



# GAUDEAMUS



Malbank School and Sixth Form College. Issue 42 December 2021.

It always startles me how fast Christmas comes around at Malbank. The autumn term is always bursting with activities, from exams and in-class assessments, to Christmas performances and sports fixtures. Its fantastic that throughout the changing picture of the pandemic, our school has been able to carry on with business as usual, with outstanding achievements both academic and pastoral.

One of my favourite moments has been watching the totals mount on the House notice boards in the Boulevard. A tight title race is building up. Can the Dolphins 'just keep swimming' and hang on to their early season lead and repeat last year's championship success – or will the Wolves bite back. Will the Kestrels flap and bring the trophy back to the nest, or will the Bears roar to success.

Whatever happens, its sure to be a fiercely fought and close contest, culminating in our Sports Day next summer – something for us all to look forward to.

From all at Malbank, I wish you a very merry Christmas and all the best for a wonderful 2022.

**Mr Shepherd**- Editor

Looking through this edition of Gaudeamus it is wonderful to see what we have managed to achieve in only a few short months back since the summer break. I wanted to take this opportunity to say a massive thanks to all staff at the school whose resilience, effort and determination to help our children to improve has been pivotal in setting the tone for what has been a great term.

I have been impressed each and every day by the maturity and desire to make progress shown by our students since September and I hope you (like I certainly do) feel incredibly proud of how neat they look in our lovely new uniform which launched at the start of term.

As a school we have made a strong start to this academic year but like any good student we always have room for improvement and 2022 is another terrific opportunity for all of us all to take further steps forward to realising our collective and individual potential. I will be sending my final video update out in the last week of term, so if you have a spare moment or two, please feel free to watch it and see what the end of term was like for us as a school community.

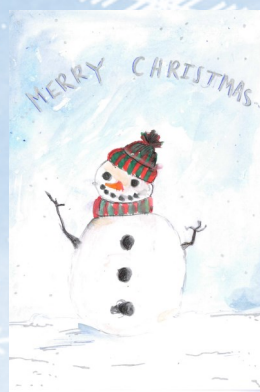
Enjoy this festive episode of Gaudeamus and have a very merry and safe Christmas.

**Mr Harrison**

Many thanks to all students who participated in the annual Christmas Card competition. The winning designs, as chosen by Mr Harrison are **Alana Jenkins** 10JMH, **Bethany Heath** 7CYR, **Mia Waszkiewicz** 7REW, **Caleb Clarke** 7REW, **Madlen Miteva** 8TXC and **Johana Stubnerova** 7CYR. Well done to all who entered- there was some brilliant designs this year and all entries are currently on display in the boulevard. Well done and thankyou.

**Mrs Mason-Bernardi**

## *Christmas Card Competition*



# HOUSE CUP CHALLENGE

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



130 POINTS



114 POINTS



110 POINTS



80 POINTS

EVERY WEEK THE HOUSE STARS AND ATTENDANCE CUP WILL ADD 4,3,2 AND 1 POINTS TO THE SCORES SO ITS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ARE HERE AND REPRESENTING YOUR HOUSE WITH PRIDE. ALONGSIDE THIS WE'LL ADD ANY HOUSE POINTS FOR COMPETITIONS, CHALLENGES AND TROPHIES.

THROUGH THE YEAR HOUSE MATTERS WILL PUBLISH THE LATEST TABLE SO WE CAN SEE WHICH HOUSE IS WINNING THE RACE TO BE AWARDED THE WALKER CUP, OUR HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY.

If you haven't received a House Star yet please don't worry or be deflated, I'm sure you will be rewarded soon and your good deeds noticed. Its been lovely to see parents cheering on the Houses and we read and take on board every twitter comment and all the feedback we receive.

*Mr Falamarzi*

## Nantwich food bank donation

*Staff have rallied once again for another fantastic effort to feed our local children. This year, we were able to collect 3 boxes of food using 'The £1 challenge'. A fantastic fundraising effort also saw staff club together to raise a whopping £133.50! Many departments opted to give to Foodbank as opposed to their usual secret santa; a lovely gesture very well received.*

*Mrs Sinden & Mr Sides*



35 Year 7 students were taken to Nantwich Bookshop on Friday 10th December to choose a book as a festive treat. The students were all fantastically behaved despite some rather extreme weather on the walk to the shop! Lots of fantastic books were chosen; some children chose festive treats such as signed copies of Diary of a Christmas Elf whereas others went for yearlong classics such as Love Frankie or Dogman. It was a lovely festive afternoon and one we hope to repeat! *Miss Nadin*

## Nantwich Book shop visit

# manor adventure

no one does school residentials better!

