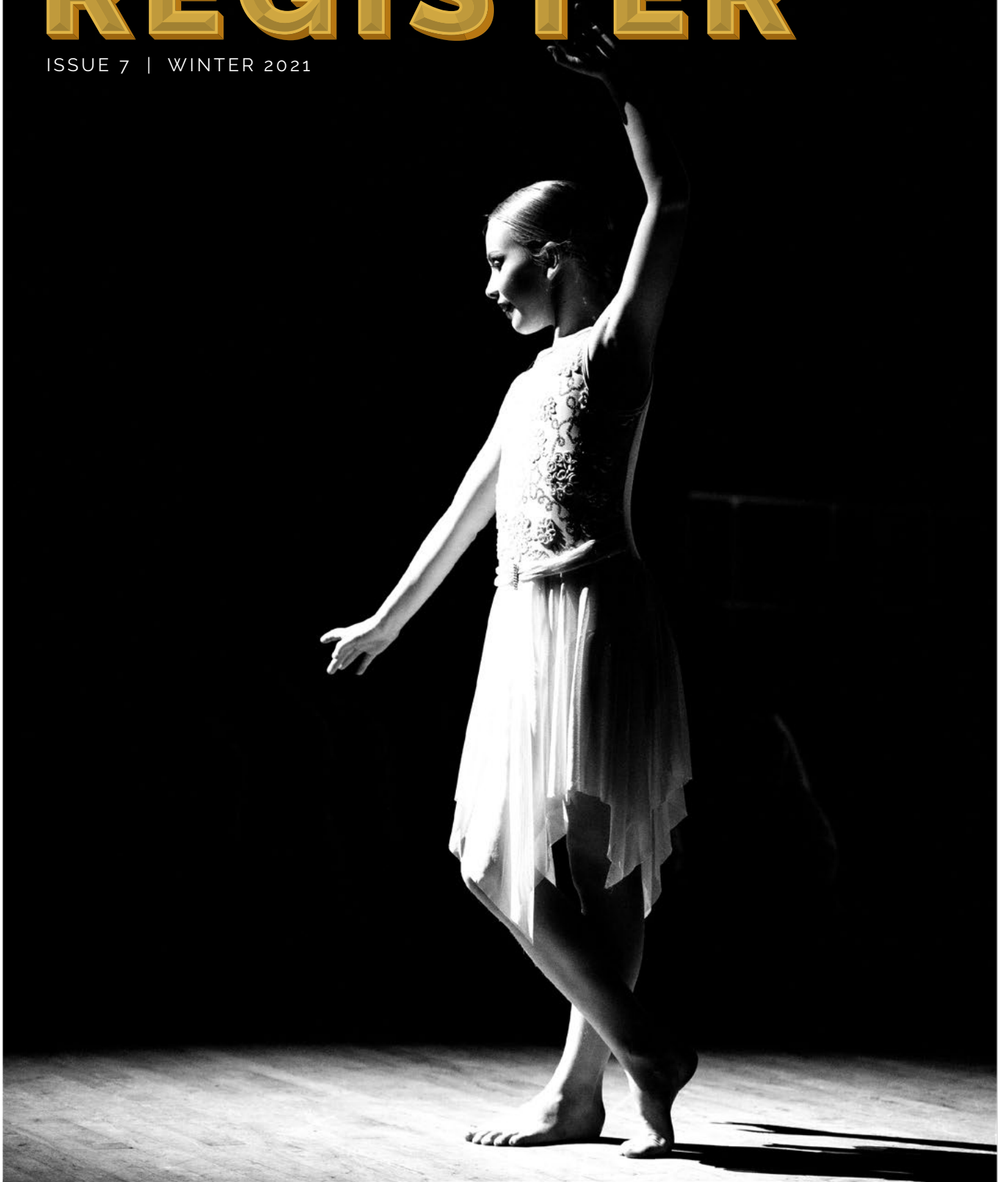


The

REGISTER

ISSUE 7 | WINTER 2021



THE STRICTLY GOOD NEWS ISSUE



EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION...

Over the weekend, just as I was about to sit down for Sunday lunch, I saw a notification on my phone from BBC News, shortly followed by one from The Guardian app... I turned to my wife, "Oh, what now?"

