



OBHS *Gazette*

Achieving Excellence Together

WELCOME

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Gazette and I am very pleased to announce that a beautiful steel sculpture has been installed in the memorial garden to mark the 80th year of our school. The sycamore seed sculpture was created by Paul Richardson, a renowned East Anglian artist, and hopefully will provide inspiration for our students.

This edition has a focus on the interesting work that is now a feature of our enhanced technology curriculum and also contains a wide variety of contributions from our students.

With very best wishes.

Andrew Fell





SENIOR SENATE

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Head Boy and Head Girl – Aaron Draper and Annabel Mullet. They will be ably assisted by their deputies - Holly Canwell, Eleanor Stevens, Jayden Severn and Will Cunningham.

Their role within the school is to be a link between fellow students and teachers – they should be approachable and willing to listen and put their point of view across.

Autumn Term is always a busy one for the new appointees. They had two weeks of mock exams and quickly had to get to grips with being ambassadors for the school at our Annual Presentation evening.

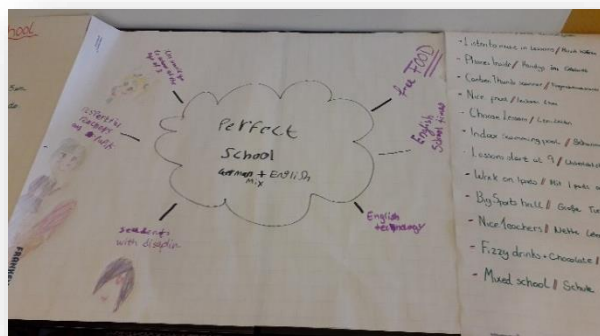
Annabel and Aaron did a sterling job being the hosts for the evening with their strong presentation skills, and Will, Jayden, Eleanor and Holly used their organisational skills to make sure the evening ran smoothly by matching up the correct awards and certificates with the recipients.

This was the first of many opportunities the senior senate will have to represent the school.



