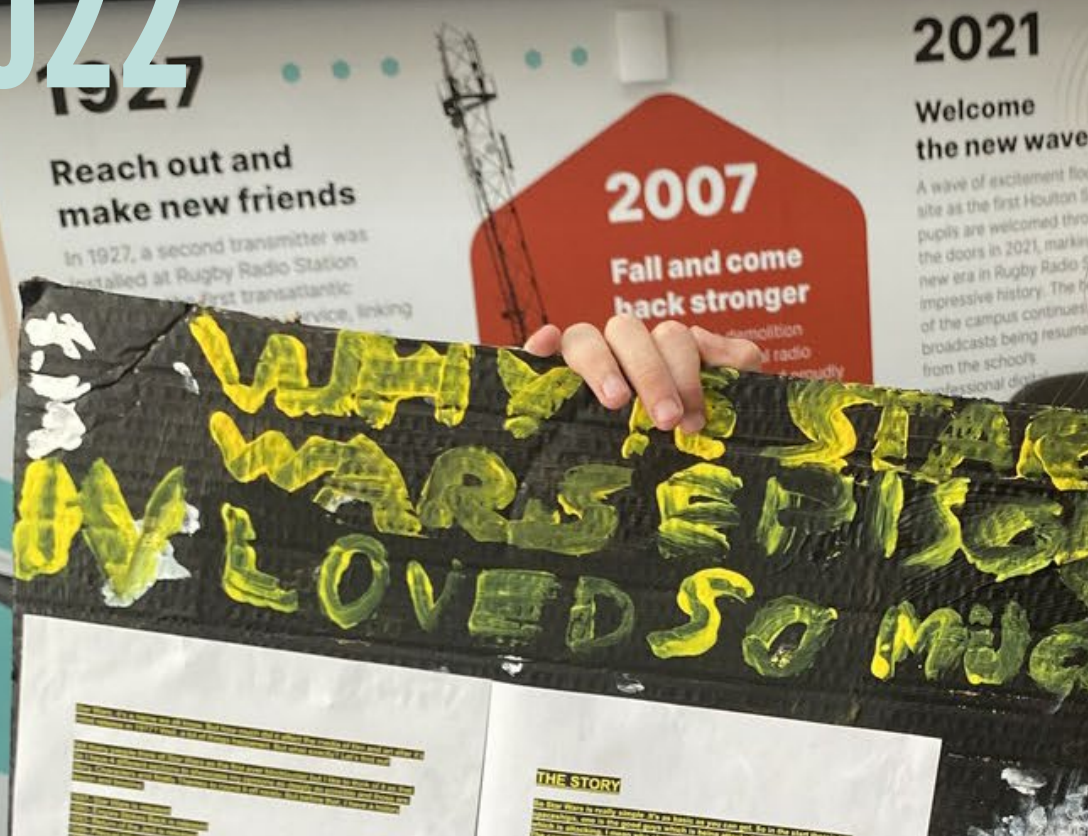


# HOULTON END OF YEAR NEWS 2022



HOULTON  
SCHOOL



## Welcome from the Principal

### Dear Houlton family,

I can't quite believe we have reached the conclusion of our first year together. This time last year Vice Principal Buckenham and I were still working from Ashlawn's offices, anticipating the handover of our extraordinary campus and Houlton School was still a concept on paper waiting to be realised.

We had recruited our founding staff and pupils and were so excited to open the doors for the first time.

I am immensely proud of our exceptional school. Its success is thanks to our dedicated staff, highly motivated pupils and much appreciated support from parents and carers. We know that when we do all we can to share our passion

for education and young people's happiness, everyone thrives. Happy children are motivated children and it is such a privilege to work with them each day.

We were delighted to be heavily oversubscribed with our second cohort joining this September, and thrilled this meant we could proceed with the recruitment of our new team members for next year. Their profiles have all now been added to the website, so you can check out for yourselves the high calibre of professionals joining the family for year two.

There is one sad goodbye for us I need to share with you all. Mrs Harling, whom you will doubtless have encountered in her

many roles this year, has secured promotion so will proudly take up a new position from next academic year. Mrs Harling is a beacon of warmth and professionalism and whilst we are sad to wave her goodbye, we are delighted that she will be impacting even more directly on many more pupils' lives in her new role. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing her the very best for her future career.

As Diana, Princess of Wales once said, 'Family is the most important thing in the world' and I look forward to many more years of working with you all at Houlton.

Enjoy a safe and happy summer break.

Principal Michael McCulley



# Summer Recital

We were delighted to host our first Summer Recital on Saturday 16th July, a chance for pupils to immerse themselves in a variety of music from different genres and instruments.

