

The Spires Speaker

Winning photo
Dylan, Year 9

Spring 2022

Inside This Issue!

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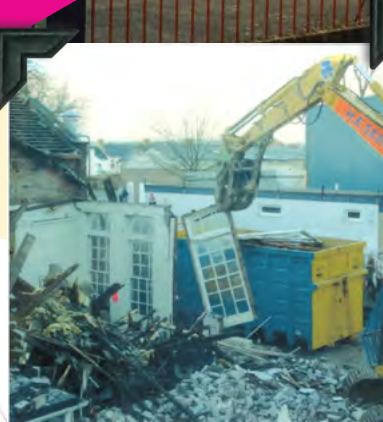
...and more!



The History of Our School

We all know what the school is like now, but what about its past?

The current grey building was finished in 2001. Previously to this, the school was on two sites, one here, known as the upper school, and the other, known as the lower school, was on Westhill Road, where Homelands Primary School is now. Homelands Primary was up here on our current site. The school was called Westlands School from 1973 to 2015. Previously to that, the school on the lower site was called Westhill School and the school that was on the upper site was called Homelands Technical School. The old building (some of which is still here in Science, Art and SEN) is much older than the 1970s. Mr Mould's memories give more information about this.



The History of Our School Continued....

Meet the staff with a story to tell!

A Quick History

2015: The school became The Spires College; 2014: Ms Newton became the Principal; 2001: The current buildings were finished; 1999: New building work began; 1973: Westlands School opened on 2 sites.



Miss Cox

1. What can you remember about the old school?

It was a really old building and we often had lessons in mobile huts. Water was often dripping on to our heads- not great! I remember an Ofsted inspector coming to visit and saying the conditions were really bad.

2. What is the biggest difference between the old school then and the new school now?

The biggest difference is the building, they are a lot nicer now than they were then. Plus, it used to be a split site and now it isn't.

Mr Mould

1. What can you remember about the old school?

I can remember the Portacabins (which were classrooms that came on a lorry!) We had these because the building was really old- in fact, it had been a hospital in the 1800s. I can also remember the chalkboards that we had to use and that there were two sites, one for years 7 and 8, and another one for year 9, 10, and 11.

2. What is the biggest difference between the old school and the new school?

The facilities are really different, it is a very modern place now and the uniforms are different. The ethos for the school is different and there are so many opportunities for our students now.

Miss Kent

1. What can you remember about the old school?

It was a really warm and friendly school, and it still is.

2. What is the biggest difference between the old school and the new school?

Most of the teachers have changed- only three of the teachers that taught me are still here.



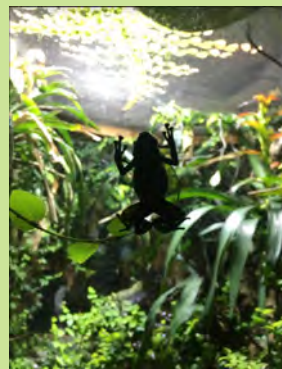
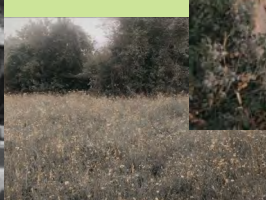
Fred, Year 7



Lilia, Year 8



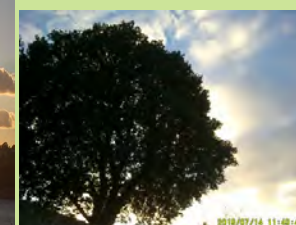
Jess, Year 9



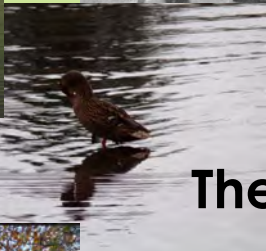
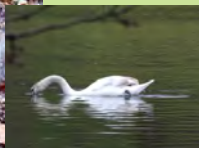
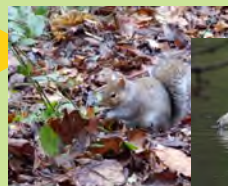
2nd place: Daisy, Year 12