Running the school's social media accounts, I spend longer than is arguably healthy online. A useful by-product of this is that I've developed a reasonable tolerance for news notifications (including the bad and 'fake' varieties). However, my phone buzzing away in my pocket, during a long overdue family get-together, breached even my threshold for such interruptions. I had, quite simply, had enough bad news for one day; for the whole year.

Only, it's now almost two years from the first mention of Covid-19. And whilst, as a community, we remain driven by a sense of collective responsibility, there is an understandable air of exhaustion around the continual disruption to normal school and family life. Once again, this term has required ongoing adjustments and accommodations, in order for school activities, that we once would have taken for granted as 'normal', to go ahead.

As we enter a festive season that is, perhaps, more shrouded by uncertainty than any of us might have hoped, it occurs to me that good news might be the greatest gift we can give this Christmas. This issue of *The Register* promises to bring you good news only – a celebration of the strength of our school community.

I wish you, your families and loved ones a peaceful and relaxing Christmas.



Neil Hardcastle
Marketing &
Development Director

If you have a story that you'd like us to feature in The Register or on our social media, please email:

news@mayvillehighschool.net

Parent advocacy remains our greatest strength. Please help to spread the word about Mayville by sharing the content that we feature on our website & social media channels.

NEWS IN BRIEF

We staged our Annual Prizegiving Concert at the Guildhall, albeit in a slightly changed format, in order to accommodate guest numbers. In a Mayville first, we also live-streamed the event, for those unable to attend in person (see feature on pages 12-15).

Harvest Festival (pages 10-11) went ahead at St Simon's. Other events took on a remote format, with parents able to log-in to watch our Pre-Prep & Junior Assemblies (pages 16-17), the Christmas Play and our Annual Carol Concert (pages 26-30).

We sent teams to the ISA National Dance Competition, claiming awards in each of the KS2, KS3 & KS4 categories (see pages 8-9 for details).

Undeterred, Creative Arts continue to go from strength to strength at Mayville.

2021's GCSE results saw 98% of Mayville pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English and Mathematics. Our vocational performing arts pupils achieved a 100% pass rate in RSL Level 2 Dance, Drama & Music, 60% of which were at Distinction level. 96% of all pupils achieved or exceeded their potential in all subjects. Mrs Parkyn said, "The last two years have been particularly challenging; we are so proud of our pupils' courage and tenacity in the face of such disruption, and wish them every success for the future."

True to our 'whole child' philosophy, we are equally proud of our pupils' sense of responsible citizenship, as exemplified in their commitment to environmental issues and their work with the Council of Portsmouth Students (pages 22-23).

Planning for our next adventure with Camps International is underway... **The Cambodia Scuba Expedition 2023**. This month long expedition is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, providing pupils with opportunities that cannot be replicated in the classroom or at home.

2022 will mark **125 years of Mayville**. We will be launching a new prospectus and celebrating with a number of events throughout the year.



A message from
THE HEAD
REBECCA PARKYN

Once again, it's disappointing to be writing against a backdrop of rising infection rates and tightening restrictions. As cases have crept up, we have been forced to make some changes in School, and I am very sorry that some of our favourite and most cherished traditions, such as the Junior School Christmas Play and our usual Carol Service with large, live audiences have not been possible. I am enormously grateful to parents and pupils for their forbearance as arrangements have changed. Quite rightly, the decision was to go ahead and give the pupils these experiences but to film the outcome so that we were able to share it with you, ever mindful of public health. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mr Hardcastle for his expertise in producing wonderfully edited versions of the pupils' play performances and the Carol Service, which proved to be a moment of peace in a year of tumult.

Very happily, it is also fair to say that much of school life this term has been free from the shadow of Covid-19, and that we have made up for lost time in recent months with an incredibly busy programme of performances and academic and co-curricular pursuits. It is almost impossible to pick out only a few highlights given just how much has gone on, but the joyous return of Harvest Festival at St Simon's and Prizegiving at the Guildhall with pupil voices lifted in song were really superb. The wonderfully dynamic dance sequences performed for the ISA National Dance Competition, the successful (and continuing) run in the sports fixtures, the Unloc partnership between our pupils and those from other schools and numerous school trips to zoos, the Living Rain Forest in Newbury and Butser Ancient Farm, to name but a few, have all stood out in what has been a packed and positive term. Looking forward, it's so heartening to see that numerous pupils have booked onto foreign residential trips, such as Cambodia and Sicily. There's clearly a healthy thirst to move beyond the confines of the UK and the restrictions of the past two years. *The Register* gives further insight into the range of ways in which Mayville pupils have used their voice whether that was questioning Chris Packham, our very own Olympic gold medallist Eilidh McIntyre or by lobbying for 'meat free Mondays'. They have thrown themselves into their co-curricular endeavours, explored subjects beyond the curriculum and engaged in charity and eco-work.

