



Giving Thanks

Autumn 2020



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WADDESDON

Voice
magazine

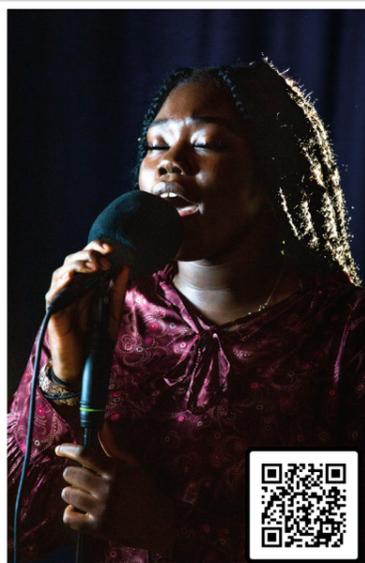
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About the cover

This term our cover shows Year 13's Fisayomi singing during the recording of a music video for her cover Version of "I Need to Wake Up" by Melissa Etheridge.

The video was made for our Waddesdon Performing Arts YouTube channel, and you can see the finished video and enjoy Fisayomi's performance by scanning the QR code below.



From the Headteacher

St Paul tells us to "give thanks in all circumstances" which feels like a bit of a tall order given the year that has just passed for all of us.

However, thanks to our chaplain, Revd. Phil White, we were able to reflect on these words in the recent Services of Praise and Thanksgiving. He even managed to convince us he was thankful for a parking ticket he'd received, noting that he was lucky enough to own a car in the first place!

I had a similar experience recently when I realised that our garden shed had been broken into. Thankfully, the unwitting thieves had stolen the only bike that was broken and left the ones we actually use - to transport our daughter around town. In fact, the road bike that they had taken was then later found by a kind neighbour, discarded in a front garden due to the tyres being flat. I even found

myself being thankful for my deficiencies in bicycle maintenance!

As ever, the students help us all to be thankful: from their joyful engagement with life and the poignant reminders from Remembrance Day. I am in admiration of, and grateful to, the students who are leading the school in our work on becoming even more explicitly actively anti-racist.

Having started with a theological perspective, I end with a psychological one:

"The optimists and the pessimists: I have been studying them for the past twenty-five years. The defining characteristic of pessimists is that they tend to believe bad events will last a long time, will undermine everything they do, and are their own fault.

The optimists, who are confronted with the same hard knocks of this world, think



Mr Matthew Abbott

about misfortune in the opposite way. They tend to believe defeat is just a temporary setback, that its causes are confined to this one case.

The optimists believe defeat is not their fault: circumstances, bad luck, or other people brought it about. Such people are unfazed by defeat. Confronted by a bad situation, they perceive it as a challenge and try harder."

Dr. Martin Seligman, Learned Optimism: How to Change Your Mind and Your Life.

I hope that you can find things to be thankful for this Christmas, whatever the circumstances.

A Fond Farewell to Staff Leaving Us This Term



Mrs Carr



Miss Kallmeier



Mr Kanachowski

Our recent Service of Praise and Thanksgiving inspired Year 13's Louis to consider the importance of appreciating what we have.



An Attitude of Gratitude

In many ways the lives of young people are easy. We are, most of us, lucky to have an upbringing that starts us off well in life. It can be easy to forget the importance of being grateful for what we have. Comparing what we have (even if it is the simple gift of clean running water) and what others might be missing, helps us to appreciate the vast set of things to make you thankful.

During the Thanksgiving assemblies over the past few weeks all of us who watched and participated were encouraged to think and reflect on what makes us feel grateful. The sermon from Phil, our Chaplain, voiced the idea that there is room

for gratitude just about everywhere (even in the smallest of things). Thinking about being grateful has allowed me to develop my own thoughts about things, even if they appear insignificant at first. Even if something is of little monetary, or no material value, we each have something that we can be thankful to have or to be provided with.

A fantastic example of gratitude is made with the help of the song, 'Coat of Many Colours' by Dolly Parton (who is an absolute legend in music!) The backstory to this song and Dolly's past is about an event during her upbringing in a very poor family in the Tennessee Mountains (USA). Her

mother received a box of old rags and clothing as a donation which she used to stitch together a coat for Dolly to wear in the winter. The coat was, as Dolly said, 'Made only with love but I wore it so proudly' but I wore it so proudly' which is the first nod to how she had very little. This, however, did

not stop her from being grateful. She then goes on to say how when she went to school the other students would laugh and make fun of her situation.