The Houlton School Choir performed brilliantly, and we had a beautiful solo performance from Katherine (Morse) on her oboe. The choir were supported by

the Huntingdonshire Guitar Ensemble who travelled to join us from Cambridgeshire and performed a diverse repertoire.

We are really looking forward to next year when Mr Hunter, our new Subject Leader for Music, will be joining us and supporting pupils to develop their musicianship even further.

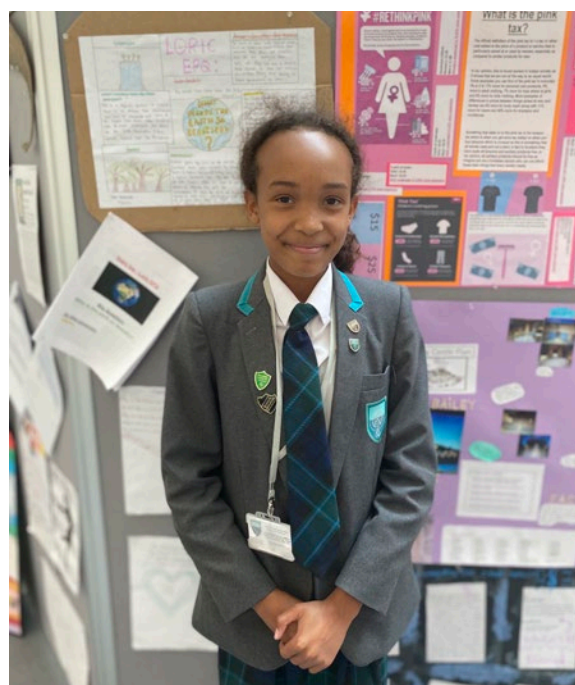
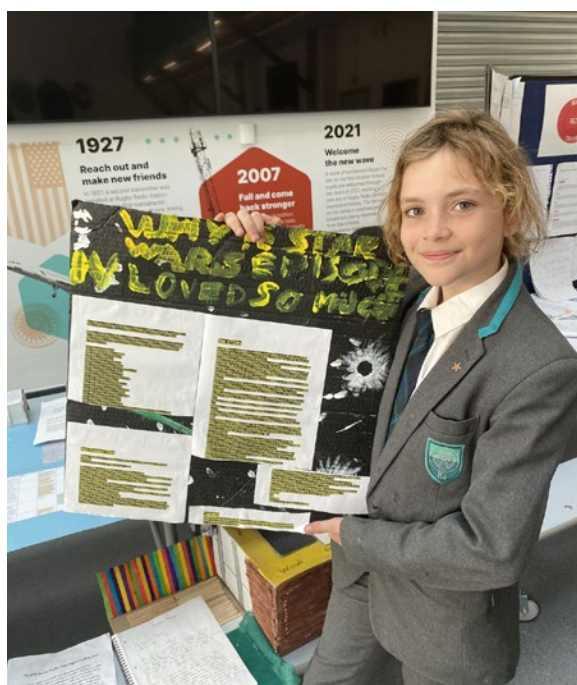
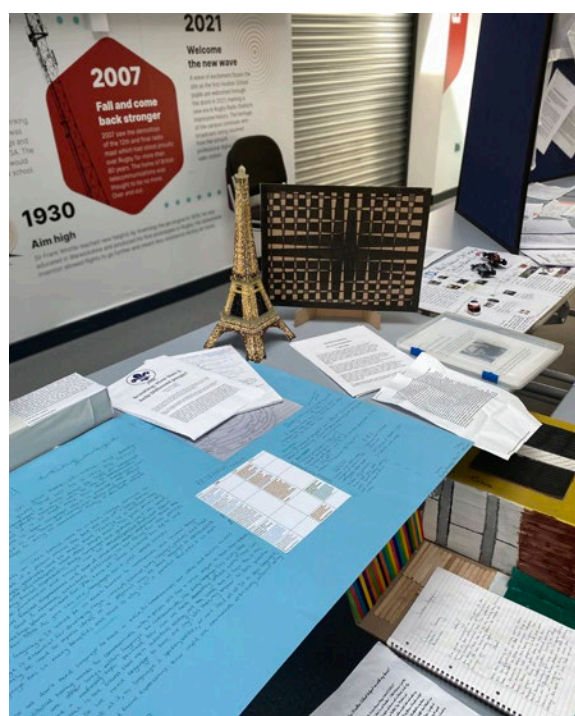


## Year 7 Study Skills Evening

Pupils created a superb display of their work that they have completed this year at our recent showcase.

