



Combe Pafford School



BULLETIN



Autumn Term 2020

Headlines



It's difficult not to talk about the main item which at the moment dominates every newspaper and appears on every news programme on TV...so I will address it to get it out of the way and not let the problems of the Covid virus dominate our abridged newsletter. Obviously, the work this term has been dictated by the need to try to keep everyone safe and consequently several of the visits and activities we would normally undertake this term have had to be cancelled.

Thankfully, since September, some sort of normality has returned and we have settled into new routines and classes and lessons really well, whilst some activities have been curtailed, others, such as cycling, have really flourished! There have been other highlights as you will see in the rest of the newsletter, one worthy of note is the work we do with apprentices through our apprenticeship scheme which I am pleased to report has been recognised

by becoming the Regional Winners at the National Apprenticeship Awards, we then progressed onto the National Apprenticeship Award Final for Small and Medium Employers. Whilst we did not win, we were really pleased to be in the Final, one of only 8 companies to do so. This caused us to reflect on how many apprentices we have had, we have 9 at the moment, but in total, we have had 42 since we began recruiting apprentices.

During the term, we have had to ask some children to isolate as a precaution as they have had contact with a positive case, whilst this of course is really regrettable, I am pleased to report we haven't (yet!?) had an incident where any pupil or staff member has caught the virus in school.....consequently I would like to thank everyone for the way we have all tried to stick to our rules and plans and washed hands, kept a distance and walked outside between lessons, often the long way around the building, and to parents and carers, friends and grandparents for helping with transport.....a real team effort !!

As we look forward to the Christmas holidays, can I ask parents and carers to keep informing us of any pupil who, when the holiday begins, develops symptoms within 48 hours of being in school or has a positive test up to Wed 23rd December by emailing emails@combepafford,torbay.sch.uk this will ensure we can properly investigate anyone who may have been in contact in school and may need to isolate.

Sadly, the expectation is that there may well be more cases as a result of Christmas get togethers, so please do not send your youngster back to school on Tuesday 5th January if they, or anyone in the household, have symptoms or has had a positive test.

I hope you have the best Christmas/New Year holiday possible in the circumstances.....I am sure we are all wishing for a much better 2021!!

Best Wishes
Mike Lock

Vocational Skills



What a busy autumn term we have had in Vocational Skills. We have had



people making Christmas decorations, making copper coat hooks and copper wind chimes. We have had people

making Stick Man models, an exercise pen for a tortoise and a range of other practical activities. We have taken the time in class to discuss a range of different skills that will help us in the future to be a good employee.

We have looked at Hard Skills:



- Using a blow torch to join pipes using flux and solder
- Using cross cut saws
- Using hot glue guns
- Learning how to measure and mark both on timber and on copper

We have looked at Soft Skills:

- Wanting to do a good job
- Working alongside others
- Patience and perseverance
- Problem solving



Music news Autumn Term 2020

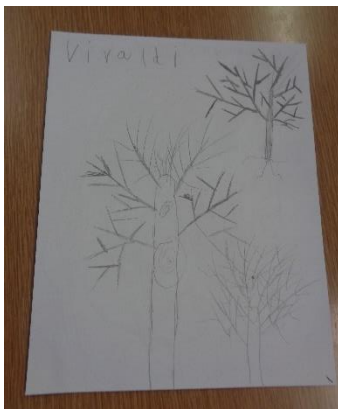
There has been lots of focus in music this term on developing performance skills. Have a look at what some pupils have been up...

BBC Ten pieces project – Vivaldi's Winter

Some pupils in Year 7 have taken part in the BBC Ten pieces project on Vivaldi's Winter from The Four Seasons. They started by listening and responding to the music through drawing before creating a



class composition piece – fantastic group performance skills developed!



Pupils in 6B have been exploring



songs and instruments from different countries around the world including Zambia, India and Australia. They particularly enjoyed performing the song "I go Africa."

Ocarinas – 4N



In 4N pupils have been playing the Ocarina and learning to perform Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. There are lots of things to learn with this instrument and they have been working really hard to develop their performance skills – keep going 4N! Check out <http://www.ocarina.co.uk> for more information on this brilliant instrument.

