



# GAUDEAMUS



Malbank School and Sixth Form College. Issue 41. July 2021

Welcome to issue 41 of Gaudeamus

As we arrive at the threshold of our summer holiday it is fitting to reflect on our collective achievements this year.

It is testament to the spirit of Malbank that such a wide range of events have been able to take place. The circumstances of the COVID pandemic may have meant we needed to work things a little differently to the norm, but the Malbank spirit prevailed, and events such as the fabulous whole school sports day showed that we have come through the crisis all the stronger.

I hope that you have a wonderful well-earned break, and I look forward to all the amazing things you will achieve next academic year.

*Mr Shepherd, Editor*

## An unforgettable year

A strange title perhaps for my part in this edition of Gaudeamus, but I think it is safe to assume that the last academic year is one that none of us will ever forget. When I look back on what we have experienced this year, more than anything I believe we should have a feeling of pride at having done the very best we could as a school community to come through this difficult period in history. It is likely that when we return in September school will feel very different and hopefully it won't be long until the strange school life of 2021/22 becomes a clouded, distant memory.

But looking back, particularly when you are older, you will always have an interesting story to tell about the year when you went to school, had to learn at home for a long period of time, wore masks, missed exams and had to get used to being students and how to learn all over again. And whilst this is never something we would have asked for or wanted, and the tragic impact of those who have lost loved ones can never be underestimated, as with everything – difficult moments give us the chance to grow and learn.

This year you have learnt to be more independent, cope with change, handle life when faced with uncertainty at every step and developed your skills of working online beyond what you could have imagined at the start of the pandemic. For some of you I also know this year has been incredibly hard. Maybe working at home wasn't easy or you had to isolate when we deemed you to be a contact of a positive case. You didn't like it, parents felt frustrated on your behalf and I certainly didn't enjoy asking you to stay at home but together we kept each other safe, played our part in controlling the virus and we have come through the most unforgettable of years stronger for it.

Every single person at Malbank has earned the right to have a restful summer and I hope you enjoy each and every day of your break. It has been a privilege to lead the school through the challenges of this year and I can't wait to get back with you all in September to start on another fresh chapter of improvement together.

Enjoy the wonderful stories of success this episode of Gaudeamus brings and have a great holiday!

*Mr Harrison*

## YEAR 11 PROM

The class of 2021 may not have had a normal Year 11 but as a school we have done our very best to ensure that our pupils got the send-off they deserved. On Monday night we were able to invite those students who were eligible to attend to the prom at Rookery Hall Hotel. They all dressed to impress and made quite an entrance in an assortment of fantastic cars, limos and even a vintage fire engine! The sun shone and an amazing night was had by all. We would like to wish all the year 11 leavers the very best for their futures and the start to their next chapter. *Mrs Ratcliffe and the KS4 team*.



## Celebration of Achievements

A Malbank annual tradition with a twist! It was a great end to the year to be able to bring each year group together separately for the first time this school year to celebrate the achievements they have made throughout the year. Certificates were awarded for a number of different categories such as Making the 60 Matter, Best in Subject, Citizenship, Attendance, Sports achievements and lesson monitor scores. Congratulations to the numerous award winners and a particular mention of thanks to the musical performers for their valued contributions to the events.





# THE HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020-21

Keep up to date with regular updates and follow us on twitter @malbank\_houses



Thanks to you all for being supporters of the House System, it collapses if you don't grasp it, celebrate it and live it with our community. What I've experienced this year has been an absolute blast and beyond my wildest hopes after spending last summer worrying about the ramifications of a Covid interrupted year. Lots of things like House Systems get lost when times get tough but because of you and your dedication, skill and determination the system has thrived. I cannot wait to see the students in their new ties next year and genuinely excited about where we can take the system now that a new normal is on the horizon.

So it's farewell to season 2020-21 and time to pause, reenergise and be ready for 2021-22, as the phrase goes for the Houses that didn't land the Championship, there's always next year. *Mr Falamarzi*

## ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE CUP YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN TO WIN!