1st place: Dylan, Year 9



3rd place: Tempy, Year 8



Alex, Year 8

The Spires Speaker Photo competition: Spring, Nature and Animals



Daisy, Year 12



Tayla, Year 8



Katie, Year 8

Alicia-May, Year 8



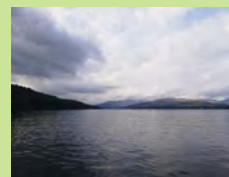
Megan, Year 9



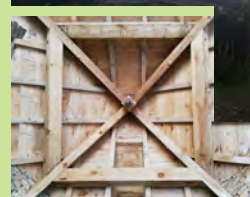
Lucy, Year 8



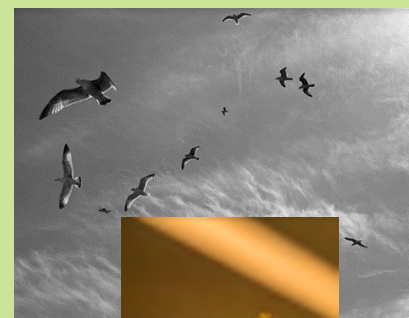
Emilia, Year 9



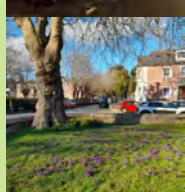
Brinley, Year 10



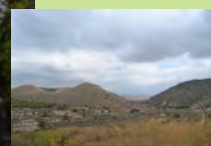
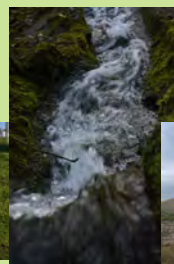
Ashley, Year 12



Dylan, Year 9



Kelsey Year 7



THE GREAT EVIL

Once there was a great evil that only wanted to destroy and build a new world full of rules and order. But as you can imagine, most people didn't settle with this idea of a "new world" and rebelled against them. Wars broke out left, right and centre with people who agreed and disagreed. But the evil was skilled: they had magic and manipulative powers. With these powers they were able to collect not only those who wanted to join, but also those who had no choice. The evil became stronger and stronger with each waiting moment and soon, at exactly 11:45 am on a Sunday morning when the sky was as clear as it could ever be, they struck.

At first no one knew what was happening until evil had devoured more than half of the whole world. This was when people started to lose hope.

But not all was lost. Five people decided enough was enough and together rose up to the challenge and fought back. Though the road was tough and long, our five heroes pushed through, building their own army with every spare second they got. Eventually they had a big enough army that they were able to fight back; every squad joined their side. Soon the time came when they had to fight the biggest and strongest army the world has ever seen. As our heroes and their army stood on the battlefield, waiting for their opponents, they made a pact.

"No matter what happens out there, we will stand together," one said facing their army.

"And even if we die along the way," another joined in.

A third rose their voice, "We will never stop fighting!" "Never give up!" a fourth shouted.

"We won't think twice about being on the wrong side," the fifth said, just wanting to join in.

Together the five of them raised their swords and shouted, "Never look back!" and at that exact moment the great evil were running up the hill, their heads only visible and soon hundreds had appeared on the battlefield.

The leader walked forward and in a smug voice said, "Do you see my army?" He flung open his arms, gesturing how big his army was compared to theirs and then laughed. "Ha, you know, I'm going to give you a last chance." He paused for a minute and stared up at the sky. "I will give you till the count of three to either surrender or... die."

There was a burst of outrage. Everybody was terrified,

then one of the heroes spoke, "We will never surrender and will not go down without a fight!"

Their whole army shouted in response to the five heroes, "YERRRR!!!" their shouts echoed and were followed by a loud yell: "CHARGE!"

The evil's leader put his hand out and pointed at our army and then angrily shouted "Go forth!"

It was a brutal battle. The heroes' army lost almost a quarter of their men and women, but the evil's army lost more than half of theirs. We were finally even, the same amount on each side. The only difference was that one side was simply more skilled and that side happened to be the heroes. They were absolutely devouring the great evil like it was nothing.

One of the heroes realised this and shouted, "Stop!"

Everybody stopped, even the enemy. "Don't you think this is a little bit too good to be true?"

"What do you mean?" the second hero replied.

"Well," the first carried on. "It seems a bit strange that this is the same army that caused so much havoc and almost destroyed the world."

"Yer," a third hero joined in. "it does."

The fourth interrupts, "Ummm...Where's their leader?"

"Who?" The fifth one looked confused.

