If you’d gone down to the woods on Friday...

**You’d have found Year 7 learning some outdoor survival skills!**

Accompanied by various members of staff including Mrs Hastings, Head of Transitions Phase, Y7 visited WAM Woods near Evesham to spend a day in the outdoors and forge new friendships whilst undertaking team-building activities organised by WAM Outdoors leaders. Cleeve and Langley tutor groups went one week, with Prescott and Langley enjoying a day out the following Friday. Elizabeth Teague (7CL) gives us an outline of their day:

“After we all had arrived by coach and minibus, we went and met the leaders to see which groups we would be in. We then headed off to our first activity.

There were 4 activities:

- **Natural Play** - There were a range of activities including spiders web, where you had to get all your team-mates to the other side without them touching the web or using the same hole. The tyre challenge - The aim of the game was to get the tyres across the finishing line in the fastest time. The last activity was the Blindfolded Challenge, where you had to navigate your way through an obstacle course. It was hard work but we all managed to complete it.

- **Sculptures** - We had to find natural or man-made items to create a sculpture. After we had completed that, we bounced on the bungee rope. Finally, we collected man-made objects in the woods and then hid them for the next group!

After lunch we went to our next activity, which was building a fire. This involved a piece of cotton wool and a flint and steel to get the fire going. As a team, we had to choose the best location for our fire and collect small sticks (kindling). It was hard work, as we could not get the fire going initially but In the end we did it!

Our last activity was cooking. After we had washed our hands, we were split into groups. Our task was to make flatbread and pancake batter, using the 3 2 1 method: 3 spoons of flour, 2 spoons of water and 1 spoon of sugar. Using our spoons, we mixed the ingredients together and cooked them in a pan. They were delicious with the chocolate spread and jam.

Thank you to all the staff who helped, particularly our Head of Phase Mrs. Hastings who organised this wonderful event - we all had an amazing time!”
Matilda Holding of 7Langley has also written about her experience:

“On Friday 8th October 7Cleeve and 7Langley went on a trip to WAM Woods. It was an all-day trip, and we did lots of amazing activities. Our tutor groups were split in half when we got there so that we had smaller groups for activities. My first activity was making fire, it was hard to start with but once I had done it a few times it was simple. My second activity was cooking, and we made some delicious flatbreads which consisted of only three ingredients! We had lunch in between the four activities, and we got to play in the woods, after lunch we did teamwork activities where we had to help each other to complete challenges. Our last activity was making a sculpture from manmade objects in a team and a relay to find manmade items in a patch of woodland. Overall, I had a great day and would highly recommend they do this trip again.”
Meteoric Visit from the Natural History Museum

You may recall the Winchcombe Meteorite story in the Spring 2021 edition of ‘News.’ Our school was rather lucky that it happened to be one of our governors, Mr Wilcock, whose drive the 4.6 billion-year-old meteorite happened to land upon at the beginning of this year.

The Wilcock family donated the piece of space rock to the Natural History Museum and in return, the scientists agreed to provide some outreach educational sessions for local schools. The Wilcocks hope that meeting the experts might inspire some of our students to follow a scientific career.

On Friday, 17th September, we welcomed the scientists, Rob and Cathryn Wilcock, and pupils from various other Cheltenham secondary schools to join some of our own Y8 and Y9 students to learn more about meteorites.

The Wilcocks had already visited a number of schools with the Natural History team during the week, giving talks about the find and its implications, and running meteorite forensic workshops. The event in our school was filmed by BBC Points West, whose reporter, Steve Knibbs, interviewed a group of our students (a photo still from his Youtube video is copied right).

Mr Davies, Science Teacher, coordinated our school’s event and kindly provided the photos below.

Mr Davies says: “We were treated to a stellar presentation from the Natural History Museum on the Winchcombe meteorite that came crashing into Winchcombe earlier on in the year. The presenters, Professor Sara Russell and Dr Ashley King presented on the origins and discovery of the Winchcombe meteorite (that pre-dates the formation of Earth), how comets are formed and how other meteorites have been discovered. The students had the opportunity to get their hands on meteorites and a small chunk of rock from Mars. In the morning we also welcomed BBC Points West who covered the day and interviewed our students. Their coverage can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzbJftGFvzs

A huge thank you to Rob and Cathryn Wilcock for their role in helping to organise the day and to the presenters from the Natural History Museum for coming to the school and bringing samples of the meteorites to the school.”
As usual, we celebrate, the European Day of Languages in school with a week of activities at the end of September: an initiative to promote multilingualism in our school and throughout Europe.

