



# CGS NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWS SHEET OF CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL



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Issue 100

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## WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is my great pleasure and delight to welcome you to the 100<sup>th</sup> edition of the Carrickfergus Grammar School Newsletter.

The edition comes at a unique and unprecedented time in our history, at a time of national lockdown and when so much learning and teaching has moved into the online realm. Our students have been a credit to the school, their families and most importantly themselves during this time.

As I write, there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel, and a growing sense of hope. I have no doubt that we will emerge from this pandemic even stronger as a school. No better time, therefore, to reflect upon the many successes and achievements of our pupils, past and present, and to showcase some of the outstanding work undertaken by a broad range of our current pupils during lockdown. I trust you will enjoy this special newsletter.

James A. Maxwell



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- *Former Pupil Success*
- *Celebrating our Students' Achievements*
- *Pupils Fundraising for Charity*
- *Showcasing Students' Work*

## Career Profiles - Former Pupil Success



### **PAST PUPIL JOEL WHITE**

**You left CGS in 2018. Tell us about your career to date?**

Upon leaving school in 2018, I won the Young Entrepreneur of the Future Award, from Young Enterprise. I joined PwC in the Compliance Operations

Department, while also working on my own business. After 9 months I left PwC and focussed more on my business and also took up a part-time role in Young Enterprise teaching young people about entrepreneurship.

In 2019, I won an EY Entrepreneurship competition called EY in Spirit, which brought me to New York. Here I began a copywriting internship in a sports tech company, that has since gone on to raise a \$2 million seed round of investment.

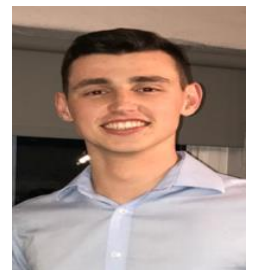
In March 2020, I joined a startup called *Payhere* and since then we've processed over \$3 million in 112 different countries. I then co-founded a new business called *Nine*, which enables local businesses to set up stores and sell online! I'm also running a small social

enterprise called '*Cala*' which is a Belfast-based design project selling prints, pins, and maps that support refugees in Northern Ireland.

### **PAST PUPIL JOSH BOYD**

**After leaving Carrickfergus Grammar School you joined PwC. Tell us about your position there?**

I've worked in PwC, as a Senior Associate in Transaction Services for almost 4 years. I won the PwC UK School Leaver of the Year Award in 2019 and was a Finalist in the 2020 AllAboutSchoolLeavers Higher Apprentice of the Year Category. I was also part of the PwC team that won the WorldSkills UK National Finals 2019 Accounting Technician award.



Outside of work, myself and Joel White also won a Team Prize for the 2020 SatelLife competition run by the UK Space Agency and came 3rd in the Enterprise Software category of the 2020 Invent NI Competition.





Music Never Leaves You

## PAST PUPILS & FRIENDS OF CGS MUSIC SOCIETY

**Once a member of Carrickfergus Grammar Music Society; always a member!**

Throughout the past year of lockdowns and with an increased reliance on virtual musical opportunities, it has been good to keep in touch with many of our past students who have gone off in different directions.... *but the music always stays with them.*

Mr Edward Craig (Music Director at CGS)



### Past Pupils of CGS Music Society .....find out what they're doing NOW!

🎵 **Ruth Millar** is currently the *Deputy Orchestra Manager for the Ulster Orchestra* and has carved out a successful career as a freelance musician, managing a string quartet while working in arts management for various organisations throughout the UK. She has supported young musicians within the Ulster Youth Orchestra and now acts as a Director on the board of the UYO.



🎵 **Emily Russ** may have left CGS in 2005 but continues to sing and play the piano. She completed her Master's in Education and since moving to Cardiff, has found a niche in managing Special Needs provision for children with Autism.

🎵 **Heather Truesdale** travelled further afield to America where she has been involved in reads for a debut musical to appear Off-Broadway and was recently cast in a musical role which was due to run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She continues to work with young children in Performing Arts and is also studying nursing.

🎵 **Susan Shepherd** (previously, Graham) recently launched her first album, "Inspiration", in aid of Cystic Fibrosis and throughout lockdown has been one of the few voices leading church broadcasting services on BBC Radio, particularly at St Anne's Cathedral. She continues to teach remotely and build on the great vocal training she received here, at Carrickfergus Grammar School, by the late Marie O'Sullivan.

🎵 **Hannah Calderwood**, (formerly Copes), achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place in an online solo brass competition and 1<sup>st</sup> place in a band competition with Downshire Brass, competing against other musicians throughout the world.

🎵 **Donald Montgomery**, (star of *My Fair Lady*) and a regular on the CGS stage in previous years, has continued down the line of Musical Theatre Performance, completing a master's from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He has performed with artists ranging from Dame Kiri Te Kanawa to Rachel Tucker, and danced for Sir Matthew Bourne! Donald also works in the FinTech sector while pursuing his musical dreams!

UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to former pupil **Jack Entwistle** who has been awarded a *Masters in Natural Science and Bachelor of Arts from Cambridge University!*

Jack won two prizes in recognition of his performance in the Natural Sciences, Chemistry and was the top student in his discipline from all of the Cambridge Colleges.

