



Bredon Hill Academy

Learning Together for Success

Summer Term 2024



A message from the Headteacher...

It has been another exceptionally busy term at BHA with our school production of Mary Poppins, our Year 8 residential trip to York, our Hill Walks and end-of-year trips to name but a few. My sincere thanks go to every member of staff for their commitment to providing a range of opportunities for our children.

Thank you, too, to our parents and carers for your ongoing support. We do appreciate it.

We say goodbye to three members of staff at the end of term. Mr Baston, our Head of Geography, will be retiring. Phil joined us back in September 2001 and has given so much to the school. He's supported many residential trips and has walked up Bredon Hill a fair few times over the years. We will miss seeing him cycling at top speed along the lanes in the morning. Mrs Merrick will also be leaving us to take up another job at a school in Gloucestershire. Since joining us in September 2015, Jade has been a wonderful support to the maths department. She formed great relationships with our pupils and always got the very best from them. Mrs Organ will also be leaving us. She too, has been an invaluable support to pupils in maths. Phil, Jade and Denise - we will miss you.

And finally, I would like to thank our fantastic pupils who help to make BHA the special place it is. Year 6 will return in September to start their KS3 studies and Year 7s will return to start their final year with us. The vast majority of our Year 8s will move on to Prince Henry's High School, but wherever you are going, we hope that you will be happy and that you will continue to make progress with your learning. Remember to work hard and enjoy yourselves. Please don't forget your 3 years at BHA and value the friendships you have made here.

From all of the staff at BHA, have a lovely summer break.

See you in September.

Debbie West

Debbie West

Experiences beyond the Classroom

The final few weeks of term have been full to bursting with a range of activities, allowing pupils to open their minds to the world beyond the curriculum—supporting discovery, creativity and teamwork, but also celebrating a fantastic year of learning.

Year 6 had a lovely day at Cotswold Wildlife Park, exploring the scenery and vast array of animals. The giraffes, as always, were a particular highlight!



Year 6 also had an in-school activities day, completing a carousel of activities comprising: drama skills, Lego marble-runs, bridge construction, games, music and art. They have also learned about law and order with a visit from the Worcestershire Magistracy. The talk complemented their understanding of community, British Values and the Rules of Law.



Earlier in the term, the year group celebrated the end of their SATs examinations with a much-deserved walk up Bredon Hill. A large number of pupils had never experienced the stunning views of the surrounding countryside and it offered a perfect time to reflect on what had been a very busy week, with the sun also making a rare appearance!





Year 7 spent their activities day at Aztec Adventure over in Upton Warren. The year group had a fantastic time on the aqua park, and thoroughly enjoyed the obstacle course. Many of the pupils hadn't tried such activities before and it was therefore great to see some resilience and perseverance in action as they attempted to master the basics.



Meanwhile, year 8 visited Bonkers in Pershore for their end of year activity. Happy memories were made having lots of fun on the water with paddle boards and boats and a whole range of land-based activities , too.



Both years 7 and 8 also completed their Hill Walks in the final week of term. It was lovely to see the cohorts explore our local environment, the wildlife and look back at the stunning Ashton under Hill from a higher vantage point.



Our fantastic team of prefects were also rewarded with a trip to Ninja Warriors in Cheltenham.



Year 8 Leavers' Party

On Thursday evening, the BHA staff and year 8 pupils came together to celebrate a memorable three years with a silent disco. Their year 6 was challenging: joining a new school is always daunting, but with many COVID-related restrictions still in place, it was particularly difficult for this cohort—many of them hadn't even had the opportunity of visiting the school before starting with us.

Despite the initial setbacks, the year group have shown resilience and determination, with a large dose of humour, to be a lovely group of youngsters and we will look back with fondness on their time with us and wish them every success in the future.



Celebrating Achievement

Congratulations to over 320 pupils across the school who went across the whole summer term without receiving a sanction and were rewarded with an ice-lolly to cool down with this week.



Furthermore, we impressively had over 230 pupils who were true 'Zero Heroes' and went a whole academic year without receiving a single sanction. These pupils were invited to The Henrician at Prince Henry's High School for a viewing of *Migration*, topped off with an ice-cream during the interval. A big 'well-done' to all for maintaining consistently excellent high standards.

