



**Mitre**  
**White**  
**June 2020**

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## Head Teacher's Foreword

Welcome to this special 'Lockdown' edition of The Mitre. With school closed to the vast majority of students for the last 3 months, we wanted to produce a Mitre that would give a little insight into how the School and our community have coped in these strangest of times.

We received notice from the Prime Minister on 18<sup>th</sup> March that schools would be closing on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March and were given no indication when we might be open again. This was particularly difficult for all of our Year 11 and 13 students, who not only had to end a major phase of their education without any of the normal celebrations and opportunities to say goodbye, but were also robbed of the chance to show just what they were capable of and how well prepared they were for the summer examination season. This was really tough, as we have developed some lovely traditions over the years, to mark the time the students have spent at TBSHS and to congratulate them on their commitment to the Black & Gold spirit. All is not lost, however, as we very much hope to see the majority of those Year 11 students re-joining us in the Sixth Form in September. We're also planning to adapt our Awards Evening in December, so that we can celebrate properly with the outgoing Year 13 students.

Getting used to school life in lockdown has been a challenge for all of us, not least of all me. You may have noticed that I like routines, structure and good order, so getting used to working in a very different way has not been easy at all. I've really missed the vibrant atmosphere that usually reverberates throughout the school, the ability to watch excellent teaching & learning and the fantastic enrichment activities taking place. Above all, I've missed the sense of community that binds us all together, that common sense of purpose we all share so effectively at TBSHS.

Throughout the last 3 months we have continued to provide in-school supervision for the children of critical workers and our more vulnerable students. There have generally been around 6 to 10 students in school each day and you can read about their experiences in this Mitre. I would like to commend those students who have been attending regularly, they've consistently displayed an excellent attitude, have worked hard and have behaved impeccably.

Congratulations to Mr Jack Fellowes-Prynne, from our Design Technology department, who has so far made over 1000 face shields for local NHS and Social Care Teams. A superb effort from

Mr FP, whose work has provided the essential PPE when it was most desperately needed on the front line.

One of my biggest challenges has been dealing with uncertainty. Being in a position of trying to plan for the future and keep all stakeholders informed, whilst always having to wait for updates and guidance from the DfE first. My days have filled with virtual meetings with senior TBSHS staff and Head teachers from the other BSET secondary schools. It has also been strange interviewing new teachers using Zoom, though I'm very confident that we have appointed some great additions to our TBSHS staff.

By now, students will be much more used to virtual lessons, using the likes of Zoom or Teams, but none of the platforms are a true substitute for what we are able to achieve in a real classroom. We have to remain positive and hope that it won't be too long before we are able to resume normal school. I would like to think that this awful experience might have helped us to cherish normality and be grateful for the life and education we are so fortunate to normally experience and might just have taken for granted.

This week sees the funeral of Albie Leak, who sadly passed away in May. As I wrote on hearing the news, Albie was a cracking young man, full of energy and enthusiasm. The ceremony will be a celebration of his life and an opportunity to remember him as the lovely human being he was. Our thoughts remain with his family and friends at this difficult time.

Finally, I must urge all students to maintain the good working routines, attend all 'live' lessons and keep up the effort to complete the work set by teachers. Take care and stay safe.

Best wishes,

**Mr Reeve,**  
**Head teacher**

## Stories from the Home

*We received this e-mail on May 4<sup>th</sup> from Mr Devine whose son, Euan, is in Year 8.....*

Further to your email request for stories for the Mitre magazine, I have a good news story that you may be interested in. My son Euan Devine has raised £575 for Princess Alexandra Hospital, all through his own initiative. His mum is a nurse and he decided that he was going to shave his head for donations to PAH. I had no idea he was planning to do this, by the time I did know a Go Fund Me page had been set up and had donations in excess of £100. This meant I

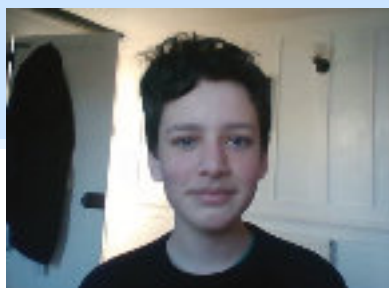
couldn't suggest a sponsored bike ride or something less drastic. Here is the link for his fundraising page:

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/bncnug-shaving-my-head-for-the-nhs?utm\\_source=whatsapp-visit&utm\\_medium=chat&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp+share-sheet](https://www.gofundme.com/f/bncnug-shaving-my-head-for-the-nhs?utm_source=whatsapp-visit&utm_medium=chat&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet)

We are very proud of his achievement and will be sending the sum over to PAH very soon.

Kind Regards

**Gary Devine.**



*This letter arrived on May 6<sup>th</sup> from Mrs Munhoz, mother to Matheus (Year 7) who works for the NHS.....*

Hello my name is Marcia, and I am a keyworker. I work for Hertfordshire community NHS TRUST. I am an administrator for the School Aged Immunisation Services for the East and North of Hertfordshire. Our services have adapted to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our last school session was on the 20/03/2020 doing Year 8 and 9 vaccines in schools.

Over a few days the management has made a new service available. In response to many GP surgery closures due to sickness, social distancing or adjustments to their services, we were asked to provide some help. We also adjusted our services and started the baby's immunisation programme.

