



I begin this edition of the newsletter by wishing our wonderful Year 11 cohort well as they move on to the next stage of their lives. They have worked incredibly hard to achieve the best results they can in what has been a very disrupted final two years of school for them. The way in which our Year 11's have coped with everything that has been thrown at them has been fantastic, a lesson to us all. They have shown huge resilience, great effort and courage and no shortage of humour, as they have worked their way through their GCSEs. I want to pay tribute to each and every pupil in Year 11 for all the hard work they have put in, and wish them all the very best as they move onto the next phase of their education.

We have lots of exciting plans over the next year but our big focus will be on supporting our pupils to continue building on their learning. Watch this space for all our exciting developments including a new website and reading programme.

Kate Beale  
Headteacher

## School Term dates

Friday 25th June—Teacher Training Day

Wednesday 21st July—School finishes for the holiday

Thursday 12th August GCSE results day

Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September— Teacher Training Day

Monday 6th September— **KS2**, Year 7 and Year 9 return to school

Tuesday 7th September ALL year groups return to school

## Men's Mental Health Art Workshop

A number of Year 9 and 10 pupils took part in an Art workshop to kick-start the National

Mental Health Awareness Week this year (10-16<sup>th</sup> May 2021). The workshop was led by Tim Jarvis who was invited into school by our Art department as part of a collaborative effort to promote men's mental health within our predominantly boy's school; as well as supporting the national effort and linking it to PSHE lessons the pupils had already been involved in. The boys were all a little apprehensive at the start of the day and unsure about the session but they were soon put at ease by the instructor's introduction and learning new drawing and painting techniques.

More importantly, they were taken off timetable and actually given enough time to relax, practice and fully engage whilst implementing these techniques without feeling rushed, understanding that taking time out to draw or paint can actually be a really good way to escape reality and unwind rather than constantly having to look at some form of screen to do anything! Students engaged in fantastic deep conversations around well-being and identifying strategies to support their mental health.



"I liked how open and honest it was and it helped me feel not alone" Yr10

"I liked the experience as it made me understand more about mental health like speaking about feelings" Yr9



Key Stage 2 have been very busy this last term—our topic is currently Allotments and we are learning about how bees support our ecosystem. We have also started to complete our John Muir Award through Forest School which we are really enjoying. Key Stage 2 are also currently working with BCFC; this has included new lessons including social action projects, active learning and primary stars reading projects. This half term we have also visited the BCFC stadium and completed a tour and had a lesson on the pitch. A highlight for us in Key Stage 2 has been our work with reading, we are currently completing a BOOKOPOLY board challenge as well as taking part in 'Pjamarama' where we wore pyjamas to school and shared our reading skills with the wider teaching staff. Next half term we are taking part in horse riding lessons, canoe lessons and our new topic 'tomorrows world'.