Going even further, we have had 33 year 8 pupils who have spent their entire time at Bredon Hill as 'Forever Zero Heroes'. Whilst there were dozens of pupils who had done really well by only picking up a sanction or two, these pupils have really shown an unwavering commitment to excellence in their attitude and behaviour. They were rewarded with an afternoon tea with Miss West. A big 'well done' goes to:

8A: Oliver A, Olivia H, Kat L

8B: Frazer A, Lochie A, Isla C, Georgina G, Zoe H, Katie J, Olivia K, Dylan O, Ammarra S

8C: Poppy A, Henry C, Bethan P, Kara S

8H: Oliver B-W, Jacob B, Freya J, Chloe R, Sam W

8T: James G, Hebe G, Beth K, Amie L, Oliwia P

8V: Will A, Amelia A, Rhys B, Emilia N, Millie P, Bess T, Noah W



Simply Super(califragilisticexpialidocious)!

One of the highlights of our academic year had to be our school production of Mary Poppins Jnr. Performed over three nights, the show demonstrated some stunning individual singing and stage talents.



We are incredibly proud of all the pupils involved in the production, who consistently showed dedication and perseverance in their rehearsals and have worked really effectively as a group. A big 'thank you' to all who took part, both on stage and behind the scenes. Thank you also to all the staff who spent many hours supporting the pupils and the school with rehearsals, props, costumes, staging and production, particularly Mrs Jessop, Mrs Pilling, Miss Lloyd and Mme Amzallag.



Track Day



We definitely had two different sides to this year's track day, with Monday's attempts in the cold and drizzle meaning a second session was required, and thankfully this time the weather didn't disappoint. Our whole school community took to the field to represent their House. As well as the expected running events, some races not normally covered on the PE curriculum created additional levels of fun competition: egg and spoon races, skipping and bean bag racing. These additional races were a great success and meant a far wider range of pupils took the opportunity to represent their House with pride.



Vale narrowly ended up winners of the Track Day Trophy, ahead of Hill by just five points, with Miss Barber presenting the cup to 8 Vale's Sports Captains, Will C and Rosie C at the end of the school day.



Year 8 York Trip

As staff, one of the highlights of the year is to take pupils out of school on a trip, whether it be a day trip or a residential. The benefits to the children are huge in terms of both cultural and social understanding. We get to see children in a different light to how we see them in school and vice versa and it is this that makes the trips rewarding to us. We have taken Year 8 to York for the past two years and both of these trips have been extremely successful. This one more so, as we knew the city better.

The pupils were an absolute credit to us and we were so proud of the compliments we received regarding their manners and behaviour. This made the trip more enjoyable for everyone – we would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all pupils involved. I would also like to personally thank all of the staff who supported me in planning and delivering the trip. Below is a brief account of the many things that we got up to over the three days we were away.



Day 1—After a smooth journey to our destination, we had an action packed first day. A visit to the National Railway Museum with a chance to view The Mallard and go onboard a Japanese Bullet train were amongst the highlights. This was followed by a cruise down the River Ouse, during which we heard about some of the vast history of the city of York. After checking in at the hotel, we enjoyed a fabulous dinner at Valentino's restaurant. Finally, we were treated to an evening of ghost stories by our guide Mark. A brilliant first day!

Day 2—The group split in two with one group visiting York Chocolate Story and one group visiting York Minster. The groups swapped over in the afternoon. Whilst at the Chocolate Story, pupils learnt about the history of chocolate production in York and even had a go at making their own chocolate lollipop! At the Minster, pupils visited the vaults, viewed the famous Rose Window and had the opportunity to climb the tower. With 275 winding steps to the top, this was no mean feat - the views from the top were worth the effort even if we did nearly get blown away! In between times, pupils visited the Shambles and the attached market and strolled around the walls. The evening was spent enjoying a game of ten pin bowling.

Day 3—Our final day was spent enjoying a visit to the Jorvik Viking Centre and the York Dungeons. Jorvik explains the history of the Vikings in York and has a fascinating ride which takes you around a Viking village, where we learnt about their way of life and met some of the characters who would have lived in the village. Great fun was had in the Dungeons, with pupils being scared silly and jumping out of their skins as they encountered various historical characters such as a nurse treating victims of the plague, Guy Fawkes and the highlight, the witch, Isabella Billington.



Pupils have been given souvenir photos and others will have been shared on Teams.

Miss Mann.

Mathematics Update

UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge

In May, sixty-three Year 8 pupils took part in the Junior Mathematical Challenge organised by the UK Maths Trust. This is a 60 minute, 25 multiple choice challenge open to pupils in Year 8 and below. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think. The problems on the Junior Mathematical Challenge are accessible but still challenge those with more experience.