## Year 7



## Year 8

# manor adventure

## Y7 & 8 Residential



On 27th November, nearly 200 year 7's and a week later year 8's loaded onto coaches and headed off for a few fun filled days at Manor adventure—and what fun we had! The days spent at the manor helped us to get to know each other better, discover more about our own strengths and weaknesses, encouraged us to push ourselves and to try new things. We had to develop communication skills, and work as a team— it definitely helped us pull together as a year group! The range of activities we did was so varied, from archery, zip wiring, high ropes, abseiling, obstacle course and the underground maze that there was something for everyone to enjoy and experience something new. We all had a fabulous time— thanks to the KS3 team! for organising.

“I had the best time doing activities that I would never have had to courage to do before.”

“It was so good to get to spend more time with my friends and to work with different people.”

In October half term the art department took part in the NEP SKOOLFEST exhibition alongside other primary and secondary schools from Nantwich held at Nantwich Museum. We exhibited a selection of year 11 work based on the broad theme of 'Creativity.' Well done to all students involved- the exhibition was really eye-catching and highlighted the level of skill and creativity displayed through your work.



Mrs Mason-Bernardi

## myON Reading Update

All students at Malbank are given logins to an online library where they can access almost 6000 books covering a wide range of topics. So far this year students have read over 140 hours on digital devices with most students choosing to read books linked to their school subjects. Year7 are currently leading the way for number of books completed but Year8 and Year9 are hot on their tails. *A reminder: your login is your first initial followed by the first 4 letters of your surname and your password will be abc.*



Please meet your new Year 12 Mental Health First Aiders. Nathan Betteridge, Harry Burchall, Evie O'Brien & Courtney Lear. They have been selected and trained to support the school community with mental health.

You will see them around school, in assemblies and in the Boulevard educating people about mental health.

If you feel you need to talk to anyone they can also be here to offer a non-judgmental listening ear. *Miss Scott*



## Surprise Christmas read

This December, Year7 students have been invited to ask for a surprise Christmas read from the library. Over 100 students submitted requests to the library and Mr Shaw issued books based on their requests. Miss Nadin then wrapped these and they have been given out to students in the last week of term. We hope you like your book selections - don't forget to return them to the library once you've read them so others can enjoy them! *Miss Nadin*

This term in MFL, we celebrated the diversity and multilingualism of our own school community as part of the European day of languages. Staff from all areas of the school recorded themselves speaking a multitude of languages, either as native speakers or by fondly recalling their GCSE and A-level languages. They showcased their skills in a range of languages, including Dutch, French, Spanish, Italian, Welsh, Swahili and Malay! Students enjoyed guessing what staff were saying as well as the language they were using. This celebration concluded with a special assembly by Mr Guichoux who shared some amazing facts and some amusing idioms with our year 7 students. Who knew that 'It's raining cats and dogs' had so many variations across the world! *Miss Willmott*

## European day of language



For the first time at Malbank, 19 Year 10s are working towards their Science Crest Silver Award during their Option k, which is a Science version of DofE. It involves the students coming up with a project plan, making/testing that project, and writing it up, over at least 30 hours. The students are doing a range of projects, including: testing the perfect design of a pizza box, making sustainable lip balm and lipstick, testing fertilisers, investigating fabrics that could be used instead of sun cream, building a disco light, building a steady hand model, and building a pirate ship ride model.

The students are spending one hour a week, planning their projects and after Christmas they will be building and testing their designs. They have been working independently, with support, and have come up with some great ideas. These projects give the students a chance to use their theoretical and practical science, technology, engineering and maths skills on a practical project of their own design. *Miss John*



# Winter Showcase

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November some of our talented Malbank musicians took part in our annual Winter Showcase concert. This year's was a particularly special occasion as it was our first public performance in front of a live audience in two years.