It has been a busy and demanding term, with an unprecedented amount of staff and pupil ill health to cope with, and I hope that pupils and my dear colleagues and their families are able to enjoy a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. Given the current context, I hope that plans to see much missed family and friends are not too disrupted, that you all stay in good health, and that you and your families are able to enjoy the Christmas holidays.

I will finish with heartfelt thanks for the community's unwavering support shown all year, and best wishes to you all for – let's hope – a healthy 2022!

COCKLESHELL PAVILION *refurbishment*

In September, we welcomed guests to the official reopening of our newly refurbished pavilion. The ribbon was cut by The Lord Mayor, Frank Jonas; Leader of Portsmouth City Council, Gerald Vernon-Jackson and MP for Portsmouth South, Stephen Morgan.

Having undergone an extensive redevelopment, the pavilion offers modern, inclusive and accessible facilities to the whole community. The conversion now provides separate male, female and disabled changing facilities, along with a wheelchair-accessible ramp. The project was enabled with the assistance of a grant from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation, along with support from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

As referenced by Stephen Morgan MP, during his speech, "The pandemic has reminded us how precious our green and open spaces are, and how vital sport and recreation is to our health and well-being."





Mayville's golden girl

EILIDH MCINTYRE

Back in August, former Mayville pupil, Eilidh McIntyre, won Olympic gold in Tokyo. Sailing in the world's most prestigious regatta, a year later than planned, Eilidh and her partner, Hannah Mills, topped the podium in the Women's 470 Class. Sitting at the head of the leaderboard after the opening ten race series, they finished fifth in the final race, accruing enough points to win Olympic gold; adding this to the World Championship gold they won at the same venue in 2019!

In September, we hosted a special assembly, welcoming not one but two gold medal winners. Eilidh joined us, along with Year 6 (U3)'s Havannah (pictured, top right), who had recently claimed gold in tap at the Dance World Cup. Pupils and staff alike were inspired to hear from two generations of gold medal winners and to see an Olympic gold up close.





ISA *National* DANCE

In November, we took pupils across three age categories to the ISA National Dance Competition.

Our Junior (KS2) team came first (out of ten schools). Our Senior team placed second (out of 15 schools) in the KS3 category. Owing to restrictions on numbers competing, we were unable to send a team for the KS4 category, so Sienna performed two separate solo pieces. Acknowledged by the judges for the dedication and focus required to perform twice in such a short space of time, she also placed second (out of 15 entries).

With a clean sweep of podiums across all categories, the future of dance is clearly in great shape at Mayville.





AUTUMN MUSIC EXAMS

GRADE 1 PIANO

Tom Weston – Pass

GRADE 2 PIANO

Skye Allen – Pass

GRADE 4 PIANO

Sofia Smith – Pass

GRADE 1 SINGING

Cerys Ireson – Pass

Havannah Milward-Jenkins – Pass

GRADE 2 SINGING

Robin Lough – Pass

Eden Graham – Pass

Millie Byrne – Pass

GRADE 3 SINGING

Max Ivemey – Merit

GRADE 5 SINGING

Evelyn Cowhig – Distinction

GRADE 2 TRUMPET

Eve Storey – Pass

GRADE 1 VIOLIN

Elizabeth Rustell – Merit

GRADE 2 VIOLIN

Katherine Rustell – Distinction



GLOBAL DRUM STAR

Mia in Year 3 (U2) won the UK Drum-Off and was selected to represent the country at the global Drum-Off finals. Although she didn't win, making it to the final six worldwide earned her an ambassadorial role with Red Cymbals.