### LAST TWO WEEKS

1. **WILBRAHAM WOLVES** 7 POINTS
2. **DORFOLD DOLPHINS** 6 POINTS
3. **KENT KESTRELS** 5 POINTS
4. **BRERETON BEARS** 2 POINTS

## READING CHALLENGE CUP

### YEAR 7 & 8

1. **BRERETON BEARS** 15 POINTS
2. **WILBRAHAM WOLVES** 11 POINTS
3. **KENT KESTRELS** 8 POINTS
4. **DORFOLD DOLPHINS** 6 POINTS

## 2020-2021 CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER

4th – Wilbraham with 1295 points

3rd – Brereton with 1306 points

2nd – Kent with 1355 points



The champions for 2020/2021 are...

**DORFOLD with 1482 points**

## A year of outstanding reading



Despite it being a rather unusual year, Year 7 have continued to read widely and quiz their books on Accelerated Reader. This year we were able to celebrate 11 Word Millionaires who each got a certificate and a badge. The grand total of words read was an impressive **56,786,847** This is a fantastic achievement Year 7 – the challenge is now to see if you can read even more in Year 8!



## Surprise Summer Reads

This year Malbank Staff have been getting involved with a Summer Reading Challenge. Staff have requested books from a particular genre and the library have worked hard to choose a book that fits the criteria. There has been a real buzz around the school and we can't wait to read the Staff Reviews in September. Don't forget to ask your teachers what they are reading. You never know, you might just get an amazing recommendation!

# Summer Showcase

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July, students representing all year groups took part in recording sessions for our virtual Summer Showcase concert.

It was fantastic to see such a wide range of students involved: from year 7's making their debuts to 6<sup>th</sup> formers who have contributed so much to music events at Malbank over the years. It was also great to have performances from some of our talented year 11 students, who gave up time in their well-earned summer break to record performances for us. As ever, performances covered a wide range of styles, genres and artists from Mozart and Mendelssohn, performed beautifully by Jack Harrison and Jeremy Burrows, to Billie Eilish (Summer Davies), Radiohead (a stunning performance by Ela-May Demircan) and Lloyd-Webber (Levi Rhodes McKenzie). It also wouldn't be a Malbank Showcase without at least one song by Queen, and Jack Holmes gave a beautiful rendition of *Love of My Life*. There were too many highlights to mention, and all performers were outstanding – well done to everyone involved!

Some performers from the showcase also went on to perform at the achievement assemblies; well done to Annie Wilkinson, Tayler Wooding, Cady Herring, Katie Edwards, Anna Morgan and Summer Davies.

We hope you have a great summer, and we look forward to being able to see you in person at our next concert. *Mr Cope*



Covid may have prevented a live audience but it certainly didn't stop these performers from shining.



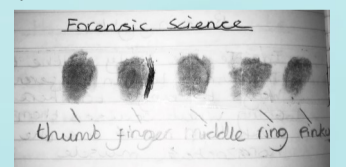
## YEAR 10 FLAG MAKING

Well done to the students involved with the flag making art therapy session. The students worked really hard to create house flags in preparation for Sports day demonstrating a great sense of community spirit and developing new skills and techniques in stenciling and screen printing. Well done to all involved.

*Mr McGoldrick*

## Science Department

### Forensic examiners



Year 7 took on the challenge of being forensic examiners! We took each other's fingerprints and studied DNA profiles to solve the heinous crime of who drank Miss Gibson's coffee! My fabulous classes used all of their knowledge about differences in our individual biology and learned how they can be used in real life for the benefit of society. We loved matching the STEM skills that we learn in science into responsibilities needed for real careers!

Miss Gibson's fabulous year 10 chemists have been studying how we use the energy changes that take place during chemical reactions to our advantage in everyday life. We carried out a reaction between zinc metal and copper sulfate solution to measure how energy is released into the surroundings during the reaction causing a temperature rise, and then we related this to how self-heating cans and hand-warmers make our lives just that bit better! If we get a bump and need to use an instant ice pack, the opposite happens and energy is taken in by the chemicals, cooling your skin down.