### **The main challenges for our services are:**

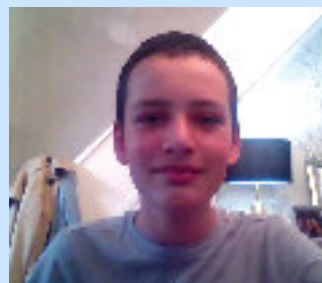
Wear PPE, to protect our co-workers, the babies and their families (gloves, aprons, face shield and masks).

Wear uniform.

Find suitable venues to immunise, practising social distancing.

Triage systems (24 hours to the appointment and at the day of the appointment).

Make sure none in the household has covid-19 symptoms or is self isolating.



Wipe chairs and tables between patients.

Patients are greeted at the front door to avoid touching door handles.

The baby's immunisation book, known as "the red book" also gets wiped before being handed back to the parents.

Only one parent allowed to stay at the venue.

No waiting area (patients are asked to stay in the car).

We travel all around the county, we are now not allowed to car share or make any hot drinks for anyone.

### **Challenges as a keyworker:**

Have a spare clean set of clothes to get changed into before walking into my home.

Wipe my car steering wheel and handles.

Wipe all personal stuff (laptop, phones).

Have a specific pair of shoes for work.

Members of the family open the house door for me, so I don't touch the handle.

Unable to hug my children when I get home, I have to go straight to shower.

Sore ears due to the amount of time with masks.

I think when all of this is over, life will have a new taste for all. As a family, we have kept our spirits high and reminded ourselves: we are isolated but not alone, and helping others as much as we safely can.

Regards

**Marcia Munhoz.**



# Stories from our Students

## YEAR 8 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS.

*This e-mail was sent by the Head of Year 8, Mrs Mills to all students in her Year on April 26<sup>th</sup>, inviting all students to take part in a photography competition. The winning names were published on the school web-site on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The prize-winning entries can be seen below.....*

Dear Year 8,

I hope you and your family are all well.

I thought it might be fun to run a year 8 photographic competition. Now that we are well and truly into Spring and the days are getting longer, nature is beginning to spring into action. What a fantastic opportunity to capture some of that transition on camera. I propose a competition where photos are taken of insects, [wild] animals, birds, plant life, flowers. Photos can be taken at different times of the day – sunrise (there must be one or two of you getting up early!), mid-morning, late afternoon, evening: all different light propositions. If you are able to get out for a walk/cycle, observe the scenery around you and take some pictures. On my 5.30 am walk this morning, I saw foxes, rabbits and plenty of birds!

**Obviously it goes without saying that under no circumstances do you point your camera/phone towards the sun and please act responsibly at all times.**

Prize: top three photos – to be chosen by a select panel of experts – each receive house points 1<sup>st</sup> 10, 2<sup>nd</sup> 5, 3<sup>rd</sup> 2. There might be an extra prize for a photo of something quite unique such as a low flying bird of prey or a badger (very cautious animals). I will pop the winning photos onto the year 8 page on the school website. This will also count towards your black and gold certificates so make sure you keep a record.

Deadline: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May.

Mrs Mills.



**1<sup>st</sup> place. Jed Ashley.**

Queen Wasp.

*'I went into our garden to try and take a photograph of the robin that usually visits our bird table but he did not come when I put some food out. That's when I looked up into the tree and saw the queen's wasp nest, I could see her inside the nest but when I took some photos it was difficult to see the wasp. Later, I showed the nest to my Dad and the queen wasp was working on the outside of the nest and that is when I took this photograph. My Dad said, "She's like everyone at TBSHS - black and gold and working in isolation!'*



## Stories from our Students



**2<sup>nd</sup> place. Arran Wilkinson. 'Moo Cow.'**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place. Jay Young. 'Model Dog.'**

Highly commended photographs on the next page belong to;

**Jesse Vincent.** 'Postcard from Blue Bell Woods.'

*'I took this picture whilst out on a dog walk with my mum and brother. The Blue Bell woods are at Hope End and the woods caught our eye.'*

**Aryaman Shukla.** 'Blooming marvellous.'

*'I took the photo when it was raining so the flower would have some raindrops which would enhance the look of the photo. I took it in my garden because I saw that flower and knew it would look really good on camera. I took it on a Canon EOS 650D with the close up filter so I could get the flower and have the background blurred.'*

*Mrs Mills congratulated all of those students who entered the competition, awarding house points and reminding these five students that their work would appear on the school web-site and also in this, the June copy of the Mitre.*



## Stories from our Students





## Stories from our Students



*This e-mail arrived on May 11 from Mr Duncan Billson, one of our parents. It is a story about his son Ben who is in Year 10. The e-mail is titled 'A good news story.'*

Ben had a dream the other day about the astronauts on the space station contracting the virus and one astronaut who didn't have the virus leaving in an escape pod. This astronaut crashed on the planet Pandora.

The astronaut is then shining his torch into space trying to find help to rescue him. Ben then painted this on a 50x60cm canvas in water-based paints. He then titled his painting Hope. I took a photo of it and placed it on Facebook.

After about an hour, I had a man contact me asking if it was for sale? The gentleman loved space and had a study dedicated to space and had one spot left above his desk to fill. He had been looking for a certain picture to fill it. He saw Ben's picture and knew he had to have it straight away. He asked me how much this would cost? I asked Ben if he wanted to sell it and Ben was so shocked that someone wanted to buy it. Ben said the man could have it for free but the man said no he wanted to buy it.