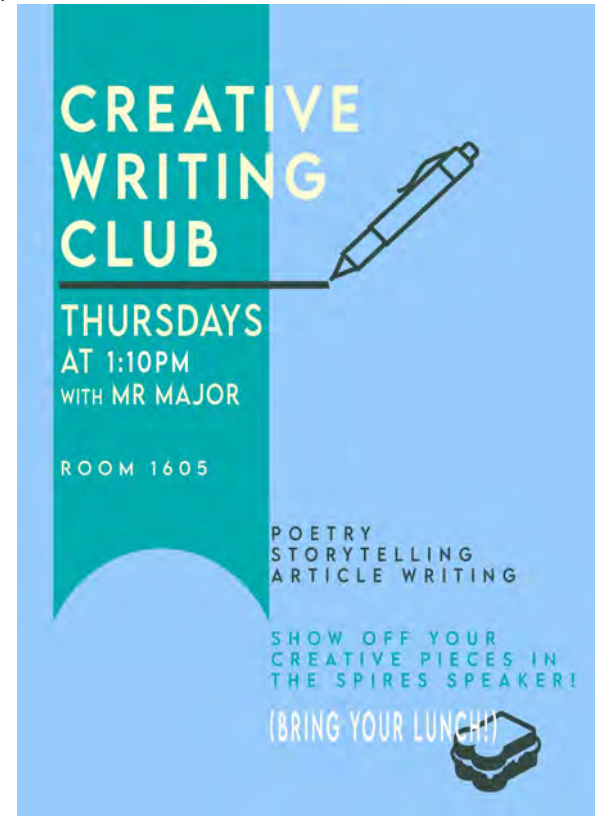
"You never pay attention do you Sky? You know, the really posh snobby rood guy?"

"Oh yer, you mean the guy who just rode off on one of our horses?"

All the heroes except Sky, "Why didn't you tell us?"

"I thought he was one of us."

Lucy, Year 7



**CREATIVE
WRITING
CLUB**

**THURSDAYS
AT 1:10PM
WITH MR MAJOR**

ROOM 1605

POETRY
STORYTELLING
ARTICLE WRITING

SHOW OFF YOUR
CREATIVE PIECES IN
THE SPIRES SPEAKER!

(BRING YOUR LUNCH!)

Year 10 GCSE students have been studying 'Living Under Nazi Rule 1933-1945' as part of their course. Within this module, they have been studying the Steps to Holocaust which has included looking at the concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz. During Holocaust Memorial week, students undertook creating an information guide that would help prepare young people for a visit to the Auschwitz Memorial. They included key information about the history of Auschwitz, the importance of the museum today and why it is vital to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive. The students created some impressive pieces of work.

Miss Glew

Holocaust Memorial Day

Thursday 27th January 2022

Year 10 booklets

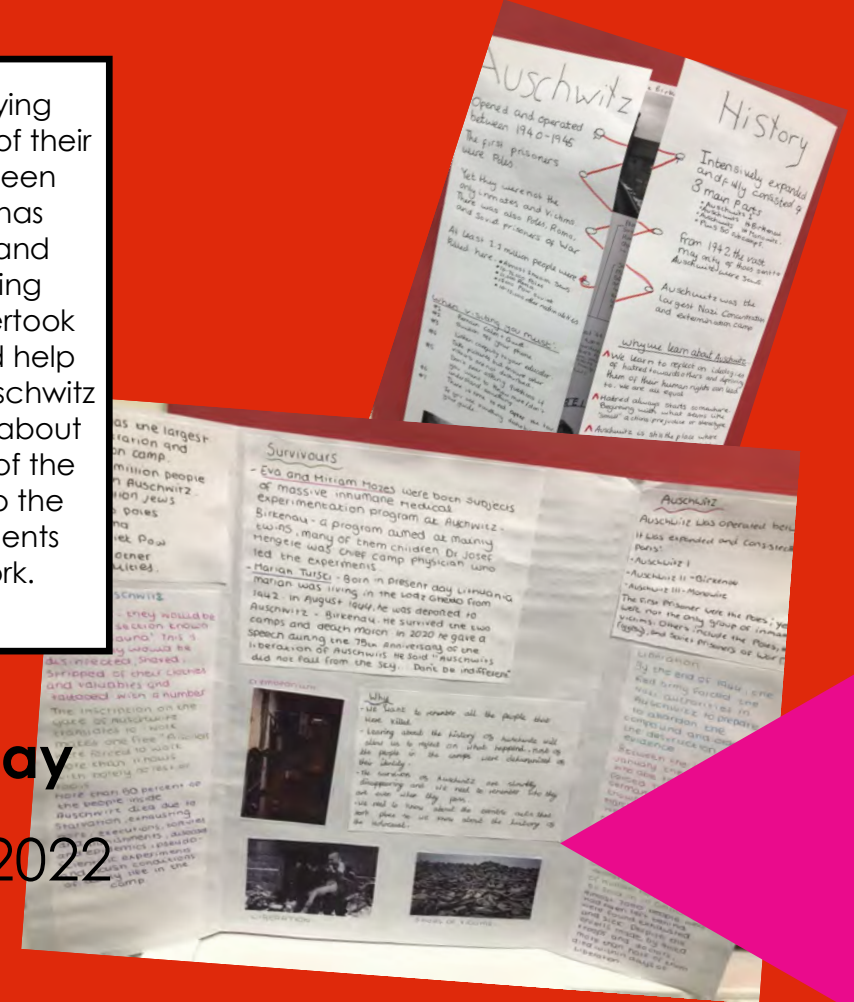
Life in Auschwitz
If selected, they would be sent to a section known as 'the Sauna'. This is where they would be sent, disinfected, shaved, stripped of their clothes and their valuables and tattooed with a number. More than 50% of the people inside Auschwitz died due to starvation. The inscription on the gate of Auschwitz translates to 'work makes one free'. Prisoners were forced to work more than 11 hours with barely any rest or tools.