The Royal Society has a fantastic free online programme of summer science for pupils and parents to get involved <https://royalsociety.org/science-events-and-lectures/2021/summer-science-exhibition/>



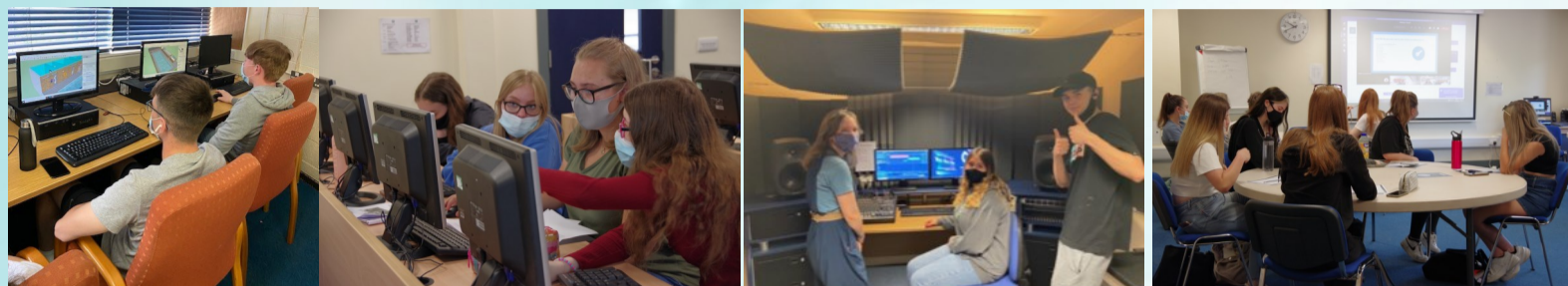


# Year 12 work experience week

Even COVID could not put a stop to our annual Year 12 work experience. Malbank's mission to prepare students for the next step into the world of work caused careers lead teacher Mr Wilson to get creative, leading to Malbank Sixth Form's first 'virtual' work experience week.

Year 12 have been working with employers and businesses on four different real world projects. Three of the projects are linked to the refurbishment of Nantwich Leisure Centre, with students working on the fitting of the gym and its use to promote healthier lives, building design and how to use media to promote the reopening. A fourth group have been working to create a Dementia Friendly Room at Leighton Hospital. 'It's been great to get our students involved in real life projects,' explained Mr Wilson. 'A real positive has been how well our Year 12 students have embraced the virtual work place that has been enforced on many of us and will be part of the modern way of working in the future.'

Students have worked alongside a diverse set of employers, including an architect, a quantity surveyor, Everybody Leisure staff, a nutritionist, Engie Building company, design experts and representatives of the NHS. Students engaged positively with the different tasks and activities, and the experience, skills and interactions they have gained will enhance the on-going career journey of our sixth form students," added Mr Wilson.



"During work experience our team were set the task of creating a marketing campaign for the reopening of the local leisure centre. We were split into three groups, each taking on different responsibilities within the project. The poster team took original images from the leisure centre and created a brand identity and cohesion across all of the posters. The team also worked on a TikTok video to link with the social media profile of the company and used the recording studio to create and edit a radio advert. It has been nice having ownership of a marketing campaign and this has given us valuable skills that we can use in the

*'Thank you for allowing me to take part in this event, it amazes me how all the students do with these projects and every time they are all very different, the students were all engaging and had very obviously done their research. All I can say is WOW they were awesome. You should be very proud of them as they repre-*

# Malbank Sports day

OH WHAT A DAY!!! Cloud, costumes, house hats, flags, sunshine, tuck shop, bbq, ice cream van, teamwork, leadership, cheering, music, photo finishes, drones, fun and amazing sporting achievements.... we had it all! Covid 19 was not going to prevent us from having sports day. It did mean a whole new timetable and more organisation to adhere to all Coronavirus guidelines but well worth it in the end. This year the track was lined with new house flags made by Mr McGoldrick and his year 10 art therapy class, which looked amazing, thank you. It was great to see everyone in house colours and competing so well for their houses throughout the day. Special mention to Freya Sutton in Year 7 who broke the Triple Jump record with 7.34m. This was set in 2013 by Z Caine with 7.18m so very well done to Freya. Our sports day grows every year and keeps getting bigger and better, looking forward to 2022 already!!!

