on our outstanding facilities, which they are very excited to share with our exchange school in Madrid in the new year.

As an IB school, we celebrated European Day of Languages across the cohort with a fun escape room activity during tutor time. The feedback we received was very positive and we were pleased to see how many of our students value the importance of learning a foreign language. This was followed by some Halloween- inspired escape room activities with the year 9 groups and our Spanish students in particular found out some interesting facts about the Mexican holiday ‘Día de los Muertos’.

Finally, the year 7 and 8 students have continued to take part in the NCELP programme and are already proving what remarkable communicators they are through their accurate pronunciation of some particularly challenging foreign words. Keep up the good work!

*“Learning another language is not only learning different words for the same things, but learning another way to think about things.”*

# Reflections of a post-16 IB Biology student...

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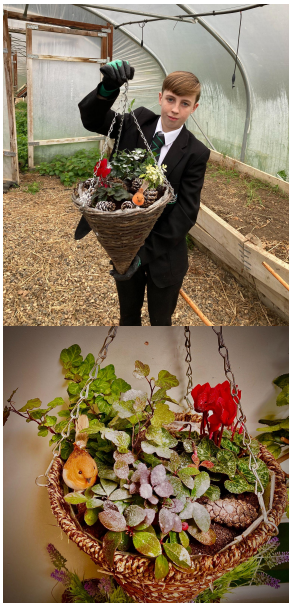
## **Department of Science**

*"In biology, nothing is clear, everything is too complicated, everything is a mess, and just when you think you understand something, you peel off a layer and find deeper complications beneath. Nature is anything but simple."*  
- Richard Preston.

In aspiration of a future career in medicine, I recently attended the Post Mortem Live event in London. It was one of the most insightful experiences that I have attended. There was a synthetic cadaver present and real animal organs available for dissection. The objective was to determine the cause of death by exploring the human anatomy of the "deceased". This gave me an excellent opportunity to explore the full body of human anatomy from a practical point of view by exploring both healthy and

affected tissue. It was fascinating to learn about the 4 stages of decomposition that a human body goes through and to learn how anatomists use them to determine both cause and time of death. The whole event was extremely immersive and it really brought to mind how the theoretical biology that I have been learning about in school for many years comes together in a functioning human body. Viewing the digestive system of a pig was incredible - and yet still pungent. The whole experience really put the study of biology at my fingertips. I aim to attend more workshops in the future.

Maya M.  
Year 13 IB  
Biology student



## Horticulture at our Academy

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*"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."*  
-Norman Vincent Peale

This module, in Horticulture, we have made our annual Christmas baskets and pots that the students always look forward to creating to get them into the Christmas spirit! Staff were pleasantly surprised when they turned up at their classroom doors with robins galore!

Although now, this time of year, there is not much we can do outside, we are getting ready to clean and clear our polytunnels so that they are ready for our new crops such as radishes, turnips and other flavoursome herbs.



# Geography Department

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*“Our world is evolving without consideration, and the result is a loss of biodiversity, energy issues, and congestion in cities. But Geography, if used correctly, can be used to redesign sustainable and more livable cities.”*

*-Jack Dangermond*

The Geography Department made its way to the London Sealife Aquarium on Friday 3rd December as a real Christmas treat with a group of Year 7 students. We spent time in the surrounding area identifying many of the landmarks of London before exploring the aquarium and all of its wonders - from counting penguins to spotting sea turtles! This school trip proved to be invaluable as it helped students to link this event with the study of fantastic places around the world and how Coral reefs are being impacted by climate change.

Meanwhile, our Year 8 students have been studying a piece of modern geographical history in the form of the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. They have explored the causes, effects and responses of this disaster; as well as looking at how we could prevent it from ever having the same effect again. Year 9 students have been busy investigating the Antarctic, looking at how it is changing as a result of climate change, as well as why everybody is so keen to take a piece of it for themselves. They are thoroughly enjoying this unit!

Heading into our KS4 groups, year 10 have been exploring the challenges we are facing in terms of food, water and energy supplies. This is framed in relation to the UK as a focus as well as the effects felt around the world. Our important GCSE Year 11 students have been very busy preparing for their crucial mock exams and have risen to the challenge to be as prepared as possible - Fingers crossed they are duly rewarded when they get their results!