As a result, pupils were awarded 21 bronze, 9 silver and one gold certificate. The top three pupils being Tymoteusz K (gold), Dylan O (silver) and Archie H (silver). Congratulations to all pupils who took part!



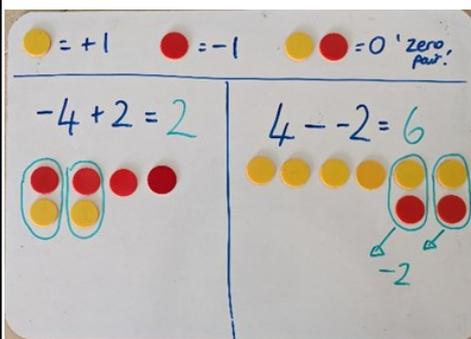
Tym's score meant that he qualified for the follow-on round – the Junior Kangaroo. This was a challenge similar to the first round but with a higher level of challenge. He took part in this in June and was awarded a certificate of participation for his efforts. Fantastic work, Tym!

Maths Mastery

Throughout this academic year, Mrs Campbell and Miss Mann have been involved in a programme through the GLOW Maths Hub looking at mastery teaching in maths. This has involved regular professional development sessions with local schools and visits to Balcarras School in Cheltenham to see teaching for mastery in action.

The first underpinning principle of teaching for mastery is the assumption that everyone can learn and enjoy mathematics. As a department (and indeed as a school), this has always been at the core of our teaching and learning and we see this reflected in feedback from pupils.

We have been looking at ways to develop this principle through adopting more of the teaching for mastery ideas. There are five Big Ideas within mastery teaching which revolve around how we plan the curriculum and each lesson within it and also how ideas are delivered to pupils in order to help support their learning. As part of this, we have been focusing on using different representations to expose the structure of the maths we are teaching and support pupils in 'seeing' the maths rather than using the representation to just 'do' the maths. These representations then become mental images that pupils can use to support their mathematical thinking in the future.



An example of this is when we have been teaching pupils about calculating with negative numbers. It is easy for children to develop misconceptions such as 'two negatives make a positive' which can then lead to problems unpicking this. With the help of double-sided negative number counters, we have been able to support children in representing calculations and discovering, for example, that 'adding a negative has the same effect as subtracting'. Year 7 pupils may have come home talking about these counters and about 'zero pairs'. Once pupils know these rules they can then apply them, however, they will always be able to draw or imagine the counters to help them should the need arise.

Several year 8 groups have been introduced to algebra tiles this term. These can be used to help in many areas of algebra from collecting like terms, to expanding double brackets and solving equations. They are used to support and model in a more visual way whilst still supporting the rigour of written methods. Pupils have enjoyed a more 'hands on' approach and have been open to exploring these different representations.

We will continue to be fully involved in the programme during the coming year where we will be sharing ideas across the maths department enabling all members to be using more of the ideas of teaching for mastery.



Year 6 Maths Clubs

Throughout the spring and summer terms, we have been running two maths clubs for Year 6 pupils at lunchtime. The first was a Girls' Maths Club to which a group of 32 girls were invited to attend. During these sessions, pupils have undertaken a variety of tasks aimed at enhancing work covered in class and recapping areas covered in first school. Many of these tasks were practical and involved making things or playing games such as Bingo. A fun time was had by all, well done to all!

The second club was a Problem Solving Club to which a mixed group of Year 6 pupils was invited. These sessions were used to have a go at solving problems, which, on the surface may not always appear to be mathematical. Amongst other things, these included murder mysteries and latterly looking at how to solve magic number tricks using algebra! Again, lots of enthusiasm – well done to those who attended regularly.

Certificates Galore!

The final two weeks of term have seen an absolutely enormous—over 1000—certificates and awards being handed out to pupils, celebrating their successes and endeavours. These have included Zero Hero awards, house point certificates, subject commendations, school values ambassadors and many more linked to house and out of school competitions. A huge well done to all our certificate collectors—we hope there's enough space left on those walls at home!

