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newsletter



The Year 7s won the cup final 10-0

County cup winners

Year 7 boys channel spirit of Hereford legend Radford

OUR Year 7 boys channelled the spirit of FA Cup legend Ronnie Radford to claim victory in the county cup final.

The match was played at Edgar Street, where the midfielder scored his famous goal in a replay against first division Newcastle United.

The team did not need a dramatic last-minute winner to take home the cup, beating Whitecross 10-0 in the final.

They had won their previous four games to reach the final, including a dominant performance against St Mary's High School.

The team scored a whopping 39 goals in just five games with top-scorer Charlie offered a trial with Shrewsbury Town on the back of stand-out performances.

If successful, he would join EMC team-mate Tom who already plays for the Shrews U-12 team.

PE teacher Mr Bescoby said: "There was no dramatic last-minute winner, but there was certainly lots of happy faces celebrating the victory at the end of the game.

"The team have been amazing all the way through this competition and have been head and shoulders above the teams they have played."

Principal Ms Banner said: "To win the trophy in style on the same pitch where Ronnie

“ The team have been amazing all the way through this competition ”

PE teacher Mr Bescoby

Radford scored his legendary goal was a huge moment for the team.

"They have been by far the best group of players in the county, scoring dozens of goals and only conceding one. They have represented the school with skills, passion and determination, as well as great maturity. We are incredibly proud of them."

Many of the squad train together at Shobdon FC, while others play for local teams Leominster Minors, Wellington and Westfields FC.

Radford became a Hereford United legend when his stunning goal helped knock top-tier side Newcastle out of the FA Cup in a third-round replay in February 1972.

He passed away aged 79 last November.

Hereford United was dissolved in 2014, but has been reborn as Hereford FC.

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Sixth form will close to cope with increase

Tough decision after huge rise in students at the school

THE school has decided to close the sixth form to cope with a huge increase in popularity lower down the school.

Principal Ms Banner said applications have nearly doubled in the previous four years.

She said numbers started to shoot up after the school started offering free music and swimming lessons to students.

The increase in popularity means a continued

focus on students in Years 7-11. Ms Banner said: "It was a tough decision to close the sixth form but, with the number of students coming through the door in Year 7, it was no longer sustainable.

"In the last three years we have become among the most popular schools locally with applications from towns like Tenbury and further afield.

"We have invested heavily in our extracurricular offer by offering students free swimming and music lessons. We have students signed up for national projects, there is a nurture group helping students with their well-being and plans for a new autism base at the school.

"These are the things that our families want, so have become our top priority. They have responded by making us their first choice."

Students help young have views heard

OUR students are helping the young people of the town to have their voices heard by political leaders – and won praise from the mayor.

The Year 9, 10 and 11 students canvassed their peers on issues affecting young people in Leominster.

They discovered safety was a big issue for teens, as well as littering, substance misuse and antisocial behaviour. They then presented their ideas to councillors and the mayor at a town council meeting this term, who later remarked on how impressed they were with pupils.

Head of Jaguar House Mr Bescoby said: "The project is helping our students identify the issues facing young people living in Leominster and equip them with ways to take these issues to the people that make decisions about the town.

"They were able to advise the students of practical ways we could help to make changes in the community. There were great ideas, like joining litter picks and making sure we reported issues to the police.

"Mayor Trish Marsh said it had been a very positive and enlightening experience meeting with our students. We hope that this is the beginning of a productive partnership."



Students put forward their ideas to the mayor and councillors during a meeting



The service at the Priory Church

Choir helps mark coronation

OUR choir helped the town mark the coronation of King Charles by taking part in the service at the Priory Church.

They sang the traditional coronation choral song Zadok the Priest and Leominster folk song Edfrith's Hymn and Where Did you Get That Hat? at the Coronation Service in May.

Mrs De-Sondberg said: "The stu-

dents were a credit to the school, helping to usher in a new king and mark a crucial moment in history.

"The Lord-lieutenant commented on how well behaved, well mannered and professional our students were. Very high praise indeed.

"They also wore silly hats and danced along to the song Where Did you Get That Hat?, which was great fun."

Working hard earns Potter-themed treats

House points are rewarded with a wizard feast after extra effort

STUDENTS got the chance to munch on butter beer and edible golden snitches at a Harry Potter-themed feast.

They earn house points, which they can exchange for treats, by working hard in class, having good attendance records and completing homework.

The Harry Potter spread aside, the house points can earn a scientific calculator and a set of watercolours, among other things.

