

## John Muir Discovery Award - New Forest Residential

Once again the geography department took 34 students to the New Forest to stay in log cabins, play outside AND complete a conservation activity to gain the John Muir Discovery Award.

The John Muir award is an environmental award scheme which encourages persons of all ages to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places. Four challenges are at the heart of each John Muir Award. Each participant must discover a wild place, explore its wildness, conserve by taking personal responsibility and share their experiences with others; evidence to gain the award is collected by staff throughout the trip.

For the first time we explored the New Forest on water, with raft building and canoeing which was lovely in the autumn sunshine, as were the high ropes, low ropes and our scavenger hunts. Students learnt how to survive through shelter building, bush craft, and a campfire – where marshmallows were thoroughly enjoyed. Most importantly, they learnt how to conserve the environment whilst still enjoying their surroundings. To this end, each group helped the New Forest by clearing brambles, silver birch and Rhododendron to help return the area to natural heathland. Throughout the trip, pupils completed conservation booklets which helped them to consolidate how each activity met the award criteria.

Students were great ambassadors for the school, behaving respectfully the whole weekend. It was great to see students interacting with lots of new people and some lasting friendships were clearly formed. As always this trip was a delight to run and we are already looking forward to the next one in March.



## UKMT Maths Challenge

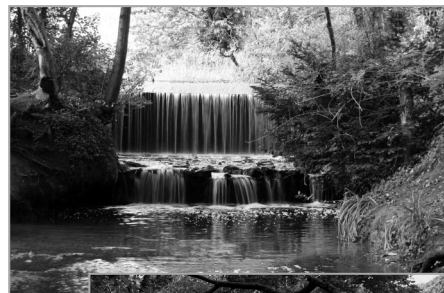
A number of Y13 and Y12 students recently competed in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Senior Mathematical Challenge. This is a national competition open to Y13 students and below. It involves a 90-minute, multiple choice challenge, designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.



Henry and Daniel both achieved Gold Award, and will progress on to the Andrew Jobbing's Kangaroo challenge. 22 other students achieved Silver and Bronze Awards - a full list of names is in the Latest News section of our website. This is an outstanding achievement for our students, as they were competing against Year 13s from across the country. Congratulations to all.

## Fine Artist of the Fortnight

Scarlett, our Fine Artist of the Fortnight, has been working incredibly hard towards her GCSE component one and is deservedly this fortnight's winner. Responding to the photographer Bill Shwab, Scarlett hunted out isolated places that hint at loneliness and then edited the images to be monochrome - in keeping with his style.



VANDYKE Voice



GOLD  
QUALITY  
MARK  
2015-17



PROUD TO BE A  
MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL



Good  
Provider



Healthy Schools



Artsmark  
Platinum Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



International  
School Award

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## Vandyke students entertain the town

On Friday 3rd November, a Sixth Form band called Lighthouse, consisting of Daniel, Charlotte, Adam and Antonio, performed at Leighton Buzzard's laser light show.

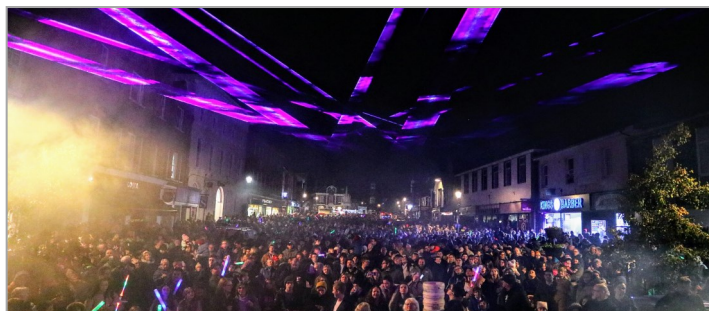


The event itself was organised by the Leighton-Linslade Rotary Club, who wanted to host an eco-friendly alternative to traditional fireworks. The band were formed especially for the occasion and were required to perform crowd-friendly, chart-topping songs, in order to appeal to the wide array of people who would attend.

Much to the band's surprise, they performed to a HUGE audience (more than four thousand people!) and thoroughly enjoyed entertaining them with songs such as

*Dancing in the Moonlight, I Want to Break Free, Sweet Caroline and Living on a Prayer*, to name a few.

The band did an absolutely brilliant job with their on-stage patter and performance, and had Leighton Buzzard town captivated by their accomplished repertoire – many attendees could not believe they were still of school-age!



We are very proud of their effort, courage and professionalism at the event and they were brilliant representatives of our school. Wonderful work, everyone. Roll on next year!

## Rhys plays in MK Dons SET programme

Year 11 student Rhys has now been playing in the MK Dons Sports and Education Trust (SET) team for six months. The team became league winners and beat the Manchester City SET Team 2-0 in a recent tournament where they finished runners-up. Well done Rhys - keep up the good work!



## Ella-Rose secures place on prestigious law programme

Y12 law student Ella-Rose has secured a competitive place on leading law firm Addleshaw Goddard's Work Explorers Programme for the next two years. A total of 120 students from across the country made it to the final round, which involved a telephone interview, but Ella-Rose was one of just **five** students to secure a place on this prestigious scheme. Congratulations, Ella-Rose – an outstanding achievement!



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Wed 15th November	Year 13 Parent Information Evening
Thurs 16th November	Year 9 Tutor and English/Science Learning Evening
Thurs 23rd November	Year 12 Subject Consultation Evening
Fri 24th November	Y9-Y11 Flu vaccinations
w/c Mon 27th November	SMILE Week