He asked Ben to sign it and date it as he thinks Ben could become famous one day and to keep it up and take any more pictures he does and place them on sites. The man came to an agreement with Ben and bought it from him for £70. Ben was so shocked. With this money Ben has bought more canvas and oil paints.

Kind regards,

**Duncan Billson.**



# Debating

## HIGH SCHOOL SPEAKERS IN NATIONAL TOP TEN

The achievements of debaters and public speakers at the Bishop's Stortford High School have once again been rewarded by the English Speaking Union. The London Road school was one of only nine **Highly Commended runners up** in a 'whole-school oracy culture' competition open to hundreds of schools from all over the UK.

Headteacher, Dale Reeve, commented, "We are so proud that the efforts of the school's students have been recognised in this way for the third year in succession. The number of students of different ages representing the school is extremely impressive. They have been very well supported by their families and fellow students and I know they would like to thank their teachers, especially Mr Patterson and Ms Davies, and retired teacher Mr Fraser, for giving up so much of their time to coach them and accompany them to so many competitions."

Debating coach Tony Fraser, added, "This award confirms our position as one of the very strongest debating schools in East Anglia. Outstanding performances came from Year 11 students Nabil Shah and Will Worthy, who qualified for Finals Day of the Oxford Union Schools' Competition (which unfortunately had to be cancelled) and our ESU Mace team. In the latter, Boyd Dunster, Scott Lockie and Christian Stimpson of Year 13 gave the best performance from a TBSHS team that I have seen in six years of Eastern Region Finals and were extremely unlucky not to be judged the winners".



**Will Worthy & Nabil Shah – Oxford Finalists**



**Christian Stimpson, Scott Lockie & Boyd Dunster.**

(ESU Mace Regional Final).

*Some students might recognise Scott's brother Charles used as the background fill to the page, who debated at the Oxford Union three years ago.*





## Debating

# TBSHS STUDENTS ARE STORTFORD QUIZ CHAMPIONS!!

Just before the lockdown started, six Stortford schools contested the Rotary Club's annual inter-school quiz. **Dan Barnett (Year 12)** captained fellow members of TBSHS Team A, **Dan Palmer (Year 12)**, **Harry Bignall** and **Alfie Brown (both Year 11)** to a well-deserved victory.



To find out how they achieved their win, and also how TBSHS Team B got on, go to;  
<http://www.tbshs.org/NewsArticle.aspx?NewsID=6738>

I am sure that, during lockdown, many TBSHS students have competed in lots of quizzes involving their families, friends and neighbours, so I am expecting really high standards when the Inter-House and Sixth Form Quizzes get going again!

**A.D.Fraser**



## Students in School

*A small number of students have been in school during 'lockdown,' and these are some of their thoughts on this.....we start with Nicholas, a Year 7 student.....*

School at the moment is a lot better than usual because there are less people around, we still have hot meals and more breaks. But the work is more challenging and hard because, normally, in a class, your teacher will explain something to you for about 20 minutes of the lesson and you do work in your book for the other 40 minutes. But now we have an hour's worth of work and no time for the teacher to describe something to us, and there is a lot more work than what we would have in class. But I do like the afternoons here because we get to watch films and do quizzes or play some more table tennis, or go into the cage.

### **Nicholas Scoulding, Year 7.**

I am still attending school during lock-down which isn't the best, but it isn't all bad. At home, I have things that I would much rather do than work and so I probably wouldn't get as much work done. At school it's quiet and you have a teacher supervising you who can also help, depending on what subject they teach, and what they know. The teachers try to make it fun for us by encouraging the older students to make quizzes that we can play and by letting us watch films once all of our work is completed. It's not a normal school day; we get two breaks plus our lunch in which we play table tennis. To add to that, we still get school lunches which are better than the lunches we get at school normally. Overall, I am getting much more work done than if I was at home, and it's not as boring as what most people would expect.

*During this tough time we are told to stay at home due to corona virus, but the children of key workers are having to attend school. This builds a good relationship with other years that you wouldn't usually communicate with. The work is far from normal but we are all trying our best during these times to make things normal and happy. There are some rules about the lockdown/self-isolation, you have to stay 6 feet apart from each other to prevent the spread of the virus. 'Save lives, protect the NHS.'*



**Cameron Scoulding, Year 7**



**Kyle Callaghan-Gleeson, Year 8.**





## Students in School

### What it is like to be in school during lockdown?

*When we arrive at school, we are immediately asked to wash our hands and sign in. There are usually only five or six people at school each day, and the work is usually set for us to do by the time we get to school. This is all done over 'Show my Homework,' 'MS Teams' or sometimes we do 'Zoom' calls with the class. After we have arrived, we usually have a quick game of table tennis before we head to the Turing Suite to start our work for the day. We are all spaced out at least two metres apart when we are doing our work. Then, at ten o'clock, we have our first break which lasts for half an hour in which we usually play table tennis. Then it's back to the Turing suite for another one and a half hours of work. At twelve o'clock, we go down to the hall to have our lunch and almost every day it is served with chips! We usually then play a bit more table tennis until quarter to one, then it's back to the Turing Suite for another one and a half hours! There is then another fifteen minute break, then we go back to the Turing Suite once again. If we have all finished our work at this time, we usually have the option to watch a film on Netflix (projected onto the screen) before we head home. It is a lot different to normal school, because we do not get to see all of our usual friends or teachers; there are only two teachers a day!*



Jake Mackinven, Year 8.