🎵 **Connor Chambers** graduated with a First-Class Honours in Music Performance from Trinity Laban and continues to soar high in the musical world studying at the Royal College of Music.

🎵 **Ben Farr** continues to study Spanish and Portuguese at university, but his musical involvement continues to play a central role in his life as a singer/performer/arranger with the Irish Video Game Orchestra.

🎵 **Amy Robinson** completed her PGCE and is now teaching in England and continuing with her music.

# Music Never Leaves You



**Dr Mark McKinty**, former pupil, has served as **Deputy Mayor of Larne** as well as continuing with his musical skills as Director of Music at St Cedma's Parish and assistant conductor of Magheramorne Silver Band. He specialises in contemporary Spanish society.

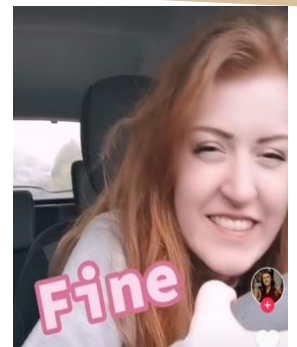


**Past pupil, Sarah Richmond**, and winner of the 2021 Toronto Mozart Vocal Competition is a multi-award-winning mezzo soprano who is known for her vocal warmth and versatility, with Opera Magazine remarking "**Her voice was bright and clear, her acting wholly convincing**". Sarah has performed on many opera stages under prominent conductors including Vasily Petrenko and Sir Mark Elder, as well as soloist for the IRFU. She graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music, with Distinction, as a Drapers' de Turckheim Scholar. Notable successes include Dame Janet Baker bestowing her 'The Joyce and Michael Kennedy Award for the Singing of Strauss'.

Inspiring **TikTok sensation, Sophie Grier**, has grown in popularity through her creatively quirky, Northern-Irish themed, car videos. "*One of my videos had 5.3m views*", says Sophie, "*that's the amount of people who would watch a TV show on a Saturday night.... like Britain's Got Talent. It's just mad to think that many people have been watching me sitting singing in my car. I just can't fathom it!*"

A naturally effervescent performer, Sophie always worked hard at CGS to compose music, particularly during her A-levels. Recently on BelfastLive, Sophie commented "I wouldn't have written my own songs before, but I do have a brain that goes about a hundred miles per hour, so a song plays and instantly I'm thinking of ways that I could rewrite it or that would make a good video."

**Sophie Grier, past pupil**



## ART DEPARTMENT

Continuing on the theme of creativity, Katie Johnston, Year 13, created this amazing social media inspired piece!



More fantastic artwork...  
Judith Gregory, Year 13





# CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS



## FOOTBALL TRIALS FOR PUPIL ASHLEY COLLINS

*"Having played for Carrick Rangers and Crusaders U14, I was delighted to hear that I had been offered trials at the Rangers Girls Advanced Centre in Belfast."*



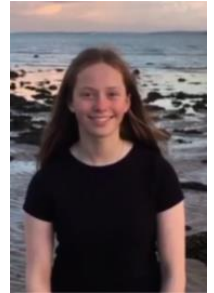
The trials lasted 7 weeks every Saturday, for 1 hour and 45 mins, training with girls who were already on the programme. On 18th December, I was delighted that my hard work had paid off and my trials were successful. Due to COVID-19, I am taking part in online sessions with both Rangers and Crusaders and training at nearby pitches regularly. I can't wait to be back on the pitch and to see where this takes me. **Ashley Collins**

## Holly McConnell continues to SING during lockdown!

Congratulations to **Holly McConnell**, Year 11, who has successfully auditioned for the **National Youth Choir**. Auditioning online is not an easy way to communicate your skills and you have to work very hard to put across that 'of the moment' communication that happens more naturally in a live situation.

Holly says: "NYCNI has been such an amazing experience and opportunity for me! The encouragement and advice the tutors and conductors provided have not only helped me develop my confidence as a singer but has helped me develop as a person. I have learnt so much and I would really recommend auditioning for NYCNI as it has been such an experience and has helped me develop in the art of performing."

**National Youth Choir  
Success for Holly  
McConnell, Year 11**



## Distinction in ATCL for Daniel Sharpe



Due to COVID restrictions, the closure of live performance venues and the unique challenges faced, it was a long wait - well into autumn 2020, before we received word that our Deputy Head Boy, **Daniel Sharpe**, had been awarded a **Distinction in an Associate Performance Diploma through Trinity College, London (ATCL)**.

The examination is a professional performance qualification recognised across the world and is an important step for musicians everywhere and always a mighty achievement for someone while still at school! The exam requires a 45 minute, technically demanding recital performed in entirety, with no reprieve, demonstrating many skills not least a high level of focus and stamina.

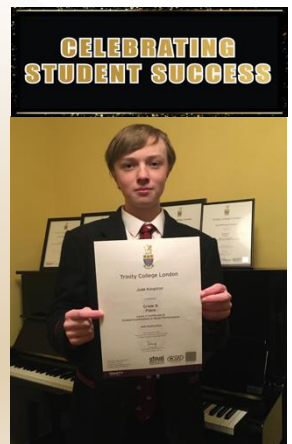
Daniel, who performs on the E-Flat Tenor Horn, was examined virtually under very challenging and unique circumstances. In summarising Daniel's performance, the examiner wrote, "There was an impressive degree of fluency and control in this recital, with a broad range of musical styles being presented with equality of stylistic understanding and very good communicative engagement." Congratulations Daniel, from the Music Department and everyone at Carrickfergus Grammar School!