OBHS go to Germany

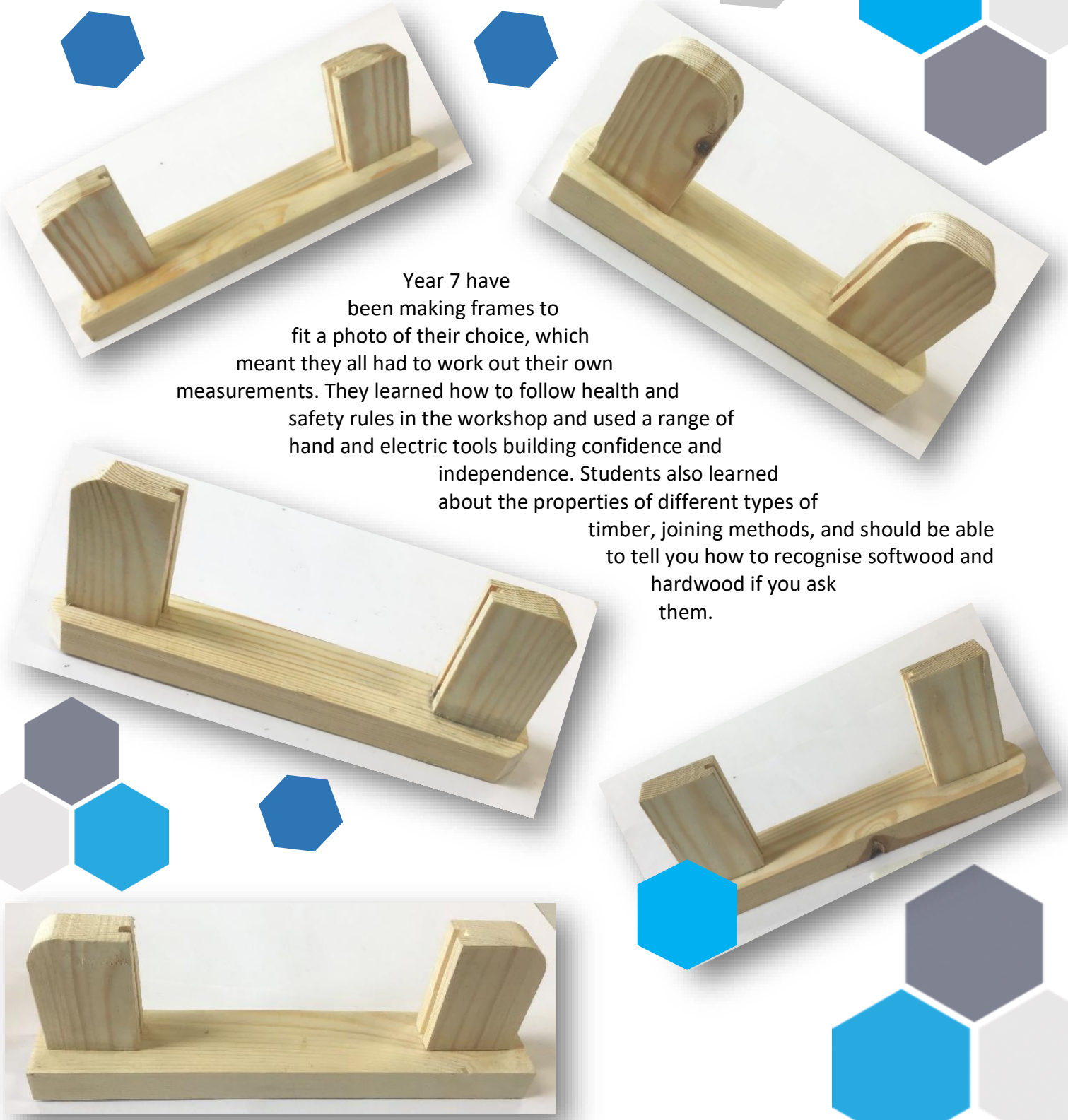
The final two days were spent making big decisions about our future partnership – although we did get to visit a traditional Christmas market in between! We have now agreed on provisional dates for OBHS to visit the German school and to focus the exchange on teaching English to pupils in Germany and sharing the passion for music both our schools have. Exciting times ahead!





DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Year 7 Picture Frames



Year 7 have been making frames to fit a photo of their choice, which meant they all had to work out their own measurements. They learned how to follow health and safety rules in the workshop and used a range of hand and electric tools building confidence and independence. Students also learned about the properties of different types of timber, joining methods, and should be able to tell you how to recognise softwood and hardwood if you ask them.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Year 8 Enamelled Jewellery

Year 8 have started this year in Product Design by designing and making their own piece of jewellery. We looked at Art Deco and used this as inspiration to develop an original design for a pendant or keyring. Students cut out the shapes from metal: the detail they've achieved shows great perseverance and skill. In order to add colour, we used a polymer enamel which was applied using heat.





DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY



Year 9 & 10 Plant Stands with Concrete Cast Pots



Years 9 and 10 have made plant stands with pots cast from cement using repurposed take-away drinks cups. As an introduction to the GCSE course, this practical work reinforced the theory topics in timbers, joining methods, casting and technical drawing. Casting in concrete gave students the opportunity to work with a material they may not have used before and allowed them to problem solve and experiment with different moulds.