Finally, our inaugural Post 16 group have been exploring the world of leisure, sport and tourism with Ms Hawkins- looking at a variety of themes, ranging from how sporting events promote tourism to the way in which films/television can promote tourism in some places. On the other hand, in Mr West's lessons, they have been 'digging' through the various layers of the Earth, studying tectonic activity in more detail than ever before.

In conclusion, we are really excited to report that during the next academic year a group of current year 10 and 12 students will be journeying to Iceland in order to see the way tectonic activity has shaped the lives of the people living there.



# History

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*“The whole course of human history may depend on a change of heart in one solitary and even humble individual - for it is in the solitary mind and soul of the individual that the battle between good and evil is waged and ultimately won or lost.”*

*-M. Scott Peck*

As we approach the end of our first term of the 2021/22 academic year, the History department is incredibly proud of how dedicated and enthusiastic our History students have been. We are so lucky that our students are so inquisitive and open-minded to British and Global history.

This module, our Year 7 students have been studying ‘The Norman Conquest’ and have been utilising their research skills to make a judgement on who they feel would have been the best heir to the throne in 1066. It has been wonderful to see the passion that Year 7 students have demonstrated to convey what their idea of a good leader is.

Our Year 8 students have been learning about the ‘Transatlantic Slave Trade’ route and the impact that this had on African enslaved people. Students have created some very powerful assessment pieces on key slave abolitionists and have used their caring and knowledgeable skills to explain why slavery should be abolished. Year 8 students have also been reflective on the impact that slavery still has in today’s society.

Meanwhile, our Year 9 students have been studying the rise of ‘20th Century Dictators’ and have been drawing upon the similarities and differences between political ideologies and what fuels a dictator to want total control. Year 9 students have been studying dictators from all over the world, some of which include: Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Peron, Tito, Idi-Amin and Mussolini. This has allowed students to be independent inquirers whilst researching a dictatorship of their choice. This topic ties in nicely with the department’s History trip to Auschwitz in July 2022 which will help students to see first hand the atrocities of past dictatorships.

Our Year 10 historians have got off to a flying start with their History GCSE studies. They have been studying how medicine and health has changed over time. They started exploring the Medieval ideas of Hippocrates and Galen and the impact that their limited knowledge of medicine had on society, in particular the Black Death of 1348 which people thought was caused by God, punishing them from their sins. Students have moved through the Renaissance era where they developed their knowledge about the Theory of Miasma and how doctors believed that diseases were caused by bad smells. Finally, Year 10 students have just finished studying the Industrial era where they have seen big changes to the medicine world such as the discovery of the Germ Theory in 1861 as well as James Simpson and Joseph Lister’s discovery of anesthetics and antiseptics.

Year 11 students have been really busy preparing for their mock exams and have shown a real dedication to improving their historical knowledge and exam skills - The History department are keeping their fingers crossed that our Year 11 students are rewarded for their efforts and hard work!

In conclusion, our Post 16 groups have been exploring the world of Civil Rights and the devastations that faced the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries which involved African-American's being persecuted for the colour of their skin. Year 12 students have learnt how to research academically and have been using these skills to research key individuals who were involved in the civil rights movement. Last but by no means least - our Year 13 students have been busy consolidating their knowledge in preparation for their mock exams which they have worked incredibly hard for.

## Maths

*"Mathematics is the music of reason."*  
- James Joseph Sylvester

### Year 11 and Year 13

The Maths department would like to convey a huge 'Well Done' to the year 11 and the year 13 students for their hard work over the recent modules preparing for the mock examinations.



To further support their learning and to develop as independent learners, each student will be receiving a feedback sheet which clearly

shows the topics that they were successful in, and the topics that they need to focus their revision on for next academic year. The use of online resources such as Tassomai and Kognity will continue to be used to support independent studies.



The current Tassomai champions are:

- Ingrid Alexander Yr 11 Minerva
- Skaiste Krylovaite Yr 11 Jupiter
- Adeel Napaul Yr 10 Apollo



In preparation for the recent mock exams and the launch of the school initiative of 'The Reach for the Stars' program', we saw a high number of students attending after school revision and we are looking forward to this continuing in the new year.