This included their most recent EPQ LORIC projects where they demonstrated the organisation, independence and communication skills they have been working hard to develop this year as part of our Houlton LORIC curriculum.

Whilst pupils showcased their work, parents/carers were involved in a presentation from staff about how best to support pupils at home in developing independence and a love of learning.



## Rotary Young Artist of the Year

Well done to all our pupils who submitted work to the Rotary Young Artist Exhibition 2022, we were incredibly proud to see your work on display. Congratulations to Amelia from Obama College, who won the award for Key Stage 3.





# Junior Maths Challenge

## What geometry do we see in art?

This term we have been exploring geometry in maths. Pupils have been looking at different artists and their work and seeing what geometric properties they have, such as angles, polygons and parallel lines.

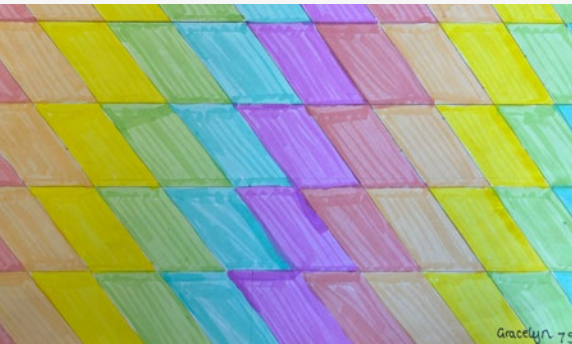
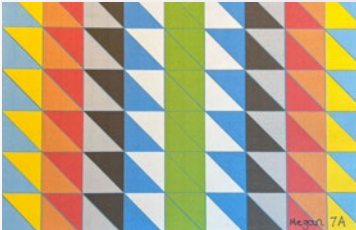
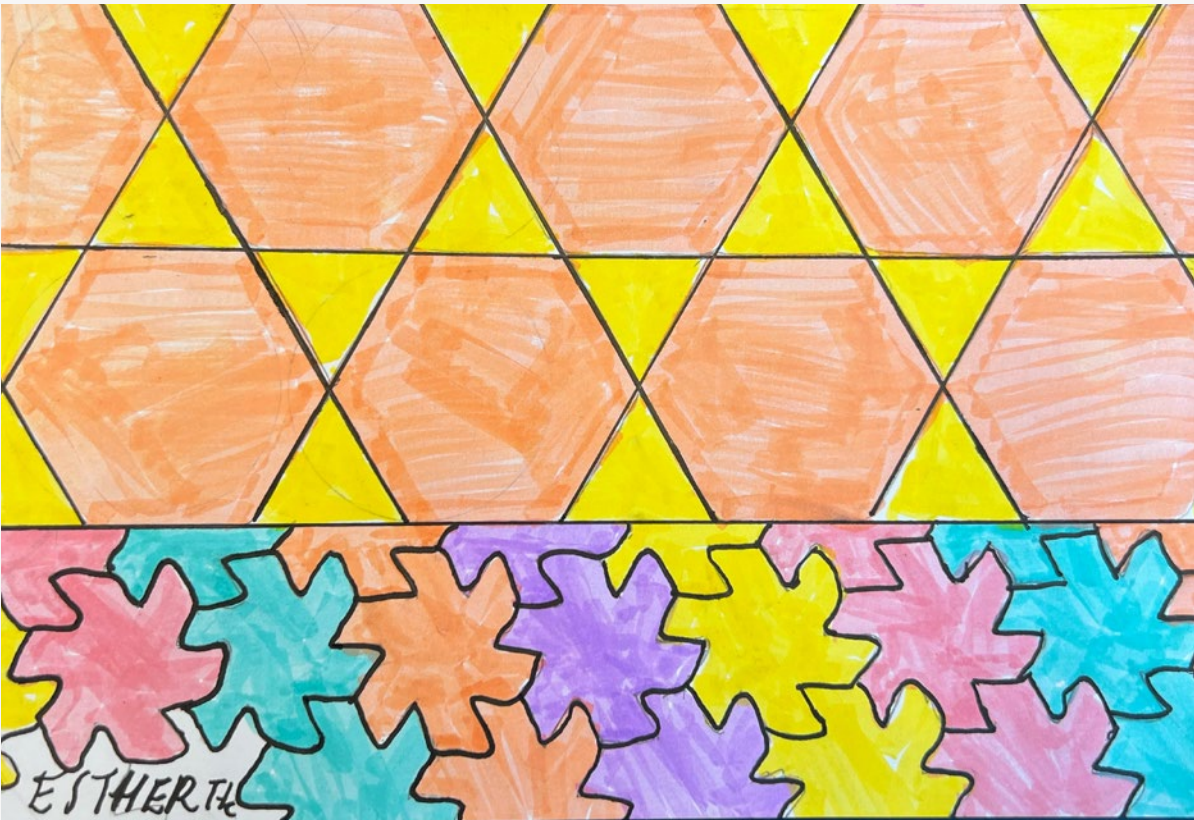
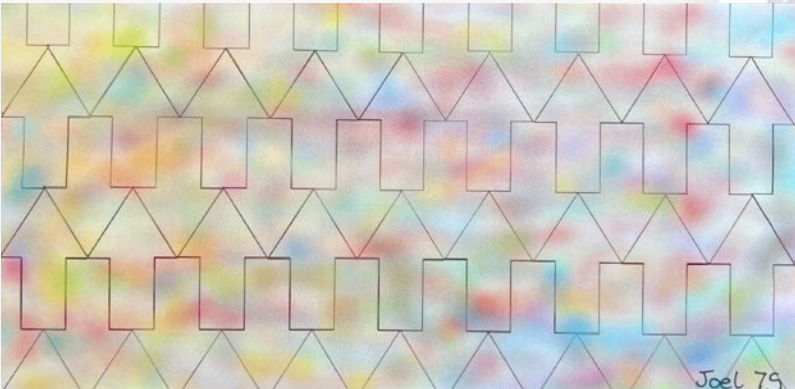
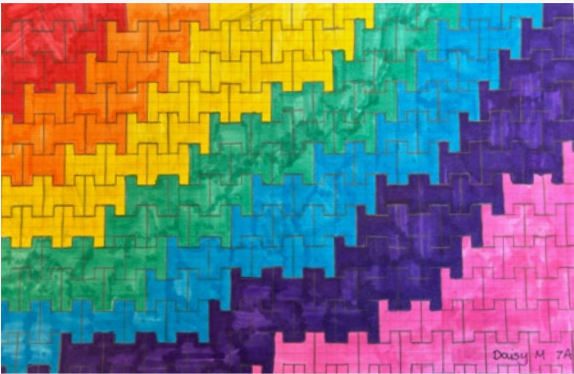
Pupils were given the challenge to create their own piece of art exploring tessellations after being inspired by Escher's work. The work which has been submitted is beautiful, showing the intricate patterns that can be created when making a repeated pattern with a shape.

