



A non-uniform day helped raise money for Children in Need

NEEDFUL DEEDS

PUDSEY BEAR was centre-stage as kind-hearted students and staff rallied to raise cash for Children in Need.

Students took part in a non-uniform day, and a range of fun activities which included a disco for Years 8 and 9.

DJ Wharam on the ones-and-twos made sure the dance floor was pumping and fun sports games were arranged by Mr Chadd and Ms Parton.

Mrs De Sondheim arranged a quiz to encourage the grey matter and Mrs Rentell, together with the Design and Technology team organised painting and baking. The efforts by the whole college raised an outstanding £400 for the charity, which helps children all over the UK.

Making a Pudsey pudding

TALENTED Year 9 students created their very own Pudsey cupcakes in a Bake Off-style competition.

With a ticking clock and a lively atmosphere, it was all hands-on deck to whip up something spectacular for Children in Need. Ms Hardy said: "It was heartwarming to see their enthusiasm, as each student brought their own unique flair to the task. "The competitive edge added to the fun, as they raced against the clock, ensuring every detail was just right before the judging commenced by Mr Murphy."

She added: "As the aroma of freshly baked cupcakes filled the air, it was clear that these bakers were not just aiming for the top prize; they were also supporting a fantastic cause."





‘You have made us all very proud’

Principal Ms Banner on school successes and the end of another term.

It has been a fantastic start to the academic year, and I am incredibly proud of our staff and students who have worked tirelessly to learn new skills, raise money for charity and overcome challenges.

At Earl Mortimer College, we foster a culture of creativity and kindness while nurturing academic excellence. The effort of the Duke of Edinburgh team is an outstanding example of perseverance and overcoming adversity to achieve your goals. Congratulations to all who took part in the exercise. You have made us all very proud!

Our literary superstar, William, is a credit to EMC and I am proud of his achievements in publishing such an intriguing and imaginative book.

The collective efforts in raising money for Children in Need and the success of the multitude of activities and events arranged for our young people is testament to the strong working relationships we continue to build.

Our college flourishes thanks to teamwork and collaboration, and on that note, it is wonderful

School adds to its leadership team

EARL MORTIMER COLLEGE is proud to welcome the addition of a new Assistant Principal Ms Hardy.

An exceptional member of staff and passionate about the students and wider community, Ms Hardy will take on her new role in January.

Most recently the school’s Special Educational Needs Coordinator and former Head of House, her dedication, experience and expertise will be a huge asset to the senior

leadership team.

Ms Hardy said: “I am honoured to have the opportunity to help lead a school with such persevering students, an extremely dedicated staff and a supportive school community.

I am particularly looking forward to the opportunity to help raise attendance and to help broaden the opportunities for each student in the EMC community.”



RUDOLPH RUN: Students from each House ran around the college site to raise money for St Michael’s Hospice - in the classroom, students worked with their tutors to prepare for the upcoming Christmas Fayre. This year a fully-funded Christmas dinner was provided for all students in a fitting and inclusive way to end the year.

to welcome long-term member of staff Ms Hardy to the leadership team, where her expertise and passion will drive us forward. I would like to wish our

students, staff and families a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the new year, when the hard work continues.



BEANIE BONANZA: Students have enjoyed yoga, meditation and mindfulness in celebration of World Mental Health Day.

Year 7 took part in a workshop and practised wellbeing exercises for 10 minutes before class.

Young artist and charity

champion Joe Whale (AKA The Doodle Boy) also visited to deliver a workshop.

The 14-year-old is known for turning everyday moments into works of art featuring cartoon monsters, aliens and positive messages for young people, and has created a worksheet for

students to use to embrace the joy of doodling.

A recent collaboration with M&S has seen special beanie hats designed to raise money for mental health charity Young Minds. Students took part in a raffle to win the special hats. Pictured above are the winners.

A raft of ideas for fantasy debut book

A SUMMER camp and the call of the wild has inspired a teenager to write his first novel.

Year 9 student William (pictured right) wrote *Voyage of the White Raven* after a trip to PGL Tregoyd House in Wales.

He said: "I went for a week in the summer. One of the activities was raft building and I decided to name my raft the White Raven. My friends elected me as captain, and I thought I was good at it. It was a very funny

few hours and a memory I will never forget."

William also weaved his love of fantasy throughout the novel with sea monsters and thrilling adventures a key part of the story.

He added: "I have always enjoyed reading and watching fantasy shows. I took some aspects of lots of different things, and gave my own spin on it to create this novel and the subsequent sequels. I hope everyone enjoys the book".

Magic monsters and mystery

The book follows the adventures of Captain Septimus Cefnfor, commander of the greatest ship ever built, The White Raven.

An intrepid seafarer, Septimus sets out with his loyal crew on a courageous voyage to find the lost city of Nauticalous.

However, unbeknownst to him, terrifying monsters await him on his journey. Can he reach the mysterious city and make it back in one piece? This is a tale of magic, monsters and mystery – get ready to set sail on this nautical adventure.



A day at the Red Devils

STUDENTS have enjoyed an incredible team-building experience hosted by one of the world's most famous football clubs.

Manchester United Skills Lab provided careers workshops that explore sports, marketing and commerce. Students also took part in fun and practical team-building exercises.

The day included a tour of United's ground, Old Trafford, contributing to a unique learning experience for the 45 students who attended.

They also visited the museum and gift shop.

Free course for anxiety aid

A FREE course offering support to parents of students with anxiety is being held at Earl Mortimer College.

Fear-less Triple P is delivered by Herefordshire County Council, and aims to provide a better understanding of anxiety and fear while teaching strategies and tools to overcome it.