Drumming

This term Dom, Cayci-Lea and Connor have been developing their drumming skills. The drum teacher is really proud of how they are doing and they are working towards creating some performance pieces ready to share with others in the New Year. If you are interested in having drumming lessons please get in touch with Daniel Collings on **07891886290** or contact the school.

Outstanding performers in Middle school this term:



Ben Turner in 9N for his brilliant piano performance of Silent Night.



James Taylor in 8C for fantastic performances on the handbells.

Riley Parsons in 9W for developing his performance skills on the xylophone.

Helen Marshall in 8P for singing as part of the Nativity this year.

Outstanding performers in Lower school this term:

Harry in 5R for his performance of Mamma Mia on the mini steel pans – singing and playing together – well done Harry!

Aiden in 7K for his concentration and effort during the group performance of Vivaldi's winter.

Daisy Brown in 4N for recognising the ocarina symbols as quick as a flash!



Year 7 School Trip to Maiden Castle



During Humanities this term, the children in Year 7 have been learning about Prehistoric Britain with a particular focus on Iron Age Hill Forts. Each class created their own handmade Hill Forts and were then able to compare them to the famous Maiden Castle, to see first-hand the scale of a fort and how Iron Age people would have built their defences.



Upper School success stories

Once again, there have been some brilliant success stories happening in Upper School during this Autumn Term.

Unfortunately, work experience could not take place this term due to these unprecedented times with COVID. We hope to organise alternative plans when we are able to. However, work related learning continues to be delivered through our Vocational options taught by Vocational Tutors with real life experiences in our high-quality facilities, including the Yellow Frog café, Animal Care, Construction, Horticulture, Hair Salon and a Motor Vehicle garage. This part of our curriculum gives your child a fantastic chance of getting on the employment ladder and to lead purposeful and successful lives.



*10M class rep
Grace
Connolly
holding
Mango
the
bearded
dragon!*

GCSE Chemistry continues to be amazing! We had our first ever passes last summer and pupils continue to excel in this subject including some excellent results in our recent mock exams with many pupils receiving praise letters in the post from me for going above and beyond our expectations. A big WELL DONE to the following pupils taking Chemistry in Year 11 Jake W, Ryan, Leo, Karl, Megan, Hannah, Keisha, Harvey, Jack, Chris, Jake F, Luca and Morgan. And also another big WELL DONE to the following pupils taking Chemistry in Year 10 Sam, Oscar, Harvey,

These are just some of our brilliant successes this term. I wish you all a safe and fantastic Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr B Dowell, Deputy Head and Head of Upper School

Logan, Sarah, Lyamba, Jordan and Charley. These pupils are making really pleasing progress in Chemistry, they are excited about their learning and I am already looking forward to the Year 11 results for next summer!

Also, a special mention to our pupils who have received IT lessons remotely from Mrs Cooper for four weeks this term (whilst a teacher has been in the classroom). They have worked ever so hard and some pupils may even achieve a higher grade at the end of the course because they have completed a huge amount of work when Mrs Cooper was not physically here in school! Amazing!

*Popular
and well
respected
10K class
rep Harvey
Barnes!*



Our School Council representatives have impressed with their enthusiasm and delivered some insightful and confident speeches including the changes they could make to improve our school. Well done to Grace, Luke, Harvey, Ellie, Lily, Angel, Natasha, Bibi and Jake. You will see Grace, Harvey and Bibi pictured and smiling on this page! I look forward to seeing the changes our School Council representatives will bring about over the coming year and hope they enjoy the experience of being on the School Council.



*Never caught without a smile
11C's class rep, Bibi Thomas!*

National Apprenticeship Awards – Regional Winner 2020 for SME Employer

We were delighted to have won the South West National Apprenticeship Award 2020 for SME Employer. The virtual ceremony to announce the regional winners was held on 6th November 2020, which involved Mr Lock and I putting our ICT skills to test, so that we could accept the award virtually. We also were highly commended in the award for Excellence in Recruitment, the winners for this category were Wessex Water.