The theme of gratitude continues as she proceeds to say, 'They didn't understand it and I tried to make them see, that



one is only poor only if they choose to be'. You're only poor if you choose to be. You're only lacking, if you choose not to be grateful for what you have. Examining this song, while thinking about the Services of Thanksgiving, has challenged my preconceptions about gratitude and its importance.

In the past I have made no secret of things which don't make me feel thankful in life and so my questioning of Dolly's message about being so grateful when you

have so little, has helped me understand more fully what she meant. Anyone can complain about how they don't have a lot to make them feel grateful, but a source of what could make us grateful can come from anywhere. The last line of the song brings together my point: 'Although we had no money, I was rich as I could be, in my coat of many colours, my Mama made for me'.

You can be as rich as you want to be, you can be as grateful for what you have

as you want to be, but only if you feel grateful for what you've got; otherwise you remain in a state of constantly hungering for more. The trick, and my

challenge to you, is to find something that you are thankful for. I guarantee that it won't take you too long.



From the Chaplain



Our Chaplain, Phil White, reminds us that the secret to happiness might just be in remembering to be thankful.

"I will never forget the first time I took pleasure in warm water running over my hands in a McDonald's restroom. I didn't skip the soap, I didn't rush out drying my hands on my trousers, I slowly dried my hands under the drier ..."
Pete Scazero - Emotionally Healthy Spirituality.

I remember all too well back in 2017 when my wife and I visited Kobwin village in deepest Uganda. Beautiful people with huge smiles living in very simple conditions. No running water, no electricity, no gas, no sewage system. They lived in family units gathered around pleasant clearings with 4 or 5 mud huts as their homes.

We stayed overnight in this village and in Lazarus' hut which he'd built himself. Three nails were hammered into the inside wall - one for his trousers, one for his shirt and one for his sweatshirt. They had so little and yet seemed so happy, joyful and content. That night, with both of us trying to sleep on a single mattress which had probably been purchased especially for us was a challenge. We had to ensure the mosquito net was securely fitted and

ignore the lizards that ran up and down the walls.

I'd promised my wife that if she needed to go to the loo that I'd go with her. Sure enough at about 10pm she woke me and we walked out of the compound into the field to the toilet - just 3 walls with a tin roof - the 'Long Drop'. My head torch spotted the contents through the hole in the ground - crawling with maggots. We did what we had to do and then came to wash our hands - a barrel of

water was by the long drop with a bar of soap covered in grit and sand, balanced on a brick.

In these difficult times of Covid 19, let's slow down enough to notice the little things we have - to be thankful and grateful.

You never know, we might start to grumble less as we start to give thanks for everything we have - including the simple pleasure of washing our hands?



Back in October, 28 Year 11 students took to the footpaths and bridleways of Buckinghamshire, to walk the routes they had planned for the Expedition section of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

Award. Whilst 2020 guidelines didn't allow for an overnight camp, the students showed excellent team spirit as they worked their way around HS2 and bovine-related obstacles.

They even got to pitch their tents and cook a meal on the Trangia stoves, before heading home after the first day hike.

Ula:

DofE is a fun experience. You get to venture out into the wilderness along with friends and adventure through areas you may not have been before. It teaches students valuable skills of teamwork, communication and navigation. Sometimes you may get lost, stuck in the mud and chased by cows, but in the end it's all fun. Although this year we weren't able to camp overnight, we still used our cooking and tent building skills.

Matthew:

While on the expedition, we had a lot of fun. There were some interesting parts, for example when Charlie stood in a river of poop and when we got charged by cows. Nevertheless, I would highly recommend DofE. It's a great reference to put on your CV. More importantly, it is a great character-building opportunity that allows you to become friends with people in your year outside your usual friendship group.



We will Remember

During the wars, ordinary men and women became heroes, fighting for our freedom. Our Year 7s have been collecting the stories of people from their own families who went to war. First, Megan and Lydia share the story of the exploits of "Tich" Raynor.



Megan:

Raymond 'Tich' Raynor was born in 1919 and died in 2015. He was my great, great uncle and was a platoon sergeant with D Company the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Battalion of 6th Airborne Division. He was involved in one of the most spectacular and successful missions on D-Day.

Born in 1919 in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire where he lived all his life, Tich, as he was always known, worked as a butcher's boy before the war. In 1935 he joined the Territorial Army serving in the Buckinghamshire Battalion. A keen boxer, he was the Army Middle Weight Champion. When war broke out in 1939 he was one of the first to report for duty.