CGS are very proud of Callum MacDougall who has just been ranked 2<sup>ND</sup> in the world, in the WORLD JUNIOR DARTS CORPORATION!



## Warmest Congratulations to Jude Kingston, 8Q, our aspiring virtuoso!

Jude recently achieved a distinction in his Grade 8 piano exam. **Jude scored an impressive 96/100!** This is both an exceptionally high standard and result for a pupil in Year 8. Jude is a talented, yet very modest, musician. We look forward to encouraging him towards developing his flair for performance and musicianship.





## *The Music Society raises £1,245.00 for CASH FOR KIDS Charity*

**2021 has arrived and the final donations tallied from our Cash for Kids fundraiser.** As a Music Society we were intent on producing our carol service for Christmas despite all the challenging circumstances. We marked our service of Nine Lessons with Carols in a COVID-19 friendly way this year. We believe it's important, to share the joy and celebration of the birth of Christ with everyone; and to anticipate better times ahead.

Due to COVID, it was imperative that we were inventive, and the concept of a virtual carol service was explored. The Music Society Leadership Team initially involved Year 8 pupils and the more seasoned Year 14 pupils in safe and separate year group bubbles, and later in October included all other year groups. We rehearsed and recorded our singers and in doing so we were able to capture their talent and constant enthusiasm! We were amazed by their dedication, creativity and resilience - from solo recordings of pupils at home, to socially distanced recordings in groups of two or three in Mr Craig's classroom. Many of our pupils and staff also contributed and read scripture lessons, which added to the variety of the service.

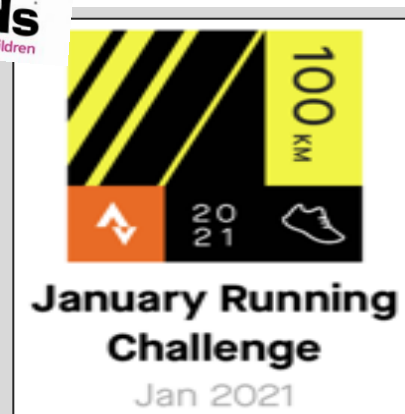
After much preparation we had all the components but were still tasked with putting together a carol service which could reach the community virtually. Our thanks go to Mr Craig for his leadership and visionary approach in combining all the elements and a further thank you to Daniel Sharpe, in Year 14. Daniel's tireless work behind the scenes resulted in the collaboration of our recordings from 2020, past recordings from other year groups, and some instrumental work. With many other students' input, we provided a 'night to remember'! A great deal of thanks goes to Mr Maxwell for his continued support of the Music Society and encouragement of our students. Without our pupils, staff, Board of Governors and school community, our carol service could simply not have been achieved!

Our virtual CGS Carol Service went live on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, and we were blown away by the response with over 2,500 views and counting. One of our main motives for the carol service was to demonstrate music within Carrickfergus Grammar School and to provide a beacon of hope for the year ahead. We could not think of a better way to do this than to support those, not just in our school community, but in the local area too. Therefore, the Music Society Leadership Team organised a fundraising effort for **Cash for Kids NI through Cool FM. We had an initial target of £100, but we were overwhelmed with the generosity and kind donations. With your help, we raised £1245!**

The charity really appreciates your help, and it will provide children within our local community the care they need. From the school community, we extend a heart-felt thank you to those who contributed in your own unique way. We are tremendously grateful and could not have done it without you!

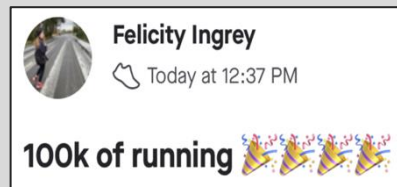
Thank you again for your support and we wish you a safe and healthy 2021.

**Megan Smith**, (on behalf of CGS Music Society Leadership Team)



**Congratulations to Felicity Ingrey** who completed a **January 100km Challenge.**

100km is quite the achievement for a Year 10 student!



**Well done to the CGS Community!**

A big thank you and well done to pupils, staff and parents for helping us complete our 'walk round Ireland'.

We completed the **3171 km** walk in under 2 weeks and **raised over £700** for the **Carrickfergus Food Bank and Action Mental Health.**

It was a fantastic achievement to complete this walk and raise so much money during a time of school closure. *Thank You!*

## Past Pupil Chris McKee proving a big hit for Rangers and Northern Ireland under 21s – and puts it all down to hard work and effort

Past pupil of Carrickfergus Grammar School, Chris McKee, says hard work and dedication is helping him reap rewards at Glasgow Rangers.

It was confirmed in November that the striker had signed a one-year extension which runs to 2022.

Chris - who joined the Ibrox club in 2018 from Linfield - has hit the ground running after returning from lockdown.