As a sixth form student, I have found being in school during the lockdown period very beneficial towards my A-level studies because it gives the structure of a school day and provides a quiet space to get on with work, without the distractions you might find at home. It has been a very interesting and alienating experience; always having to stay 2metres away, sitting 3 seats apart at the lunch tables, walking down the school corridors with nobody around, and being only one of two sixth form students in a group no larger than 15. Yes, we might have to stay 2metres away from each other, but it has been really nice to have communication and interaction with other students – even people! It's made life feel a bit more 'normal' and has brought an element of fun! In our breaks and lunch we play table tennis, and in the afternoon teachers let us watch films or lead a fun (and educational) activity such as quizzes. We even get chips every day at lunch! All in all, coming to school has been very productive; and one thing I'm certain of is I'm a better table tennis player than I was before!



Lois Gilder, Year 12.



## Creative Outcomes



*This letter arrived On April 30<sup>th</sup> from Lucy Wood (mum to Gabriel Wood, in 8 Waytemore). Her comment about hearing the birds will chime with a lot of people at the moment.....*

'For us, life seems quieter but I'm quite enjoying being able to hear the birds a little more without the overriding sounds of road and air traffic. The thing I've missed the most so far has been the closure of the Henry Moore Foundation; we've been members for a long time and regular visitors and one of the highlights of the year for me has always been the reopening at Easter. These are strange times indeed.

In response to your email regarding the Mitre and with regard to 'creative outcomes,' I thought I'd share a few things I've been up to... obviously I don't expect everything to be included.

I've always baked but, especially having people at home every day, I've gone a bit baking mad. I bake all sorts of things but at the moment we seem to be going through mountains of bread, from 'everyday' bread as my nana used to make through to sourdough, rustic and cobs... a different bread for each day! I've attached a few photo's.

I've also rediscovered my love of crafting and have had a go at weaving (see picture) and am now attempting embroidery (a work in progress!). Next stop will be rag-rug making. My husband has been working from home but has also been able to indulge his love of printing with less time commuting.

I've included quite a few photo's, hope some may prove helpful.'



## Creative Outcomes



*More creative embroidery from Lucy*



*'I made these cookies and gave some to the neighbours on my street.'*  
*Jonty Crow, 8 Twyford.*





## Creative Outcomes

*This letter arrived on May 4<sup>th</sup> from Mr Warren who as you can read below has two sons in Years 7 and 8. He explains what they did.....*

Hope you are well. In response to your call for Mitre content I just thought I would share something Ben (Year 8) and Alex (Year 7), (plus their younger brother Ed) did over what should have been the London Marathon weekend towards the end of April. The boys took up the 26.2 challenge, raising over £550 for the NHS and a couple of cricket charities by playing 26.2 hours of cricket in the back garden between them over the weekend!! This involved literally hours and hours of batting, bowling and fielding. We put together [this video](#) as a thank you to the many sponsors.

Plus as a bit of fun they recreated the last ball of England's triumph at the cricket world cup from 2019.....[here](#)

Through boredom comes creativity :)

Geoff Warren.





## The Art Quiz

## Guess the Painting?

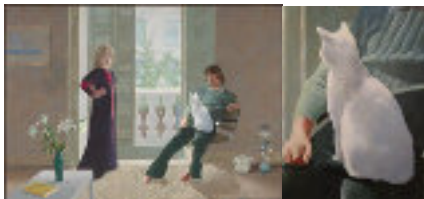


**IT'S SOME CONCEPTUAL CAVE ART!!**

This weekly, then twice weekly 'distraction' was introduced by the Art department at the start of 'lock-down' as a fun activity for all of our mums and dads with a pun thrown in for good measure! They were shown a snippet from a picture, accompanied by a pun and had to guess the painting. The department wrote the following:

*We are sure you'll appreciate the 'perspective,' so 'canvas' your family to join in, 'brush up' on your knowledge and try to guess the 'bigger picture' that we are hiding in 'the background' from you. We'll stop at this point so good luck and have fun (you get the essential tone we think.....).*

The name of the painting was published the following day. Here are a few of those sent.....



**Hockney.** Mr and Mrs Clarke and Percy. 1970-1971. *'Hopped onto the knee.'*



**Gainsborough.** Mr and Mrs Andrews. 1750. *'Look! No hands!!'*



**Holbein.** Thomas More. 1527. *'He didn't manage to keep his head whilst all around him were losing theirs.'*



# The Art Masterpiece challenge

## The Art Department Masterpiece Challenge.

*This challenge was set to everyone in the school community (parents, teachers and students) to interpret a masterpiece either in paint or by dressing up, then sending the photographs through to us. Here are the entries.....*



*This painting was sent to us on May 7<sup>th</sup> by Mrs Sally Bromham. She writes:*

*'This is an adaptation of Les Irises by Van Gogh. It's called; **'Les Irises and the Hidden Fairies,'** by Laura Medhurst - grandmother of a year 10 student. It took her 21 hours.'*

*What a fantastic, imaginative outcome!!*



## Creative Outcomes in History

*The work over the next few pages was submitted by the History Department. It records activities students took part in whilst at home as they commemorated VE Day.....*



### VE Day - 75th Anniversary

This year, Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of V.E Day - or 'Victory in Europe Day'. The first V.E Day was in 1945 and marked the end of the Second World War in Europe, the most destructive global conflict in history.

