



BEESTON HALL SCHOOL



I love this snapshot of Beeston (courtesy of the wonderful Miss Wilmot, in the office) beautifully composed, showing some Year 8 girls demonstrating the value of school-on-site: reading, playing and watching – *together*. That we have been considering the long term fate of the willow tree – looking so lovely behind them, might come as a brutal surprise to some. It may well be the cost of restoring the pond, and one worthwhile for the crucian carp who will live there and the children who will be able to play and study around it.

So ends what has been – as we know all too well – an extraordinary term, which the children embraced, dauntless, in the hard yards of the January lockdown, flogging through February, mitigated – ironically – by the snowy relief of Storm Darcy and the day of national relief – March 8th. However good remote learning provision has been, the last three weeks have been testament – if any were needed – to the superiority of Beeston at Beeston, which we drew to a close with a lovely outside Easter service, in similar breezy sunshine.



So, to news around the school – including our warm welcome to **Marcella B**, who has joined our Year 8 for a term of Beeston, before heading on to Gresham’s with our leavers-to-be.

PRE-PREP



As much as anything a replacement for prizegiving, the pre-prep children enjoyed a lovely afternoon on Thursday, celebrating the end of term and forthcoming Easter. There were games and races, including a very competitive egg and spoon race, followed by face-painting and an Easter egg hunt.

Here are **Emily P** and **Caitlin F** holding up their *poisson d'Avril*, which they made in French. On April Fools' Day the children in France try to trick adults by sneakily sticking a paper fish on their backs. The tradition is thought to date back to 1564 when Charles IX was completing his Grand Tour of his newly inherited country. Its origins are murky, and seems connected to the banning of fishing, the adoption of the Gregorian calendar and whether or not 1st April was, or was not, New Year's Day. As I say, murky... !



YEAR 2

This week the Year 2s filmed our version of '*The Great Kapok Tree*' by Lynne Cherry. It was pure excitement, racing about, to film each of the scenes with costume changes and face painting, to challenge the most energetic production designer! Mrs Richardson will spend some time over the Easter holiday to edit the clips together for a premiere to begin the summer term!