In 1939, Tich's battalion, like much of the army, prepared defensive positions for a possible German attack. Christmas 1939, the battalion was sent to the continent as part of the expeditionary force for the defence of France. In June, Tich was among the hundreds of thousands of men evacuated at Dunkirk.

On his return to England he transferred to 2nd Battalion Ox and Bucks, a glider borne unit. Tich, now a platoon sergeant, was posted to D Company under the command of the redoubtable Major John Howard, a pre-war policeman and former Territorial Army Sergeant Major. The unit's mission on D-Day was to spearhead the entire invasion force by flying in to Normandy in six Horsa gliders to capture the Caen Canal and River Orne bridges.

Six Horsa gliders took off from England at 11pm on 5th June bound for Normandy. In glider No 4, were 30 men of 22 platoon and its

sergeant, Tich Raynor. Unfortunately the glider was pulled off course by the tug aircraft and landed 8 miles to the west of their selected landing zone. He landed next to a bridge; it wasn't the right one, but as he was there, he captured it! The following day his platoon eventually re-joined the company.

Tich's unit was later involved in heavy fighting on the southern flank of 6th Airborne Division. There he lost his friend, Sgt Pete Barwick, in the combat; he was Tich's best friend, they were always together.

The Ox and Bucks Battalion returned to England with the rest of the division in September 1944. The German forces counter-attacked in the Ardennes in December 1944, and the division was sent, on Christmas Day, to Belgium to reinforce the Allied front. Tich was once more in action.

The division subsequently prepared for the greatest airborne operation of all time, Operation Varsity, the Rhine Crossing into Germany. In order to surprise the German forces it was decided to land 6th Airborne Division on the target which, though successful, led to heavy losses particularly amongst the glider borne troops. Sgt Rayner was at this

time Provost Sergeant, and was detailed to command the burial parties in wartime. He had to bury over two hundred of his fallen comrades.

After the war Tich returned to Aylesbury and set up a successful painting and decorating business employing over thirty men. Tich retired when he was seventy and devoted much of his retirement to attending the annual D-Day pilgrimages to Normandy and lecturing to school groups and at Bletchley Park, the wartime British decoding centre, in Buckinghamshire.

He continued to live peacefully at his home in Aylesbury until he died in 2015; amongst the many happy family photos is one of a war grave sent to him by the family of a young soldier he buried so long ago.

Lydia:

My great grandad fought in World War II. His experiences of a real war help me to think about what it would be like for me. He experienced the trenches and was only 18 when he went. When he came back, he was 22, so 4 years at war.

Sadly, he is not alive any more, but he survived the war and died when he was 94. We have some of his paintings in our front room and when we look at them we are reminded of him and how he went to war to protect us, to protect our country and to protect us from any danger that may have occurred.

We also have some of his medals and helmets from back in WWII and believe me they are not like the helmets today! They were made of metal, were heavy and uncomfortable. The dents and scratches tell their own stories about the challenges he faced.



Sophia's great grandfather was a soldier in the First World War.

Robert Blanksby (Bob), my great grandfather, entered World War One as an innocent man at the age of twenty in 1915. He came from a farming family with lots of experience handling horses so he was accepted into the Royal Field Artillery, who were responsible for using horses to move heavy guns around the battlefields of northern France.

He fought in many battles until one fateful day on 23rd May 1916 he had an accident on a horse near Rouen in northern France. He had dismounted the horse to pick up a whip when the horse surprisingly shot off at great speed but

then tripped and fell on top of my great grandfather. Bob was injured enough to be sent to Manchester Hospital for treatment before returning back to France. There was an investigation to check that it had been a real accident and not deliberately staged so he could leave the army and not have to fight any more. However, it was found to be a real accident and he continued to fight many battles such as Delville Wood and the battle of Flers-Courcelette in 1916, as well as the battle of the Scarpe and Passchendaele in 1917.

He continued to fight in battles until one foggy morning on the 21st of March 1918 when his brigade and others were surrounded by German soldiers who had broken through the gaps in the

British defences and rounded them up from behind. The attack started at 4.40 am and the British army tried to stop them but the Germans destroyed their communications and their guns until they had to surrender.

My great grandfather was captured as a prisoner of war and taken to Parchim Camp in northern Germany. He lived in the camp as a prisoner with other British soldiers until May 1918 when he was moved to another camp at Cassel which is north of Frankfurt in Germany. There was very little for the prisoners to eat and they survived on eating scraps of food such as potato peelings. This meant that prisoners were too weak and hungry to escape prison.