## Alan Turing - Pride hero

To celebrate June's pride month, pupils have explored the amazing work of Alan Turing. Alan Turing worked with the codebreakers at Bletchley Park during World War II; he helped crack the German Enigma code using his Bombe machine. His mathematical ability and perseverance is suggested to have shortened the war by up to four years and so saved countless lives. Pupils have learned what he did at Bletchley Park during this time as well as exploring their own code breaking skills, deciphering Caesar ciphers and Pigen ciphers.

Alan Turing was later convicted of a homosexual offence and was punished through chemical castration. Following this Alan, sadly, committed suicide. In Maths we have discussed this tragic end to a hero and how the government and The Queen have since apologised for his treatment and given him a Royal Pardon. Most recently Alan Turing has been celebrated and honoured by appearing on the new £50 note, the first gay man to appear on any UK currency.

By Miss Jasmine Etheridge, Head of Faculty: Mathematics and Numeracy





# Learning for our digital world

In today's digital world, computers are completing more and more sophisticated tasks for both recreation and the workplace. But as smart as computers are, they can't program themselves and we must rely on the talent of up-and-coming programmers to develop the everyday systems and programs which we rely on.

Houlton pupils have started their programming journey this term, by learning to code on Scratch, a free online coding resource used across the world. Pupils came with a breadth of experience in this area with some already proving to be proficient programmers, but all have honed their skills. Throughout the term, pupils have learnt how variables can be used to make changes in a

program, developed their own version of the iconic game "flappy bird", and even created their own song. But all of the tasks that they have completed have led to one large project which they designed themselves. A translator program!

With little guidance, pupils have designed, constructed and tested a program that will quiz players on the translation of common French or Spanish words and then give feedback and keep score! Many of these programs are excellent and show the incredible talent our pupils have for computing!

By Mr Aaron Griffin, Head of Faculty:  
Science and Computer Science



## Mon Père Ne Me Comprend pas

Earlier this term, our pupils watched the French play 'Mon père ne me comprend pas' performing live in our Auditorium.

