

MAYFIELD MESSENGER



July 2020



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Headmaster's Foreword



Mayfield Highlights

2019 – 2020

Dear Parents,

First and foremost, I hope children, parents, grandparents, families and friends are keeping safe and well. Now, more than ever, health and happiness are the most important things in life. We are almost at the end of another school year at Mayfield and it is time to look back at the highlights of the year.

Despite the strangest of years, with many of our children having to stay at home during lockdown, we can still celebrate a number of achievements. Once again, our Lower IIIs have successfully

gained places at the best secondary schools in the area. 81% of them have been offered places at grammar schools, 62% have been offered places at top independent schools, with two academic scholarships offered at King Edward VI High School, one at King Edward's School, five at Edgbaston High School, a sports scholarship at Chase Grammar and a music scholarship at Aldridge. Five of our Lower IIIs won bronze or silver medals in the prestigious Primary Maths Challenge. Back in February, 16 students from Form I to Lower III passed ABRSM exams in a range of instruments from Preliminary to Grade 3, including 4 with a Merit and 1 Distinction. Our Junior Choir won the Dudley Music Festival and our Senior Choir came 3rd. Back in November and March, all of our students from Transition to Lower III took LAMDA exams, and all passed, many with Merits or Distinctions. Furthermore, since lockdown, the engagement of the majority of our students

in the remote learning has been excellent. Our use of Zoom, Teams and Tapestry to set activities, record and present videos and powerpoints, and to have vital face-to-face live lessons in most classes every day has been innovative and highly effective. While the government, OFSTED and leading educationalists are worried about the impact of Covid-19 on our children's education, I am pleased and proud to say that Mayfield's children have continued to learn to the highest standards possible and our children are at a considerable advantage in comparison to the children at other local schools. I expect this to be proven when our new Lower III students sit the senior school entrance exams in the first half term of the Autumn Term later this year, and when they and the new Form I students sit the SATs exams in May 2021.

As you know, for me the glass is always half-full, and I was optimistic that the school would re-open again sometime in the summer – well, we were

able to partially re-open the school after the half term break on Monday 8th June, initially to Pre-Nursery, Nursery, Kindergarten and Lower III. Then, on 22nd June the wider opening to the rest of the school became possible, so that all of our children could have the opportunity to come back to school before the summer holidays!

Of course, this year has seen new additions to our usual lexicon, such as 'lockdown', 'zoom', 'Teams', 'home learning', 'PPE, masks, visors, gowns', 'social distancing', 'the new normal', 'air bridges', 'the R rate', 'track and trace' and new procedures in school, such as 'remote learning', 'pods', 'one way route around school', 'staggered drop-off and pick-up times', 'taking temperatures on arrival', 'hand gel dispensers at every entrance' and endless handwashing again and again and again. On behalf of the teachers, I would like to thank all those parents and pupils who have sent us positive and supportive

comments, and who have shown appreciation for how hard our staff are working to make the remote learning successful and effective in meeting the children's learning needs. I would also like to thank you all for adopting the new procedures and systems so well that the re-opening of the school has been safe and has worked like clockwork. I am delighted to say that there has not been a single positive case of Covid-19 in any of the children or staff at school. This augurs well for welcoming the whole school back in September. It looks likely that our current systems will be in place in September, although we will be able to expand the current pods to full class sizes, which means the children will gain the full psychological benefit of being reunited with their friends. However, the pods will still not be able to mix with each other, meaning no assemblies and staggered playtimes and lunchtimes. Having said all that, the beginning of term is still seven weeks away and things could change, so keep an eye

out for further emails from the school before term starts with an updated re-opening plan and risk assessment.

After a year like this, I think we will all deserve a good rest after Friday. My thoughts and prayers are with you all, I wish you all a wonderful summer break, take care, stay safe, keep your social distance when you go out, keep positive and be assured that we will get through this, particularly if we stick together, united as a school and as a community, and to be there for each other.

