

Easter 2021

Former student offered place
at University of Cambridge...

Lily found
inspiration from
the medical staff
who treated her
great uncle.

Lily's dose of good news

A FORMER student has won a place at the University of Cambridge to study medicine after being inspired by the medics who looked after a sick relative during the COVID pandemic.

Lily Fisher, who left the school two years ago, came through a rigorous selection process to win a place at the prestigious St John's College, Cambridge.

She still needs to score top grades in her biology, German, maths and chemistry A Levels at Hereford Sixth Form College to confirm her place.

Lily, who will be the first person in her family to go to university, became interested in medicine when volunteering with homeless charity Vennture in Hereford.

She said: "Lots of people think it is strange to want to be in the middle of something like a pandemic but I am just really chomping at the bit to get started.

"I think if you want to be a doctor and you see people who need help you just want to get in the middle and do your best to be of use.

"My great uncle had to go into hospital with Coronavirus and it was because of those doctors and nurses and the support they provided that he recovered.

"It has also been incredibly inspiring watching the scenes on the television of what these brave people in the NHS are doing every day. I can't wait to be one of them."

Lily thanked her teachers at Earl Mortimer for giving her the confidence to chase her dream.

She added: "It is really important that young people are ambitious for themselves and their futures. At Earl Mortimer I was taught to strive and to aim high.

"I am now on my way to my dream career and that is thanks to my amazing teachers. If I can do it then others can too."

Earl Mortimer College Principal Alison Banner said: "As a college and community we are extremely proud of Lily's achievement.

"Her success is a marker for the young people of this college of what can be achieved with ambition, aspiration, hard work and belief. We wish her the very best for her future career."



Hereford Sixth Form Co... · 05/02/2021 ...

Replying to @HerefordSFC

Lily is one of three students who have recieved an offer to study Medicine! That's a record breaking achievement - congratulations Lily! @Cambridge_Uni @EarlMortimer



Lily
pictured
in Year
7 at Earl
Mortimer.

Learning to stay safe on the internet

STUDENTS worked together to create a charter to help them stay safe online as youngsters around the globe marked Safer Internet Day.

They came up with ten golden rules which included never sharing personal information, securing passwords and not talking to strangers.

The charter which was created by students during school closures have been printed and will be displayed around the school.

Year 8 Ellie's contribution was to never share personal information online. She said: "We are the ones who this is targeted at so we are the ones who should help to say where the dangers are online."

"Young people spend a lot of time on their phones, so these rules are really important to help keep us safe. I am hoping it will help all children my age."

Fellow Year 11 Natalie said: "I have actually been hacked before so I know

the dangers online. It is a really scary situation because people have access to lots of personal information."

"I just want to spread awareness of what can happen online if you do not keep passwords safe and make sure you are being safe on social media."

Students also learned about fake news and looked at accuracy and reliability of sources found online.

For further information about online safety visit earlmortimer.org.uk.



Earl Mortimer College has worked hard to keep students on course through remote learning lessons.

Remote learning given support through survey

A STUNNING 80 per cent of students said their remote learning experience during school closures was positive, a student and parent study has revealed.

Also, 93 per cent said they received the right amount of work with subject departments including maths, English, science, German and history getting special praise.

Comments from parents were positive with many describing learning as well structured and engaging.

One said: "Earl Mortimer College has worked really well with my child and keeping us parents informed. Well done."

While another said: "I think the structure and commitment of all my child's teachers is to be commended throughout this pandemic. Thank you."

There were special thanks also for our "hard working and committed" teachers.

Mr Edwards was described as a "good

all-rounder" while Mrs Joules "makes jokes and lightens the lessons."

One parent wrote about English teacher Miss Stanik: "She offers a lot of support and encouragement, as a tutor she gave us so much support in getting Micro-soft Teams set up and getting us into home learning."

"As an English teacher she has motivated my son to really want to do his very best work for her, as he knows she really cares about the students."

"This makes such a difference to his motivation. She has been fantastic before the lockdown too as a tutor and teacher."

"She communicates with us about lots of different issues and questions. Even answering my emails at 10pm in the evening. Give that girl a pay rise."

Other teachers thanked included Mr Bescoby, Mr Bailey, Mr Quigley, Mrs Price, Ms McKenzie and Mrs Moczulski.