The Northern Ireland youth international had already bagged eight goals by November 2020 and has been a standout performer for Rangers' B team this season, but he insists his only focus is continuing the hard work that got him this far.

Chris has also received his maiden call up for the Northern Ireland Under 21 team. The 18-year-old, who is not 19 until May, has previously featured for his country at U17 and U19 level. However, he has now jumped up an age-group ahead of the U21s' final Euro 2021 qualification fixture.



Visit the 360-degree tour of Carrickfergus Grammar School at <https://www.360spaces.co.uk/CarrickfergusGrammar/>



Have you tried the CGS hockey challenge?! Watch the challenge on our website!



## Be inspired by the wise words of our Year 9 pupil, Olivia Shields

OLIVIA WROTE A MOVING ESSAY ON THE TOPIC OF HER HOPES, DREAMS & AMBITIONS



**T**he title of this essay contains three very strong nouns and I feel that I do two of out of the three most days. However, to be honest, the third noun, ambition, is a word I don't pay much attention to, because it is too serious and pushes me to think about growing up and getting older, which is a bit scary! I have countless hopes (or maybe just wishes), but my greatest hope is that I will always endeavour to do my best. As for dreams, I have many, some are unrealistic, others full of fantasy and hopefully some might just come true, after all ...what is wrong with dreaming big! I do appreciate that goals are important, particularly as we grow up, because it keeps us focused on what is important, but the word ambition itself means desire to achieve distinction and I really don't see myself as the competitive type!

Being 13 years old I am happy enough being a child as I'm not really in a rush to grow up. I like the security this gives me, because I don't have to worry about anything...after all that's my parents' job! I do get anxious sometimes when my friends talk confidently and with so much certainty about what they want to be when they grow up, because I'm not

*I have countless hopes (or maybe just wishes), but my greatest hope is that I will always endeavour to do my best. As for dreams, I have many, some are unrealistic, others full of fantasy and hopefully some might just come true, after all ... what is wrong with dreaming big!*

100% sure of myself and I tend to change my mind like the weather which is frequently! My dream jobs have changed over the years, from being a teacher when I was around six or seven to a more recent choice of being physiotherapist, which I rapidly changed my mind about when I met my sister's Physio, who was bossy and cross and that's definitely not how I see myself. I like the idea of working as a Pharmacist making sure everyone has the medications they need, but still working very much in the background. Becoming a Vet could also tick my boxes, because helping sick and poorly animals is so worthwhile and let's face it, they don't argue back! I know my strengths, but equally, I am all too aware of my weaknesses and my biggest flaw is that I am quite shy when meeting new people.



Ultimately my dream job would fill me with satisfaction, one where I felt truly appreciated, I'd have super work mates, who I looked on as friends and at the end of the month I'd get paid enough to pay my bills. Not too much to ask, is it?

My family is incredibly important to me. I know how lucky and privileged I am, so I hope, I wish and I pray that our tight bond just gets stronger and stronger as I grow older. I think having a supportive background has given me confidence, even through some tough times because I know that someone is at home to listen, help, encourage and support me. I have a particularly special relationship with my sister, Bronwyn. I admire her because

she is clever, proud of her because of what she went through with her knee and look up to her and because she is older and has experienced most things before me. I always ask Bronwyn's advice and she

regularly volunteers to help with difficult maths equations, which is handy...so I'd be lost without her. My favourite times though are when she tells me funny stories about things she got up to when she was my age, whether she got into any trouble and what the repercussions were. We laugh all the time because she is as mad as a brush! I'd like our children to be best friends too as they grow up and maybe Bronwyn and I can tell them about the fun we got up to! I don't have a particularly close bond with any of my cousins, so I think that this type of friendship would be so precious. My mum and dad are married nearly 19 years and really do seem to be the best of friends, so I would like to have a great husband who I would love very much and share lots of memories with. Having my own children is a massive wish, but I

don't really mind how many.

The only important thing that I'd want them to know and remember is that they will be loved and cared for even if they are the only one or if I have four!

I've only ever lived in my house in Greenisland and sometimes wish we could move to a new house, just for the excitement of it. It is hard to envisage living anywhere else, but I suppose I will have to wait to see where my career takes me. However, if this were a wish list and I had the luxury to choose, I would like to stay in Greenisland or close-by in Carrick. My mum has always told me how lucky she was to have my granny to look after us and allow her to go out to work, so hopefully whenever my mum or dad retires, they will be able to look after my children too and build special memories like I have with my granny, who is amazing. My dream house would be cosy, safe and comfortable filled with photographs and memories, but must have a large, enclosed back garden because I wish to own a few dogs. This will allow them to run around freely and be secure.