Survivors
Mazowiecki was born in Poland. He was imprisoned because the Boy Scouts were labelled a criminal organisation. Deported to a camp on June 20, 1942, he escaped from Auschwitz along with 3 other prisoners.

History in the Spring Term at The Spires College

In history, Year 8 students have been learning about the ways that Torquay was affected in the Second World War. As a department we believe that it is of immense importance that students not only have the opportunity to learn about diverse groups around the world, but the history of their local area. To support this, students learn about how Torquay was impacted by the Blitz and the important role it played in the D-Day Landings at the end of the Second World War. From June 1940 Torbay was under constant threat of air attack, and by the end of May 1944 there had been 642 alerts and 23 raids. Tragically, within half a mile of our College, the church at St Marychurch was bombed during the Blitz, which led to the deaths of 21 teachers and children who were at Sunday School at the time of the bombing raid. Devon played an important role in the preparations for the Normandy Landings as its coastline was similar to the landing beaches of Normandy. Therefore, many local towns were selected as embarkation points for the American forces. Full scale rehearsals for the landings took place at Slapton Sands near Dartmouth. It was selected due to its resemblance to Utah beach. A total of 3,000 people were evacuated from the South Hams, many coming to Torbay. We hope that students appreciate the momentous role their local area played in liberating Europe.

Mr Gool



National Science week: 14th-18th March 2022

The theme of this year's National Science week was growth and throughout school lots of exciting things were happening!

Assembly at Ellacombe Primary School

All about the digestive system- and what a positive response it got!



Elephant toothpaste assemblies



"Don't be alarmed!" Mr Somers
(before the lecture demonstration
themed around the chemistry of
fireworks and combustion)

Students thought about the growth of plants, humans, space travel, buildings and engineering. They also focused on the skills needed to be an excellent scientist:

- Patience
- Determination
- Resilience
- Curiosity
- Perseverance

Year 8 Egg Challenge Winners:

Kit
Max
Henry
Lois
Corey
Navid
Jayden
Lois
Sandra
Alexis
Jordana
Lilly

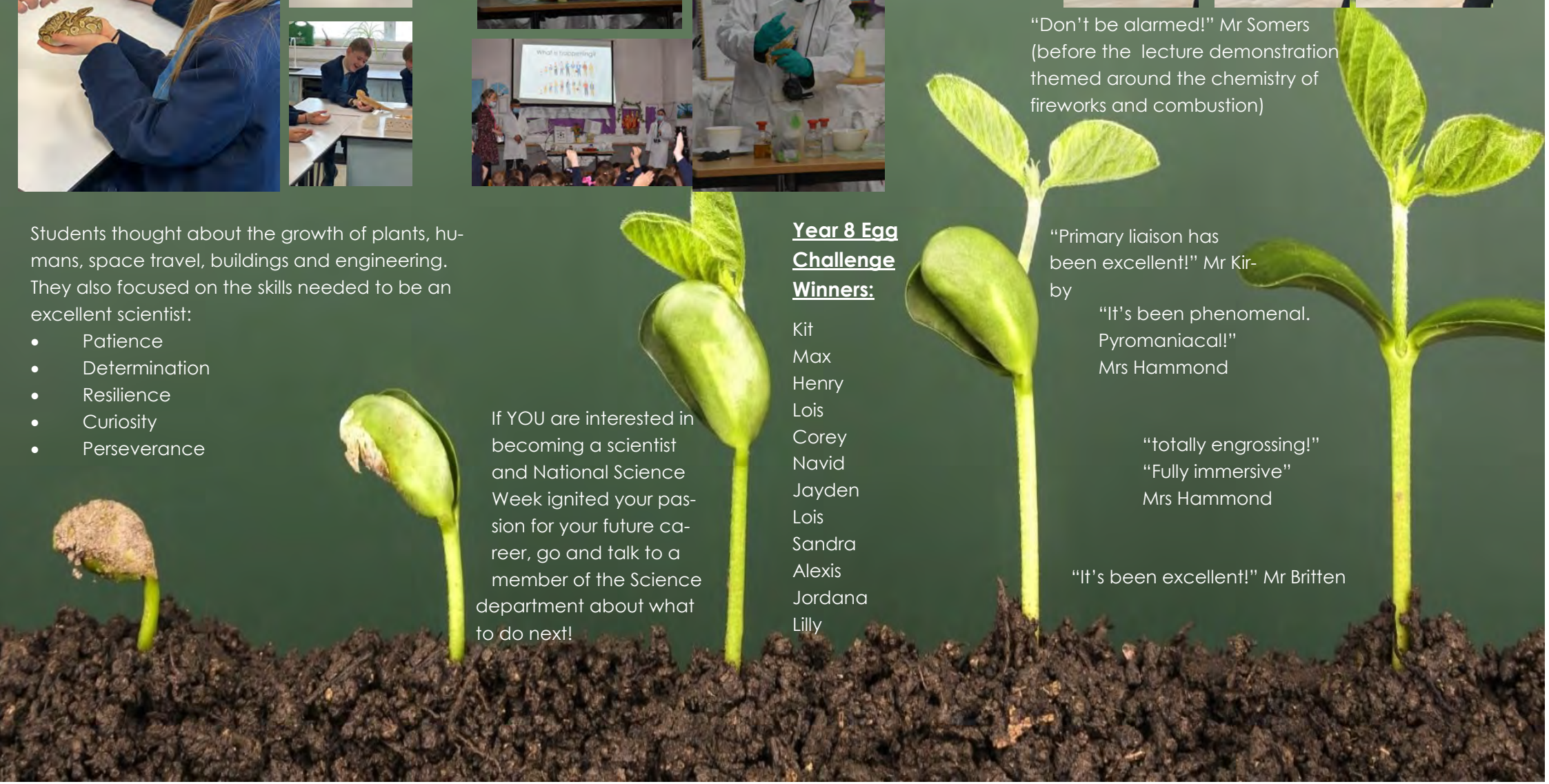
If YOU are interested in becoming a scientist and National Science Week ignited your passion for your future career, go and talk to a member of the Science department about what to do next!

"Primary liaison has been excellent!" Mr Kirby

"It's been phenomenal. Pyromaniacal!"
Mrs Hammond

"totally engrossing!"
"Fully immersive"
Mrs Hammond

"It's been excellent!" Mr Britten



PE and Sports Clubs News...

The new climbing wall

The new and exciting edition to the college in 2021 was the climbing wall. This is a new way to have fun in school hours and after school in the climbing club.

The climbing club is run by Mr Moore on Monday for Year 7&8 and on Tuesday for Years 9,10,11 by Mr Blacklock. (But remember to check the new clubs list in the summer term!)

Archie, Year 8



Fixtures news!

2nd Feb 2022 - Year 8 and 9 Girls Football

The year 8 and 9 football team had their first tournament of the season on Wednesday. The team played 3 games and managed to remain undefeated throughout. Their first and second game resulted in 0-0 draws against Teign School and Brixham Community College respectively. Xyca made a couple of fantastic saves in goal to keep clean sheets in both games. In our third and final game against Paignton Academy, we went 1-0 down to an early goal. The team refused to be beaten though and made a comeback with a great goal from Evie. At 1-1, the game was finely balanced until Charlotte made a breaking run with the ball, dribbled past 3 or 4 players and then calmly finished in the bottom corner. The team showed incredible resilience in the game and were well worth their 2-1 win. Eva was given player of the tournament for her solid defending throughout. Well done to all the students involved.

9th Feb 2022 - Year 7 Girls Football

The year 7 football team had their first ever tournament on Wednesday night at Paignton Academy. The students were super excited and did themselves and the college very proud. In their first game against Paignton Academy, they conceded early but they stuck to the task and after a half-term break, they demonstrated determination and resilience, and managed to turn the game around with 2 fantastic goals from Ella.

In their second game against Teign School, the students came up against very tough opposition, unfortunately losing the game 4-0.

In their third and final game against Churston Ferrers, the team conceded a late goal in the game making it look likely that they were going to lose. But in the dying moments, Ava broke through the Churston back line to score a great goal and cap off a successful tournament for The Spires College. All students were a credit to the college and they all had lots of fun. Well done to everyone involved.