Pupils loved watching the play, performed by French national professional actors. Onatti Productions commented on the respectful, kind and polite manners of our pupils. One of the highlights of the play was the 'modern Dad' performance. Do ask your child at home for some more anecdotes on the play.

I know that the language was ambitious, and the play pitched at Year 8/9, and yet our pupils did beautifully, and I was very proud of how well they were able to understand the plot and final twist! Well done and à l'année prochaine Onatti Productions!

By Mr Matthieu Raffy, Subject Team Leader: Modern Languages

## Why do we live in a democracy?

In History, pupils have been focused on exploring the constructs of society as we know it, and have been developing an understanding of why the constitutional rights that have been afforded to us over time are so important. Pupils have been unpicking the historical events that have

led us to understand the importance of acceptance, courage and integrity. We have celebrated the powerful individuals in history that pioneered change, promoted equality and determined the agenda for equal rights.

By Miss Chloe Buckenham, Vice Principal

## The World We Live In

This term in English and Acting, pupils have had the chance to develop their oracy skills, through the writing and delivery of speeches around social issues that they are passionate about.

We have had some wonderful presentations, with pupils using skills learned from both their Acting lessons (in which they are developing their vocal characterisation through an exploration of 'Alice in Wonderland') and from watching world-renowned speakers (such as Darren Tay Wen Jie - World Champion of Public Speaking).

The theme of Year 7 English has been 'The World We Live in', the goal has been to make each pupil understand that their voice is powerful enough to change the world - that what they say matters.

Inspired by Greta Thunberg, Sparsh Shah, Emma Watson, Malala Yousafzai, Martin Luther King Jr. and Elliot Page, pupils have explored topics as diverse as ableism, the environment, LGBTQ+ rights, sexism and racism.

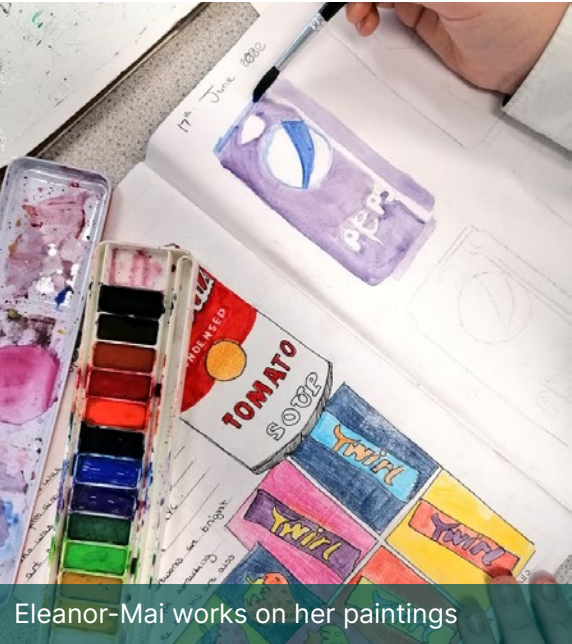
Through a rigorous research and planning process, they then put together speeches which have showcased their powerful voices and their potential to change the world for the better.

Whether speaking about animal rights, trans activism, or misogyny and misandry, Houlton pupils have done us proud, showcasing their values, beliefs and kindness.

By Mrs Sian Warde, Head of Faculty:  
English, Literacy and Drama



# Big Question: Does food go pop?



Eleanor-Mai works on her paintings

Andy Warhol once said: “You need to let the little things that would ordinarily bore you suddenly thrill you.”

Our artists have been exploring the relevance of food within the context of the Pop Art movement, in particular, studying the practices of Andy Warhol and Claus Oldenburg.

During a recent lesson, pupils took part in healthy debate, analysing whether ‘readymades’ (a term coined by Marcel Duchamp in 1916) can be valued as art.

Houlton artists are the curtain twitchers of the Creative Department, constantly watching out for an opportunity to explore and interrogate. Over the last year, it has been a pleasure to witness their progress and I am increasingly amazed by their ambition, dedication and tenacity. Every single pupil, without exception, arrives at the art studio with an open mind and I have been endlessly impressed with their capacity to think laterally, in response to a wide range of topics.

The Art and Design curriculum at Houlton School is purposefully challenging and unusually at KS3, critical enquiry sits at the heart of our curriculum. Whether drawing, painting, printmaking, or fabricating sculpture, all pupils are expected to start every lesson by engaging with a philosophical or critical provocation, centered around the current Big Question. Pupils are aware that without the capacity to critically judge and understand the process of art making, the artist may struggle to make informed creative decisions.