Principal Ms Banner said: "It is incredibly pleasing that the hard work my team has put in to make sure our remote learning is the best it can be has been recognised by students and families."

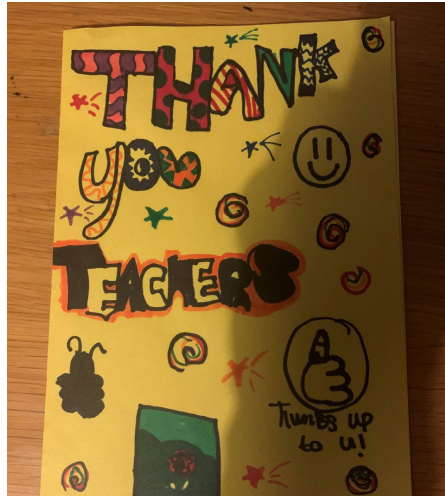
"I cannot express just how proud I am of my staff who have really gone above and beyond to minimise the disruption to our children's education."

"I can tell you that these lovely comments from our students and families mean a tremendous amount to us."

THE college promoted tolerance, diversity and inclusivity in February as part of LGBT+ History Month. They explored this year's theme of Mind, Body and Soul as part of a drive to raise awareness on matters affecting the LGBT community. The college also pledged to promote the welfare of LGBT+ people.



Molly's mum.



Sade's card of thanks.



Curtus's mum.

Our lockdown heroes rise to the challenge

DURING school closures students were set a series of challenges to keep them occupied during the lockdown.

For the Pick a Lockdown Hero challenge, Rosie picked her mum because she helps with school work and baking.

Year 8 Curtus also picked his mum who works in a care home.

Molly, who also chose her mum, said: "She fights for me when I haven't got the strength to fight for myself. She is my hero."

Other challenges included designing a thank you card for teachers, acts of kindness, a poem or short story about 2020 and what they missed about school.

Students rose to the challenges sending us their pictures which were posted on the school's social media pages.

For week one's acts of kindness, student Jack walked his key worker neighbour's dog while she was out of the house.

He said: "my neighbour is a teacher so she has to be out of the house a lot and I would hear her dog crying. It was only a puppy so needs lots of attention.

"I offered to walk the dog and go over to her house and play with it while she was at work so that it would not be lonely. To be honest I loved it and it was something to keep me occupied."

For the challenge, Year 9 Sade and Year 7 Jazmin created thank you cards for teachers while Casey cleaned the dinner table for the kindness challenge.



Jack looked after a neighbour's puppy.



Rosie picked her mum because she helps with her studies as well as baking.

Superhero profile

Year 7 Bethany is rightly proud of her superhero mum. Here she tells us a bit about her.

Name: Mum. **Relationship:** Daughter.
Where does she work? Herefordshire Hospital.
What does she do? Sister Nurse.
Role during Covid? Helping patients.
Why is she a superhero? It has been hard because she has been working so hard and so much this last year. She is such a hero because she has helped so many people get better. I could not be prouder of her.



**It feels
so good
to be
back**



PRINCIPAL Ms Banner

THE moment the students walked back into school full-time, it felt like something had lifted.

Schools are not schools without students. It is hard to express how much we have missed them and how exciting it is to see and hear the school building come to life once more.

It is pleasing to see students reacquaint themselves with their friends and teachers.

It is also a timely reminder after what has been the most challenging year of the reason why we got into teaching in the first place; working with children.

Structure is important for us all but particularly for young people and it is clear they are thriving now they are back at school.

I have been impressed with the mature attitude that the students have shown to the lateral flow testing and the efforts they have made to settle back into the daily routine.

As you will read in this newsletter, the school has not allowed the pandemic to change our attitude to standards; I am proud that we continue to innovate, be passionate and lead the way.