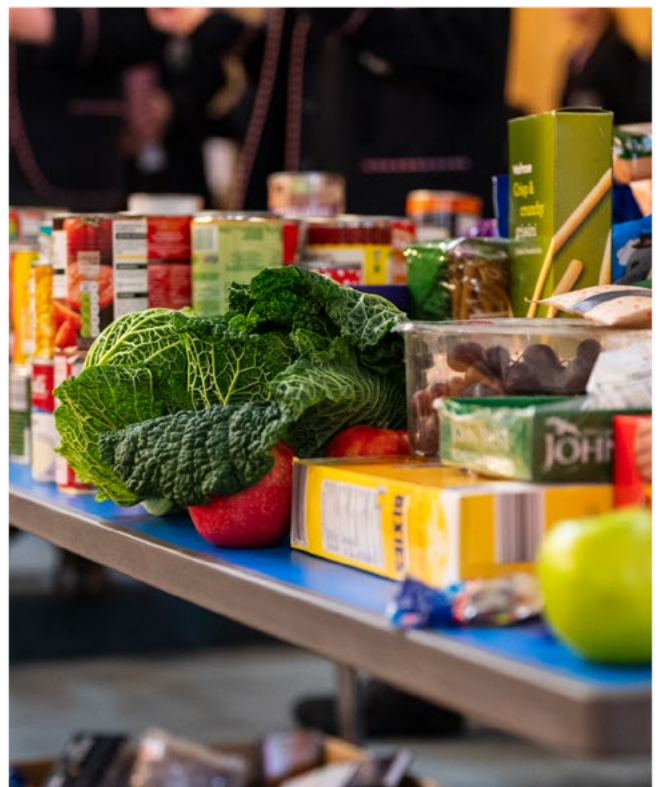
Mia also performed a solo of *Queens Of The Stone Age's 'No One Knows'* at our Prizegiving concerts. At just seven years old, she had the Guildhall crowd rocking!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

*St Simon's
Church*

In October, we gathered together to celebrate Harvest Festival. Pupils from the Nursery, Pre-Prep and the Junior School marked the changing of the seasons with poetry and songs. It was lovely to be able to share the occasion with parents and the wider Mayville family.

St Simon's open their doors every Sunday evening to welcome people who may be homeless, vulnerable and lonely. As part of their commitment to the local community, they invite them to come and share a simple meal. Your generous donations were used in support of this wonderful initiative.





EARLY YEARS, PRE-PREP & JUNIOR SCHOOL

PRIZEGIVING *Concert*



October saw a welcome return to the Guildhall for our annual Prizегiving Concert. Operating on reduced numbers at the venue, whilst allowing for families to attend in-person, the event was split into two separate shows – Juniors in the morning and Seniors in the afternoon.

Filming the Junior & Senior Choirs in Linda Owens Hall on the previous day meant that we could keep (almost) the same running order for both shows, without requiring all performers to be in attendance. The Creative Arts Department continue to work their magic in ensuring that the show must go on!





SENIOR SCHOOL

PRIZEGIVING *Concert*

Catering for those that were either unable to attend in person or perhaps reluctant to be part of a larger audience, we worked with the live broadcast team at the Guildhall to stream both events online.

This was a first for Mayville and something we are looking into going forward, as another way of keeping families in touch with school life.

Organised with military precision, each concert boasted: two speeches, a drama piece, a reading, a drum solo, three dances, two choral numbers and a performance from the school band, along with the presentation of form and special prizes; all delivered within an hour's running time!





Lest we forget...

REMEMBRANCE





Pre-Prep and Junior pupils took part in a number of activities themed around remembrance.

Pupils in Reception (L1) visited the Cenotaph in Southsea to lay a wreath. They spent time looking through the names on the memorial, to see if there were connections to their own families.

Year 2 (L2) wrote acrostic poems, using the words *hero*, *poppy* and *remember*. They also made their own poppy art.

Millie in Year 5 (M3) researched and wrote a piece on her great-grandad, a Royal Marine Commando, who served in World War 2.

All pieces were filmed and shared with parents as part of a remote assembly.



JUNIOR SCHOOL SHINE *enrichment*



Between off-site trips and our Shine enrichment programme, pupils continue to enjoy a wealth of diverse educational activities and opportunities.

Year 1 (U1) have enjoyed getting up close and personal with the animals, as part of *Mayville at Marwell*.

Year 3 (U2) pupils visited Butser Ancient Farm, to explore the Stone Age. The archaeological dig was a firm favourite, unearthing bones and a skull!