### Numeracy

Very well done to Year 7 - 9 for participating in the Numeracy Ninja program.



We have also launched the numeracy LOCKS which focuses on key skills to support students' numeracy and mathematics.

Year 10 students have commenced the 'Year on Finance for Life' form time project. This allows the students to discuss different financial concepts e.g. the difference between savings and saving, in order to help prepare them for life after school.

MYP

A huge well done to year 7 and 8 MYP classes on completing their baseline tests.



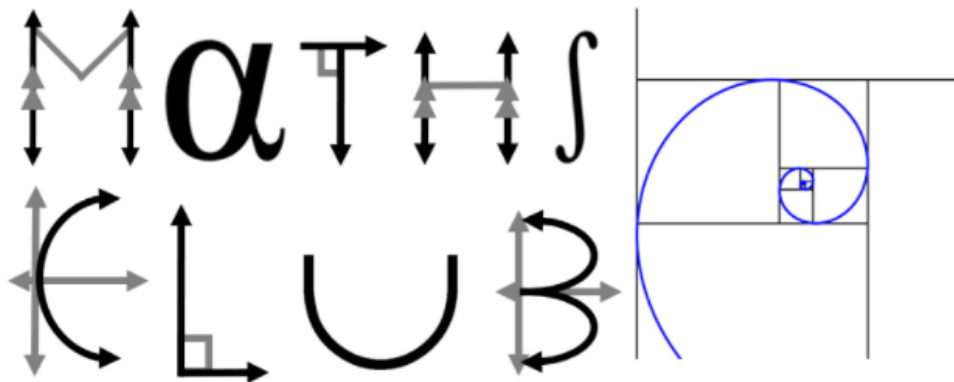
With over 95% completion rate we have been very impressed with the outcomes and the

resilience that our students have shown.

The KS3 Maths Club has successfully been running every Monday after school during Module 2. It has been great to see a variety of students taking advantage of this club with a range of activities including support and challenge opportunities.

The Maths Department would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and restful holiday and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

The Maths Department



Monday, 3pm-4pm, M12 - Year 7-10

Please join us for additional support with homework, classwork or for an extra challenge.  
(chromebook's required)

# Music

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## Rockin around the Christmas Tree...

*"Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife."*  
- Kahlil Gibran

Since September, the music department has been hard at work trying to provide fantastic musical experiences to make up for the time lost due to COVID.

Unfortunately our Christmas Showcase has had to be postponed until March 2022 but, in spite of this, the music rooms have been buzzing with musical activity. Currently, we have students learning how to play the keyboard every Thursday. The guitar, drums and ukulele are also taught every Tuesday and many students have also taken up the learning of these instruments. As well as this, we have students that come to rehearse in groups and from the next module we will have a club dedicated to learning how to use music technology.

In order to reward our students, we have set up a scheme where they can earn pin badges for attending a certain number of clubs. If they attend 12 musical activities they earn their bronze, if they attend 24, they earn their silver, if they attend 36 they earn their gold. The ultimate is, of course, platinum if they achieve 48 points!

It has been so heart- warming to see so many students getting engaged with music and we are very excited about what the future has in store for our talented students.

If your child would like to attend a music club and start earning their badges we would love to see them after school on Monday for Music Technology Club, Tuesday for Rockband or Thursday for Keyboard Club!

*"If music be the food of love, play on-  
Shakespeare."*

## The Department of ART at Wilmington

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### LAT Christmas Card Competition

Each year the ART department takes part in the LAT Christmas card competition. We aim this towards our KS4 and post 16 students. As a department, we encourage our BTEC art students to focus on a theme and use a variety of materials. This year we had some amazing entries including this year's winner, Elizabeth Dickinson, M6, year 10. We are very proud of all of the students who

participated and beyond impressed with the work they produced. We are exceptionally proud of Elizabeth and her amazing creative talent that she portrayed through the use of colouring pencils in her festive card design.