Have a lovely holiday everyone and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Matthew Draper,
Headmaster

Art

Form II have created some fantastic fact files on William Morris



William Morris was the son of a wealthy business man. He originally was going to become a priest but decided to devote his life to art instead.

Born: 24th March 1834 Died: 3rd October 1896 Nationality: English

William Morris wrote fiction, poetry, and translations of ancient and medieval texts. Some of them are:

- Story of Sigurd the Volsung
- Fall of the Niblungs
- The early paradise
- A dream of John Ball
- Defence of Guenevere and Other Poems

William Morris

William was frustrated, because he could not find any furniture he liked, so he decided, he wanted to design his own furniture, but it was mostly wallpaper designs.



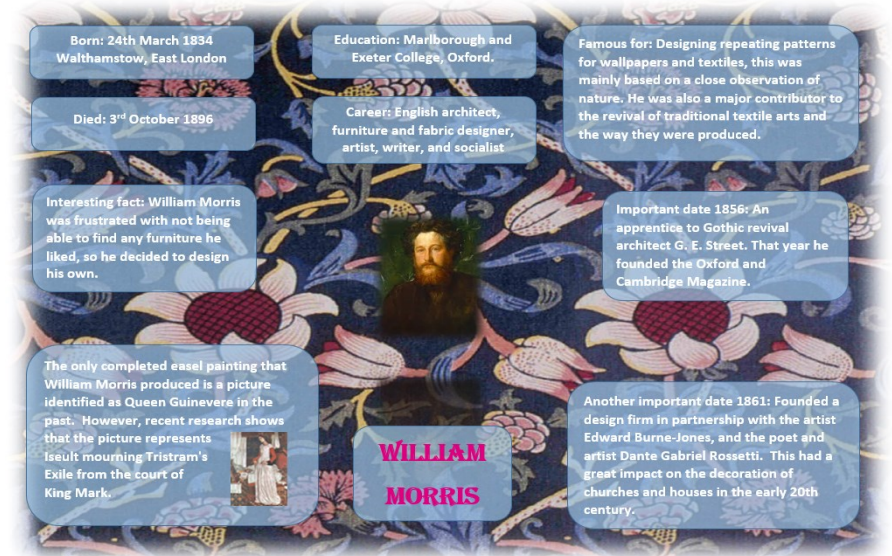
William Morris

He was famous for textiles and wallpapers inspired by English gardens and countryside.

William Morris was a British textiles designer of the Arts & Crafts movement.

Commissions to decorate part of St. James Palace and what would later be the V&A Museum established his reputation.

Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful.



WILLIAM MORRIS

Born: 24th March 1834
Walthamstow, East London

Education: Marlborough and Exeter College, Oxford.

Famous for: Designing repeating patterns for wallpapers and textiles, this was mainly based on a close observation of nature. He was also a major contributor to the revival of traditional textile arts and the way they were produced.

Died: 3rd October 1896

Career: English architect, furniture and fabric designer, artist, writer, and socialist

Interesting fact: William Morris was frustrated with not being able to find any furniture he liked, so he decided to design his own.

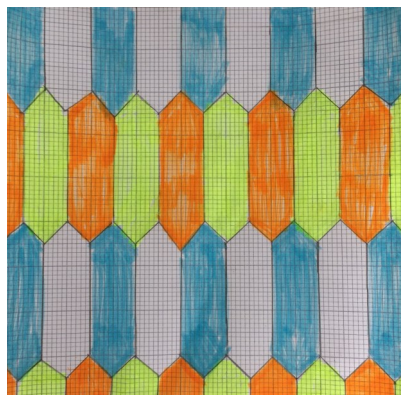
Important date 1856: An apprentice to Gothic revival architect G. E. Street. That year he founded the Oxford and Cambridge Magazine.

The only completed easel painting that William Morris produced is a picture identified as Queen Guinevere in the past. However, recent research shows that the picture represents 'Iselt mourning Tristram's Exile from the court of King Mark.'