Winning the award for SME employer, meant that we progressed to represent the region at the National Final on 25 November 2020. We attended the virtual ceremony, presented by Dan Walker from BBC Breakfast. We didn't win the National Award, but were delighted to have been in the final alongside the eight employers representing their regions.

It is brilliant to be recognised for this award, as we aim to deliver a programme that not only raises the aspirations of our own students and give young people the opportunity to access a structured apprenticeship programme.

Currently we have apprentices working in Hospitality & Catering, ICT, Learning Support, Job Coaching, Administration, Animal Care and Premises.

Caroline Milner
Careers Lead



8P News Autumn 2020

It has been a busy term for 8P.

Here are just a few of the things 8P have been up to.

In English pupils have been exploring the text *Leon and The Place Between*. They created a class version of 'The Place Between' before writing their own stories of a magical portal. Pupils have been developing their thinking skills in Thrive looking at how to solve problems as well as actions and consequences. Take a look at their Jenga moves – a very tricky problem to solve!



Pupils have also been learning how to cross the road safely as part of PSHE. Here they are practising using a zebra crossing.



When pupils had to self-isolate early on in the term they also stayed positive by creating a #helloyellow positive mental health board.



A fantastic term – well done 8P!



Middle School Class and Pupils of the Term



Congratulations to 8C who have been awarded Class of the Term in the recent Middle School End of Term Assembly. The class won as they have been impressing their teachers by using a 'social filter' & using their voice to communicate more effectively. Mrs Cole said, "They are blossoming in all areas they have worked so hard at their academic achievements."



As a reward, they joined with Pupils of the term (Lucy Davies 8S, Olivia Osborne 8P, Rebecca Gelarde 8W, Kieran Rhodes 8C, Thomas Wood 9N, Riley Parsons 9A, Liam Dance 9W) and shared some delicious Domino's pizza for lunch, followed by a movie and surprise delivery of yummy cakes from Ben's bakes!!



Ben's bakes!!

What a well-deserved treat!!!



Mrs McVeigh

Harvest Festival

Thank you all for the donations for Harvest, especially during this difficult time for all of us. The donations this year were dropped off to the Homeless in Teignbridge Support (HITS) Foodbank. The HITS staff were delighted to see us and gave us a huge 'thank you'. Well done to 7D for taking action in the community and being responsible for the collection and donation.



SIXTH FORM AUTUMN TERM NEWS REPORT 2020

Teambuilding Days

The Sixth Form had to forego their annual Teambuilding Day at Ashcombe Adventure Centre this year as it was closed due to the pandemic, but made alternative plans to spend the day in separate P and W groups on Dartmoor. Both groups enjoyed a walk from Dartmeet (where the East and the West Dart Rivers meet) negotiating the tricky stepping stones and climbing up to Combestone Tor where students scrambling on the rocks. Some ventured on to Horn's Cross before the whole group continued on the circular walk, crossing the river again by stepping stones and walking through Huccaby Farm and back to Dartmeet.

All the students had a great time and commented on how much they had enjoyed it, unfortunately someone always ends up in the River Dart when we come here and this year was no exception! Poor Jake Vizard experienced the freezing cold waters of the River Dart, but was incredibly brave – Ben Collins showed his teamwork skills by helping Jake out of the river.