## Art Club and KS3 Christmas card competition

### Art club is back!

This module, students have created their own art club and personal badges focusing on the theme of the festive season. Effectively using pens, pencils and paints within the module, they have explored winter landscapes and then christmas baubles. Finally, they created their own Christmas card designs which were magnificent!

Each year the ART department holds a KS3 Christmas card competition. We've had some fantastic designs and we are very proud of our students for taking the time and care to produce such lovely work. The winners will be announced at the end of year college assemblies.



## Drama

The appeal of Zoom productions, livestreams and audio shows may have peaked, but nothing comes close to sitting in a theatre and watching a live production of your favourite show. It's been just wonderful to return to the theatre again and be immersed in the world of the characters. Year 10 Performing Arts' students had the exciting opportunity to see three live performances as part of their exploration of their coursework component.

First was 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' at the Apollo theatre. The story of a boy who dreams of being a drag queen, a coming-of-age stage Musical with music by Dan Gillespie Sells and the book and lyrics by Tom MacRae, including huge hits like, "The Wall in My Head", "It Means Beautiful" and "Out of the Darkness (A Place Where We Belong)" Students thoroughly enjoyed the performance and for some it was their first time watching a Musical Theatre performance.

"It was absolutely amazing, a really good show!"

M.Hodder.

"I loved it" E.Stewart





Just last week, as part of component 1, students got the opportunity to watch another style of performance, Physical Theatre. A play co-choreographed by Frantic Assembly, 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' at the Troubadour Theatre in Wembley Park. The performance was superb, using elements of spoken dialogue alongside stylised, thought-provoking movement.

"I didn't even think it was possible to do those things in a theatre!" I.Neal.



Finally, just before we break up for Christmas, students from year 11 and 10 will be watching 'The Lion King.'

The Drama department also held an exciting competition: key stage 3 students from Mrs Wild's and Mr Willington's Drama club had the unique opportunity to win a free ticket to see the show. We don't know who's more excited, the students or Mr Willington!



*"And it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!"*

- Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

Mrs Wild & Mr Willington  
Department of Drama

## Staggered Start from January

In order to facilitate the Department for Education guidance re: COVID testing for students on their return to the academy in January 2022, we have had to amend the students return to the academy dates see below.

**Wednesday 5 January – Year 9, 10 and 11 return**

**Thursday 6 January – Year 7, 8 and Post-16 return**

Period 1 on both Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 January will be tutor periods, so students should go directly to their usual tutor group classroom.

# Cultural Awareness Programme at Wilmington

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*"Our many different cultures notwithstanding, there's something about the holidays that makes the planet communal. Even nations that do not celebrate Christmas can't help but be caught up in the collective spirit of their neighbors, as twinkling lights dot the landscape and carols fill the air. It's an inspiring time of the year."*

*-Marlo Thomas*

This academic year Cultural Awareness is going worldwide; taking the students to explore a variety of cultures. During module 1, all KS3 students had enjoyed Cultural Awareness sessions on the culture of Somalia with their tutors once a week during form time. They explored both the History and Geography of the country and then learned about different forms of art. As poetry is a very important aspect of Somali culture, they have explored three young poets and their links to our culture in Britain. The activity that students enjoyed very much was learning about

Henna body art, which is used in all celebrations in Somali culture. They particularly enjoyed tracing their hands and then creating their own Henna art on the paper. Students finished the module by creating a project on an aspect of Somali culture, either digitally or on paper. Here are just a few examples of their wonderful work.

In module 2, students are learning all about the beauty of Afghan culture, where they find out how Afghans celebrate their festivals and how kite flying is a very popular sport. They will aim to learn some words from the two main languages used in the country and finish with another project, this time about the wonders of Afghanistan and its rich culture. We are positive that our cultural awareness programme is going a long way to create more internationally - minded students at Wilmington Academy.

## Wilmington Academy Extra Curricular Clubs

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*"When I was a kid and Christmas was coming up, my dad would ask me what I wanted, and I always said a motorbike. I kept asking for one, and he said it was too dangerous and bought me a go-kart instead."*

*-Lewis Hamilton*

The overwhelming uptake of students participating in extracurricular sports' clubs has been electric! Clubs have ranged from Netball, Football, Basketball, Rugby, Gym and Fitness, with pupils pushing and challenging themselves to display incredible skills and tactics in a range of sports and to strive for personal achievement. A MASSIVE well done for all those students who have been involved with extracurricular activities this term - remember, there is still room for anyone who is thinking about trying something new!