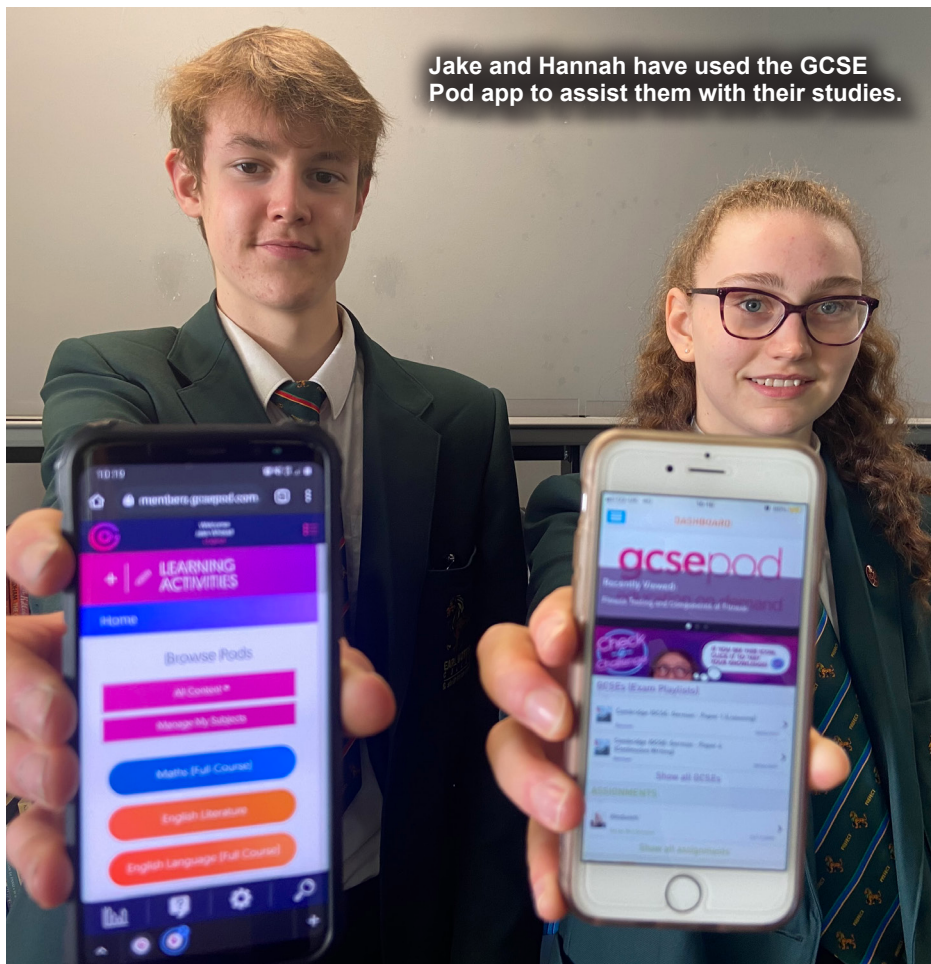
It is incredible how quickly you settle back into your old patterns of working that it is almost easy to forget we are (hopefully) emerging from a pandemic.

We must, of course, remain vigilant but we must also look to the future. I am positive about what lies ahead.

One day soon, students will be learning about the world by visiting museums and galleries, they will showcase their musical and sporting talents at school concerts and fixtures with their family and friends in the audience and on the touchlines, we will be together.

As always, we take that journey with you; our staff, students, families and community.

Jake and Hannah have used the GCSE Pod app to assist them with their studies.



App helps duo make the grade

STUDENTS Hannah and Jake are on course to score top marks in their GCSEs thanks to an innovative new app available to students at Earl Mortimer.

The Year 11 students spend up to an hour per day on online resource GCSE Pod making them both the top users of the app in the school.

GCSE Pod includes revision tips, podcasts and assessments tools covering every subject and every exam board.

It is also linked to ShowMyHomework which means teachers can set assignments. There are also parental functions.

The hard work appears to be paying off with both students predicted to score mostly 7-9 grades in GCSE.

Jake said: "The videos are interactive and you can write notes down. The interface

is user friendly. It's really improved my chances of getting top grades.

"It has allowed me to reinforce the knowledge I already have and pick up snippets I might have missed."

Hannah said: "You can change the speed which means it is adaptable for your needs. There are bonus playlists which help identify the gaps in your knowledge.

"It has really helped me stay ahead of my learning and given me confidence on tests I have been doing at school."

An incredible 98 per cent of Year 11 students are using the app. The activation rate for Year 9 and 10 is over 90 per cent.

The top subjects studied by Earl Mortimer College students are English, RE and science.