Another important date 1861: Founded a design firm in partnership with the artist Edward Burne-Jones, and the poet and artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti. This had a great impact on the decoration of churches and houses in the early 20th century.

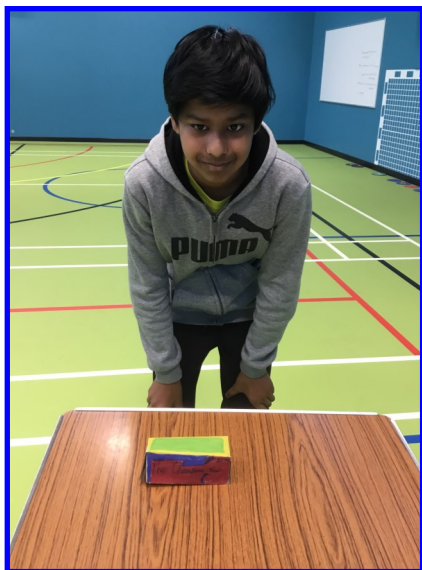
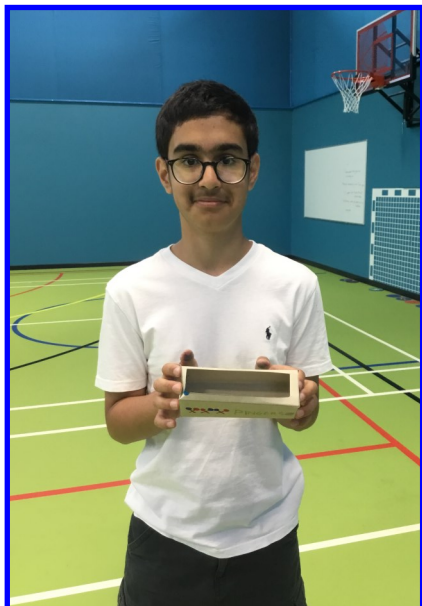
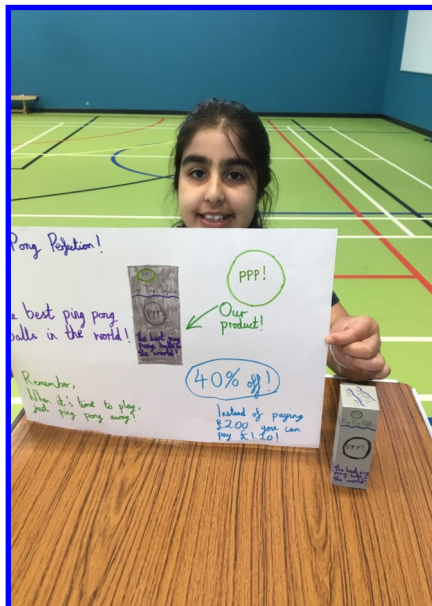
Jude in Kindergarten is a budding ornithologist as well as being a very talented artist. This is his fabulous drawing of a Lilac Breasted Roller bird.

Below we have some repeating patterns by Form II.