Mrs Playfair, Head of MFL, coordinates with the canteen (now run by MyQuill Catering) to provide European-themed food during the week. There are also various competitions, as Lena Modlinska of 9LA explains:

"Last week was the European day of languages, where at break and lunch you could get various foods from a different country each day. George and I designed 10 posters that were put up around across the school, each with a word from a different language as well as a number. The objective was to find out the meaning and what country the language came from. The winner of this competition was Evie R in Year 7!"

Below left: the winning poster for European Day of Languages, drawn by Albie Beale-Cocks 7CL
2nd prize went to Dora Yeates in 7SU for her poster (r)

Congratulations! / Félicitations! / Felicidades!

To our new MFL Ambassadors

Mrs Playfair has awarded certificates and badges to the following students who have demonstrated their proficiency in French or Spanish: Annabelle Fairbairn, George Twemlow, Igor Poznanski, Niamh Richardson Kirby, Jo Lobban, Sofia Gorton, Lena Modlinska, Harry Butcher and Jamie Bright—well done to you all!
Mr Young is pleased to announce the new elected School Parliament. The information below gives us an idea of the agenda items at their meetings.

**YEAR 11 SCHOOL PARLIAMENT REPS**

- 11 Cleeve: Tom Harcombe
- 11 Langley: Violet Weaver
- 11 Prescott: Katie Marsh
- 11 Sudley: Tom Gibbard

- Congratulations to everyone who has been elected this year.
- Our first meeting will be chaired by the Year 11 Student Leaders and will take place in the hall during Personal Development Period 5 on Thursday 14th October.
- Agenda items: Be Kind at Winchcombe School/Toilets/Charities for Xmas House Day/Health Awareness Day/School Priorities for the year.

**SCHOOL PARLIAMENT ONLINE ELECTION RESULTS**

- 7 Cleeve: Will Hunter
- 7 Langley: Sam Omondi
- 7 Prescott: Leo M F
- 7 Sudley: Monty Beswick
- 8 Cleeve: Kieron Sullivan
- 8 Langley: Dan Wilt
- 8 Prescott: Lexie Hitchers
- 8 Sudley: Alyssa Mei Mendoza Backhart,

- 9 Cleeve: Alle Kenward
- 9 Langley: Xille Jack
- 9 Prescott: Lila Moore
- 9 Sudley: Harry Kench Burton
- 10 Cleeve: Robert Denton
- 10 Langley: Harrison Connolly
- 10 Prescott: Marley Holmes Fry
- 10 Sudley: Fred Fowler

The School Parliament aims to make a united front against all types of bullying and intolerance. Extracts from the students’ PowerPoint are copied below:

**BE KIND @ WINCHCOMBE SCHOOL**

This is School Parliament’s new campaign to make Winchcombe School is more tolerant and even safer environment. Let your tutor group rep know any feedback.

Parliament met to launch their campaign on Thursday 24th June.

The main job was to produce a constitution or list of rules under the title: Be Kind @ Winchcombe School.

Please speak to your Parliament rep for more details of what was discussed.

Please see the next slide for the Constitution.

**DO BE KIND @ WINCHCOMBE SCHOOL**

- Do aim to uphold the school values: AWHKE
- Do: Do random acts of kindness for people you cannot name.
- Do show: Do show good character in the eyes of others.
- Do be: Do be polite and show respect to other members of the school community.
- Do respect: Do respect other people’s opinions and beliefs.
- Do report: Do report bullying and vandalism immediately to a member of staff.
- Do respect: Do respect other people’s space around school.
- Do respect: Do respect school rules around mobile phones; wholses off limits in your high place.