He was finally released around Christmas 1918 after the war had finished. He never talked to my grandmother or her sisters about his experiences in the war but he was awarded medals for his service. We know a little of what happened to him from his war record and the diary of his commanding officer. I think he was very brave and I am proud to be a part of his family.

Vid's great grandfather fought as a partisan in Slovenia

Franc was a soldier in World War Two, with a bushy brown beard and long spiky hair. His uniform was a long green jacket with a brown strap across his body. Franc had a brown belt with a holster for a revolver and two little bags on the belt in which to hold small rations and store spare ammunition for his weapon. Near the top, he had two medium-sized pockets and a badge showing that he was a lieutenant, a commander of a small attack group.

November 1943, the Yugoslavia's partisans were getting ready for one of the biggest battles ever,

against Nazi Germany, in what is today known as Slovenia. They were getting their troops ready and organised. The bloody conflict had started, and all you could hear was the raining bullets of the enemies and the screaming of the wounded partisans.

Franc wanted to help but he couldn't because he would end up wounded or dead. It was in that desperate moment, while watching his fellow partisans get killed one by one, that Franc had his brilliant idea.

Franc and his group of

soldiers snuck behind the German lines. They managed to slip into an enemy tank hanger and stole an MK V Panther, one of the most capable tanks that the Germans owned. Franc hopped in the tank, fired it up and took off towards the enemy artillery which was gunning down our defence line. A minute later, he arrived behind the guns as he shot a cannon at all three of them and finished them off. With a minigun, mounted on the tank, his colleagues were able to kill all the remaining German troops.

After that crazy battle,

Franc and his unit used the stolen tank in several other confrontations with Germans. Usually, the Germans had no clue that they were coming, and they won several strategic points in the region. Eventually, the tank broke down and, due to the lack of spare parts, Franc had to abandon it. To make sure it didn't fall back into German hands the partisans blew up the tank, making it useless.

This story was told to me by my father; I wish I had known Franc, but unfortunately he died before I was born.

Year 7 recently visited Green Park for a day of adventures outdoors. Naomi tells us what they got upto there.



On Wednesday 7th October, Year 7 went to Green Park for a team building activity day. The excitement started to build up as soon as we sat down on the bus! Once we arrived at the venue, we all jumped off the bus and stood on the grass where we were put into groups.

My group attempted archery first and it was really fun, although I was terrible at it! Then we re-joined the others and had a break. For our second activity (which for my group were the low ropes) we had to work as a team to try and climb across different obstacles which was really hard work... but lots of fun!

Next was lunch where we ate in a huge green inflatable tent!

Last but not least we had our final activity, which for my group was rock climbing. It was really fun and I managed to climb all the way to the top even though I slipped halfway up! And even though Mrs Hassard wasn't in my group, she managed to climb to the very top too!! Well done!

At the end of the activity day, we sanitised our hands and boarded the bus back to Waddesdon School.

Overall, it was an amazing day which has given me lasting memories.



Flying Display



The RSPB nature reserve at Otmoor contains a beguiling expanse of marshes and reedbeds. Year 11's Quin has been exploring there and explains that despite the winter weather, there is an abundance of wildlife for us still to enjoy.

In spring, look out for lapwings performing their tumbling display over the fields, redshanks probing for food in the scrapes and snipe "drumming" in the sky at dawn and dusk.

In summer, grass snakes and common lizards bask out in the early morning sun and black and brown

hairstreak butterflies can be found feeding and laying eggs along the blackthorn hedgerows. However, whilst many of the summer visitors depart from the knifing winds, obscuring clouds and eternal rain of autumn and winter, the resident community endures. The habitats of Otmoor nature reserve, just 12 miles from Waddesdon, include: marshland, limitless reedbeds and arable farmland. Although the reserve is arguably more alive in the summer, the winter brings new arrivals and new opportunities.

From Europe, flocks of waders assemble in the flooded fields to escape the dropping temperatures of the continent. On the flooded fields, probing for

food, lapwings, enveloped in their bottle-green blazers and long, gelled headdresses, can be seen in their thousands as they spend the winter on the

reserve, a safe place to feed up before embarking on their journey back to their breeding grounds. Golden plover arrive on the reserve in autumn, untidy and worn



European Golden Plover

from a year of wear. Look at them on the ground as they moult into their striking breeding plumage of white lapels, black shirts and a golden tailcoat, before heading back to the uplands to breed in early spring. Another wader found alongside the lapwing and golden plovers is the snipe: small skulking waders with short legs and long straight bills, looking like hunters crouched on the marsh in their tweed waistcoats, causing them to merge into the turf and mud. Those seen on the reserve are just some of a million that overwinter here in the UK every year.