The rewards, which include access to the fitness suite and clay workshops, can be bought in the school's online shop.

This term, Holly earned the most house points, closely followed by Anna, Phobe, Lucas and Stef.

Mrs De-Sondberg said: "The house points have had a really positive influence on our students, who have been putting in the extra effort to gain the rewards.

"The Harry Potter-themed feast sold out pretty quickly, with lots of students keen on getting their hands on the delicious treats.

"We have found that behaviour in class, the quality of work and attendance have all gone up since we introduced the system."



The top five house points winners were Holly, Anna, Phobe, Lucas and Stef

Tom's half-ton sparks double celebration

MULTI-TALENTED sportsman Tom of Year 7 had cause for a double celebration this term after inspiring the cricket and the football team to victory.

After helping the football team to a win in the county cup, he scored an impressive 50 not out in the semi-final of the David English Cup against Fairfield.

The team posted a formidable 116 runs off their six overs to set up a match up with Lady Hawkins in the final.

Batting first in the final, the boys posted 65 runs, a lead they defended to win the competition for the first time.

Teacher Mr Bescoby said: "This was our first ever victory in the David English Cup, so it was a very proud moment for the school.

"Tom hit a very impressive 50 not out in the semi-final to help us on to the final and ultimately the cup.

"Added to his very impressive performance in the football this term, it has been a very special year for him at the school."



Harley G, Harley H, Noah, Tom, George and Charlie won the David English Cup

Ellie pays tribute to Victoria Cross winner

Air Cadet visits grave of WWI hero during trip that 'brings history to life'

STUDENT Ellie visited the grave of Victoria Cross winner and Herefordshire soldier Allan Leonard Lewis during a trip to a WWI battlefield.

The student made the trip as part of her involvement in the air cadets for the 107th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

She met ambassadors, foreign diplomats and military leaders, including a captain of the Royal Australian Air Force.

Ellie, who is studying WWI and WWII for GCSE history, read out a poem when the

statue of Lance-Corporal Lewis was erected in Old Market.

Ellie's mum Jackie said: "It was an emotional week with many highs and lows but we all think that it has been very beneficial.

"She met some really incredible people including a captain in the Australian Air Force, who was very impressed with her saluting.

"It has brought history alive for her. She showed deep respect and compassion throughout the trip and really did learn an awful lot."



Student Ellie lays a wreath at the grave

Learning key lessons about discrimination

Year 8s watch play and handle topic with 'sensitivity'

YEAR 8 students learned important lessons about discrimination while also polishing their acting skills.

The Year 8s saw a play based on the real life experience of a disabled person in Leominster before taking part in a workshop with the actors.

They were asked to consider how they might react in that situation, and whether they could have done anything to help.

Actress and workshop lead Jess said: "We were so impressed with how the students

responded. The atmosphere of this school is so inclusive and welcoming.

"You have clearly instilled respect into your students. It is so wonderful to see such kind and thoughtful young people."

Mrs Gummer said: "Every time we have outside companies coming to work with our students, they always remark on how wonderful they are.

"This was a really tricky and challenging topic but they handled it with sensitivity and care. I could not be prouder."



Students watch the actors



Anthony McGowan, author of I am the Minotaur, was among the speakers that students heard at this year's Hay Festival

Front row seats for talks at Hay

OUR students had front row seats for talks from top writers at the world-famous Hay Festival 2023.

They heard from Carnegie medal winning author Anthony McGowan, whose book I am the Minotaur they studied before the trips.

There were also talks from conservationist and author Chris Vick and performance poet Laura Dockrill, who posed for selfies with students.

Miss Stanik said: "Hay is always a fantastic day out for our students and we are very fortunate to have the opportunity right on our doorstep.

"Apart from the obvious literary value of the festival, it was great to see students buying books from stalls and engaging with the authors, including getting selfies with Laura Dockrill."



Blooming great to raise funds

OUR students helped to raise money at the Leominster in Bloom plant fair. They ran carnival games at Leominster Baptist Church.

The fair had bedding plants, perennials and gardening items, as well as crafts and jewellery, with something for everyone to fill your garden.



Attending Leominster in Bloom



One of the costumes created as part of learning about interpreting the hereafter

Creative way to address afterlife

STUDENTS learned about how cultures and religions interpret the afterlife while also taking part in a mummification competition.

The students were tasked with creating their own costume inspired by the embalming process of the ancient Egyptians.

Saying G'day to Oz

Learning about Aussie culture proves a big hit

OUR students took their learning beyond the classroom by ditching lessons to learn about Australia.