On the rocks at Combestone Tor



Crossing the River Dart via the stepping stones



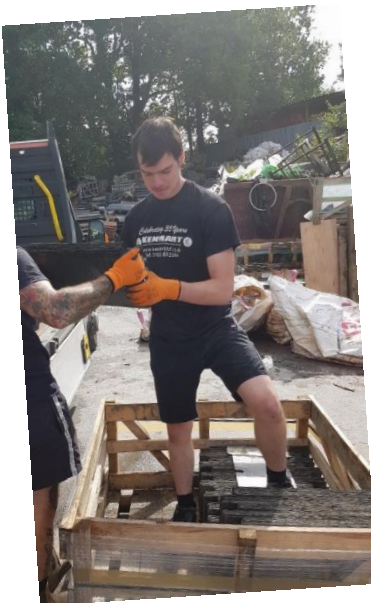


Students excel on Work Placements

It's been a difficult term with work placements for obvious reasons, but most students got out to their placements eventually – until second lockdown came, that is! Retail students like Cameron de Groot, Joe Weiss and Liam Slack excelled on the Retail Pathway, making great progress at Sainsbury's and are set to return after Christmas. Animal Care students who couldn't go to their normal animal care placements went to Dawlish Gardens Trust instead and had a great time! Adam Prosser, Sam Whiteaker, Sam Tagapulot, Anastasia Bowles, Eli Mason and Connor Roberts all got

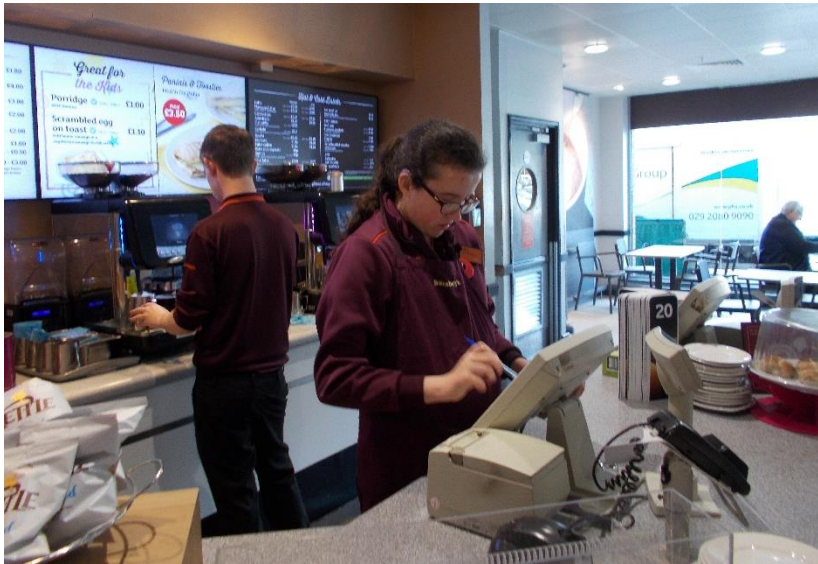
a lot out of their time at DGT and hope to return at some point. Ellie Jackson and Oliver Taylor also attended DGT on Fridays and were very much enjoying their time there. Since second lockdown ended, several students have been able to return to work as normal –

- Kiemera Clark at Bow Wow Dog Grooming
- Jack Drinkwater in the Yellow Frog Café
- David Leese at National Tyres
- Lily Rodaway at Hurley's hair salon
- Jake Vizard at the Palace Hotel
- Kelley Behan at TTS Tyres and Exhausts
- Connor Johnson at Kenmart Ltd.
- Callum Taylor-Pratt at Rowcroft Hospice
- Ben Smith at the Palace Hotel
- Ben Collins at the Devon Dumpling
- Ben Barker at Coleton Fishacre National Trust



Students gain casual employment

Two students have excelled in obtaining casual paid employment over the Christmas period – Ben Collins at the Devon Dumpling pub, and Amy Weston at Sainsbury's. In addition, Kiamera Clark has been regularly working at a local Chinese takeaway, and Lee Abbott has joined the school's payroll by doing three cleaning shifts a week until the end of term to cover for one of the cleaners who is off work at the moment. Fenton Miller also left the Sixth Form in November to take up a cleaning position at a local care home.



Amy Weston working in the café at Sainsbury's at the Willows, where she has gained paid employment over the Christmas period.

New link with Stover bears fruit

Whilst some of our existing links and partnerships are on hold until things return to normal, a new link has been forged with Stover Country Park involving four Horticulture students each week visiting on Fridays to undertake clearing work under the supervision of the park ranger. This has proved extremely popular and has given students the opportunity to gain some experience as a conservation volunteer, cutting down vegetation and burning it safely on site for example, and gaining an awareness of what the Park's aims are.