The night was filled with stunning performance by students from all year groups – from year 7 students performing for the first time on a Malbank stage, to Gladys Llewellyn in year 13 in her last winter showcase. There were moments of magical musical theatre from Gladys & Levi Rhodes-McKenzie, Disney hits from Beth Copeland, R n B from Cady Herring, 70s rock from Archie Lea, Tiegan Dale-Williams and Nathan Betteridge and much more. The evening was rounded off with brilliant performances from Malbank Voices. *Mr Cope*



## Carol Services



It was a lovely start to the final week of term to attend the 6th form carol service in St Mary's Acton followed later that evening by another carol service at St Mary's Nantwich. A festive way to end the term and to celebrate the talented students we have. Again this night was a great success with beautiful solo performances by Cerys Ward, Levis Rhodes, Gladys Llewelys, Jeremy Burrows; performances from the brass ensemble and Malbank Voices and readings from Gladys Llewelyn and head boy Adam Coleman.



On 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Mrs Coney is organizing an evening trip to Blood Brothers at the Manchester Palace Theatre primarily for those who are studying this play for English Literature in Yr 10 and 11. Anyone who is interested should see Mrs Coney



The show *will* go ON... We are back up and running with an incredible cast



Congratulations to **Michaela Sides**, year 9 who has just qualified for the British Championships in Artistic Gymnastics on Mar 25<sup>th</sup> 2022 next year competing in the junior section at the M&S bank Arena in Liverpool. Michaela has also achieved her compulsory 2 grade award and has now become an Elite Gymnast which entitles you to compete at the highest level of the sport.



ready to wow you with the school show in March. Students did a fantastic job in auditions and rehearsals have started; we can't wait to bring this rock show to Malbank. We Will Rock You is a story that follows a group of Bohemians in their fight to 'break free' from a futuristic world where rock music is unknown and musical instruments are forbidden. Throw in some Queen classics and you have a rocking, popping jukebox musical. Mr Harrison loves a good rock song so he's just as excited as us.

If anyone is interested in being part of the chorus, it's not too late. Please come and see Mr Cope or Mrs Morley.



# CONNECT NEWS



Christmas is coming in Connect, with our fabulous students getting into the spirit of things by making Connect ready for Santa! Well done to the following students for all their efforts; Ruby Alexander , Robbie Pollard, Poppy Taylor-Vyse, James Webster , Liam Jones, & Maisie Goodwin.



## Reflection Tree

Staff and students alike have added a star to the tree with a reflection of 2021 on This has been a great source of reflection and conversation for both students/staff and has been well dressed with their reflections of the year. They will make a fabulous read in the future.



### SUPER STARS OF THE TERM

**Poppy Taylor-Vyse, Ruby Alexander, Beth Bailey, Carly Birchall, Alex Triggie Maisie Goodwin & Robbie Pollard**



Miss Peters has been spreading lots of positivity in Connect with her 'Shout Outs' wall. Open to both students and staff, grab a post it note and tell us who has made you happy this term.

## British Para Swimming



*Well done to Jack Wimpenny in year 10 who was selected to take part in the British Para Swimming Winter National Meet at the Wales National Pool in Swansea on 11th December. He did us proud and swam a personal best. Well done Jack.!*

### The Spotlights on Matthew Hitchen (Year 10)

In Year 10, a small number of our pupils attend Reaseheath College every Wednesday. Courses there range from Animal Care to Motor Vehicle Engineering. Matthew Hitchen in year 10 is studying Land and Environment. His course includes theory, which covers how to look after farm animals' health and wellbeing. Recently, he learned about feeding and the variety of different foodstuffs available for cows.

Matthew's favourite part of his course is the practical side. He gets to take care of the cows and sheep; He carries out tasks like mucking them out and feeding them. Secondly, he is learning to drive tractors, which he really likes doing.

His course at Reaseheath has taught Matthew many new skills and enabled him to perfect other skills which he uses most days at home on the farm. He also works on a neighbouring farm at weekends, mucking out the barn and feeding the cows. His favourite job at home currently is milking the new calves his dad bought recently. They also have pigs which he helps to take care of.

Matthew says he would really recommend the course to other pupils. He is planning to study Agriculture there in year 12 after leaving Malbank.