Considering what my legacy would be, I had to think about this a lot. Firstly, because I didn't really understand what it meant and secondly because how on earth would I know, when I hadn't lived my life yet? However, when I checked out the definition, which means 'how a person has affected change on the world in a positive way', this made it easier because ultimately, I can't see ME changing the world, as I'd have to stand out for that and that would be my worst kind of nightmare. I would however be very proud if I was remembered positively for being a kind, hard-working and thoughtful woman, a loyal friend, amazing sister, brilliant wife, loving mum and maybe if I make it big in veterinary school or excel in the field of pharmacy, I'll have helped numerous sick people (or animals) too all in a day's work! So how can I conclude such an important topic, as one about my future? Well, the simple answer is... I can't, because I am a work in progress and I can't predict, or wouldn't wish, to know what lies ahead of me. *It is an adventure I am very excited about!*

**My Hopes, Dreams & Ambitions, by Olivia Shields**

# Showcasing some of our Students' Outstanding Work

RELIGIOUS  
Studies

**MOSES: A DIARY ENTRY (WRITTEN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MOSES' MOTHER),  
BY ELLIE LOUDEN, YEAR 8**

Today was the day I had to stop hiding my son and try to think of a new way to keep him alive. I have been hiding him for around three months now, lately it's been getting too risky, and I know that the guards will soon find out I am keeping a Hebrew baby boy alive. There weren't many options for me, but I really tried my best to help him. Me and my daughter got a basket made out of papyrus and coated it in tar in pitch. My plan was to set him in the River Nile and let him float for a while until someone came to find him, I wasn't very sure if someone was going to find him or not, but I had high hopes! When I placed my little boy in, I was so scared and didn't think he had a chance of survival, but I reassured myself that I'm doing all I can, and it was an absolute miracle he had lived for this long! We travelled down to the river and I gently placed him in the water. He was crying and screaming, I felt so bad for him, but I knew I had to let him go! As I was walking back to the house, I didn't realise my daughter wasn't with me, but all of a sudden, she came dashing over to me and talking about some princess finding my son! I was so confused but I followed her to the river to see what all fuss was about. I was gobsmacked when I saw the princess holding the basket with my baby boy inside still crying. She spoke to me and told me how I had to take care of him until he is old enough to live with her in the palace. She didn't mind paying me, as

long as I took care of him. This was the best day of my life. Of course, I agreed to taking care of him, because he was my own son! The princess handed me my son but before I left, she gave him a name. His new name was 'Moses'. I honestly don't mind his new name, I actually quite like it! Me and my daughter went home and took care of him. I'm so overjoyed I can be with my little boy again, I don't even care that I won't be able to be with him that long, all I care about is that he is safe.



By, Ellie Louden

**LUKE STERRETT, YEAR 8**

**WRITES AN ENTERTAINING PIECE ABOUT HIS 'SIMPLE BEGINNINGS' ON 14TH MAY 09**

ENGLISH  
Department

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## CHAPTER ONE

### Simple Beginnings

On 14<sup>TH</sup> May 2009, two scared nervous and anxious soon-to-be parents sitting in the hospital awaiting the arrival of the little person that was about to change and totally turn their lives upside down.

Yes, you guessed it....me!

Obviously I don't remember much of that day, ok I'll be honest I don't remember anything! The only things my parents ever told me about that Thursday was that it was a very long day for them, which ended with the delivery of a very large baby. I came in at a hefty 10lb 2 ounces, which I'm told is a very heavy weight. Please excuse me, but my mum fed me a lot of food, and I was hungry! It was hard work growing. Anyway, from what I've heard everyone was very tired from me being born, and after they all had a rest we headed home to show me where I would be living.

One of my earliest memories from growing up is having so much fun rolling about blindly on my play mat, trying to reach for other toys across the galaxy and trying to get my hands on anything that lay on the floor; TV remote, coasters, pillows, blankets and sometimes even somebody's foot.

Most of my favourite toys were battery powered or electrical. This may or may not be where I found my fondness of electrical devices. My mum and dad always said battery-powered-noise-making toys were the most annoying, which is probably why I loved them.

On the subject of annoying another big part of my life was watching my favourite TV character...Iggie Piggie. I'm sure any other parents with children my age were subjected to this torture. We can only apologize now but at the time, he was life.

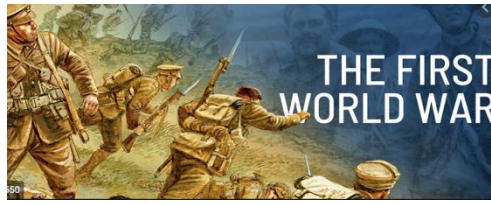
Although my life at this stage was wonderful to me, I had no idea what the next few years would bring for me, when I would be introduced to one of the biggest changes of my life...Technology!



READ **EVA TURNER'S** CREATIVE WRITING ESSAY AND BE AMAZED BY HER DESCRIPTIVE PROSE AND ORIGINALITY  
 WRITTEN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A YOUNG GERMAN SOLDIER DURING THE FIRST  
 WORLD WAR

**ENGLISH**  
 Department

I felt young once, living in a small shabby cottage in an emerald, green forest with my Mutter and Ilse. We lived on a farm, with cattle and hens galore having not a care in the world. Those were the days I want to remember but they seem to drift away as the faces of loved one's fade into a blurred mist. My Mutter was a tall woman, with luscious blonde locks that were always in tight rollers when we saw her. She had glistening blue eyes like an ocean that reminded me of the beach we would visit every weekend as a family. Ilse was my older sister who had the spitting image of Mutter only her eyes were more of a misty grey. I could never remember Vater, he died when I was only a wee Kleinkind. He was a scrawny man with an extremely white pallor, his hair a dirty blonde with no life in it at all. He would lay there in his bed with his piping hot cigar constantly puffing out black smoke.