Assistant Principal Miss Goodman added: "It has given our students confidence, enabled our students to be more organised and made learning more fun and interesting."

STUDENTS were treated to a series of online science shows thanks to a partnership between the University of Worcester and the Royal Institution. The interactive show explored the burning of fossil fuels and the production of carbon emissions. This year's Science Week theme was sustainability.

Research marks a new chapter for book event

THE COLLEGE marked World Book Day by encouraging students to research their favourite author.

Lockdown meant students and staff could not dress up as their favourite literature characters or take part in other planned on-site activities.

But that did not stop the school from celebrating our love of books.

Student Rocky said: "We would usually be getting dressed up and getting involved in all the fun parts of Word Book Day but because of lockdown we had to do something different this time.

"I did miss it a little bit but I also enjoyed researching my favourite author, Matt Oldfield who does the football books."

Year 8 Dan said: "My favourite author is Phillip Pullman and so I really enjoyed researching him. I have read his Dark Materials and am reading other books as well.

"It was a really interesting project because you could see what inspired the author and his books from his background and life."

With book shops closed the library purchased books students could buy in English class.

Librarian Ms Ridd said: "The library had to be closed during lockdown which was a great shame.

I knew students wouldn't be able to buy the books from the book shops so we bought them and then students can exchange them for tokens in class."



Students were encouraged to research their favourite authors for World Book Day.

TWEET OF THE TERM



Jennifer Squire @misssq... · 18/01/2021 ···

Just had my second placement confirmed!

Excited to get stuck in at @EarlMortimer

I've heard some wonderful things! #PGCE

#PGCEEnglish #pgcesec



Podcast covers some tasty topics

CATS on leads, soggy pizzas and misadventures with trees were among the many weighty topics under discussion on the EMC podcasts this term.

Assistant Principal Mr Wharam and his team of contributors engaged in vibrant discussion as the series continued throughout the lockdown.

Mr Wharam described the broadcasts, available to listen to on the school website, as an "oral history" of the pandemic.

He added: "Listen out for the students' sincerity, emotion, high spirits and resilience, and the efforts of colleagues to provide students who attended EMC throughout the pandemic with a memorable Lockdown 3.0 experience, making the best of tough times."

Other topics discussed in the podcasts included a best seller on geopolitics by a former journalist, as well as the German sense of humour. Podcast 10 saw English teacher Mr Quigley read one of his self-penned short stories, *The Unexpected*.



Making their mark with maths

BRIGHT students have earned their place among the top mathematicians in the country after scoring top marks in a nationwide maths competition.

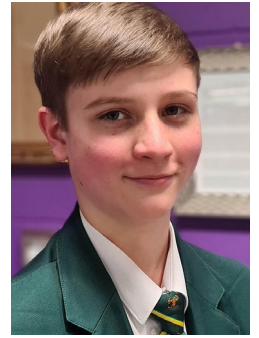
Year 9 Felix (pictured) and Year 10 Charlie were awarded silver in the prestigious UK Mathematical Challenge (UKMT).

The test was sat in school under normal exam conditions. Some 300,000 students

from across the UK are estimated to have taken part in the challenge.

Felix scored high enough marks to make it through to the next level, the Intermediate Grey Kangaroo.

Year 9 students Lewys, Andzelika, Gracie and Year 10 students Charlie, Bethan, Olly, Jessica, Issy, Imogen and Lily scored bronze medals. Sixty students from EMC took part.



Izzy, Amy, Jacob and Liam all won prizes for their submissions to the Just the Job competition.

Contest is Just the Job for prize winners

TALENTED Year 7 students have won prizes after impressing with their career choices for the county-wide Just the Job competition.

The entries — which could be poster, video or written — included education and skills needed for their chosen career path.

Izzy, Amy, Jacob and Liam were among a select few to be awarded the £50 prizes out of hundreds of participants across Herefordshire.

Liam wants to be a marine biologist. He said: "I spend a lot of my time on the water fishing with my dad so have become very interested in marine life. That is why I want to pursue a career in it."

Amy wants to be a jockey. She said: "It was a really interesting competition because I always wanted to be a jockey but never asked myself why. This project made me do that."

Jacob wants to be a policeman. He said: "It feels great to have been one of just a few chosen. I want to be a policeman because I want to help people and keep them safe."