However, a congregation of prey in such volume turn the reserve into the hunting grounds for many of our birds of prey. Marsh harriers can regularly be seen hawking the reedbeds and surrounding fields, their presence often



Marsh Harrier

The colour of an owl's eyes tell you what time of day that species is usually active at. Black eyes, like those belonging to our resident barn and tawny owls, usually mean that the species are active at night, or nocturnal, and both of these species, particularly the tawny, often are. Orange eyes mean that that species is either crepuscular, hunting at dusk, or both nocturnal and diurnal, such as the long-eared owl here in the UK and the great horned owls of North America. Lastly, yellow eyes indicate that the owl hunts in the daytime, which is true for two species of owl in the UK, the short-eared and the little owl.

told by the warning calls of many of the waders, huddling below. Short-eared owls are frequent passers-by to the marsh:

medium-sized owls with mottled brown bodies, pale under-wings and yellow eyes.

However, it is usually one predator alone that causes the most drama on the winter wetlands, and that is the peregrine falcon. The peregrine is a large, powerful falcon. It has long, broad pointed wings and a relatively short tail for aerodynamics. These birds are the fastest in the world, diving, or "stooping" to catch prey at over two-hundred miles per hour. When a peregrine is present, all birds take to the sky in an attempt to confuse the predator, making it harder for it to target a subject. Murals and mosaics are formed in the sky as each

one flies to stay alive. On some special evenings in autumn, a very eye-catching and memorising event takes place. As the evening falls over the marshland, seventy-five thousand starlings settle together in the reedbeds. As the sun sets, and the sky stains crimson and the starlings begin to stir, the first one lifts above the rest, and is soon followed by the thousands, and in a moment the sky is crowded to all of its corners. The murmuration, as it's called, forms murals and mosaics to create hypnotising patterns and shapes against the sky. To witness this is truly mesmerising and something worth protecting.



Short Eared Owl

Challenging Racism

Here at Waddesdon we have set up a group to examine how we can make our school an actively anti-racist one. Year 10's Catherine tells us about how we can do better.



Over the course of a week and a half in October, four students from Waddesdon's Anti-racist Group carried out an assembly for each year group on the topic of racism.

During the first lockdown, as many of you know, the tragic death of George Floyd brought increased attention to the Black Lives Matter campaign and brought more light and awareness to the struggles all people of colour face on a daily basis.

In the assembly the students covered a lot of these issues such as: micro-aggressions (these can come in the form of 'jokes' or small comments people say), obvious/overt racism (which are slurs), privilege and covered how to be an ally to people of colour.

The Anti-racist Group hope to help further educate the Waddesdon School community (of students, staff and parents) and hope to make Waddesdon not just a not-racist school, but an actively anti-racist school.

Being part of an ethnic minority can sometimes be intimidating or challenging for people as you feel like there's no one you can relate to or speak to about any of the struggles you face. You fear your struggles being dismissed, or being made to question what really happened (gaslighting).

The Waddesdon Anti-racist Group hope to make Waddesdon School a totally safe place for students of colour and a place where any form

of racism is always challenged.

Racism is never a joke to



be taken lightly, so if you have partaken in racism, it's never too late to change and reflect.

Meet Our New Vicar

Hi everyone! Let me finally introduce myself – I am Reverend Caroline Wainman, the new vicar in Waddesdon.

I moved into the Rectory in Waddesdon in August and started ministry in the parish of Waddesdon, Upper Winchendon and Westcott at the beginning of October! Like for everyone else, it has been the strangest start to my new job. By now I would definitely have seen you in assembly or at one of your services. I have been into school to meet Mr Abbott and to have a look round – and I was very impressed by how everyone was coping

with all the restrictions in school. I enjoyed popping into a religious studies lesson and joining in with a discussion about the existence of God!

Before I was vicar, I was a teacher in a secondary school for over 25 years where I taught French so schools are a natural habitat for me – and I look forward to popping into lessons again as soon as I can!

I also look forward to welcoming you into our church buildings whether for services or for lessons – we have some very interesting buildings in Waddesdon, Westcott and Upper Winchendon - not only historically (come

and look at the 14th century pulpit where John Wesley, the founder of Methodism delivered one of his first ever sermons nearly 300 years ago in 1725) but also to soak up the beautiful sacred atmosphere in these places which have been centres of worship for generations. Standing in that pulpit in St Mary Magdalene Church in Upper Winchendon certainly gives me goosebumps!