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Extra-Curricular Activities

Now that the new sports hall is fully operational, we’re able to offer additional after-school sports clubs. Here’s Mrs Cook’s PowerPoint showing what’s on each day:

- **Rugby** — Yrs. 7 & 8 Boys
- **Netball** — Yr. 7 Girls
- **Basketball** — Yrs. 9, 10 & 11
  - Monday 3/15-4/15

**Table Tennis — All Yrs.**

- **Netball — Yr. 10 & 11**
  - Wednesday 3/15-4/15

**Badminton — All Welcome**

- **Hockey — All yrs. welcome**
  - Friday 3/15 - 4/15
  - 3/18 - 4/19

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“This term witnessed the inception of a basketball club. The new sports hall is a great venue for this activity. The club is open to all pupils in years 9-11 and takes place after school each Monday. Mr O’Dwyer and Mr Davies have been very impressed with a regular attendance of 15 boys. Their skills are developing and the club has a very focused approach to learning new skills in a highly technical sport. Some pupils have attended every session whilst others have dropped in for a taste. Many thanks to the PE department for their support in promoting the new club and to all pupils who have attended so far. Everyone has shown a great attitude and have been supportive of each other.”

Mr O’Dwyer

“How brilliant to be able to play badminton in the new sports hall with 4 courts and a high roof, which saves numerous ‘let’ calls from the shuttle hitting the ceiling in the old gym! Miss Swallow and I have had varying numbers of players join us on Thursdays: from 15 — to as many as 33 one week! We see a mixture of year groups and a range of levels. Our aim is to get players moving around the court and working on their racquet skills. It’s wonderful to have the help of the Y11 girls who have been playing at school for several years now (Special thanks to Helena, Emily, Lara, and Lily!)”

Mrs Edwards

A Message from Mrs Cook & PE Department:

‘Just wanted to let you know how proud the PE Department are, with all the pupils training, coming to after school clubs and competing in matches. We have had a fantastic start to this year and want as many pupils as possible joining in sport. Girls netball has made a brilliant start, we have teams regularly training. Y7 beating Cleeve 15 - 1 and also convincingly beating Pittville. Y8 also have won their match against Cleeve, battling throughout the game. Year 11 played in the U16 District Netball Tournament in horrendous rain, We were so proud of their positive attitude. Lots more matches to come for the older groups so watch this space.

Other sports starting after half term will be Girls’ football and Girls’ cricket. Please join us.”
Building Project Update

You may have noticed that the builders moved their offices to the back of the school before the summer holidays. Their work to remodel the Reception area was completed before term started in September (the MFL Ambassadors photograph was taken in the new foyer).

The ‘Quad’ area behind the main building has now been resurfaced and is awaiting the installation of a canopy, which is due to happen during the October half term holiday.

Meanwhile, the old gym building is being refurbished as a new ‘Auditorium’/Assembly Hall. Apparently the builders found an old communal bath under the floorboards in part of the building! The girls’ changing rooms have now been replaced by a new classroom and new toilet facilities have been added in the building.

We think that in addition to being an excellent resource for school assemblies and productions, it would also make a fantastic party venue! Once it’s finished we’ll take photos to add to the Christmas edition of ‘News’ and if you’re interested in hiring the space - or any of the school’s facilities - please email lettings@winchcombe-school.co.uk.

The Science wing roof is nearly finished, following a successful bid for funding to replace it.

Open Day (and Evening)

Mr Templeton was delighted to welcome over 200 families who are considering Winchcombe School for their children next year, during the Open Day and Evening events in September. Thank you to all students who gave their time to help at the evening event. We all have a lot to be proud of!

Any Old Chocolate Tubs??

If you happen to have any unwanted chocolate tubs or other suitable food containers at home, please wash them and donate them to our Hospitality & Catering Department, for students to take their cooking home in after food practicals if they’ve forgotten to bring a container to school.
If you have news about your child’s success outside school and would like to share it with the school community, please let us know. Sarah Edwards (sedwards@winchcombeschool.co.uk) also collects career stories from former Winchcombe students for the ‘Where Are They Now?’ board. If any of your family/friends were at school here, please ask them to get in touch with her.

Mr Templeton and all staff wish you a relaxing half term break and look forward to seeing you back on Monday 1st November (Week 2)