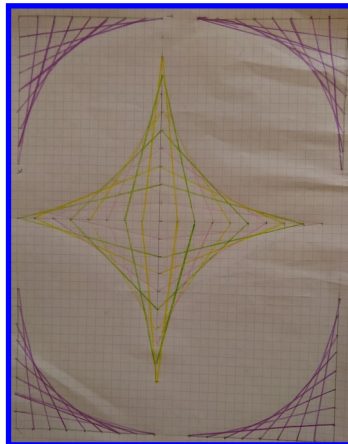
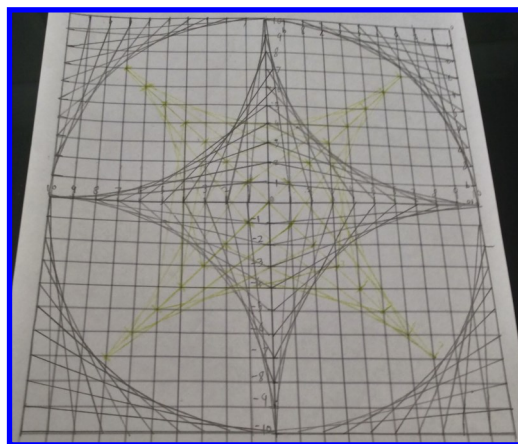
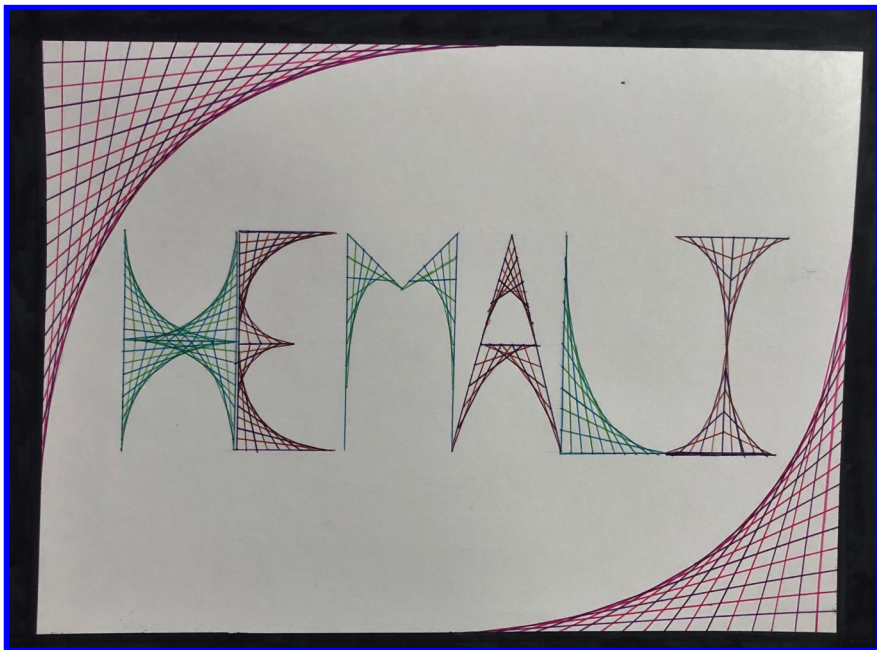


Maths

For their maths lesson Lower III had a task to design and create packaging / posters for 3 table tennis balls.



Form II have been looking at Parabolic Curves in maths, here are some of their great designs.



Charity Work



Priya from Upper II and her brother have been busy raising money for charity. So far they've raised nearly £600! The link below details what they've been doing. You can read Priya's write-up in her own words below.

<https://www.facebook.com/CharlotteCrossTV/videos/555222421807430>

Here is the link to the charity:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jyoti-saini>

"My name is Priya in Upper II.

My mum told me that she had been to care homes to test the people living there. Because of coronavirus they could not have any visitors or family to see them.

So my brother Arun and myself thought we could cheer them up by playing some violin music to them by Zoom and Skype.

We wanted to raise money for the care workers charity who help support the carers who look after older people.

Our target was £200 and we have raised nearly £600 which is amazing.

We have even played to care homes over 200 miles away and they were smiling and crying with happiness.

I feel very happy and proud to help others."

Blue Peter Badge

Form II pupil Shaan has received the Blue Peter badge for music, awarded for her efforts in piano, singing and playing the violin. Shaan has written about her experience below.



On the 17th June I got awarded a Blue Peter music badge especially designed by Ed Sheeran. I was so happy and proud of myself when I received the letter it was the most amazing thing that has ever happened to me.