Be a RISK TAKER and join a club!



# Fixtures

Football has taken off this term and the Wilmington Wombats have been in action. The year 8 team started their cup run with an incredible 8 - 1 win against Trinity school!

The Year 7s 'kicked off' this year with the first win against Orchards academy in a thrilling and hard-fought 2-1 victory at home. The second game for the mighty year 7 didn't go as planned following a few selection changes when playing against the Leigh Academy, however, bigger and better things will happen in the next one!



We had an incredible day with some of our year 7 and 8 girls' football team representing Wilmington Academy whilst participating in the EFL Girls' Cup tournament at Charlton Athletic Community Trust. This was the first time these particular students had played on the same team, and they grew from strength to strength throughout the duration of the tournament showing excellent teamwork skills. They also had an opportunity to meet current Charlton Athletic Footballers such as Ella Rutherford!

We are really looking forward to the extra-curricular clubs in the New Year, there will be more exciting clubs on offer, and many more opportunities for students to participate in. It is great to see so many of you receiving prizes from extracurricular activities.

Remember to bring your stamp cards to collect prizes and rewards! For every 10 stamps, you will receive a prize and a raffle ticket to enter a bigger prize draw each term. Please remember - if you participate in a sport or activity outside of school, please inform the PE department as there might be opportunities for you to represent the school in these activities.





# Basketball Focus

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## ***A Trip to Copper Box Arena***

*“Once you know what failure feels like, determination chases success.” - Kobe Bryant*

The London Lions are a household name in the basketball world - a professional basketball team based in Stratford and host to a number of players with NBA experience under their belt. On 8th October, the Wilmington Academy year 11 basketball team went to Stratford to watch the London Lions dominate a game against Surrey Scorchers at the Copper Box Arena. The atmosphere was incredible, especially from front row seats, and the talent that was on display became an inspiration for our young, budding basketball players who have an upcoming tournament themselves. A wonderful evening was had by all, filled with dunks, three-pointers and the many free-throw shots to secure a win for the London Lions!



## N.C.S.

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Both our Year 12 and Year 13 students took part in the NCS programme as part of their induction into Post 16 - 2021. As part of the programme they participated in a number of different offsite activities at Stubbers Adventure Sports Centre in Essex. Activities included raft building, climbing and problem solving. Students then took part in a social action project, where they organised and delivered events to raise awareness and money for charity. All the students did extremely well and were a credit to Post 16, raising over £800 for a number of amazing causes.

Congratulations to them all!

“My favourite part of NCS was the first two days of activities where we took part in many different tasks and activities that included kayaking and rock climbing. I developed skills such as communication, team work and resilience. This experience will help me in the future in situations such as working in a team because I have developed communication skills as well and teamwork. It will also help me whenever I face a challenge because I have developed resilience to not give up.”

Year 12 Student

## Post 16 Taster Day

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Year 11 had a post 16 taster day in module 1 that saw them experience what ‘a day in the life of a post 16 student’ might be like. The day was hugely successful with all having a tailored timetable to follow. The students had the opportunity to discuss career opportunities in their selected subjects and look at what options lay before them in the summer term.

# Apollo HOC Report

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*“We are not our best intentions. We are what we do.”*

*— Amy Dickinson*

As we approach the end of Module 2 and reflect on the academic year so far, it is clear that we all have much to be proud of. Despite the present and future challenges facing all of us, with the resultant impact on all aspects of our lives, I have continued to be impressed with the high level of resilience shown by our students. It is a huge credit to them that they have dealt with the various adaptations to their lives whilst retaining such a positive attitude, showing care and consideration for others facing difficult circumstances.

What sets our students apart is their strong work ethic which is one of the key drivers of success, not only in school but throughout their working lives. The first thing we look for when we are reviewing student reports is how well they are applying themselves to their studies, as we know that if they are trying their best, they will achieve. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support in encouraging the best habits for academic success. As the quote above says, it is not simply a case of wanting to do the right thing, it is the act of doing so.