They immersed themselves in the culture by telling aboriginal folk tales, playing extreme Frisbee and with an antipodean themed BBQ.

Cultural Capital Drop Down Day is aimed at helping students develop communication skills which help them when they leave the school.

The event, which was chosen by students following a Student Voice vote, proved very popular among students.

Mrs Gummer said: "The atmosphere around the college was electric. From hearing students blowing didgeridoos, to seeing students campaign to protect the Great Barrier Reef, there was something for everyone.

"The Student Voice survey highlighted that the students thoroughly enjoyed the day's events, raising money for local charity Herefordshire Young Carers.

"The votes have been counted and next year's countries chosen, that is a secret only I know. Planning has already commenced."



Year 9 students Michael and Corwyn enjoy the Australian-themed day

Mrs Gummer, Anna, Will, Elektra, Will and Brayden meet the Easter Bunny



Bunny springs surprise with gifts to reward kindness

THE Easter bunny surprised students with gifts in recognition of acts of kindness and helpfulness.

In total 30 students were given eggs after earning the most amount of house points in the school.

The winner with the most kindness points was Will. Anna had the most helpful points and bunnets and bunnies winner was Noah.

Prom night glitz with red carpet and limos

Roar of vintage motors fills the air as Year 11s arrive

OUR Year 11 students got a taste of what life is like for A-Listers when they bestrode the red carpet for the Oscars themed prom.

The school pulled out all the stops as our prom movie stars and starlets basked in the summer sunshine for their end-of-year celebration.

The roar of vintage motors filled the air as limos, Lambos and Rollers arrived at the school, greeted by a crowd of well-wishers.

They were then whisked away to a glitzy countryside location, where they enjoyed fine food, a fun disco and great company.

The evening was capped with students watching the sun disappear over the Welsh mountains in the distance.

Mrs Gummer said: "It was a full-on glamorous evening with our wonderful Year 11s getting the send-off they deserve.

"They are a marvellous bunch who have put in a huge amount of effort into their GCSE exams the last few months and have absolutely



Ruby and Joel, left, and Sofiya and Felix, right, arrive at the end-of-year celebration



earned this end-of-year blow-out. The evening was perfect, with our students dressed up to the

nines, arriving in these amazing vintage cars before dinner and dancing."

Principal Ms Banner

“ It is at this time of year I often reflect on the school life cycle. It is the time when our Year 11 students leave the school for the last time as students.

They joined us, little children really, fresh faced and eager. They leave us now as young adults, taking their first steps into the real world.

Their teachers have worked incredibly hard to prepare them for the next stage, be that in education or employment.

There have been revision and intervention sessions to help them achieve strong exam results. They have also worked in more subtle ways to help develop others traits and characteristics.

Adults know the world changes

dramatically for you when you leave the relative safe confines of schools.

I feel together we have prepared them for whatever comes next in their life. Yes, we are sad to see them go but equally we are excited for that next phase in their journey.

In years gone by many of them would be joining us in our sixth form. Regrettably, that will not be the case next year.

The popularity of the school has exploded over the last few years, which means we do not have the

“ I feel together we have prepared them for whatever comes next in their life

Principal Ms Banner ”

space to house a sixth form. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about our sporting success on the football and cricket pitches.

Our boy's Year 7 football team won the county cup while our cricket team took home the David English Cup. Two welcome additions to our trophy cabinet.

Our Australia themed drop-down day will live long in the memory. The school was buzzing with excited students keen to learn about life Down Under.

Our choir also marked an historic day by taking part in the coronation of King Charles, something they will be able to tell future generations.

It has been, as it always is at this school, an action-packed term. We have all earned a well-deserved break.

Have a great summer. ”

Dom's letter delight

Author sends student thank you note after 'brilliant' review

YEAR 7 student Dom was over the moon after getting a thank you letter from the writer of popular BBC show Horrible Histories.

Dom reviewed Daniel Peak's book Little Horror for the Earl Mortimer College library competition.

He wrote to the author to let him know about the review, and was shocked to get a letter back.

Daniel, who is a Bafta award winning scriptwriter, also sent Dom rare Little Horror badges as a thank you.

The letter from the author read: "I saw the brilliant review that you wrote of Little Horror so I wanted to say thank you for reading the book and saying such nice things.

"I'm really glad you enjoyed it. Here are some Little Horror badges.

"They only go to people who have read the book, which makes them very rare indeed. Happy Horrors."



Student Dom with the letter after his review of Daniel Peak's book Little Horror