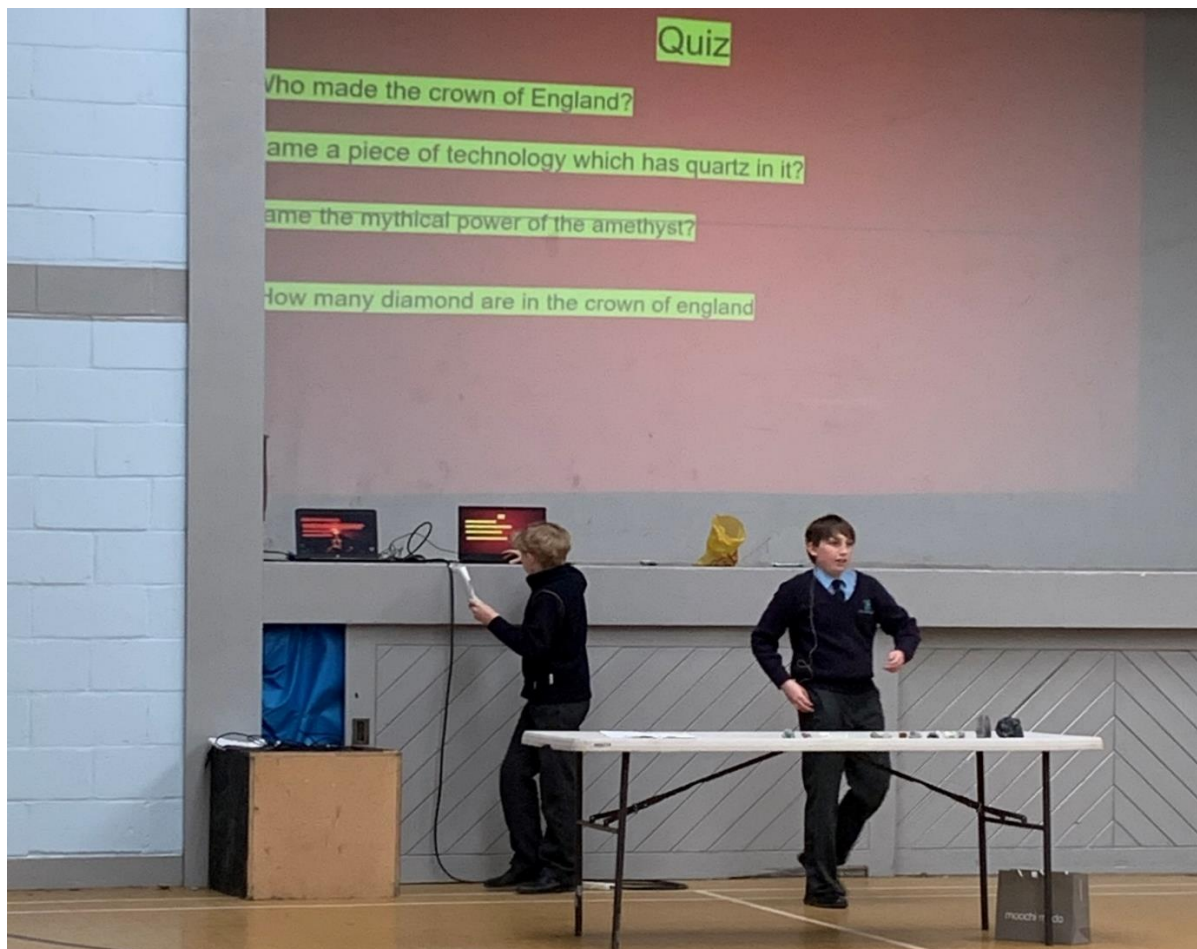


BOARDING

Aside for casual serenading around the Link piano (shared on Instagram) the boarders have been happily engaged in their own Easter preparation with the ever-popular creation of seasonal confectionery!



It wasn't all about sweets, though. **Jamie P** delivered his excellent leaver's lecture on nuggets of his own – rather more permanent in this case: gemstones and crystals, which have long held fascination for him, which he shared with aplomb – and customary charm.



YEAR 7

More controversially, in geography, the Year 7s joined the great debate on HS2. The role play involved 'representatives' from wildlife conservation trusts, 'antis' (residents against the development), local and national government, all participating in a public meeting. Each group presented their reasons for and against the transport plan and fielded questions from the class.



After a mature and varied debate, votes went in favour of the development. This was a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to showcase their debating skills and **Nikolas L** in particular, produced an excellent performance alongside a very, very professional presentation.

CRICKET

We have had a brilliant three weeks of cricket and ball skills, with Year 3 and below, during their PE lessons this term, having a preparation for what should be an exciting summer cricket term ahead.



The children's knowledge is already exceeding the expectations of our sports staff, as is their skill development. It is a very exciting time with so many eager young cricketers... and we look forward to seeing the new grass nets complete when we return.

HOUSE MATCHES

Our hotly anticipated House Hockey and Netball matches were a fitting end to the term. The boys and girls from each of the four houses played with a tremendous spirit and the atmosphere could only be described as a fabulous "Beeston Buzz!" The Vikings had a wonderful day, winning the senior hockey and both the senior and junior netball, whilst junior hockey was won by the Danes. As you would expect, the matches were often fiercely contested, but always played in the right spirit. Well done to every single member of the four Houses for your exemplary efforts.





So, we come to the term's prize-giving on Thursday, which took on a slightly different hue, with several prizes unable to be awarded, but a raft of acknowledgement for achievements in lockdown learning. Whilst we have been very aware of the differing circumstances meaning different levels of possible output (which all went towards the house race) recognising consistent efforts was important with the 'Lockdown Legends' category.

ACADEMIC EFFORT PRIZES

Y8	Siena Barber	Y5	Lily Davies
Y7	Isaac Mitchell	Y4	Penny Coghill
Y6	Evie Coghill	Y3	Henry Hume & Celeste Morison

GLADSTONE TANKARD: Evie Coghill

ACADEMIC MERIT PRIZES IN YEAR GROUPS

Y8	Benny Wong	Y5	Bonnie Freakley
Y7	Polly Harrison	Y4	Susannah Pallister
Y6	Charlie Denham	Y3	Tallula Caswell

THE RILEY SMITH BOWL: Polly Harrison

BATT CUP WINNER: Katie Hannant

RUNNERS UP: Molly Marsh & Oliver Gleave

PUNCTUALITY PRIZE: Bertie Beck

MENTOR AWARDS

8DG	Rex Yip	6PK	Rafferty Lowe
8NW	William Hickman	6AT	Jasper Keeling
8RC	Soraya Fleming	5AD	Esme Gleave
7JB	Laurie Withers	5SAW	Isabelle Baker
7RM	Essie Jones	4JD	Ilona MacNicol
6RF	Joey Mace	3HD	Olivia Symington