Pupils carried out extensive research on Andy Warhol and presented their findings in lessons. I was witness to a sea of whiteboards detailing facts about Warhol’s life and artistic practice and it is safe to say they certainly know more about Warhol than I did in year 7.

As with most creative discourses, at times, our pupils find themselves lacking confidence or resilience. It is in these moments that the fun of Pop Art can act as a vehicle for escapism and give our artists the permission to experiment, just like Warhol did during his years at The Factory in New York.

Pop Art is deceptively simple and although a painting of a Coca Cola bottle may look simple and reductive, it is in these assumptions that great debate can occur. Pupils have delved deep into the cultural significance of the Pop Art movement and its impact on the art world in 1960s America, from Warhol’s dislike of Jackson Pollock’s paintings, to his friendship with Elizabeth Taylor. Creating personal responses to significant artists is a cornerstone of art education and every pupil is encouraged to dive deep into the working practices of the artist and their motivation to make art.

During my time studying at the Royal College of Art, I had a studio visit with Grayson Perry, who was a visiting lecturer at the college. I spent the entire hour talking about the



Protest poster by Harry M



Pupils explore lino printing

anthropological effect of soap powders and why humans prefer gels & foams instead of detergents (I was going through my philosophical stage). It was a very ‘pop’ conversation. The art I was making at the time made me feel uncomfortable, nervous and unsettled. Upon confiding this to Grayson, he dished out one piece of advice:


“Making art is like touching a bruise. It’s tender, it hurts and it’s uncomfortable, but never stop trying to find the most uncomfortable part of your artistic practice, for that is where the magic happens.”

When our pupils are submerged in a moment of self-reflection and self-doubt, Grayson’s advice springs to mind. It is entirely normal and expected that our young artists will have to overcome challenges as they continue to dig deeper into their own motivations for creating artwork. In his early years, Warhol claimed that “Art is anything you can get away with.” I end this year on a message to our young artists:

Art is a complex game and like all games, sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. Even so, you must play again.

By Mr Russell Hill, Subject Leader: Creative

### Andy Warhol



Andy Warhol  
Campbell's Soup Cans, 1962

**AO1**  
Investigate  
& Research

**2. READ**  
We receive a stream of images every day. There is no way of paying equal attention to all that we see. The image we remember is the one that most resembles a sign: simple, clear, and repetitious.  
- Robert Hughes (Art Historian)

**REFLECT**  
How does this quote relate to the work of Andy Warhol?

**1. READ**  
Food and the pace of the American life and advancements in technology are inspiration for American Pop Artists. The images are a long way from realistic but they represent the American concern with mass production

**REFLECT**  
How did Andy Warhol represent ‘mass production’ in this artwork?

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Bell task: Critical analysis of work by Andy Warhol



# Houlton Designers Mini Quiz!

Can you score over 90% (51 of our pupils scored over 90% in a recent test of 60 questions)

**What type of plastic can be re-shaped and re-formed?**

- ☐ Thermo
- ☐ Thermoset
- ☐ Non-Ferrous

**When heated, Thermoset plastic will**

- ☐ Burn
- ☐ Melt
- ☐ Dissolve

**When investigating a product's journey from raw material extraction to disposal, it is called**

- ☐ Birth to Death
- ☐ Creation to Disposal
- ☐ Cradle to Grave

**Which of these is an example of CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture)?**

- ☐ Bending/forming
- ☐ Laser cutting
- ☐ Folding

**Anthropometric data consists of measurements and statistics taken from the human body.**

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

**Which of the following describes a pattern that is composed of shapes without gaps or overlaps and is used to reduce waste material?**

- ☐ Configuration
- ☐ Tessellation
- ☐ Triangulation

**TOP SCORES:**  
Harry S, Eden M, Emily H, Arjan N, Annie P, Cass M, Ellen M

## When the magic happens

This term, over forty Houlton School pupils have requested to extend their learning by making use of the Art Studio, Ideas Lab and The Making Hub, either during lunchtime or after school.

The Creative Department will always provide pupils with the space, opportunity and positive environment to further develop their projects and critical enquiries.

In recent months, we have witnessed many pupils expanding their learning by making, thinking, testing & experimenting with ideas outside of timetabled lessons.