16th Feb 2022 - Year 10 & 11 Girls Football

A huge well done to The Spires College year 10 and 11 Girls' Football team who took part in a central venue tournament at Paignton Sports College on Wednesday. We had 11 students representing the college in this 7 a side tournament. They working really well as a team and demonstrated some excellent football skills throughout. We had a slow start with our first and second game both resulting in losses against Paignton and Teign, respectively. The team showed fantastic team spirit, determination and resilience and secured a brilliant 2-1 win in the last 10 seconds of the final game against Brixham Community college. Well done girls!

2nd March 2022 - Year 8 & 9 Girls Football

A huge well done to The Spires College year 8 and 9 Girls' Football team who took part in a central venue tournament at Paignton Sports College on Wednesday.

We had 14 students who train every week in order to represent the college in this 9 a side tournament. They played really well as a team and demonstrated some fantastic football skills. The first and second games, against Paignton and Torquay Girls Grammar resulted in a 0-0 draw, before conceding 2 goals against Churston in the final game resulting in a 2-0 loss. Well done girls, looking forward to the next one in three week's time!

3rd March 2022 - Year 7 Boys Football

A huge well done to The Spires College Year 7 A and B football teams who had their first friendly fixture on Thursday away at St Cuthbert Mayne School. Bad weather meant that last minute changes were made, and the boys ended up playing a total of five 6-a-side indoor football matches.

We had a total of 23 boys representing the college and they did themselves and the college proud. They worked very hard and supported each other all the through, showing very good sportsmanship. The first two games saw some brilliant shots from our players deflecting off the posts and some brilliant saves from both goal keepers, but both finishing in a 0-0 draw. Cuthbert Mayne managed a 3-0 win in the third game, but our boys brought it back in the fourth match with a comfortable 2-0 win. The final match finished 0-0.

It was great to see the fantastic team spirit and display of skill that the boys have. Well done!

8th March 2022 - Year 10 Boys Football

St Cuthbert Mayne 1-0 The Spires College

The Spires College exited The Blessington Trophy following a closely fought encounter with nearest rivals St Cuthbert Mayne. It was a game dominated by the defences in which attacks were restricted to just two shots on target in the whole of the game. Heartbreakingly, it was a deflected free kick that cannoned off of a Spires defender and in off the underside of the crossbar that made the difference between the two sides on the day. This came with just two minutes time remaining.

It could have been so different for Spires. Harvey Hickey was a constant threat with his speed and agility down the right wing, particularly in the first half; and striker Toby Colledge brought a good save out of the home goalkeeper after towering above the defence to meet a corner just prior to Cuthbert taking the lead. The defence of Brookley Rogers-Hulme, Alfie Laukannen, Michal Kozlowski and Nathan Jordan marshalled Cuthbert's attack brilliantly, and Oscar Way in goal made sure he was equal to anything the home team sent his way. Losing the game without conceding a shot on target was a bitter pill to swallow, but the team are ready for the next outing in two weeks at the Teignmouth Community College Tournament.

Spires Man of the Match: Michal Kozlowski.

Official Team Photographer: Brinley Pollard

9th March 2022 - Year 7 Girls Football

The year 7 football team had their second tournament on Wednesday night at Paignton Academy. The students have been super committed to training and were looking forward to representing the College again. The team had 5 matches in difficult weather conditions with the wind and rain playing a part, but they didn't complain once.

In the first 4 games, the defence were incredible making some amazing last-ditch tackles to prevent conceding any goals. The team also created several chances and were unlucky not to score. All 4 of these games ended in 0-0 draws. In their last game against TGGs, the team were determined to score. TGGs started the stronger and forced Molly in goal into making some fantastic saves to keep us in the game. This gave the team confidence and with only a few minutes remaining Spires started to apply more pressure to the TGGs back line. The pressure paid off as Julia managed to squeeze an instinctive left foot shot in at the near post. The team fully deserved the win and what an amazing achievement to go through the tournament without conceding a single goal. Our goalkeeper, Molly was unsurprisingly chosen as players' player of the tournament. Miss May chose Kelsey for her brilliant defending. Well done to all the students involved who were an absolute credit to the College throughout.

10th March 2022 - Year 8 Boys Football

After a long-anticipated wait, The Spires College year 8 boys football teams enjoyed their first fixture of the season with an A and B team friendly away to St Cuthbert Mayne School, with a total of 21 boys taking to the pitch to put their skills to the test.