CITIZENSHIP MERIT AWARDS

Y8	Romilly Hammond	Y5	Astra Keirle
Y7	Phoenix Morison	Y4	Cleo Keirle
Y6	Henry King	Y3	Arthur Barnett

OVERALL WINNER: Romilly Hammond

COMBINED ACADEMIC AND CITIZENSHIP SUPER MERITS

Y8	Romilly Hammond	Y5	Molly Baily
Y7	Olivia Barratt	Y4	Marcie Keeling
Y6	Evie Hannant	Y3	Harry Marsh

REMOTE LEARNING PRIZES

Y8	Soraya Fleming & Benny Wong	Y5	Tessa Withers & Molly Baily
Y7	Aurelia Scott & Alex Papakonstantinou	Y4	Penny Coghill & Myah Leaver
Y6	Rose Baily & Sophie Jones	Y3	Kitty Baily & Rose Davies

MUSIC LOCKDOWN STARS

Buddy Jacques, Humphrey Barratt, Athena Barber, Isabelle Baker, Katinka Lowther, Laurie Withers, Nikolas Lowther, Olivia Barratt, Aurelia Scott, Mia Webster, Benny Wong

MUSIC PRACTICE AND LESSON EFFORT PRIZES

Bonnie Freakley, India Barber, Thea Casey, Lily Davies, Olivia Symington, Willa Goodley, Ben Freakley

ART AWARDS

Y8	Zelie Birkbeck	Y5	Dilly Lowe & Astra Keirle
Y7	Phoenix Morison & Alex Papakonstantinou	Y4	Cleo Keirle
Y6	Rex Spice & Sophie Jones	Y3	Willa Goodley

SPORT

NETBALL COLOURS

1st VII: Paige Brun, India Barber, Siena Barber, Zelie Birkbeck, Arabella Williams, Romilly Hammond, Mia Webster

U11A: Sophie Jones & Evie Coghill

HOCKEY COLOURS

1st VII: Kit Pallister

COLTS BOYS: Maxwell Doncaster, Luca Newbury, Charlie Denham

LOCKDOWN LEGENDS

Y8	Benny Wong, Kit Pallister, India Barber, Romilly Hammond
Y7	Olivia Barratt, Toby Gotts, Essie Jones
Y6	Flora Barratt, Henry King, Luca Newbury, Sophie Jones
Y5	Marco Newbury
Y4	Humphrey Barratt, Susannah Pallister
Y3	Arthur Barnett

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Event	1	2	3	4
Academic	Romans	Danes	Normans	Vikings
Citizenship	Vikings	Normans	Danes	Romans
Super Merits	Danes	Vikings & Normans		Romans
Sport	Vikings	Danes	Normans & Romans	
Music	Danes	Vikings	Romans	Normans
Bliss Cup (Overall)	Danes	Vikings	Normans	Romans

ADMIN

As we break into Spring sunshine may I once again celebrate and thank everyone across the community. It really has been a tough term, but I am humbled by the resilience and stalwart nature of all concerned, with a particular mention for the Support Staff of the school, who have coped so well with the strictures of covid-19 protocols, and also our precious volunteers Katherine Tulley, Bobbie Coe and Fitty Watson, who read remotely with children, day after day, along with – of course – parents, staff and children, who all pulled together so magnificently.

There is much to look forward to in the term ahead, not least the launch of the Tom Fisher Tennis Academy (please see the separate e-leaflet) which will – no doubt – compete with the many other activities available throughout the weeks (please see Mr Godden's activities booklet and online forms) and, even the possibility of a return to some fixtures.

A year on from the pandemic, there has been much reflecting on what we have lost. Just one of those was the amazing Gordonstoun Challenge weekend planned for June last year. For those in Years 5 and 6 next year this will be available again but, for those who lost out, it is worth mentioning, that Gordonstoun will be welcoming families in Year 7 and 8 for what sounds like a remarkable opportunity to get to know the school over the August bank holiday. The variety of online senior school open days has been undoubtedly a bonus (the Queen Margaret's York flyer will have come to you) but there also restarts the possibility of on-site visits to these locations, too. Atmosphere - drinking in the sense of a place, remains essential as one makes these choices.

I cannot resist bookending this final newsletter of the term with the other pair of wonderful photos which seems to me to illustrate the qualities of Beeston: concentration, focus, openness, and friendship, in the most wonderful location – Happy Easter, one and all!

Best wishes,

Fred