Izzy wants to be a paramedic. She added: "I was shocked to win because I really did not think I was going to. It was fun to think about what I want to do and picture myself in my future career."

Assistant Principal Mr Maddock said: "Huge congratulations go to these brilliant four students who have beaten the competition to win these prizes."

"They have worked very hard both individually and with teachers to produce a very high quality of work."

"They have taken the first steps towards their dream careers."



Careers well worth making a song and dance about

STUDENTS were asked to send in videos depicting their dream jobs which were shared on social media.

The school marked Careers Week remotely with students taking part in tasks from home.

Year 7 Bethany, an inspiring musical theatre actress, sent in a

video of her dancing and singing.

She said: "Seeing as we could not be in school it was a great way to get us to think about what we want to do as a career."

"I want to be on the stage singing and dancing so I sent a video in of that."

Brilliant students prepare for challenge

STUDENTS will take their learning to the next level when a new academic programme launches next year.

Under the instruction of a PHD tutor, students will complete a degree level six-week programme as part of their participation in the Brilliant Club.

Courses in English and science are expected in the autumn term and will see students

complete a 2,000-word university-style dissertation.

They will also get the chance to visit a local university and sit in on lectures, tour the campus and meet student undergraduates.

The Brilliant Club is an award-winning access charity that works with schools to

increase the number of students from underrepresented backgrounds progressing to top universities.

Principal Ms Banner said: "We have exceptionally bright students at this school who will benefit from having their academic abilities stretched on this programme."



The new wellbeing room is given a splash of colour ahead of its opening.

New room devoted to wellbeing

THE college has created a wellbeing room to create a safe space and to support mental health.

The brainchild of Mrs Gummer, students have taken up the mantle by decorating the room to their specification.

To mark the opening of the room there will be activities to support mental health such as debates, puppet shows and meditation.

Year 11 Nikola said: "I think it is a really good idea because we all need a little time and space to ourselves and this wellbeing room will provide that."

Fellow Year 11 Den added: "It has been really great being part of this project making sure it looks right for students who will use it."

Teacher Mrs Gummer said: "We know how hard some students found the lockdown. We want to provide a safe place for them to express their experiences and emotions."

"Students have been working together to think about how to change their fears and anxiety to positivity. The room will have something for everyone."

Kindness can help your mental health

MENTAL health champion Assistant Principal Mr Wharam (pictured) talks about the importance of kindness as the school marked Mental Health Awareness Week this term.

One thing that we have seen all over the world is that kindness is prevailing in uncertain times. We have learnt that amid the fear, there is also community, support and hope.

The added benefit of helping others is that it is good for our own mental health and wellbeing. It can help reduce stress and improve your emotional wellbeing.

Kindness transforms our schools, places of work, communities and families. It has a

singular ability to unlock our shared humanity, it strengthens relationships, develops community and deepens solidarity.

Here at Earl Mortimer College, we are helping to shape a society where kindness and supporting others are qualities that are revered.

We want a world which tips the balance in favour of good mental health, for all of us, but especially for those who are most vulnerable.

Kindness has come to the fore during the Covid-19 pandemic, the fundraising heroics of Captain Tom Moore and mutual aid groups supporting communities across the country.

Instead of bringing the worst out in us it has brought out the best.



PICTURE CORNER



WE have created a Wall of Excellence to celebrate student achievements. Students will be starting the wall off with some of the amazing work they produced during lockdown.



STUDENTS work on the charter to mark Safer Internet Day.

YEAR 8 students created art inspired by artist Matisse. They learned the French artist's technique before making their circus themed mobiles which were inspired by his Cut-Out series. One of the many outstanding pieces of work was from Nyal (right).



WHO said lockdown was boring? Sade and Jazmin had great fun as we had a flurry of snow back in January. Even the snowman is taller than Mr Wharam!



Leominster in Bloom @... · 06/03/2021 ·
Lovely to learn more about how our local schools engage with pupils and brilliant to see the @LeominsterBloom board at the Co-Op used for other local groups.
@Claire_Edwardsx @EarlMortimer



THE new Earl Mortimer College display in the Leominster Co-op store was proudly unveiled by Miss Goodman and Miss Ridd. It showcases the great work of the college!