A special mention to the following pupils who, at the time of writing have all made it to our coveted 'diamond' house point status, at least 150 house points over the course of the year. This marks an incredible achievement for these pupils for all their effort, excellent attainment and consistent displaying of our school values: Belief, Honesty and Aspiration and is the highest number we have ever recorded. Well done to:

Year 6: Savannah R, Wiktoria P, Toby H, Harry H, Fin D, Megan H, Iris B, Henry C, George C, Eliza S, Ellie T, Freya G, Faye H, Grace G, Emily F, Savannah F, Archer P, Ella B. Year 7: Lotte K. Year 8: Lily R



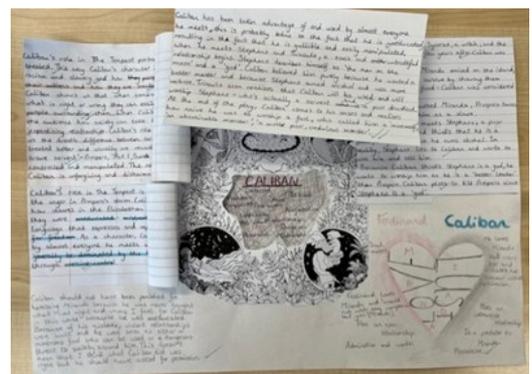
English Learning Summer Term 2024

This term has been a varied and thought-provoking one. Our students' learning continues to go from strength to strength in English.

The year six cohort have immersed themselves in writing for their portfolios. They enjoyed imagining they were characters from Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland' writing to complain in a formal letter to the Queen of Hearts. They all developed their writing skills by completing their own writing based around our outstanding gardens for Ashton-Under-Hill Open Gardens. They produced information leaflets for visitors. We received some super responses back from our visitors. The students continued to develop their retrieval, comprehension, summary, questioning and inferring skills whilst reading a selection of shared novels. In particular, students continued developing vocabulary choices, sentence structures and have been exploring the effect punctuation choices have. The year six cohort also behaved superbly during the May SATs and applied themselves diligently. We also enjoyed a live author event with Professor Alice Roberts who was talking about her novel 'Wolf Road'. Well done, year six. We are proud of you.

Year seven continue to explore the concepts of heroism and villainy. This term they have explored Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. They have developed their understanding of the historical context of the play and how actors take the text and work it into a performance. The cohort has been developing their creation of metaphors thinking about tenor, vehicle and ground.

Year eight learning continued to be based around the concept of 'conflict' in English. They completed an analytical look at Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'. They have been engaging with the language, historical context and the idea of text in performance over the early part of the term. They have all then been given the opportunity to learn about the genre of Science Fiction focused around conflict and how different writers craft these experiences for readers. They have been crafting their own stories and graphic novels based on those by H. G. Wells, Ray Bradbury, Douglas Adams and John Wyndham.



Reading buddies has helped to boost reading skills this year and build academic relationships between year groups. We look forward to growing this group next year. To support students, we have grown the number of programmes we have purchased and used to support our adaptation of the curriculum to close gaps. These include Dyslexia Gold, Tutoring with the Lightning Squad and the Thursday group which have been helping to support our students who have gaps and specific diagnoses. We are looking to develop this support next year. Spelling frame has engaged and supported our year 6 learners this year alongside SATs Boot Camp. We also held our second Scholastic Book Fair in July. Thank you to those who supported this.



All students in years 6, 7 and 8 are invited to join in our 2024 Summer Reading Challenge—see below for details of how to register. This is a great way to counteract the summer dip and start September with house-points, commendations or an award. If you want advice about which books to read, do look at the Reading Newsletters and booklists which can be found on our website.

National Read-Aloud Challenge
Powered by **Fonetti**

Bredon Hill Academy
Register your child for **FREE** at:
<https://readaloudchallenge.co.uk/join/ZMSV-C4UD-TW93>

- ★ Free for children over the 3 months of summer – June until August
- ★ Safe and easy for your child to use **without supervision**
- ★ Independent Read-Aloud App with instant feedback
- ★ Helps **maintain and improve** reading skills – and helps beat the 'summer slump'
- ★ Uses **games, competition, leaderboards** and **prizes** as a proven method to **engage children in a fun competitive way**
- ★ Encourages a love for reading, fires up their imagination and improves their reading age
- ★ Winning schools get 4 places to a fully funded day trip to London for an awards ceremony hosted by **Clare Balding CBE** at Amazon HQ

Reading is fuel for our imaginations and reading well out loud is all about confidence so let's get going.
Clare Balding CBE
Fonetti Brand Ambassador

#BeProudReadAloud

Fonetti
The read-aloud app

Register Now

Building on the success of last year's inaugural National Read-Aloud Challenge, we are thrilled to announce our further commitment to combat summer reading regression by making this an annual event. The positive feedback from children, parents and teachers, along with the impact data, shows us that when a child is intrinsically motivated to read during a period not typically associated with reading improvement, something truly effective is at play.