As we move into the New Year, we know that although 2022 will present our students with obstacles, I am confident that our students will show that they can overcome them.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe, relaxing and enjoyable festive season and I hope you have a wonderful New Year!

Pete Devlin  
Head of College (Apollo)

# Jupiter HOC Report

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*"Yes We Can!"*  
- Barack Obama

As we approach another Christmas in Jupiter college, I would like to express thanks to each and every one of our students for the commitment and dedication they have shown to both the college and the Academy in modules 1 and 2.

As you are aware, we have now fully moved into the excellent new Jupiter building and the English, Individuals and Societies, IT and business departments are really enjoying teaching in their beautiful new surroundings.

We started the year tremendously well and have seen many of our students return with a 'can do and positive' attitude. The students are engaged with their learning and all have thoroughly enjoyed the range of SMSC activities on our recent Action and Interdisciplinary days. Key Stage 3 students have continued to thrive and the MYP has seen students go from strength to strength in year 7, 8 and 9. I have been delighted to see the challenge and rigour of the MYP being embraced by all of our students. Our year 11 students have adopted a mature attitude since their return and are on track for great success in the summer months. They have just completed a full set of mock examinations and the initial results are extremely promising. The 'Reach for the Stars' rewards programme is in full swing and the Jupiter students are gaining points and more importantly, confidence in their studies. Attendance at revision sessions has been high and this must continue in module 3 so that students are able to reach their full potential.

In spite of the recent challenges, attendance in Jupiter College has remained high, ensuring that students are benefiting from being back in school. Every student is part of the 'HERO' attendance programme which gives rewards to high attenders. This is not just from an educational point of view, but also from a social and wellbeing perspective. The Jupiter pastoral team is always on hand to help students and their families when the need arises. I am really proud of the support my team provides on a daily basis to the Jupiter community.

As always, I extend my huge thanks to all of those families who support and actively encourage our students: I truly believe that because of the strong relationships built between home and school, that our students don't just fly - they Soar! As Barack Obama once said, with a "Yes we can!" attitude, the sky really is the limit.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very peaceful, restful and joyful Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Stephanie Goodall  
Head of Jupiter College





## Minerva College Message

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*"When you're surrounded by people who share a passionate commitment around a common purpose, anything is possible."*  
- Howard Schultz

I would like to thank each and every one of our students for the way they have worked throughout the academic year so far. We are delighted to be back in the Minerva building together as a college and we have enjoyed a highly successful start to the year.

Special congratulations to Elizabeth D, Year 10 Minerva, who achieved first place with a very professional design in the Christmas card competition which was judged from all entries across the Trust. We would also like to congratulate Harrison K, Year 10 Minerva, who has recently been appointed as the Dartford representative in the Kent Youth County Council. Well done to you both!

Our students have shown determination and dedication to their studies, particularly with the SMSC activities on our recent Action and Interdisciplinary days. Students in Year 7 have started their MYP journey and embraced the learner profile with initial assessments and merits highlighting excellent progress. Year 8 and 9 have continued their journey, with excellent outcomes sustained from the last academic year, in line with global averages.

We have been hugely impressed with the way in which our Year 10 students have started their GCSEs as well as their work in the tutor time programme, learning about careers and personal finance.

I am exceptionally proud of our Year 11 students, who have all met with me one-to-one to discuss their progress and future aspirations. The wide variety of interests, skills and motivation has been inspirational. The 'Reach for the Stars' rewards programme is well underway with Minerva College leading with the most points throughout module 2 - a fantastic achievement. I know Year 11 will continue with their hard work to ensure we remain top in module 3!

Module 2 saw the launch of our 'H.E.R.O.' attendance programme for all students, rewarding students who have demonstrated excellent attendance. The Minerva pastoral team is always here to support our students and their families when needed and it has been a wonderful privilege to work with our outstanding Minerva pastoral team and serve the Minerva community.

Our team is hugely grateful for the support our parents/carers and families give us. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very peaceful, restful and joyful Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Patrick Lonergan  
Head of Minerva College