How I applied for it:

One day after finishing all my work, I had nothing to do so I decided to check if I had any messages on my computer. Then I found a sheet of activities to do, as I went down the list I came across the Blue Peter website, so I clicked on it and it told me about all the badges I could apply for. So then I finally reached the music badge, it looked very unique and colourful and also I love music, I clicked on how to apply for the badge. All I had to do was answer some questions about how I started to play music, what music meant to me and how it makes me feel. I stated on the form that, I have been playing piano since I was three and I recently started to learn how to play the violin. I also told them that I take singing lessons and that I missed my first exam due to COVID-19. They also wrote to me to say that I will receive a special card that will give me free entry to various parks and attractions in the UK. A few months later I got a letter and a badge. I was astonished!

By Shaan

My Lockdown Experience

This lockdown has been good and bad
But some of it can be quite sad
My extra studying is going great
It's the other stuff that I hate

I can't see my friends or most of my family
I really wish I could see them properly
I am really tempted to break my resistance
To follow the rules of social distance

My grandparents, I see through the glass
I can't wait for this time to pass
Through the glass, it's quite hard to hear
Hopefully it's over by next year

My friends I only get to see on FaceTime
But as long as I talk to them, everything's fine
Although we have not properly met
We're lucky we have the internet!

I am getting so bored, I am just on the phone
But I do like the fact of just staying at home
Overall there is more family time
I can't believe I got this poem to rhyme!

By Naynaa (UII)

Acrostic Poems by Transition

Dangerous

Intelligent

Noisy

Omnivore

Stegosaurus

Attitude

Upset

Rough

Dinosaurs are big

In the jungle they dig

Now chewing on twig

Oh look how they swig

Some water from the spring

And watch the mummy one bring

Up some food for her offspring

Really very cute watch the baby swing

Dark skies

In the night

Nothing to see

Over the hills

Silent and scary

Always in fear

Under the trees we hide

Roar. Roar!

D – Deafening Roars

I - Impatient

N - Nasty

O – Orange

S - Scaly Skin

A - Armoured

U – Uncovered

R – Rainy showers

Summer Reading Challenges



The Summer Reading Challenge is an annual event aimed at 4-11 year olds. Children are encouraged to read six (or more) books of their choice during the summer with collectable incentives and rewards, plus a certificate for every child who completes the challenge.

This year, with the disruption caused by Covid-19 the all-new-digital aspect of the Summer Reading Challenge is launching earlier than usual to keep children reading over the summer and to support parents and carers with children already at home.

The theme this year is "Silly Squad" – a celebration of funny books, happiness and laughter, featuring bespoke artwork from award-winning children's author and illustrator, Laura Ellen-Anderson.

To register for the challenge please go to <http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Short of reading material? Then join the **BorrowBox** to access children's e-books and e-audio books. This is a great service available to all Walsall library members. For information on joining **BorrowBox**, please go to <http://capitaldiscovery.co.uk/walsall/>

MAYFIELD READING CHALLENGE

We would like you send in photos of your children reading for us to share on Twitter and the school website. The most creative places and photos the better! Staff will be sharing their pictures too! There will be prizes in September for children who have taken part in these different challenges.

WHERE CAN I GET READING MATERIAL SO MY CHILD CAN TAKE PART?

There are a number of great opportunities to hear books being read or to access books to read online. Here are some of them:

UNICEF- Read the World: <http://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/read-the-world>

Search **#OperationStorytime** on Twitter to access loads of wonderful books being read aloud.

BorrowBox is designed to work excellently on mobile phones and tablets, and there's a free App to download for **Apple** devices: visit the iTunes App store and search for "**BorrowBox**", it will come up as "**BorrowBox** library".

- For **Android** devices search for "**BorrowBox**" in the Google play store
- Just install the free App, and start to type Walsall in the "library" box. It comes up with "Walsall Library Service". Then you just log in with your library card number and pin- and you're in!

Author JK Rowling has published online for children to access completely free a brand new story called The **ickabog**. Visit <https://www.theickabog.com/read-the-story/> and enjoy!

Mrs D Smith

Key Dates - 2020

- ◆ 3rd September Back to School
- ◆ 22nd October Autumn Half Term



MAYFIELD PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Believe It! Achieve It!

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