Kim Antoniou
Founder/CEO, Auris Tech/Fonetti

Children choose from a library of engaging books and simply read them aloud. Progress and stars achieved are shown to inform and encourage.

When read correctly, the words turn green. If skipped or misread, they turn grey. For children, an audible clue can be accessed by simply double-tapping the word.

Children can effortlessly monitor their progress on a daily, weekly, monthly or overall basis! Parents and carers are kept informed with weekly progress updates.

Introducing the **award-winning** Read-Aloud App for children, the perfect tool to improve literacy, fluency and language skills.

Fonetti is proven to boost **fluency, reading, and English language skills.**

74% Improvement in 1 or more reading metric	16% Average accuracy improvement	25 Additional correct words per minute
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Measured from a dataset of over **200,000** reading sessions on Fonetti in 2023.

We wish all our students and their families a relaxing summer break. We wish all our year 8 students the very best as they move to their new schools and into year 9.

The English Department

History Update

Year 6 have been revisiting the KS1 and KS2 history curriculum, starting with civilisations from around the world; Egyptians, Maya and Romans. They are currently working through the chronology of British history from the Stone Age to the Victorians. A different place and time period every lesson!

Year 7 have moved from the Middle Ages to the Tudor period. They have been examining how the Tudors moved England out of the Middle Ages into an early modern world and in particular what the Reformation was and its impact, including Henry VIII's many wives!

Year 8 have been studying the changes and developments that occurred during the 'Roaring Twenties' in America. They have experienced the slapstick Comedy of Charlie Chaplin (growth of Hollywood), the Charleston dance craze and Jazz music, the business ideas of Henry Ford and the new styles, fashions and liberation of flappers (modern women). They have witnessed the birth of our modern world!

Geography Update

Now that the weather is improving, Year 7 pupils have been able to conduct some fieldwork around the school grounds. The pupils have been studying various weathering processes and they then went around the school to see how weathering affects our school buildings. Biological, chemical and onion skin weathering were all evident and the pupils went on to write a report about their findings.



House Points 2023-24

Our pupils have continued to shine across all areas of school life, picking up a wealth of house points for their efforts, achievements and participation and really demonstrating their appreciation of our motto, Learning Together For Success. Castle were champions by just 21 house points last year, but this year Vale ran out comfortable winners. Well done to 6 Avon for being the overall Attendance Cup winners with an average attendance of 97%. Make sure you keep up to date with your child's achievements through the My Child At School platform.



Avon	Brook	Castle	Hill	Tower	Vale
7466	7080	6280	7412	8216	8702

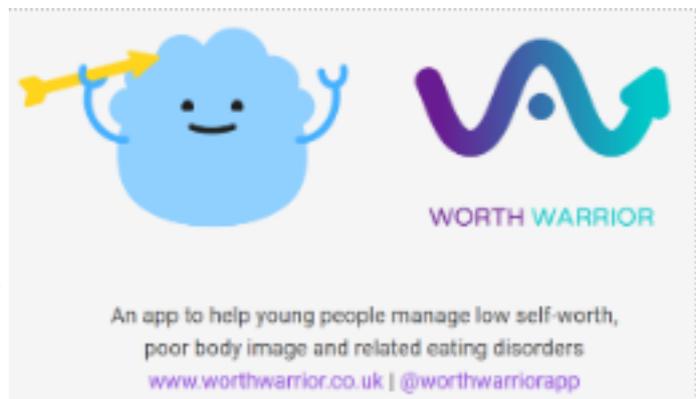
Wellbeing with Mrs W

As we move into the summer holidays, some of our children will be very excited about the prospect of getting up later, a more relaxed schedule and free some time! Some of our children however, will find the reduced structure of the day a challenge. Some may not see their friends so much. Some may struggle to entertain themselves and get bored. Some may find the six weeks off really difficult, for a number of reasons. We would like to highlight that this is quite normal but there are things that can be done to support your child's mental health through the more challenging times.



<https://stem4.org.uk/>

Stem 4 is a great website for both children and families. It provides resources that can support young people's mental health and gives advice to children and carers. There are helpful apps that can be downloaded so that help is always at hand.