The A team played an 11 a side game which saw action at both ends of the pitch throughout. The oppositions goalkeeper was especially tested at times when having to save multiple shots off the line, and this seemed to be a regular occurrence right up to the final whistle. Both teams started well, with St Cuthbert Mayne going 1-0 up not long into the first half. But the boys worked hard on and off the ball, and soon after we saw a beautiful strike from Ellis Harvey hit the back of the net, scored from outside of the box. The game finished 1-1.

The B team had a very successful outing and dominated their 6 a side game from the start. It wasn't long into the game when the first goal hit the back of the net, and this didn't seem to stop; each one getting better and better. We saw hat-tricks scored by both Liam Silvester and Harry Paine, as well as goals from others, leading us to a 10-3 victory.

It was great to see the fantastic team spirit and display of skill that the boys have. Well done!

15th March 2022 - Year 9 Boys Football

Churston Grammar v Spires College U14 Boys

The U14 boys played Churston Grammar School on Tuesday 15 March in the first round of the Devon Cup. The team were very keen to get going after a long wait for fixtures following the disruptions over the last few years.

Churston started brightly and threatened the Spires goal from the start and took an early lead. We conceded a penalty soon after and our goalkeeper, Freddie Smith had no chance with the finish. We pulled a goal back through Jayden Redwood Hughes with a well taken finish following a great through-ball from Liam Hayward.

Churston scored another couple before half time and we had a good chat at half time to make sure heads did not go down and to make sure we continued to play our football.

We started the second half brightly with some good play down the channels and started to try and build play from the back which suited our 5-3-2 formation. Phoenix Collings added our second in the second half after some fantastic work from captain Ethan Knowles down the right flank. Churston eventually ran out 8-2 winners after some defensive mistakes cost us towards the end but the boys can use the goals we scored as positives to take forward to our next fixture.

Man of the Match: Jake Bridden-Bailey

Musical Interlude

What's been happening in Music?

On Wednesday the 30th of March, the most highly awaited, eagerly anticipated and coveted event of the year took place in the main hall...

Year 8 Battle of The Bands 2022!

Thirteen bands competed and gave incredible performances to the rest of their peers across the entire year 8 cohort. Over two hundred students spent two and a half months learning songs that they had chosen, working in bands and refining their musical skills on a range of different instruments. There were over 70 students involved in the final performance in the hall and they did a sterling job. Although nerves were at an all time high, the students performed brilliantly and conducted themselves professionally to a very enthusiastic and welcoming audience. The announcements for first, second and third place will be announced in the final year 8 assembly of the term.

Mrs Amos and I are extremely proud of the students for all their dedication and effort, several of whom chose to spend additional time outside of lessons rehearsing. It was great to see the culmination of their hard work rewarded in such a positive way. The confidence, passion and dedication to the music has been worth it! We look forward to discovering new talent, ready to do it again next year.

Mr Thomas.



The Spires College Student Attributes

The Spires College has 6 different student attributes. They are important to our school because they help keep our students on track and make sure they grow up with the manners and personal skills they will need now and in the future. This is our interpretation of the Student Attributes

Kindness:

Being kind in The Spires College means including others, standing up for what's right and accepting people for who they are. Always giving time to help the people around you and being friendly and helpful even to strangers. Something as simple as a smile can make someone's day.

Independence:

Students at The Spires College are independent, which means they are responsible and dependent on themselves and not on other students. An example of independence is taking care of your belongings and homework. This also means working alone when necessary and trying your best when you do.

Ambition

Ambition is when you step out of your comfort zone to try new things and really exceed in your learning, when you achieve success or when you reach your goals. An example of this is if you are set work in class and you complete more than what was required and do more than the teacher expects you to do.

Diligence

Diligence is when you work hard to complete a certain goal and persevere in order to achieve it. An example of this is when you complete a test or quiz which you have been revising lots for and you tried hard; that is diligence.

Resilience

Being resilient means not giving up and still trying even if you fail. It means bouncing back when you fall and staying focussed even when you know you might not succeed. An example of resilience is if you keep getting a low score on the same test but not giving up until you get a better score.

Creativity

When you are creative, you use your imagination to create and design pieces of work. Being creative can involve all subjects such as Art, IT, and Technology. You can be creative by writing interesting stories in English and using creative language.

By **Anya and Mia Y7**

Outside of college

Hammy Times...



On Saturday 5th March Archie in Year 8 took his female Syrian hamster, Snoopy, to the South Devon Hamster. Snoopy won first place in her category. Well done Snoopy!

Some interesting hamster facts...

- >they can eat pre cooked meat
- >they can also eat boiled eggs
- >The oldest hamster was 4.5 years old.