To book a place on the course, from January 16 to 30, 1.15pm to 3.15pm, email parentinggroups@herefordshire.gov.uk, or call the children's help and advice team on 01432 260261.

First prize for a college collage

THE SCHOOL is celebrating after winning first prize for the Senior Art and Writing Competition at this year's Leominster in Bloom.

Students created a stunning piece of collage work.



Students covered 24km during the trek

Cover the distance for Bronze award

INTREPID students have braved torrential rain and sleepless nights to complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award.

The two-day trek took place in Hereford covering 24km from Cleehonger to Dineor.

Navigating a steep and lengthy course, the groups showed persistence, resilience and skill to see them through to the end.

At the campsite everyone gathered to play sports and toast marshmallows on a fire before torrential rain forced an early retreat under canvas.

Tents had to be moved out the

way of running water with the group providing motivating chats to encourage the next day's adventures.

Mr Burren, DofE Leader, said:

"It was excellent to see the students persevere and the stars for me were Jaxson and Bethany for their perseverance. Enduring adverse weather conditions, limited sleep and wearing soggy clothes made the expedition tough. Their blisters will heal but their experiences will make lasting memories

"Thank you to those who have supported with cover and to the Principal who helped to fund the additional costs."



The party braved torrential rain at their campsite



COOL RUNNINGS: Students enjoyed ice skating as part of the college's Christmas celebrations



Supporting both mind and mood

VITAL workshops supporting students who suffer with anxiety are being provided by the college.

Mind and Mood will be delivered in partnership with the CLD trust, which has developed a research-led programme that helps young people cope with anxiety and low mood.

Anxiety disorders tend to persist into adulthood and childhood anxiety is also linked to educational

underachievement and attendance issues. EMC is ensuring the best outcomes for students by introducing the sessions.

Assistant Principal, Mr Wharam, (*pictured left*) said: "We really value this partnership and align with the values of this community-based organisation. It is hugely important that our college supports the wellbeing of our students."

Indonesia orchestra's unforgettable concert

BUDDING musicians attended a concert held at the Priory, presented by the Oxford Gamelan Society.

The gamelan is an Indonesian orchestra of percussive hand-forged

bronze metallophones, gongs and chimes.

They are mounted on elaborate frames and beds with snakes, tropical plants and other

decorative embellishments.

The show featured classical Javanese dancer Andrea Rutkowski and students were treated to an unforgettable experience.



GIFTS IN THE GARBAGE: The Grinch was in town but was luckily out-Christmased by Mr Wharam

Sessions and factsheets help boost safety online

IMPORTANT lessons on how to keep safe online have been shared with students' families.

The rapid pace of technology necessitates a need to protect young people from the danger posed by fake news, misogyny and fraud. Earl Mortimer College has installed secure filtering and

monitoring services to help keep students safe online while using computers in school, and is taking a step further by sending weekly factsheets. The student welfare team said: "It can be for parents and care givers knowing ghosting from catfishing and fake news from cyber-flashing. Research tells

us that parents care very much about keeping their children safer online, but are often unsure how to do that.

"We have been sending weekly emails and factsheets home. Topics have included the influence of misogynistic figures, artificial intelligence, TikTok and navigating fake news.



Oskar and Morgan have received training in public speaking

Year 8 DJs get on the airwaves

SUPERSTAR DJs are learning a range of broadcasting skills at Leominster's number one station, EMC Student Radio.

Year 8 students Morgan, Oskar and Charlie have received training in public speaking, script writing and interviewing techniques as they

progress towards hosting their own live radio shows and podcasts.

The studio has state-of-the-art industry standard equipment, meaning they could walk into any professional radio station and be familiar with the set-up.

Mr Wharam said: "We put out for

a search out for a new radio star.

Our students were curious about the studio and have really found a place where they can express themselves using their creativity and wit – it's a joy to see them flourish."

Listen online by visiting the website.

Working together at the Weir

ART students have learned new skills during a trip to an historic National Trust site.

Bordered by the River Wye, The Weir sits within unspoilt Herefordshire countryside and has beautiful gardens and wildlife.

The College said: "All students were very well behaved and created art on the day that was thought-provoking.

"Students worked well together and enjoyed the tasks they were set."

Behind you

STUDENTS enjoyed a festive panto at the Hereford Courtyard theatre.

Each year group were treated to the entertaining performance of Christmas panto classic, Sleeping Beauty.



House proud

Mollie and Logan proudly holding up the House Cup on behalf of the Jaguars, winners 2023-24, with Head of House Mrs Gummer

Jaguar House is celebrating after winning the 23/24 House Cup.

Students from each house collect points based on attendance, team work, group work and individual achievements, which are totted up throughout the year.

The house system provides an increased feeling of identity and belonging for students with a sense of competition and achievement.

As we head into the new year Jaguars are on course to raise the cup again as they take the

lead over the Leopards and Tigers.

Mrs Gummer, Head of House, said: "I am so proud of the students! It's a year-long pursuit and we've hit the ground running for this new academic year. Well done to all."

'Inspirational' Paralympian plays ball for fitness sessions

A TOP Paralympian has hosted fitness sessions and workshops during a visit to the college.

Wheelchair basketball athlete Lucy Robinson led an assembly for Years 7 and 8 where they enjoyed a fitness class.

A group of talented Year 9 students then participated in a basketball session.

Lucy was a promising footballer and switched to wheelchair basketball after a roller-skating injury.

The two-time Paralympian also has a first-class honours degree in Primary Education and shared her journey with excited staff and students.

To be selected for the squad she

had to attend camps all summer where her speed and strength were tested.

Mr Chadd, Head of PE, said: "She was inspirational and is keen to come back and work with our students. It was a fantastic experience, and we are lucky to offer such great opportunities here at the college."