For a year now, Niedersachsen has been persevering the constant threats of whizzing bombs and the firing of blustering gun barrels while defending its empire against the Triple Entente. I have been living off bully beef, biscuits and the occasional hot soup as the trenches have been lively with the intent of survival. Our Sergeant Günther Angern is a proud, patriotic man with eyes of steel and a revolting snarl as he glares at each of his soldiers with disgust. "Ungeziefer! That is what you are! In this camp you will learn discipline, regimentation and the ability to desensitise your emotions. Anyone who does not obey their commands will face severe consequences. Do you hear me? Jetzt marschiere!"

I squat fatigued in the murky darkness of the trenches, the frosty breeze of the night air sends chills down my spine as goosebumps spread spontaneously all over my body, my mind too numb to even notice. I can hear the distant blasts of grenades and the horrifying cries of soldiers being shot lifeless to the grounds of No Man's Land with the smell of gunpowder, dirt and rotting flesh contaminating the midnight air. I feel on eggshells, wondering how long it will be until I am put back on the field, fighting and roaring with anger and fear as I defend my post.

Fear is my inner emotion, my external emotions showing strength and patriotism towards my country - don't let your guard down or it will show, remember, Germany is an empire! This war is to take back what is rightfully ours! These words repeat over and over in my head as I attempt to process the meaning of all this violence and gore. Yet in the back of my mind, I picture a world where humankind is equal, there are no wars and people live in peace and harmony, no matter what race or religion they turn out to be. The most awful experience is seeing the corpses, lifeless and innocent as they fail to defend their country. Without the uniforms, we and the Brits are much the same, just innocent young men following orders to protect their country.

*I can hear the distant blasts of grenades and the horrifying cries of soldiers being shot lifeless to the grounds of No Man's Land with the smell of gunpowder, dirt and rotting flesh contaminating the midnight air.*

Tonight, we are all to have Pommies und Bier, with laughter and music blocking the distant sounds of bombs that constantly fill the air and giving us a celebration on our survival so far. I

try not to think about where these supplies were acquired and if force or even death was necessary. I am relieved of the chance of a little normalcy as I won't be heading out onto the field but also a little anxious that we

will be letting our guard down. The night goes brilliantly, soldiers prancing about and telling stories of their ladies back home. For a splinter of a second, I almost feel like I am living in another time. My head swirls and sways as the Bier fuzzes out the atmosphere. I start to sweat, water gushing down my body like a heavy rain after a thunderstorm. I start undressing, the heat in the atmosphere making my vision blurred and the noises around me go silent. Next thing I know, five men in khaki uniform charge compellingly into the trenches with guns held firmly in their hands. I was caught.

**Excerpt from Eva Turner's, *Leben in den Gräben*, based on the First World War**

**ART**  
 Department



*Artwork  
 By Year 13  
 student  
 Anna O'Gara*



*Artwork  
 By Year 13  
 student  
 Amber Taylor*

# HISTORY

History Department

**2. What were the causes of the English Civil War?**

Using the statements on the board, place them into the category you think best fits. The Venn diagram has overlapping sections, so remember to consider how some causes might be interlinked into two or more categories.

**Causes of the English Civil War**

- Power:**
  - List of new demands, 1629, limit King's power
  - Parliament presented Charles I with a list of new demands that they required in 1641. These would limit the King's Power
- Religion:**
  - Charles I extended religious changes to Scotland. (English Book of Prayer)
  - Charles I married a French Catholic princess, Henrietta Maria in 1625
  - Law made changes to churches, annoying Scottish Puritans
- Money:**
  - Charles was short of money, he asked Parliament to raise taxes more often
  - 1630s, increased taxes and introduced 'ship money'

Amy Galloway in Year 9 does a Venn Diagram on the causes of the English Civil War.

# BIOLOGY

## EMMA WEIR'S ARCTIC FOX PROJECT

Emma Weir, Year 13, choose the Arctic Fox as her organism and used a Google Slide to describe its behavioural, physiological and morphological adaptations.

BIOLOGY Department

# Arctic fox habitat

- Arctic foxes live in the most northern regions of the world.
- They survive in the tundra and thrive in cold climates through biological adaptations and scavenger-like behavior that keeps them alive and healthy.
- Arctic foxes can be found in northern Russia, Canada, and even Alaska. They are the only mammal that is native to Iceland.

## Katherine Sheeran's PowerPoint Project on the Kangaroo Rat

**Adaptations of the Kangaroo Rat**

Their coloring helps them to blend into their habitat, which they often do when they are not able to leap away to safety.

The kangaroo rat has smaller front feet for handling food and sharp claws for digging burrows.

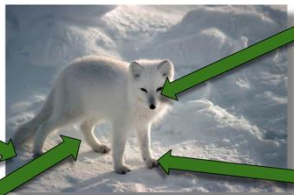
They have very large back feet for leaping quickly away from predators. This is called *saltatory locomotion*. Their very long tail acts as a counter balance while jumping and quickly changing directions to confuse predators. These *physical adaptations* help the kangaroo rat to survive in its habitat.