Key events associated with the Second World War include the Dunkirk evacuation, the Battle of Britain, Pearl Harbour, the Battle of Stalingrad, the D-Day landings, the Holocaust and the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

After 6 years of brutal struggle, the Grand Alliance finally overcame the Axis Powers of Germany and Italy. Although the war in the East would drag on for more than three more months, for the people of Europe, the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1945 was therefore a day of celebration that the years of chaos and devastation had ended. However, the relief was mixed with sorrow. In total, over 50 million soldiers and civilians died as a result of the conflict.

Commemorating this event seemed particularly important as today the world faces another global crisis which has brought much suffering, but has also shown how people can work together to overcome immense difficulties.

To mark the celebrations and commemoration of V.E Day, Key Stage 3 students were asked to find out more about the event, before choosing from a range of tasks in order to complete their own V.E Day Challenge.

Options included investigating their own family's experiences of World War Two, writing a poem to commemorate the conflict, using a wartime recipe to create a 1940s-style dish to enjoy on V.E day and creating a piece of art work inspired by the war.

There were many fantastic pieces of work and over the next few pages, you will be able to see a small selection of some of the ways in which our students remembered and paid tribute to this decisive moment in modern history.

Best wishes and stay safe.

## TBSHS History Department





## Creative Outcomes in History



**Sam Shemwell, Year 7**, with his authentic 1940s recipe sausage roll, suitably decorated!



**Oscar Hornbrey, Year 8**, busily baking up a storm using genuine wartime recipes.



Delicious scones, by **Joe Newman, Year 8**



**Arran Wilkinson, Year 8**



**Ravi Jethwa's 1940s lemonade, Year 8**





## Owen's interview with his Great Granny

**Owen Cody, Year 7 conducted this fascinating interview with his Great Granny to find out about her memories of V.E. Day in 1945.**

I interviewed my great granny about the war and V.E. Day. She is 90 years old and lives in Leeds. Can you remember anything about your experiences during the Second World War?

*"I was ten when the war started. Much like now the schools closed. I didn't really have any school between 10 and 13. I went to the village school when I was evacuated, but back in Leeds there was nothing until they reopened, half days at first, towards the end of the war. All the windows were taped up in crosses to stop the glass flying out if there was an explosion".*

Great Granny was evacuated early in the war. She was taken by bus from school. She didn't know where she was going but it was in the country. She ended up 9 miles from Leeds. The children were all taken into a church hall and given drink and jam and bread. Two old ladies with a beautiful home overlooking the river took her friend but not her. She had been told her mum not to let go of her little brother's hand. The nice ladies took one look at my Great Uncle Ken and didn't take either of them! Apparently, he was covered in jam. They were the last ones left. The lady organizing the distribution took them for the weekend. In the end a horrible woman took them in. She slapped Ken across the head because he put his foot on the chair. In the end my Great Granny managed to write to her mum but only because the teacher at the village school was teaching them how to write a letter, so the teacher posted it. The woman who looked after them had insisted on reading all her letters up until then.

Great Granny then moved to Barrow in Furness for her dad's work, near the shipyard, which should have been dangerous but German planes didn't have enough petrol to get to the west coast, so there weren't many raids. They stayed with a family there and she had to look after their small boy who was not well behaved. Ken was evacuated again until he was 15, up to Grassington in the Dales.

There were railway sheds behind their house in Leeds, the Germans bombed the railway. They had to go into a neighbour's shelter as the one her dad had built – you had to dig your own hole for them – was always filling up with water. The neighbour had two boys and the shelter was not built for 2/3 families who all crammed in there. Her mum used to always take her biscuit box full of insurance policies with her.

*"You just took it all in your stride, you didn't question,"* she said.

How old were you at the announcement of the end of the war?

*"I was 15, nearly 16. I had been working from the age of 14 at the Dispensary on North Street in Leeds. I was sewing scotch plaid lining for gabardine raincoats. Made proper wool coats on the second floor."*

Where were you when you heard the news? *"I was on the way to work."*

Great Granny always walked past a newspaper shop once she got off the tram in the centre of Leeds. It was on the front page of all the papers. The Friday was a holiday for everyone. There were parties in her street. Great Granny thought she was far too cool for all that – she wanted to be out with boys! She thinks she went to the cinema with some friends. How did you feel?

*"It hadn't really affected us as much; you knew people who were fighting so it was good that people were coming home."*

Great Granny's half uncle, who she'd never met, came over from South Africa and she met him for the first time. He was in the South African army, had been a prisoner of war in Italy and after prisoners of war got released came back to the UK.

*"It wasn't like it was for people in London. It was a big relief that people weren't going to die anymore."*

What was the reaction like?

*"You heard about it on the radio, there was no TV. You got your news from the cinema and newsreel footage there. This always came before the film."*

It must have been a hard and difficult time to live through and would have been a relief when it ended. It was good to talk about it. There can't be too many people left who remember the war.



## Owen and his brother with their Great Granny



*This super photograph of Owen, with his young brother and their great grandmother was sent to us in early June.*



## Baking and painting in History



**Harvey Brown, Year 8**, commemorates the legendary Spitfire in this beautiful painting.



**Daniel Hodges, Year 7**, used this genuine wartime recipe book to make a tasty-looking spice cake.



**Miles Guasque, Year 7**, made his own bunting to decorate his house for the V.E. Day celebrations.



**Jack Lenihan, Year 7**, tries his hand at some wartime bread - in full evacuee get-up!





# Oscar's interview with his Granny

**Oscar Gouldson, Year 8,** interviews his granny about her memories of 1945.

Q: How old were you when you heard about the end of the war?