Kieran Binmore (left) and Joe Francis (right) working at Stover clearing trees



Travel Training interrupted

At the start of term, two of the Sixth Form Job Coaches set about taking out between 2 – 4 students from the Preparation for Working Life programme every week to get used to catching the bus to nearby towns and modelling the skills needed to do this independently. Second lockdown interrupted this process, but not before we had taken 20 youngsters out for their first experience, visiting a range of places, including Teignmouth, Newton Abbot, Torquay, Paignton and Totnes. We hope to resume this later on in the school year as it provides an important first step towards being able to travel independently.

Damon branches out!

Damon Barlow has benefited this term from two new ventures we have been able to put his way. Firstly, he is halfway through a block of 6 days spent 1-to-1 with a tutor from Adelong Outdoor Education working on personal development skills such as map reading and navigation. So far he has been to Berry Head Country Park and Coleton Fishacre National Trust property to put his skills into practice, and hopes to be able to gain an award for this. Damon has been an enthusiastic participant and is very much enjoying these sessions. Alongside this, Damon has attended two taster sessions at The Key at Seale Hayne on the KAOS Project – this is an expressive arts workshop which involves collaborative group work with other students on visual arts and drama, which is just up Damon's street!! He has enjoyed the taster so much that we have decided to allow him to continue attending on Thursdays throughout the Spring term.



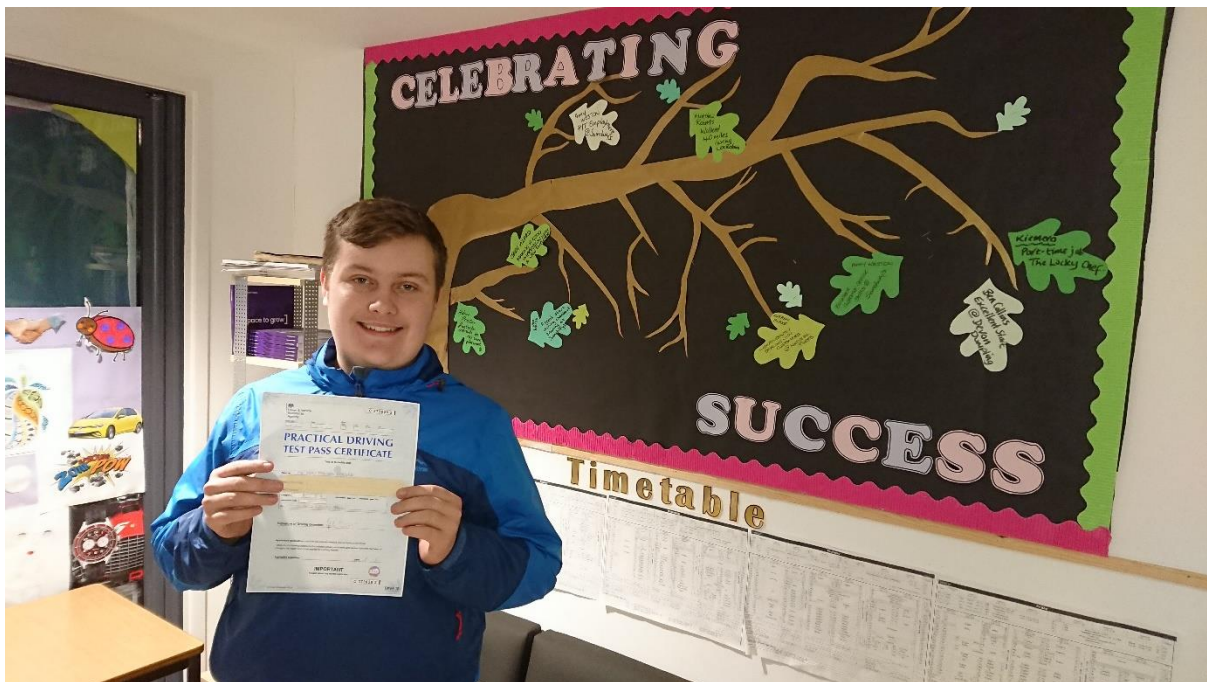
Damon practising his navigation skills at Berry Head Country Park



Damon helping with the KAOS Project at Key, Seale Hayne College

Ben all ready for the road!