Staff supporting Ukraine

Like many communities, the staff at The Spires College wanted to help the campaign to provide aid to support people caught up in the situation in Ukraine. Across the first week the donations flooded in: clothes, sleeping bags, duvets, toiletries, baby supplies and plenty of pet food. The car was loaded on Thursday with only just room for the driver and the items were delivered to a collection point in Okehampton. Later that night the supplies were on their way to Poland to be distributed by Save the Children Fund to both refugees coming over the border out of Ukraine and into the Ukraine city of Lviv for families sheltering there.

More donations were loaded on Friday, not quite as much as the day before but still a good car load, and delivered to the Church in Winkleigh. These were driven to Exeter for a collection being organised by Oksana Vincent, a Ukrainian living and working in Exeter, whose family are still in Ukraine. This load was on its way to families who had moved from the East of the country, near the Russian border to the Carpathian Mountains.

By Mrs Quick



Every year The Spires College does a school production . This year we're doing an awesome production ...

Matilda!

Matilda is a Roald Dahl story about a bright girl who is eager to learn. She is sent to school with a kind teacher and cruel headteacher.

From September all the way to May, we have amazing rehearsals. I personally recommend joining a future production because of all the fun and excitement in the rehearsals and the joy in performing with other people.

Jillian, Year 8

The production of **Matilda** will be in the main hall in May... details of how to buy tickets are on the college website:
www.thespirescollege.com

Maths Puzzles

Test your brains with the Math's departments tricky tasks!
Think you could make something more tricky? Let us know!

Maths Wordsearch

CUBE
DIVIDES
FACTOR
FORMULA
INTEGER
MULTIPLE
PATTERN
PERFECT
SQUARE
TRIANGULAR

P	R	R	R	R	B	E	N	T	C	I	M
I	S	O	R	C	A	Q	I	E	G	T	U
P	A	C	M	C	C	P	I	E	I	T	L
T	S	R	A	L	U	G	N	A	I	R	T
I	I	E	S	L	O	B	T	S	M	A	I
R	U	D	P	Q	T	C	E	F	R	E	P
E	F	E	T	R	U	D	G	G	A	A	L
E	L	A	E	N	I	A	E	F	T	T	E
P	C	C	C	V	L	M	R	T	R	G	S
I	U	F	I	T	R	F	E	E	N	T	P
A	U	D	A	F	O	R	M	U	L	A	R
C	E	U	P	F	N	R	A	T	L	U	C

Knights and Knaves

The Lion tells the truth, except on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
The Unicorn tells the truth, except on Thursday, Friday & Saturday



Yesterday was one of my lying days



Yesterday was one of my lying days too!

What day is it today?



Cartoon Joke Corner
By Joao- Y8

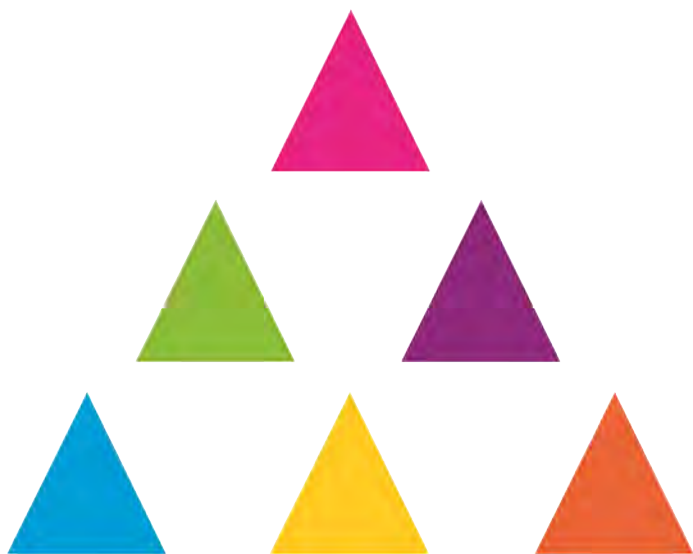


Where's Mr Blacklock?

Give your answer to Mr
Blacklock in Geography!



Think you want to write or take photos for *The Spires Speaker*? Come along on a Wednesday lunchtime at 1.15pm in 2107!



THE SPIRES

COLLEGE

This edition was brought to you by:

Archie Y8
Lucy Y7
Anya Y7
Mia Y7
Tempy Y8
Jillian Y8
Katie Y7
Raphaella Y7
All of our photographers

Mrs Loosemore
Mrs Quick
Mrs Cane
Miss Worden
Mr Blacklock
Mrs Smith
Mr Gool
Miss Glew
Mr Thomas
The Science Department

Well done everyone!