A: *I was 7 years old. At the time of the VE announcement almost every dad was still at war (including mine) – I had not seen my dad since the start of the war.*

Q: Where were you when you heard the news and who were you with?

A: *I was at home eating lunch in the family home in Oldham and listened to it through the radio. I was with my mum. It was a moment I remember vividly.*

Q: What can you remember about the war ending?

A: *After arranging it, the whole family that was left went to have a celebration and party at my Gran's house. At that point we had not seen each other for ages and were very happy.*

Q: What did you eat to celebrate?

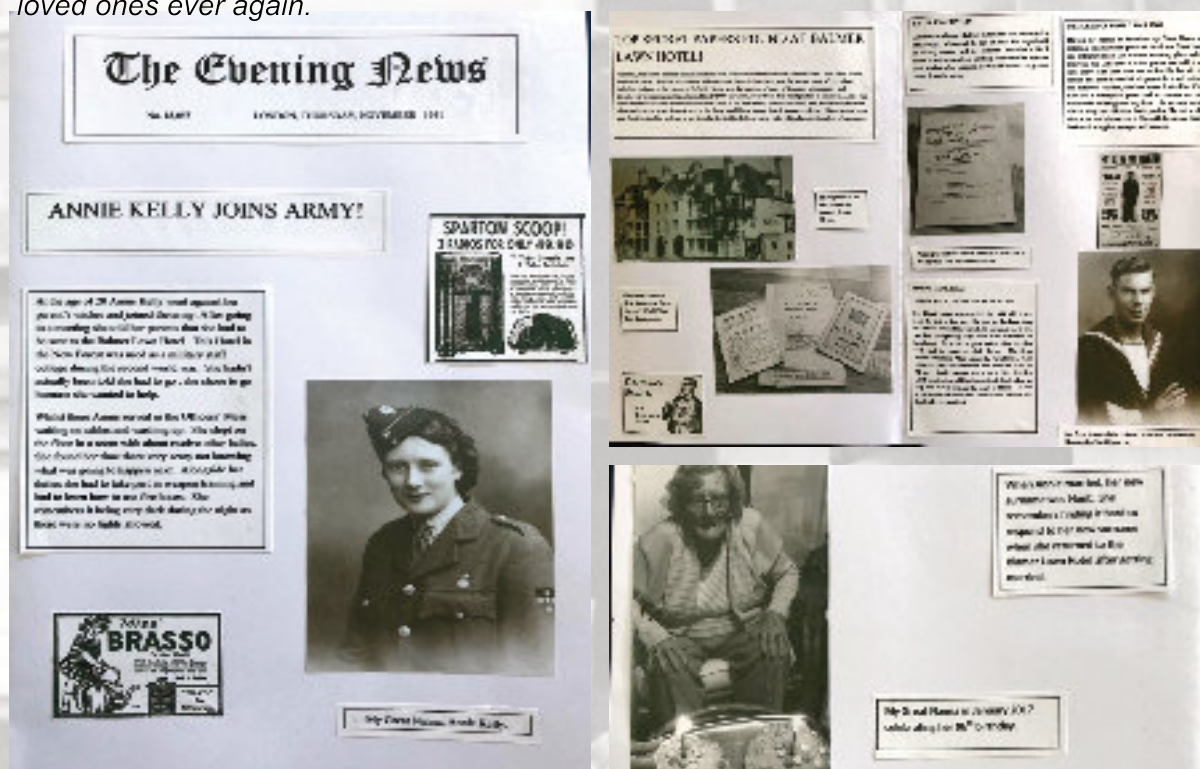
A: *At the time, there was still not much food available and the whole country were still eating rations. However, every member of the family left would bring all they had to the dinner.*

Q: Why do you think it is important to celebrate VE day?

A: *We need to give our time and respect to everyone who played a part in winning the war. Also, if we stopped learning about the war and all the nastiness, people would forget about how brutal it was and it might happen again.*

Q: What do you think is the biggest consequence of the Second World War?

A: *The fact that so many families become split up and in some cases, never see many of their loved ones ever again.*



**James Mills, Year 8,** made this fantastic scrapbook/mock newspaper, with real photos and memories of his family's experiences of WWII.