They also have been seen kicking sand behind them to try to blind a predator that is in pursuit. This is a *behavioral adaptation*.

©Sheri Aessel [www.exploringnature.org](http://www.exploringnature.org)

# Morphological Adaptations

**Thick tail:** they wrap their tails around their body to help insulate and keep warm - important for when they need to burrow in and keep their core body temperature warm.



**Short legs, ears + nose:** helps them contain their body heat, having less exposure to the icy weather. (Low surface area to volume ratio.)

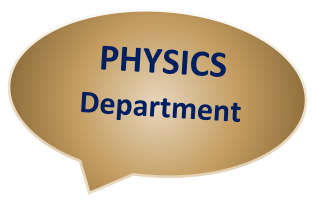
**Thick white fur:** provides insulation from freezing Arctic temperatures in Winter and acts as camouflage to avoid predators. They change colour in Summer to either brown or charcoal.

**Thick layer of body fat:** for insulation and food storage to help survive the winter.

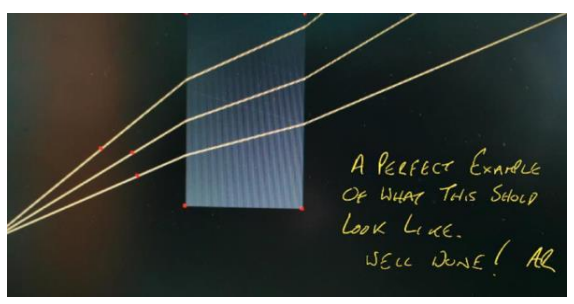
**Fur-covered footpads:** helps prevent them from freezing and allows them to stay quick on their feet for survival.



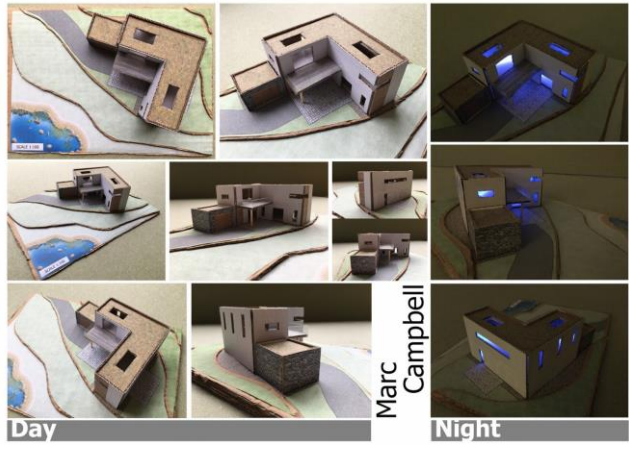
# Showcasing some of our Students' Outstanding Work



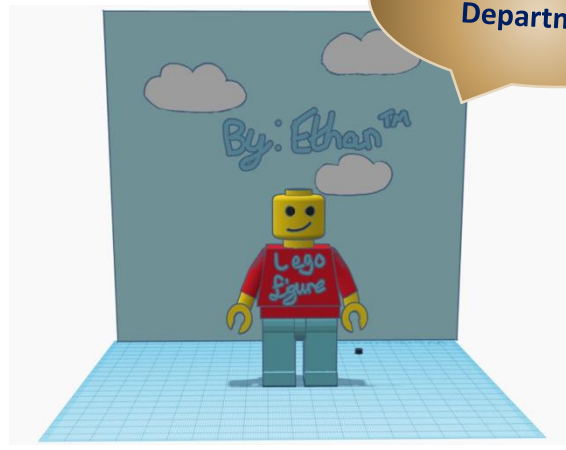
Gethin Evans, 9P made an exceptional model of the Solar System in Physics



Lucy Hanna, 10R used a Ray Optic Simulator program to model refraction of light perfectly



Unbelievable Year 9 model making work for Architectural module, by Marc Campbell



Ethan McGrath, Year 8 designed a Lego figure using Computer Aided Design creativity



**HE Department**  
Year 9 have recently been learning about the **Traffic Light Labelling System** and how it can help us to make **healthier food choices**. They followed this up by making their own reduced fat and reduced salt burgers.  
*Don't these look tasty?*



Sketch of a power drill by Laura Kelley, Year 11

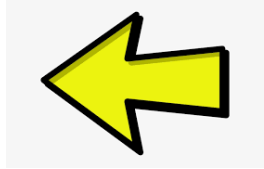
Modern Languages Department

Task 4

1. Normalmente después del instituto hago los deberes, pero ayer vi una película.
2. Normalmente después del instituto juego al fútbol, pero ayer escuché música.
3. Normalmente después del instituto mando mensajes, pero ayer monté en bici.
4. Normalmente después del instituto hago karate, pero ayer bailé.
5. Normalmente después del instituto juego al voleibol, pero ayer hice gimnasia.

Task 5

Normalmente veo muchas películas en Netflix. Ayer, hablé por Skype con mis amigos ~~de~~ luego hice los deberes y finalmente vi una película ¡Qué divertido!



Isabella Campbell in Year 10 tells us what she did yesterday in Spanish! An example of some excellent lockdown work.