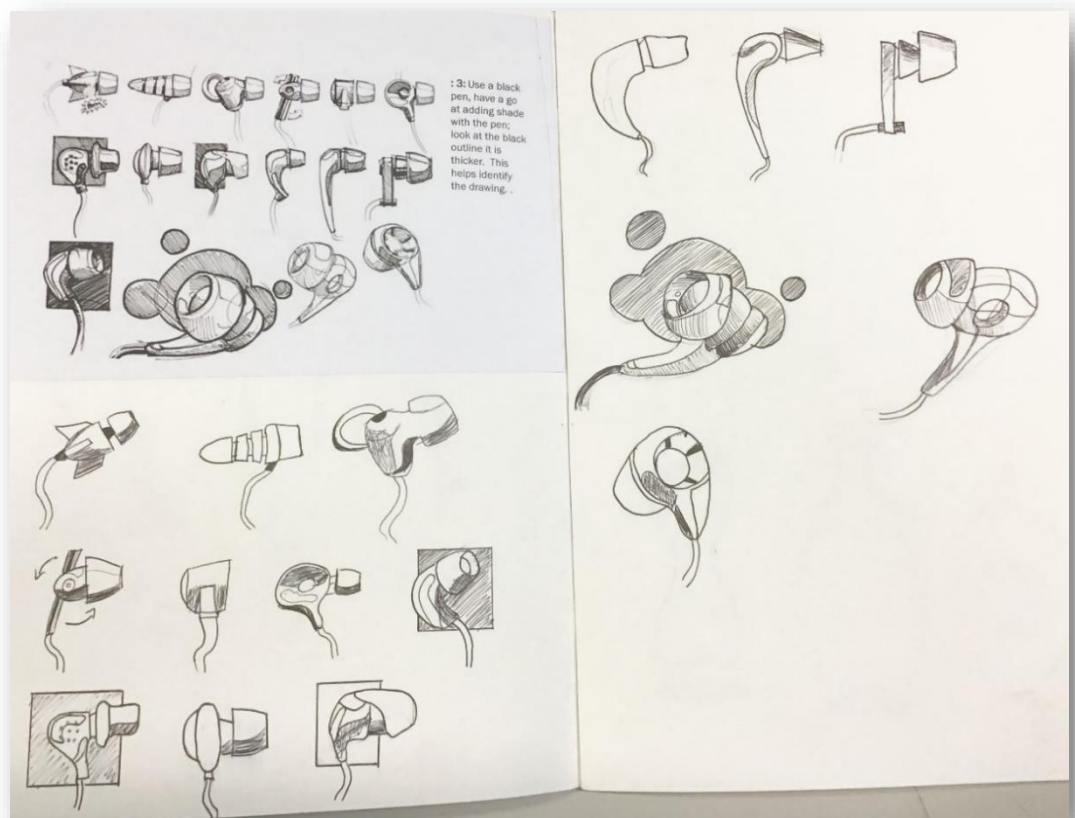
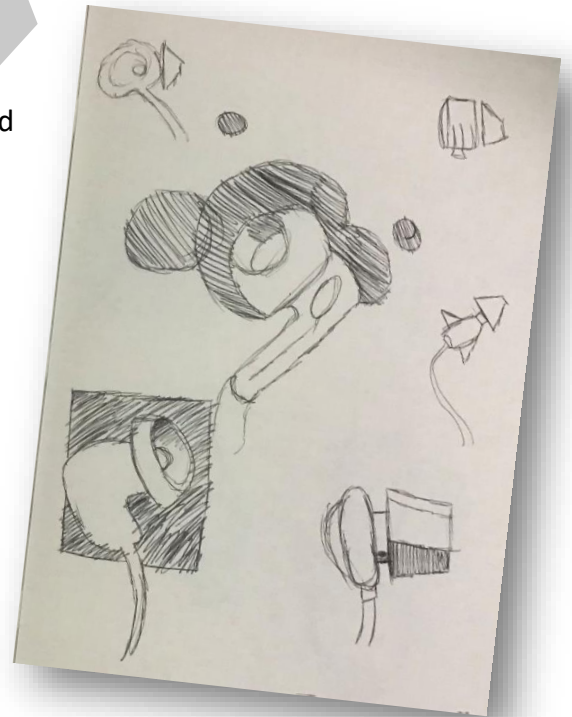
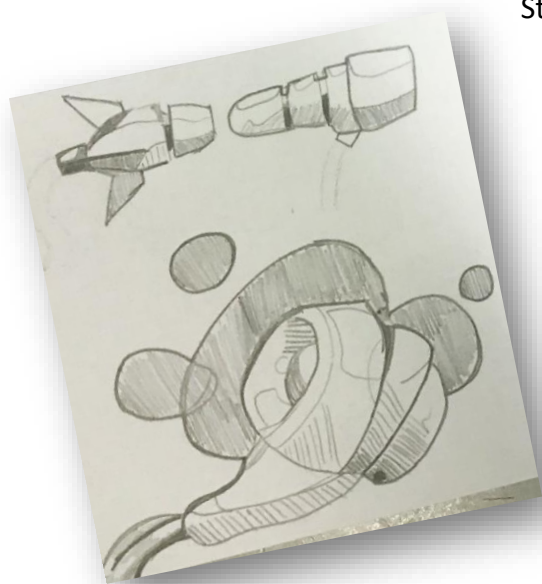


DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Year 10 Sketch books

Students have been working hard over the last 6 weeks to develop their drawing skills, essential when producing work for the NEA (coursework) towards the end of Year 10 and in Year 11. As well as learning technical drawing, perspective and isometric, they are learning how to sketch and render drawings and have been completing weekly homeworks

practising different types of product design drawings to build their confidence.





GERMAN EXCHANGE

A German & English School Comparison

This term I've been at Old Buckenham High school as a German exchange student.

I came across many differences between German and English schools during my time at Old Buck. I think the most obvious and main difference is the school uniform. At most German schools the students don't wear tie, shirt and blazer, we don't have a school uniform, which means that we wear, for example, jeans and a jumper. The second main difference is the division of one year into three terms. In Germany we only know two halves of the school year.



Another difference are the teaching times. A German school day normally starts much earlier in the morning. At home my school starts at 7:45 am, which means German students have to get up much earlier. The length of the lessons is also different: German school lessons are only 45 min and not one whole hour long. Furthermore, the whole school day is a different length depending on the year group. In the lower year groups you have a much shorter school day than for example in year nine to thirteen. So it was also a change for me to have a school day until quarter past three.

Most of the subjects are similar, but unfortunately we do not really have any craft subjects at my school like Textiles or Food Tech which I really enjoy here. In Germany the schools are more focused on teaching languages, especially English.

Every student has to learn English: it is the first foreign language, and you start at year five with 4 lessons per week. Later in Year Seven you learn a second foreign language which can be Latin, French or Spanish if you go to a grammar school like the one I go to. Some students also learn a third language.

I go to a Christian school, St. Ursula School. Every morning we start our school day with praying or singing together in our classroom. A speciality at my school is that we have a little chapel on the school ground where we attend services once a month and at religious holidays. These services are mostly organized by the students themselves.



For me a really impressive difference at Old Buckenham High school is the digital working. My school also has got TVs in every class room like you have the projectors. But to have "GO 4 Schools" is really fascinating. The parents are much better informed and also the students have much more information about their behaviour, attendance and homework. In Germany you get one oral performance in every subject depending how you do your homework, how you behave and work in the lesson and how you answer questions. The teacher tells you that mark two or three times during one half year, so that you know if you have to improve your work. The



written performance is based on our tests and assessments during the year. Each performance counts for 50% of the mark you get on your certificate at the end of each half of the school year.

I think the system of positive and negative points in English schools is a very good way to motivate and appreciate hard work in a lesson. Moreover, I really like the fact that you get all these awards and badges from school as a big motivation for the students to get involved socially and generally at school. At my school, there are rarely awards or prizes and even if, they are usually not so nice presented with badges on the clothes, as we could not wear them on a school uniform either. But more prizes and awards as a motivation is one of the things I would like to have in my school as well.

Furthermore, a big difference at English schools are the assemblies where the students get told important things concerning everybody. In Germany we neither have assemblies nor have form time before the first lessons because we stay together in one class for all the lessons. In my year group there are 5 classes of about 28 students, in total we are 140 students in my year group. Each class stays together all the time, which could cause problems because if you do not like some of your classmates you have to spend time with them for the whole school day, but on the other hand it causes a really good class community and you know every class member very well. As a replacement for assembly we have got one lesson per week in which we discuss all the items we have to organise or we get information about the school from our class teacher. But I still think that assemblies would be an improvement for my school because then the year group would get important information all together.