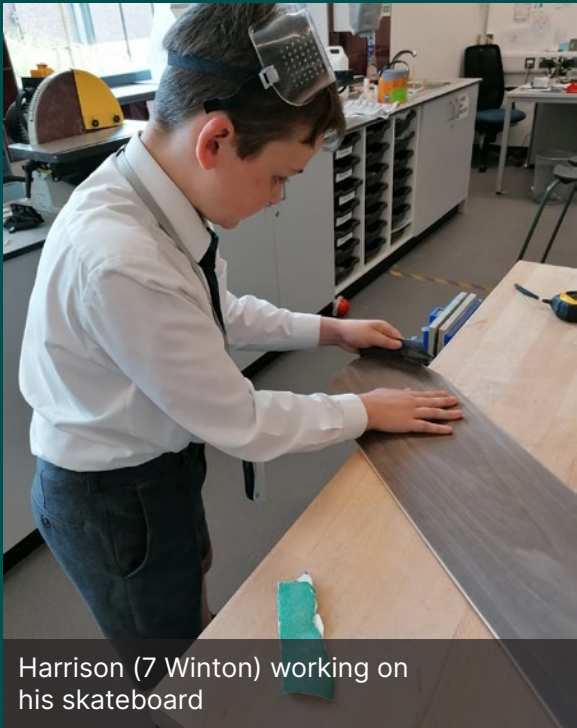
Recent pupil projects have included a bespoke skateboard, ambitious paintings, drawings based on nature and a 3D printed bust of William Shakespeare.

The variety of work that our pupils wish to create is outstanding and is representative of their dedication to innovation, aspiration and excellence.

Occasionally, a few pupils surpass expectation and I wish to congratulate the following pupils on their recent achievements in extra- curricular activities.

Harrison E-S  
Callum F  
Freddie M  
Harry M

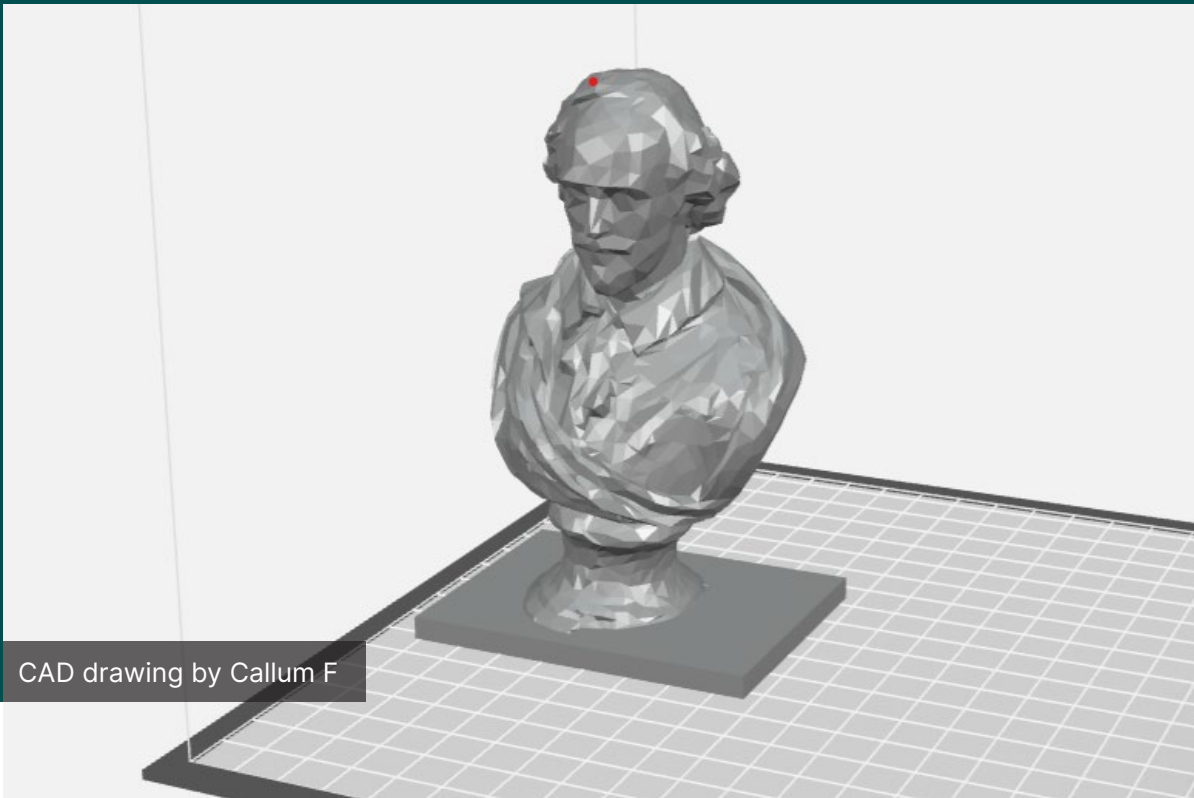
By Mr Russell Hill, Subject Leader: Creative



Harrison (7 Winton) working on his skateboard



Pupils working on projects after school



CAD drawing by Callum F



# Year 6 Transition Day

It was wonderful to see our Year 7 pupils taking a lead on our recent Year 6 Transition Day. Pupils took part in team building activities together and completed several challenges across the day to help them get to know their new peers. We welcomed pupils from over forty primary settings and

the Year 6 pupils took part in a carousel of taster lessons, allowing them to get a sense of how learning works at Houlton and how to make sure they are prepared for September. Pupils did a fantastic job on the day and staff and pupils very much enjoyed welcoming the newest members of our Houlton family.