If you feel that you or your child would benefit from this, please take a look!

We've also been recommended the website www.dayvisits.co.uk for local trip ideas and special discounts over the summer holidays. Summer holidays can be expensive when you want to eat out—here's a link of the latest places offering offers on children's menus: [Worcester News Cheap Eats](#). Finally, for families in receipt of Free School Meals, remember that there are a whole range of free and low-cost activities available over the holidays. For more information, click here: [HAF Programme](#).



Science Update

Science trip

Year 8 had the opportunity to complete an ecological survey of three local sites this term - this included a site at school and two sites on a farm, thanks to a local farmer.

We spent the morning travelling around the three sites collecting scientific data, including: pH of soil, air temperature, sampling of flowing plants using quadrats and so on. In the afternoon Mr Umpelby (an entomologist) gave a presentation about pollinators. To culminate the day, groups produced a piece of work to answer the question 'which site is best for pollinators?'. The day offered a welcome insight into the sorts of challenges pupils will face as they progress in their science learning into high school.

Worcestershire Primary STEM Challenge Final

During the spring term, some year 6 pupils made models using Knex for the STEM challenge. Following on from this, Hattie and Rose were invited to the finals in Worcester during June. We are very proud of the girls for all they achieved.

Forensic Science workshop

Pupils were invited to a forensic science workshop run by employees of Foster and Freeman. The pupils who chose to attend looked at a machine used to identify fake documents, looked at fake and real driving licences as well as looking at how certain substances look under various types of electromagnetic waves.

Summer Concert

At the end of last month, pupils and their families were presented with a lovely showcase of the arts at Bredon Hill Academy. Featuring solo music performances, group pieces, solo singing, our BHA singing group, art work and various English performances, the evening was very well received and gave pupils an opportunity to perform to a wider audience—something for many of them was a new achievement.



Personal Development

Something we pride ourselves on at BHA is our personal development programme, designed to encourage each child to become personally, emotionally, social and physical effective to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives. Ultimately this leads to our young people being able to become confident, independent and informed citizens, able to make responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives. Opportunities for personal development are widespread and embedded across all areas of school life, from PSHE lessons to coverage of universal themes in English lessons; from participation in interhouse sporting events to tackling real-world problem solving in maths. Some additional highlights of our personal development programme this term have included:

- All pupils in years 6 and 8 receiving a talk from two local magistrates, exploring British Values and what happens in a magistrates court.
- Our Enrichment lessons every Blue Thursday afternoon for years 7 and 8. Carousel activities have included photography, first aid, German, sports leadership and teambuilding. Over the course of the year, our year 8 tutor groups have raised over £1500 for six different charities through their bake sales.
- Holding a 'mock general election' on July 4th. Following opportunities to explore how elections work and the democratic process, pupils were provided with summary manifestoes for the main parties in England to explore in PSHE lessons and tutor time. With the help of some fantastic volunteers, Mrs Matthews ran a full day of voting and even the year 8 pupils on the York trip were able to complete a postal ballot. Pupils came together at the end of the day to hear the announcement that, at BHA, the Liberal Democrats received the most votes, followed by The Green Party.
- Year 8 receiving an assembly on apprenticeship opportunities from Worcestershire Apprenticeships.
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities through lunchtime clubs and after school sports events. Well over 80% of our pupils regularly engage in these clubs, from Minecraft to Ultimate Frisbee; Birdwatching to Chess, our wide range gives pupils opportunities to meet new friends and try something different.
- Entering the Spirited Arts NATRE competition in RE to explore ideas linked to Faith in Humanity and how individuals envisage God.



Sporting Successes

Once again, the summer term has yielded further achievements and accomplishments for individuals and teams. Notable highlights have included:

- Year 6 girls winning a local cricket competition, held at Bredon Cricket Club.
- Year 6 South Worcestershire winners in boccia and third place in the KS3 tournament. This led to school representation at the boccia county finals, held at Bromsgrove School.
- Multiple successes in rounders games for all year groups against a range of local schools.
- Finishing 4th in the Central England Panathlon Grand Final at Birmingham University following district and county successes.

A big 'well done' to all pupils who have represented the school this year in sports—we had games and competitions covering: football, rugby, cricket, tennis, rounders, equestrian, panathalon, cross-country, boccia and have loved hearing about individual sporting success stories outside of school, too. We look forward to another action-packed year of sport starting up again in September.