This year has been like no other. We are not able to offer our usual big Christmas services such as our very popular Carols by Candlelight or crib services. Instead watch out for something a bit different. I have been working with your school and the very talented

music and IT support departments to produce a Waddesdon Virtual Carol Service. It should be ready to view just before Christmas! I do hope you enjoy it and share it with all your friends. Look out for some familiar faces too!

May God's blessing be upon the whole of the school community – students, teachers, staff, parents and friends, this Christmas time!



Super Visors!

You may remember that last term our Design and Technology Department made COVID visors for local care providers and other organisations. We were sent this great response from Collins Aerospace.

To the pupils at Waddesdon Church of England School.

On Behalf of Collins Aerospace Actuation Systems we would like

Secondary school donates visors to Banbury

Waddesdon secondary school in Buckinghamshire have produced 20 visors for the Banbury facility as part of a project within the design and technology department.



Actuation Systems would like to thank the pupils for providing us with these visors, they have gone to great use.

to thank the pupils of the design and technology department who provided us with Visors for our facility. The design of the Visors are credit to the time and

thought you all put in to creating them, they have gone to great use here at the Banbury site.

As a token of our appreciation you

featured in our UK wide Newsletter, please see attached.

Thank you once again, we hope you all have a great Christmas.



Our Year 10s recently attended the Model United Nations General Assembly, where they learned how countries must work together, and they got to decide which world problem they would most like to solve.

undeniable

Since starting back at school in September, Year 10 students have been looking at global issues and working toward the MUNGA project. The MUNGA project enabled us to participate in a mock United Nations Council meeting and discuss and debate some of the serious global issues that hold a prominent place in discussions and summits between world leaders and top diplomats.

Having been divided into 29 countries, we each researched our nation and its issues that were to be presented to the council. We also researched details from the five areas (state security, global economics, health epidemics,

child exploitation, and environmental issues) for which we would create resolutions and decide which one would be passed.

At the start of the conference, representatives from each of the 29 countries delivered a speech on their nation, outlining the issues they faced and how they, as a country, could contribute to the session. On the whole, the speeches were excellent in their delivery and content. For some, it takes large amounts of courage and determination to deliver to one's peers, especially on a topic that you may not be an expert on. However, the delegates

managed to show a firm and well-researched understanding of their country.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic we had to split the conference up into two sessions. During the second session, students representing their countries were required to discuss and debate one of their problems that they needed the rest of the United Nations to help with. This session allowed countries to ask for help and support from other countries and required 'dignity and respect' from all delegates.

The United Nations cannot deal with lots of global problems at the same time

so our job was to decide, through the democracy of voting, to elect for one problem (resolution) to go forward.

