



# SIX VILLAGES

*We provide Excellence for All because there is Excellence in All*

## An exciting new arrival!

Last term we announced that we were expecting an exciting new arrival in January. I am pleased to confirm that our very special new member of staff started working with us at the beginning of this term. We would like to welcome Woody to our team. Woody is considerably younger than our usual members of staff as he is only 4 years old. Woody fulfils the role of therapy dog. He is working with our Inclusion and pastoral teams to support the emotional wellbeing of students and staff alike.

Woody is fully trained and insured and follows in the footsteps of his sister who has been a therapy dog at St Richards Hospital and at The Bourne Community College, he is already having a huge impact on the community at Six Villages.



### Benefits of a therapy dog:

There are many benefits for a school to have a therapy dog. Here are just a few ways that Woody is already having an impact

here at Six Villages.

- Therapy dogs can help teach young people empathy, among other interpersonal skills.
- The general well-being of staff and pupils.
- Being around animals naturally calms and soothes us. For some it is just being in the presence of an animal but for the more tactile among us it comes from the sensory soothing stroke of their soft coats.
- Having Woody around helps to diffuse tension if a student or staff member is struggling with their emotions.



Students from Mrs Gavin's Year 7 tutor group, including students from our singing group 'Voices Together' have been working on creating the best possible version of 'This is me' to put forward in the Academy Trust's 'Ormiston's Got Talent'. Following their performance in the Winter

Concert, students practised the different parts they were singing. They worked on their harmonies, and different ideas to layer the piece together. They then recorded this under the lights of the Drama studio, deciding how they would position themselves from entering at the start of the music to the big finish. Once students were in their different singing sections, they practised moving, where necessary, together to the front to be seen.



We recorded the performance a number of times, filming from different angles, so the different groups could really be highlighted. Mr Tranter then worked his magic; combining sections from the different recordings to create one seamless video to send in. The final version was unveiled to the group on the Wednesday before half term, just before the entry was submitted. It looked super professional. We look forward to hearing what the judges think of the performance.



Gardening Cub 'Let it Grow' has started back up and we are busy making plans for the Spring. There is lots to get cleared ready for planting. We are currently concentrating on clearing the area of litter and making sure our local wildlife are looked after with full bird feeders and nesting boxes. Plans are in place for a mindfulness area so keep your eyes peeled for some seating under the trees, herb planters and wind chimes. We are looking forward to using the area in the warmer months for outside lessons, growing ingredients for food tech and learning more about where our food comes from.

### The World of Work.

Last month we launched Y10 Work Experience. This is due to take place between 3rd-7<sup>th</sup> July this year. This was an incredibly successful event last year with both students and employers coming away with glowing reviews!



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## Boosting our brains with Biteback.

This term the Biteback 2030 team have been planning their social action project that will commence after the half term. They've audited the canteen and spoken to a range of young people from different year groups and have come to the conclusion that students at OSVA are neglecting their 5 a day! Not only that they are consuming far too much sugar in school.



The Biteback team have been discussing the benefits of a healthy diet, not only for our bodies but also for our minds. Many examples of fruit and veg are not only good at contributing to our overall health but also help us to focus the mind and concentrate at school.



Rich in potassium and magnesium, bananas give the brain energy and **help sharpen the brain's focus**, increasing the ability to pay attention and learn. Bananas also offer vitamins and nutrients that improve cognitive function overall.

Blueberries are considered a super food. According to a recent study, adults who eat blueberries or drink blueberry juice regularly have a significant increase in their brain activity, blood flow, and memory compared to those who aren't consuming blueberries.



From next half term, the Biteback2030 team will be running a weekly initiative; 'Food in the Spotlight'. Each week a different healthy, nutritious, brain boosting and delicious item of food will be put under the 'spotlight' in the Gate Cafe to encourage students to choose healthier options. There will be a marketing campaign and some superb artwork to support the campaign as well as facts and figures about the benefits to our mind and body of eating well.

## Raising money for a perfect prom!

Year 11 have demonstrated their entrepreneurial sides this half term in a bid to raise money for the perfect prom this summer. First up they organised and hosted a very tasty cake sale. Cakes were home made by staff and students and flew off the cake stands at break and lunch. Yum yum.



Next up, came the eagerly anticipated staff vs year 11 students netball match one lunchtime. Of course, the staff let the students win.. Watch this space for more fabulous prom fundraising events coming soon!



## Handy Harley!

Last month Harley S was selected to take part in the West Sussex County Schools Butterfly Table Tennis - Individual Events tournament. Furthermore, on arrival Harley and family were pleasantly surprised to find out he had been made one of two U16 seeds! This was the very first time this has happened to Harley and is due to the ranking points he's earned from playing other tournaments over the past year and a sign of his perseverance and the progress he's made.

Being a seed meant he would skip straight to the first knockout round. However, at the last minute the seeds were scrapped which meant Harley had to fight his way through from the very first round, through the round of 16 and quarter-final to end up facing the other U16 seed, Evan, in the semi-final.



Unfortunately, despite a truly excellent and close match, Harley lost 11-6 in the 5th and deciding set.

## A date for the diary.

We are hosting our first Careers/Futures fair since 2019 this year. The date for this is Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> and it will run from 9.30am until 2.40pm. Employers will get the chance to meet with students from all year groups to discuss their career paths, qualifications and skills. If you would like to be involved in this exciting event, please contact Mr Marsh at [cmh@ormistonsixvillages.org.uk](mailto:cmh@ormistonsixvillages.org.uk)