9P and 9Q have been learning about the subjunctive in French, something not usually encountered until Year 12. Here is an example of one of their high-level retrieval practices undertaken during lockdown.



1 / 1

✓ Choisis la vraie phrase. \*

- J'adore la lutte parce que c'est casse-pieds.
- J'adore la lutte bien que c'est dangereux.
- J'adore la lutte bien que ce soit dangereux. ✓
- J'adore la lutte parce que ce soit dangereux.

Add individual feedback

1 / 1

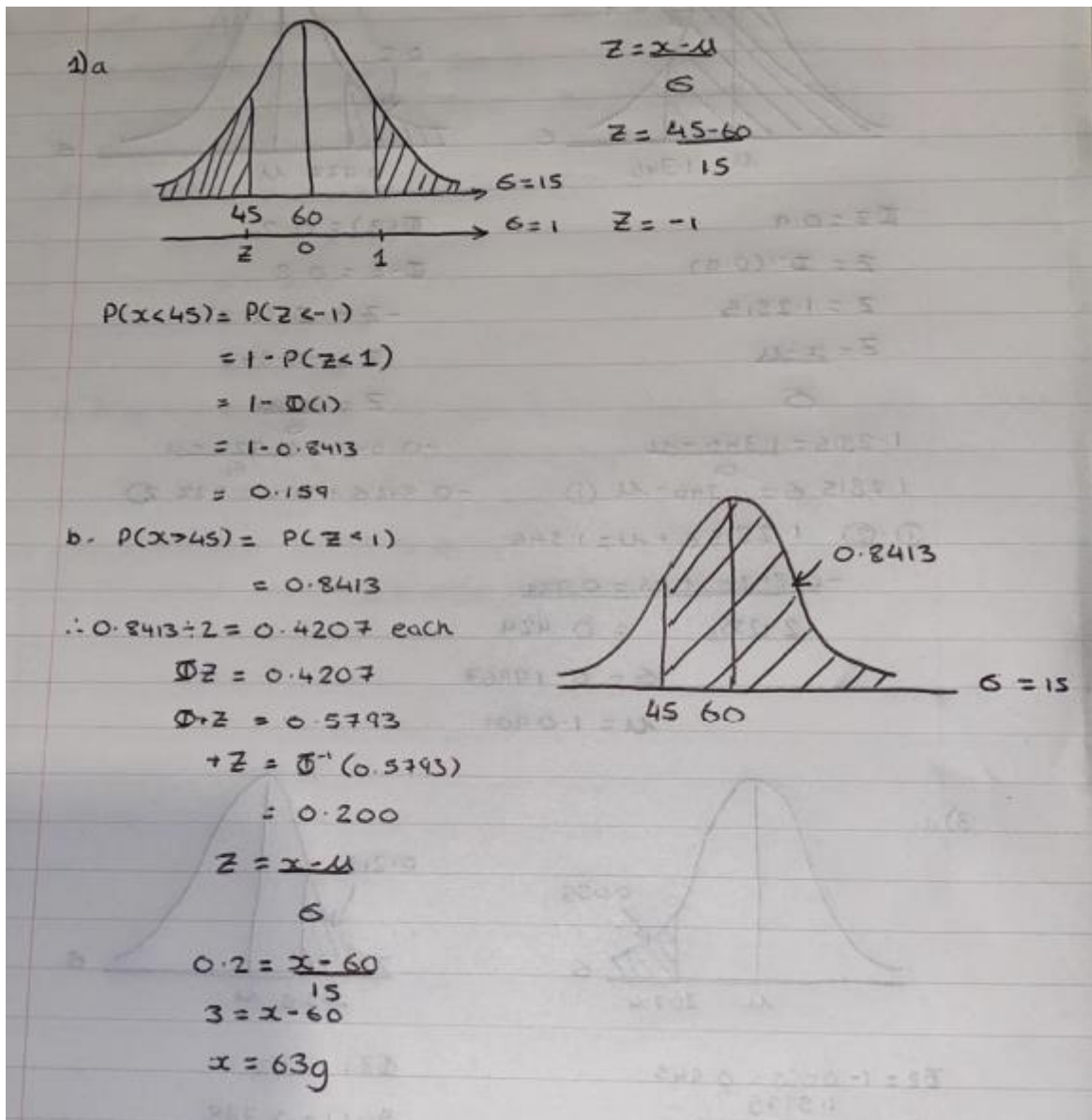
✓ Choisis la vraie phrase. \*

- Je n'aime pas le cyclisme parce que c'est génial.
- Je n'aime pas le cyclisme bien que c'est génial.
- Je n'aime pas le cyclisme bien que ce soit reposant. ✓
- Je n'aime pas le cyclisme tandis que c'est barbant.

Add individual feedback

Our Head Girl Megan Boyd undertakes some very advanced  
Maths work!

*Normal Distribution Probability Statistics*



*Thank you to the many pupils, staff and parents who provided work, articles and pictures for this special edition, and thank you in particular to Mrs Kerry Campbell for her fantastic work on this issue.*

*The school has received many notifications about past pupils who have been doing such a brilliant job during the pandemic, including NHS staff, councillors, MLAs, key workers and more. On behalf of everyone at CGS, thank you!*

*Stay safe and well.*