## Mindfulness

There is increasing research-based evidence that plants and gardening can have beneficial effects for mental health.

A study in Berkshire, Hampshire and South Oxfordshire of 'Green Care Intervention' participants noted that 80% reported better mental health and 93% said their confidence and motivation improved.

Therapeutic gardens have been used in hospitals for hundreds of years and were

strongly supported by Florence Nightingale. With this in mind we embarked on a project in Mindfulness to incorporate recycling and reusing with growing and nurturing.

Pupils created planters with discarded plastic bottles and leftover tomatoes to grow their own tomato plants.

This has been a long project and we were all unsure how successful we would be. As you can see, we have had amazing results!

By Miss Annie Divver, Year 7 Pupil Experience Lead



## Sports Day

We were so proud of our pupils who showed superb teamwork and resilience in our first ever Houlton School sports day.

Pupils all took part in a variety of events including a treasure hunt, tug of war, dance off, bench ball and rounders. Winton College took the win and Tillie was announced overall sports person of the year!



## Feeling worried? Tell a worm!

Pupils have been busy creating Worry Worms - teaching themselves to crochet using YouTube videos and spreading the woolly worm joy. Maybe you will be lucky enough to find one...





# Houlton PE/ Dance news:

## PE Curriculum this half term

Our summer term has been packed full of Athletics, Rounders and Cricket. We have been exploring our big questions within our lessons:

**Athletics** – ‘What attributes make a successful athlete?’

**Rounders** – ‘What transferable skills do you use in Rounders that you can use in other sports and situations?’

**Cricket** – ‘What skills do we need to field in Cricket?’

Within our curriculum lessons we explore the answers to these questions and discuss how they interlink with other subject areas and aspects beyond the school setting.

Our year 8 pupils will be focusing on a variety of new activities when they come back after the summer holidays alongside some familiar ones from this year to progress and enhance their skills.



## Co – curricular clubs

We have really enjoyed running our Cricket, Rounders, 5 aside Football and Athletics club this term with great numbers for all.

We have had our very own Houlton ‘Triathlon’ in Athletics club, Mr Raffy Vs Mr Abbott indoor Cricket game and our 5 aside round robin tournament with knockouts...final to come!

The PE department have been extremely impressed throughout the year with the commitment our pupils have shown towards our co-curricular clubs and teams - We cannot wait to get started next year already with more exciting clubs to introduce.



## Fixtures and results (Cricket)

Mr Raffy and Mr Abbott have been running our Cricket club this term and organising the indoor fixtures. Sofia and Jude have summarised our games below:

### Houlton vs Ashlawn

On Tuesday 7th June, Houlton School cricket team played their first match ever against Ashlawn. Houlton and Ashlawn drew 53/6 after 12 overs, and then went straight to a super over winning 4 to Ashlawn's 3. Michael was the standout bowler taking the first ever wicket for Houlton! David was the standout batter achieving 13 runs and getting player of the match! Well done team Houlton!


By Sofia, 7W

### Houlton vs Rugby Free

With Rugby Free deciding to bowl first, Houlton posted a score of 41/8. Russell held the innings together with 7 not out, Jude top scored 12. The bowling unit performed magnificently, restricting Rugby Free to 34 runs. Jude was the pick of the bowlers, taking 4 wickets. Overall, another great win for Houlton. Player of the Match goes to Jude. Well done team Houlton!

By Jude, 7D

Please follow our twitter page with all news regarding fixtures, results and PE department news.

 @HoultonPEdept

## Dance

We have been continuing with our summer project this half term where pupils have been creating their own pieces of choreography leading up to a showcase in their last lesson. Pupils have been looking into their own research, formations, keywords and storytelling to develop an effective piece of choreography which links directly into our big question ‘What does an effective piece of choreography look like?’

We are looking forward to watching our pupils perform their showcase performances in their remaining lessons.

By Miss Abbie Hartfield, Teacher of Physical Education and Mathematics





# HOULTON

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## SCHOOL

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