I am very happy about having the opportunity of being part of Old Buckenham High school during this Autumn term and experiencing so many different things. I had such a nice welcome from students and teachers and everybody tried to help me. Thank you so much.

I have really enjoyed every part of my time here and I have met lots of wonderful people and made new friends. I will miss you all!

Yours Johanna H



St. Ursula-Schule
Geisenheim





PRESENTATION



Our annual Presentation Evening took place on 5th December 2019 and it is the highlight of our year as we celebrate the achievements of our students, both past and present. To

begin the evening the audience was treated to a performance of "Freddy My Love" by Lily B, Alice O, Annabel M

and Elena M from our upcoming musical, Grease. Mr Fell welcomed everyone and started the



proceedings. Awards for progress and achievement were handed out followed by GCSE examination certificates which were distributed to last year's Year 11 students. Then followed special awards for each subject which were given to students whose enthusiasm and determination shone through and finally the special awards for 'Exceptional Contribution to School Life in Year 7' which

went to Bethany W, the 'Award for Special Achievement' which was presented to Tegan Leigh H, the 'Award for Contribution to School Life' which was given to Alfie J and the 'Headmaster's Award for Outstanding Achievement' which was received by Daniel P.



Our hosts for the evening were our newly appointed Head Boy and Head Girl – Aaron D and Annabel M who did an excellent job assisted by their deputies. The guest speaker was the

CEO of the Sapientia Education Trust, Mr Jonathan Taylor.



George P also performed "Sandy" from Grease, and, as a special treat, George C and Dylan I returned to sing "You're Timeless To Me" from Hairspray.



EVENING 2019

Well done to everyone who received awards on the evening.



Contribution to School Life in Year 7

Head Teachers' Award for Outstanding Achievement

Thanks go to everyone involved with the planning and preparation of the evening, especially Mrs Skipsey who organised this wonderful event, and Nicki Thurgar for taking the photographs (visit her website nickithurgar.zenfolio.com to order copies).

Award for Special Achievement

Contribution to School Life


Nicki T.

NICKI THURGAR PHOTOGRAPHY



FRIENDS OF OBHS

Our aim is to raise funds through supporting and organising events within the school community. These funds are then donated back into the school to purchase resources or finance projects to further the educational experiences of the students. Often such purchases would not be possible solely through departmental budgets.

We attend concerts and the annual production, selling refreshments and running raffles. We also organise pop up sales in school at break and lunchtimes at Christmas/Easter where we sell sweet treats and hot chocolate. Thanks to the support from students, staff and parents we have bought a variety of items over recent years – for more details please take a look at the 'Friends Board' outside the hall in the foyer – some of our more recent purchases include: -

- £166 for a pewter casting machine and block of pewter – Design & Technology
- £300 allocated for equipment/instruments for the Music department
- £300 donation to the Year 11 prom for a photo booth

The current Friends committee is made up of a really friendly bunch of parents who meet 2 or 3 times each term to ensure that all events are covered. We are always happy to see new faces - even if you can only help out at the odd event and we welcome any ideas for fundraising! Please get in touch to find out what is involved or if you could offer your time in any way - we would be really grateful. Even if you cannot join us, we look forward to receiving your support, as all money raised really does benefit all of our children.

Whilst doing your Christmas shopping online, can we remind you to go via the 'Easyfundraising' website. If you click to support FOBHS then we receive donations from the retailers at no extra cost to you! Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/obhs/> Thanks to everyone who already uses this – so far it has raised £245.50 for the Friends.

We will be at all performances of 'Grease' in March organizing raffles. If you have any items you would like to donate or have any contacts who may be willing to offer a raffle prize, we would love to hear from you! These can be dropped off in school reception to be passed on to us or you can contact us by email: groom551@btinternet.com

We will be selling refreshments at the Christmas concert on Monday 16th December and our annual 'Festive Friends treat sale' for students will be on the last day of term at break and lunch time.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year!
The Friends of Old Buckenham High School



OLD BUCKENHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

Achieving Excellence Together...

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