## More baking and more painting in History!



**Dylan Medhurst, Year 8,** shows off his fantastic wartime baking skills.



**Harry James, Year 7.**

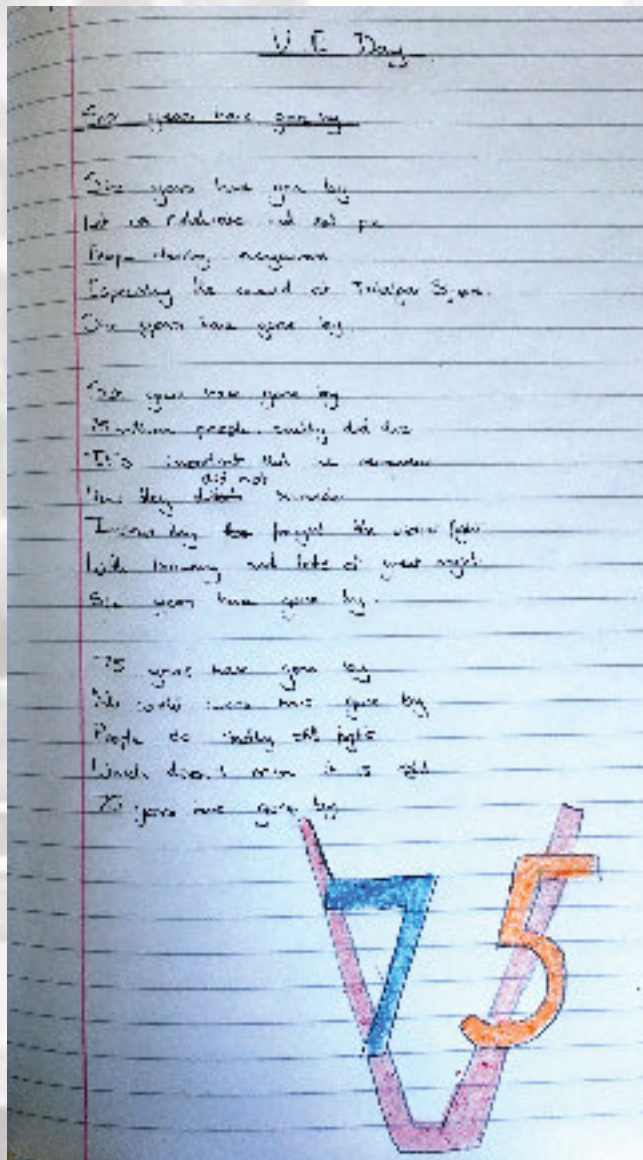


**1940s Egg and Sausage Pie, by Charlie Herbert, Year 8**





## Poetry and baking in History



**Rahul Rana**, Year 8, wrote this poignant poem to commemorate the occasion.



More baking, this time from **Lucas Dordoy**, Year 8.



**Nicholas Scoulding**, Year 7, whipped up some great-looking scones.



A hearty loaf of 1940s bread, baked by **Sam Porter**, Year 8.



## Even more painting and baking in History!!



Another wonderful piece of art, this time by **Jack Sambles, Year 8.**



**Toby Kent, Year 8.**



# Summer Sounds



Despite being forced from our regular performance space of the Main Hall for this year's Summer Sounds, have no fear that this musical extravaganza will be going ahead regardless! It takes more than a global pandemic to prevent TBSHS students making music. Thank you to the many students and staff who have submitted audio and video for this year's **Online Edition** of Summer Sounds. Putting these videos together is no mean feat, but it is made all the easier by the high standards of musicianship that have gone into each and every student performance.

The concert itself will be broadcast live over the internet, with the concert and the individual performances subsequently placed on the school's Microsoft Stream account, accessible only via student school logins. The necessary links to access the concert will be made available to all students, staff and parents a little closer to the time, via the usual channels. Refreshments will unsurprisingly not be provided, but please do sit back, relax and enjoy our first ever virtual concert!

## Jerusalem 2020.

As part of trying to bring the school community together during lockdown, we launched the Jerusalem 2020 project shortly after the school building was forced to temporarily close to most students. A great

number of students, staff and parents submitted recordings of themselves either playing their instrument or singing along to our beloved school hymn. The results of this collaboration will be premiered at our Summer Concert.

At the time of writing, my thanks to the following people for submitting recordings and being part of this massed musical achievement:

*Joe Lee, Daniel Hodges, Oliver Worthy, Alex Banhidai, David Badcock, Evan Badcock, Mr Badcock, Will Worthy, Gabriel Wood, Harry Collier-Smith, Mrs Wood, Isabelle Gooding, Isaac Reeve, Owen Lee, Oscar Goldsmith-Hughes, Ben Sessions, Brandon McDonald-Williams, Brandon Bundgaard-Antoine, Edward Bennett, Fred Hannant, George Grimwood, George Welland, Jack Lenihan, Jack Sambridge, James Frans, James Galley, Luca Cousins, Luke Dunham, Mr Dunham, Luke Beer, Mirko Kacsor, Saveliy Kraynov, Sam Hume, Sonny Richardson, Tom Rees, Charlie Rees, Tom Dreblow, William Monkhouse, Sam Shemwell, William McFarlane, Callum Wright, James Slocombe, Kim Robinson, Teddy Pope, Mr Pearson-Phillips, Dr Coke-Woods, Mr Ardin, Rhiannon Lewis, Mr Emery, Mr Newsome, Mr Thomas and Mrs Landers.*

**Joe Emery, Head of Music.**



## ‘Mind your Manners!’



Having now spent more time working remotely at TBSHS than physically, I can definitely say it is a ‘Surreal experience.’ I thought for a brief moment that planning and setting work from home would be really straight forward and in some cases very quick to do; how wrong could I be?

I remember the actual day I decided to get into teaching. I was on the road touring with a band and having completed show number 70 from a 100 date tour, I had just had enough. I’d read in the paper that there was a recruitment show in London and as we were playing there the same day, I ducked out and popped along with the aim of becoming a music teacher. On arrival, I quickly found out that the 15 years experience of being a musician actually counted for nothing, as I had no degree in music. What I did have was a qualification in design so I was sent over to the Goldsmith's University stand and the rest is history.

Having finished my PGCE, I, like many other new teachers jumped into the profession full of verve and vigour, new ideas and pedagogical breakthroughs; I was going to change the world one child at a time. Having worked in inner London, outer London, the ‘burbs’ and Iran, I kind of thought I had enough experience to deal with this pandemic business. Once again, I found myself quite wrong.