As part of *Muddy Mayville*, we are taking part in the Woodland Trust Award. Pupils were amazed to see the apple and pear trees we have on site.





Rounding up
SPORT





The Autumn term saw a packed schedule of both football and netball fixtures.

Our mixed Year 5 & 6 (M3/U3) squad played in the U11 pre-season netball tournament at Portsmouth High School. Working in teams of five, they played a total of 14 games. It was a mixed bag of results with wins, losses and draws. The girls played incredibly well, especially as this was the first time they had ever played as a team.

In other netball results, our U10 side beat Ditcham Park 13-1, with the U11 side narrowly losing 3-2 on the same day. Both teams played tactically strong matches, working hard to bring set plays from training into their games.

Congratulations to our KS4 swimming team – Naomi, Rebecca, Abigail and Lucas – who took part in the London West Regional Finals at Surrey Sports Park. A fantastic effort from the team, notably Naomi, who achieved silver in the 200 metres individual medley and the 100 metres breaststroke, achieving new PBs in both races! Rebecca and Lucas narrowly missed out in medals in the fly and freestyle races.

Our U9 boys football team played two games against Dunhurst on consecutive weeks. Losing the first game 2-1, the boys put in a dominant team performance to win the second fixture 3-0.

In individual sporting successes, Izzy (Y7/R) was voted 'player of the season 2020/21 with her Meon Milton Girls football team. Louie (Y7/R) has been selected for the Hampshire Cricket RPC Squad for the third consecutive year.



RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Inspired by UN climate change conference COP26, pupils have been engaging with a range of environmental issues throughout the term.

A group of senior pupils put their questions to TV presenter Chris Packham, as part of a climate change themed Q&A on BBC Radio Solent. You can listen to the broadcast here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0b21lj5>

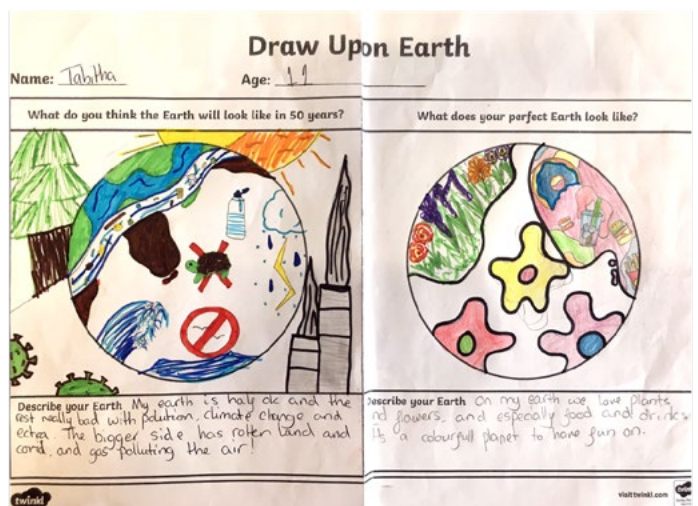
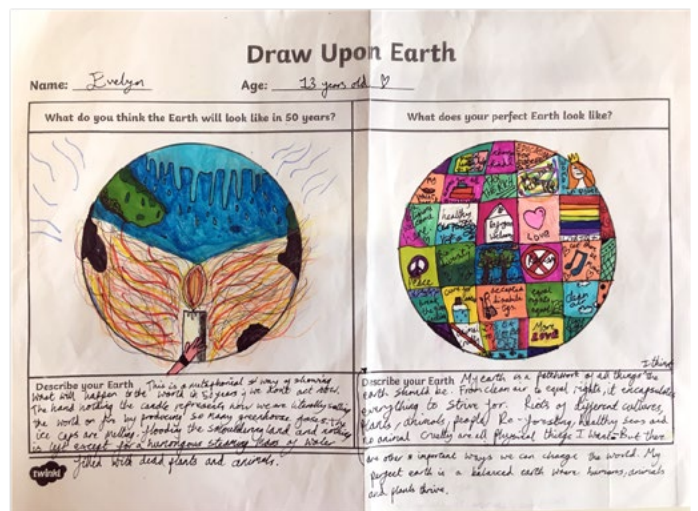
Pupils have been reflecting on the contrast between what they think the planet will look like and what their vision for an ideal world would look like (pictured right).