Ben Barker has achieved one of his work-related goals by passing both his driving test theory and practical test at the first time of asking – no mean feat for anyone these days! Ben is a success of the scheme whereby we arrange for an assessment at the Devon Drivers' Centre through Grant's School of Motoring, and then pay for the first 10 lessons as an incentive to become more independent and therefore more employable. Ben is a safe, sensible driver and has already investigated what he needs to do to achieve his long-term dream – which is to gain his Heavy Goods Vehicle licence so he can become a lorry driver. It does also mean of course that he can apply for jobs as a delivery driver. Well done Ben!



Employability

A new subject has appeared on the timetable this term for Work-ready students in the form of Employability, and is being jointly delivered by the W tutors Miss Monnington and Mrs Dolan. This subject has replaced I.T. and Work-related Learning, and the three lessons each week are dedicated to educating students about the workplace, and developing the skills and knowledge needed to look for, apply for and gain suitable employment and apprenticeships. We are confident in the long term that this will mean that more students will be successful in gaining casual part-time employment and more full-time jobs and apprenticeships. Rosie Underhill, our own apprentice in the Sixth Form, recently did her own presentation to W1 and W2 students about what life was like as an apprentice and the work she has to do on her college day at Exeter College. Sarah Ross, an ex-Sixth Form student, is also an apprentice lower down the school.



Work Skills lessons so much fun

A tour of Work Skills sessions on the Preparation for Working Life Pathway recently revealed that students were simply having too much fun! Everywhere I went students were busy involved in practical activity, often working on individual projects from upcycling and painting furniture, to sewing and needlecraft, to carpentry! Students really enjoy these sessions led by Wayne, Ursula and Linda, and benefit from the opportunities to practise and apply skills such as measuring, marking and cutting, painting etc., whilst at the same time allowing them to use their own creative flair. Very well done to all concerned!



Ellie Jackson and Joe Francis working on various Work Skills projects



Christmas dinner is a hit!

Prevented from going out to the Willow Tree pub this year for our Sixth Form Christmas dinner, we made do by setting up in the café classrooms and enjoying a very fine roast turkey meal laid on by Dominic in the Yellow Frog Café, ably assisted by James Bell and his team of Hospitality and Catering students. They did us proud as the meal was fantastic so many thanks to all who helped! After dinner, we did the 'Lucky Dip' Secret Santa organised by Jayne and Carole, followed by a review of the term and some interesting and funny quizzes about what Sixth Form staff got up to when they were in school! Proceedings were rounded off by the presentation of Love2Shop vouchers for effort and progress in Maths, English, Employability, Work Placements and Pathway Studies. Jack Drinkwater, who was awarded the prize for Personal Development, is pictured here working in the school kitchen.



Students raise money for Children in Need

Sixth Form students raised just over £50 for Children in Need this term through donations and by dressing up for the day – well done for making such a great effort in difficult circumstances!



Sixth Form building work taking shape

The Sixth Form extension, which provides a new entrance, a large social area for students, and new office facilities moves slowly but surely towards completion. Staff and students have coped extremely well with the cramped space and alternative entrance whilst the work has been going on (especially with Covid restrictions limiting our movement) but we can now look forward to 'moving in' at some point in the Spring, and I am expecting this to have a big positive impact on how the students feel about their building. The Student Voice group, under Mrs Dolan's guiding hand, has already started making suggestions about how we can use this space effectively and get the most out of it.

Finally, I would like to wish all students, their parents, carers and family a very Happy Christmas and New Year! Hope to see you all back healthy and safe and raring to go in January!