After teasing through the issues of a combination of a poor internet connection and the raft of daily distractions, (even birds are actually annoying me now), I think it all comes down to a lack of the ability to communicate properly that is the crux of the issue. I find that when I am in the classroom I use a mix of quick fire questions, short stories linked to the learning and an eagle eye to see who is switched on and on task. None of this helps when you work remotely and I now find I have to plan to imagine who is going to access the work and how? Currently, I am sat recording voice overs onto power-points and sending them to myself to open on my phone, ipad, computer and SMHW to see how they come across. I now hate the sound of my own voice and wonder whether I actually sound that nasally normally.

So, here's to getting back to normal, whenever and whatever that may be. Here's to the camaraderie of teaching coming back again. The coffees. The laughs. The corridor chats. The fantastic lunches. The great students and, for me personally, to actually working physically in a place more than remote.

**Tony Arden, saxophonist and DT teacher.**



## Careers News.



The Careers Department was its usual busy self - until the school closed in March. Since then, inevitably, Work Experience has been cancelled for Years 10 and 12 and we're all getting used to that well known anagram – WFH.

Adapting to the new methods of working have presented challenges – technological and otherwise – but my interviews with students continue. Although no longer face-to-face but via a school mobile telephone, I now have more time to prepare bespoke careers advice that is emailed to students thereafter – a positive! With regards to the Work Experience Programme itself, students are encouraged to secure informal and voluntary placements although they must take place in the holidays so as not to impact further on the school curriculum. **If you feel able to offer a placement to students in either year group, do please get in touch as I'd love to hear from you.**

**National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship Week** both took place before lockdown, so we just managed to squeeze in the form group activities plus the planned guest events. Assembly presentations took place across the Year groups throughout the year and hopefully they will resume in some form or another in the autumn.

The **Careers Workshops Programme** has been full and varied this academic year and we've welcomed visitors from many industries; construction, pharmaceutical, economics and law to name just a few. All have been kind enough to give up their time for the benefit of our students for which we're extremely grateful. Several workshops were planned for the summer term and I very much hope these can be rescheduled in the autumn. **If you can offer a workshop, virtual or otherwise, please let me know.**

I wish everyone a safe and very happy summer and look forward to seeing all our students as soon it is safe to do so.

With very best wishes.

Claire Jonas  
Careers/Events  
The Bishop's Stortford High School  
[claire.jonas@tbshs.org](mailto:claire.jonas@tbshs.org)



## PPE



**Jack Fellowes-Pryne** in late May, ensuring that there is sufficient screen protection for colleagues in the foyer as we anticipate a gradual return to school and below, **Alexia Kitching**, safely ensconced behind the PPE on June 1st.

You will recognise Jack as his photograph is on the front cover of this Mitre, and you may be interested to know he has made over 1,000 face masks for the NHS!!

As a former student of TBSHS, his selflessness and generosity of spirit does not come as a surprise to any of us; as it is that 'black and gold spirit' that underscores everything we try and do here, and Jack has continued to show that in abundance.

We are all incredibly proud of him!





## 'Thought for the Day'



*This article was written and submitted by Simon Etheridge, subject leader for Religious Studies and Citizenship on June 1st.*

*Throughout the lockdown, he has sent a comprehensive 'Thought for the Day' every day, helping everyone in the whole school community to manage their situation as best as they can. He has drawn on all sorts of diverse sources to bring caring advice and reflection and there is no doubt he has provided comfort to many.*

*The tone of the piece reflects Simon's pastoral role within the school and it is fitting that we close June's Mitre with a 'thought for the day.'*

TBSHS is built on the pillars of students, parents and staff working together and no more has this more been seen in the seventy-year history of the school than now. Over this very challenging period, we have strived to support students, parents and staff with an extended "Thought For The Day". These varied pieces, often featuring wonderful student reflections and contributions, have provided an opportunity to respect the current very challenging national and international situation and all those caring, serving, sacrificing and suffering. We have marked key national, international, religious and moral days as well as the Queen's work and witness. Being both respectful and positive, we have shared inspirational moments such as the "Clap For Health Workers, Carers, Key and Essential Workers" on Thursday nights and the remarkable of Sir Tom Moore (whose image forms the background to this page). Through these pieces, we also paid a heartfelt tribute to Year 11 and Year 13 for all they did to make TBSHS better and more brilliant. The most important "Thought For The Day" was a "Thought For Every Day" in memory of Albie Leak. We will continue to remember and to be inspired by Albie.

Our heroes are around and by us. Students are the stars of the school. Year 8's Oscar Gouldson wrote this poem about the current situation entitled "Caring." It is a fitting ending to June's Mitre.

### Caring by Oscar Gouldson, Year 8

The streets are empty, the parks deserted  
And Parliament trying their best to be assertive  
We all follow instructions and remain at home  
And try to make everyone feel they're not alone

The hospitals trying to look after the sick  
The supermarkets trying to stack their shelves quick  
Teachers helping key workers' children learn  
For which every Thursday we clap in return

We do our online school work, zoom meetings and tasks  
Whilst our parents work out how to make masks  
Zooming our friends and clubs, stories we share  
All working together, as one we truly care

We call on our neighbours to check they are okay  
'Phoning and zooming our relatives we must keep away  
Acting together, the burden we share  
Looking after each other and showing we care.