In the second half of the Autumn Term, we introduced 'Meat Free Mondays', following the same menu as usual but free from animal protein. Data shows that reducing meat consumption is more effective in cutting carbon footprint than many other forms of eco action. However, the initiative proved to be somewhat controversial, attracting disagreement from some quarters.

We learned something very important – that not all steps we might take to help preserve the planet for future generations are easy to swallow, especially when it involves changing behaviours or sacrificing things that we enjoy.

You can read more about Meat Free Mondays here: <https://meatfreemondays.com>



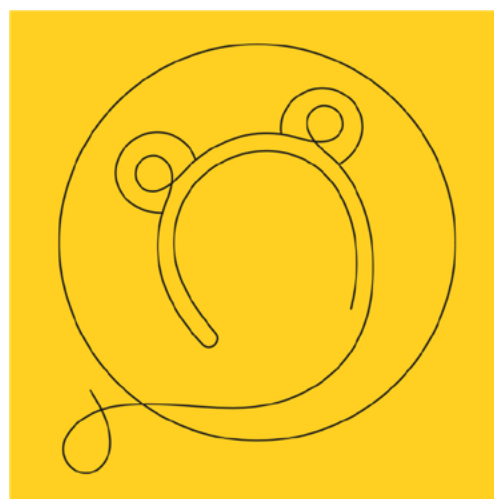


COUNCIL OF PORTSMOUTH STUDENTS (CoPS)

Senior pupils attended the very first summit of the Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS) for 2021/2022 at the Portsmouth Changemaker Studios within the Guildhall. During the day they took part in a number of activities, including icebreakers, team-building exercises, leadership skills (communication and listening) and Student Voice.

Later in the day, they formed Action Groups on the topics of Climate Change/Eco-Friendly, Diversity and Inclusion, Life Skills/Careers, and Mental Health and Wellbeing. Choosing which group to join, based on their own passions and interests, pupils will attend follow-up Action Group meetings throughout the year.

Mayville is one of 14 local schools involved in CoPS this academic year and we are proud to have such strong representation through our pupil delegates.



CHILDREN IN NEED

Our November mufti day raised over £400 for BBC Children in Need. Thank you for getting involved and helping to support disadvantaged children and young people right here in the UK.

REVERSE ADVENT

giving at Christmas

Senior pupils chose to support Portsmouth Reverse Advent Calendar this year. Originally starting five years ago, within a single department at University of Portsmouth, this fantastic project has grown to support families across the whole community.

Senior pupils brought in toiletries, confectionery and biscuits, which will go towards giving local people a Christmas they otherwise wouldn't be able to have.

Your generous donations were part of an enormous collection across the city, that weighed in at half a tonne.





EARLY YEARS, PRE-PREP & JUNIOR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS *Play*

Unfortunately, we weren't able to invite parents and family to come and watch our Christmas production again this year. Instead, the performances were filmed for broadcast via our Vimeo channel.

Pupils in the Nursery, Pre-Prep and Junior schools staged two shows of Andrew Oxspring's *The Stars Come Out For Christmas*, each with a different cast.

Based around a star-studded Christmas awards show, the play used song, dance and plenty of cracker-style corny jokes to introduce seasonal favourites, such as Christmas trees, Santa, snow and Christmas dinner. Who will be crowned the brightest star of Christmas?





WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS

CAROL *Concert*

In a late change to plans, pupils came into St Simon's Church in their age groups, to perform Christmas songs and readings. The pieces were filmed individually, before being edited together and uploaded to Vimeo for viewing.

School trustee, The Rev'd Canon Dr Anthony Rustell, also recorded a message, as part of the celebration.

Although we weren't able to share this significant calendar event together in-person, it still provided a fun and festive event with which to mark the end of term. Pupils watched together in tutor time, before heading home for their well-deserved Christmas break.









**Merry
Christmas
everyone**



A group of senior pupils have just produced Mayville's very first pupil newspaper. Working with Mrs Matthias-Rosser as part of a lunchtime club, the team have been rounding up the term's news, to publish the inaugural issue of *Mayville Post*. The entire publication has been written, edited and designed by pupils from years 7-10. Regular features, such as sport, creative arts and a jokes column, are joined in this issue with reports on pupils' involvement in the Reverse Advent project and eco activities throughout the term. We look forward to seeing this brilliant initiative grow over coming terms, as a sister publication to *The Register*.



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