Edward W Thompson
(Head of Sixth Form)

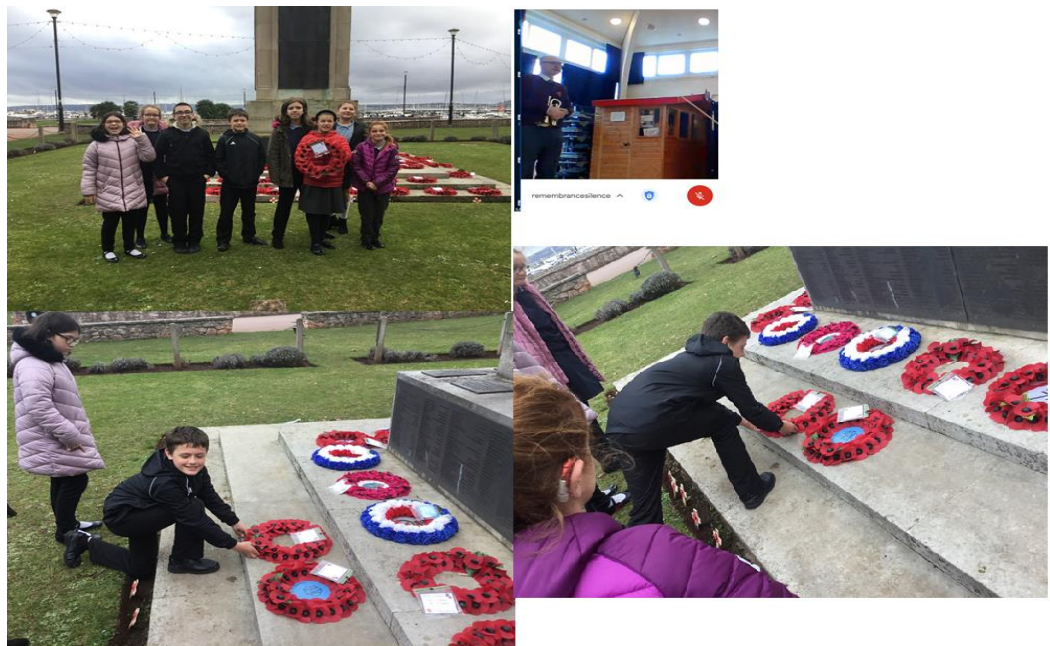


Remembrance Day

Combe Pafford School marked Remembrance Day by holding a virtual assembly looking at the impact of WW2 in our local area and also linking remembrance symbols and actions with those demonstrated during the recent lockdown period.

Whilst it is usual to gather together to observe the silence at 11am on Remembrance Day, we had to do things slightly differently this year. A live feed was shared across all classrooms to show Crystal (Year 8) read a section of the Poem 'The Fallen' by Robert Laurence Binyon and to hear Mr Spooner play 'The Last Post'.

Later in the day, class 8S visited the Torquay War Memorial and laid a wreath on behalf of all at Combe Pafford School.



Horticulture news

In the Autumn term, the Horticulture groups have been working hard tending the flower beds, keeping the school site free of leaves and weeds, preparing and mulching the beds ready for the growing season and completing enterprise projects. The Sixth Form Horticulture Pathway students have gained some experience going offsite to help with the gardening at Stover Park. All groups have also passed several units towards their City + Guilds Level 1 Awards, Certificates and Diplomas.



Happy Christmas from the Year 11 Horticulture group.



B B C

Children in Need

Children in Need day was very different this year, as we were not able to do all the normal fund-raising events we had done previously, but the children came to school wearing their own clothes and donated £1. We are pleased to say that we raised £290.93



The Show Must Go on!

This year's Lower School Nativity performance seemed doomed by the restrictions of the pandemic. Fortunately, due to the talents of many Combe Pafford staff, including the production skills of Mr Abbott, the show did go on!

The pupils enjoyed developing their acting skills in their class bubbles, each class recreating a scene from the traditional Nativity story. Filming on

location at school meant that we could use our many fantastic facilities. This included the Animal Ark, where 4N became expert animal handlers and Blondie the Guinea Pig received a starring role! We look forward to sharing the amazing performance with you all! – Miss Evans