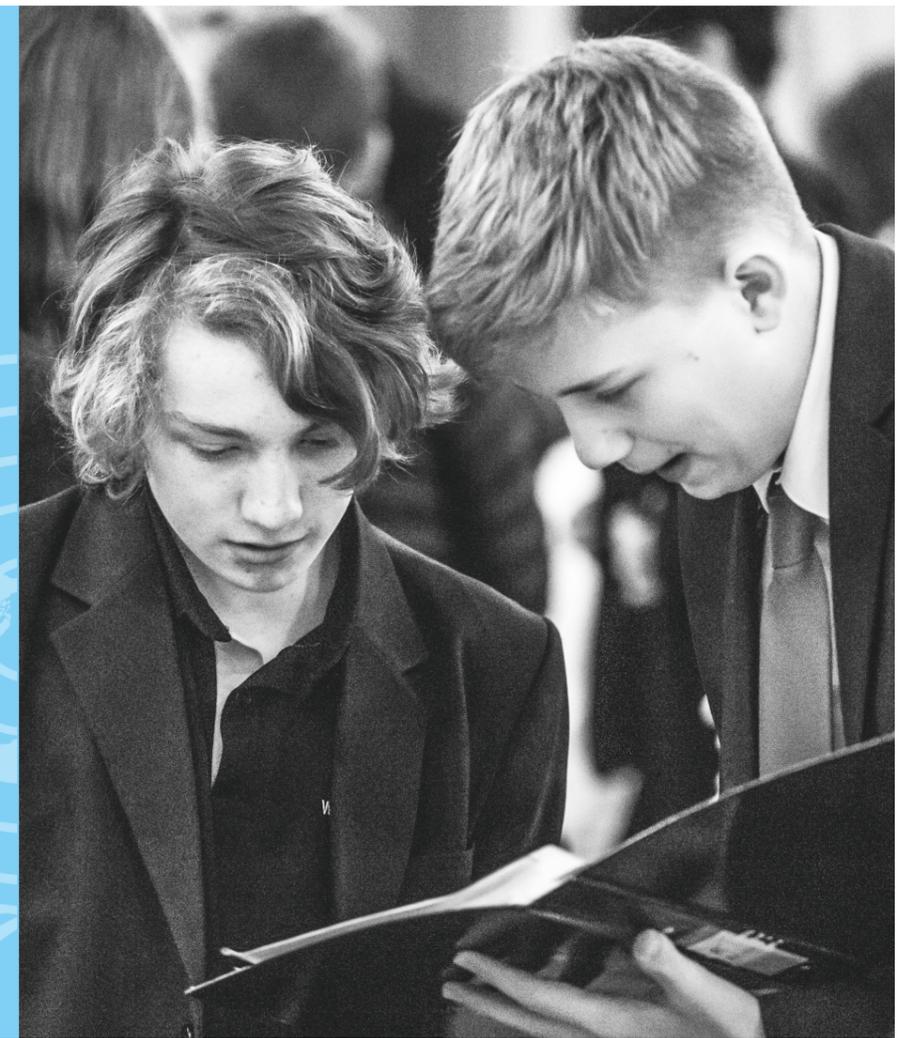
Choosing a Resolution

The resolution debate opened with a number of countries asking for support for the following problems: climate change, health and child exploitation. They all took it in turns to deliver their argument for support and change. The debate was opened up to the floor so that all countries could contribute and offer their support, or decline their support based on the details of the resolution.

Our Final Resolution:

"A global policy to tackle climate change through a support system of richer nations working with poorer nations to combat emissions and pollution.

Working closely with those nations whose export market is made up of materials that may contribute to climate change and to help them to identify and implement zero emission projects and carbon neutral opportunities."



After a lengthy debate, a resolution that supported a global approach to climate change was voted on by the majority of the countries present.

Although we are currently in a global pandemic with Covid 19, the virus did not dominate the debate. Delegates felt that climate change was the biggest problem facing the planet and felt passionately about 'doing something about it now' rather than leaving it to the next generation to deal with.

One passionate delegate announced that:

'If we do not look after this planet and deal

with climate change, the next generation will not have a planet – life is not like Minecraft – we can't just create another planet when this one is destroyed!'

The world we live in is rapidly changing and with those changes come new challenges that we must face. If we strive forward as a unit and as a body of nations in harmony, then positive change is not just possible, but probable. Therefore, I strongly believe that events like MUNGA demonstrate the importance of teamwork and international unity.

Year 10 United Nations Delegate.





Sound Investment

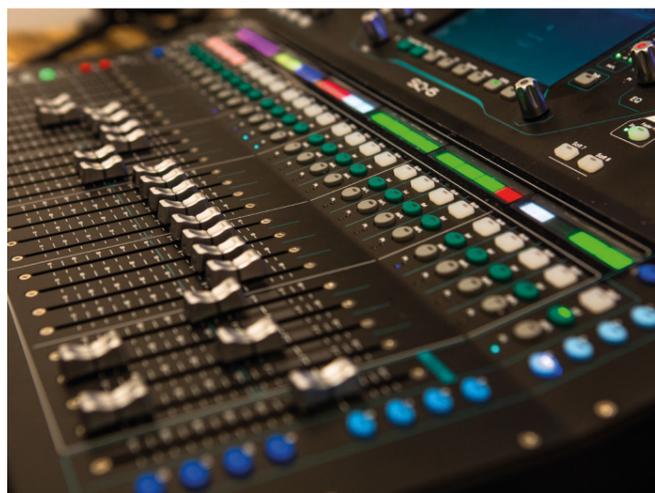
After a long fund-raising effort, Waddesdon's plans for a brand new recording studio have finally come to fruition, giving our students a state of the art music facility to be proud of.

Two years ago we had a new Head of Music join Waddesdon, Mr Judson, and part of his long-term plan at the school was to have a fully functioning recording studio built in order for students to have the opportunity to record studio quality tracks and even some Waddesdon albums. It would also prepare those of us who wanted to go into a career in music to have some form of studio experience.

Within his first year at the school, we realised that the prospect of the new studio could be achieved in a much shorter timescale than Mr Judson had first imagined, and so the journey began.

The aim was to raise £10,000 for the recording studio and after a few events like WaddFest, The Big Gig and also some generous donations from parents, we were nearing the £6,000 mark after only one year of fundraising. Then we were hit by COVID-19, but to our surprise, this gave the builders the perfect opportunity to start the build of the recording studio in a fairly empty school during the first lockdown.

It was being worked on for roughly one month and



when we returned to school in September, we were able to see the results - it was amazing!

We learned that in order to make it as soundproof as possible, the rooms needed a little air gap before the new walls were built, which included a thick layer of soundproof insulation and two layers of acoustic plasterboard and the difference is unbelievable! We were able to go from a pretty dull practice space to this amazing new contemporary space for recording and working on our music.

Originally, the plan was to complete the renovation of just one main room for the studio, but after some thought and consideration, the school decided to complete all of the building work in one go, allowing the full studio to be finished. This consists of three main rooms: a 'Drum Room' for recording drums separately from the rest of the band/

vocals to avoid any spill from the drums, allowing for extremely clean recordings; a 'Control Room', where the mixing console and computer are situated, allowing for people to monitor and mix the recordings in a completely separate, soundproofed room; and the final room is the 'Live Room', where the majority of the band and vocalists will be situated, allowing everyone to be together when recording bigger band tracks. All three of the rooms are linked together, meaning whichever room we are in, we can listen to everything being recorded through headphones, with everyone getting their own individual headphone mix. It really is an amazing experience to record in the studio.

The new space has been very beneficial to us as it has allowed us to do some very professional recordings and has also given us industry experience should we want to pursue music in

the future. One of the big projects we have been a part of in the new studio was a Waddesdon version of the recent 'UK Blessing', which went out on YouTube. It allowed a full

Sixth Form band to record the guide track for around 20 students to sing vocal tracks on top, resulting in an amazing recording of the song. We have also been able to record all



The old rehearsal room as it was



of the backing tracks for the upcoming Musical Showcase, which have come out sounding extremely professional sounding, partly due to the amazing musicians we have

at school, but also because of the facilities that are now available to us.

I just want to thank all of the staff who were involved in making this amazing

studio come to life and to all of the generous parents who donated to the Recording Studio Fund during the fundraising stage. It was such a great process to be a part of and

so much fun putting on gigs and raising the money for the recording studio.

We hope to continue making great music in there for years to come!

St Michael and All Angels Church
and Waddesdon CofE School

Present a
**Virtual
Carol Service**

On Friday, 18th December at 7pm
www.youtube.com




Reading Music

Our students are rehearsing hard for our Musical Showcase which will go online after Christmas. Bea from Year 12 will be performing, and she took some time out from rehearsals to tell us about it.

Year 8's Elsie in her role as Roald Dahl's book-loving Matilda



The show experience, this year has been nothing we have experienced before. Because of Covid-19, we can no longer share the stage with people from different year group bubbles, nor can we perform in front of live audiences - but it has still been very exciting for new reasons.

More people than ever have had the opportunity to have leading roles, and showcase their talents. It has allowed us to experience an entirely

new range of shows that we wouldn't necessarily have before. It also means that, as the final show is being livestreamed, not only

are we able to watch our performances (along with the work that the other year groups have produced) but more of our family

and friends than ever before will also be able to watch the show.

The plan is for it to be finished and ready for February 2021, where you'll see numbers from musicals including Six, The Lion King, Hamilton, Heathers, Waitress, Funny Girl and many more!



The WSA team have been busy this year setting up different ways to raise funds for the school until we can get together face to face once again.

We have set ourselves a target of raising £10,000 this academic year and this was boosted by an amazing grant from The Rothschild Foundation of £5,000 in August. This £5,000 has already been donated to the school and will be spent on the new Music Recording Studio facilities and the recent You Tube performances prove that this is already making a huge impact.

As we move towards Christmas and 2021 here are the ways you can support us and help reach our target:

Christmas Raffle (*Parent Pay - close 13th December*)

Christmas Hat Day (*Parent Pay - close 16th December*)

Waddesdon Winner Monthly Prize Draw (*Parent Pay*)

Direct Donation/Regular Giving

Amazon Smile & Easy Fundraising

Please check our page on the school website for more information or join our Facebook Group for regular updates on events and activities.

If you or your company have any fundraising ideas or charity support opportunities please do get in touch with us at wsa@waddesdonschool.com – we would love to hear from you.

Thank you to everyone for your support this year and we wish you and your families and safe and restful Christmas and New Year.



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The Governing Body takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. More information regarding Waddesdon CE School safeguarding can be obtained through our policies section of our website.