

RUGBY OBSERVER
3 JAN 20



College expansion plans unveiled

LEAMINGTON COURIER
29 NOV 19



Saints come alive at school

Pupils at Crackley Hall were treated to a Saints Alive session where guests dressed as St Therese of Lisieux, St Joseph, St Francis of Assisi and St John Henry Newman, and spoke of their lives and vocation, encouraging the children to embrace the skills and service of each saint.

RUGBY ADVERTISER
20 FEB 20

Extra reception for Bilton

Having two classes of up to 30 pupils each will enable more pupils to benefit from our experienced Early Years team and specialist child-centred tailored approach. Prospective parents who would be interested in a reception place for their child in September are urged to contact Helen Morley, the registrar, on 01926 525281 or email admissions@princeshoppe.co.uk to register their interest.

The school is holding an open morning on Saturday, March 21, from 9.30am to noon.

Part of the Princeshoppe Foundation, the Crescent is a co-educational independent day school for around 150 children aged four to 13 years. Traditionally one form entry, class sizes range from up to 20 pupils for reception to Year 2 up to 24 for Years 3 to 6.

Headmaster Joe Thackway said: "We are seeing an enormous amount of new house building in Bilton and the surrounding area and hope that this extra provision will be well received."

We are seeing an enormous amount of new house building

Clare Patten with current reception pupils.

LEAMINGTON COURIER
24 JAN 20

Food contest is rosy for Rosie

A Princeshoppe College schoolgirl has picked up first prize in the local final of a major cookery competition. Princeshoppe's best winners, Rosie Reeve from Year 8 and Francesca Kelly from Year 7, took part in the Springboard Futurechef Local Finals last week, hosted by Caldon Castle School in Coventry.

And from the 10 school heat qualifiers, it was Rosie who qualified for a place in the Midlands Regional Final next month.

The competitors were challenged to cook a two-course meal, a main and a dessert, for two people in 90 minutes for a budget of up to £5, under the scrutiny of two professional chefs.

Rosie's menu featured a main course of home-reared lamb in a redcurrant and red wine jus, served with fondant potatoes, followed by a chocolate tartlet with vanilla cream quenelle and sesame crisp.

Francesca, who was the youngest chef taking part, cooked a menu of salmon and dill fish cakes with pea purée, followed by a dessert of short-cake stack with raspberry and vanilla cream.

The organisers of the competition, Springboard, provide opportunities for people aged 12-16 to explore food and develop their culinary skills. Each year over 8,000 young chefs take part in this national competition.

Announcing the winners, the judges praised the contestants for the high standard of their dishes.

Princeshoppe's Rosie cooked up a storm and was judged the overall winner. She will now go forward to represent Coventry and Warwickshire at the regional final in Coventry on February 10.

Rosie was delighted to be presented with a certificate and a cookbook, and said: "The standard of the other competitors was amazing. I was so pleased to be given the opportunity to take part and



Rosie Reeve with her competition prize never expected to win." Princeshoppe's food and nutrition teacher, Jacqui Scott, added: "It was extremely proud of both of our Princeshoppe competitors, who put a lot of time and effort into menu planning and practising. The food they produced was of the highest standard and was beautifully presented. Both meals could have been served at a restaurant. It was a great experience for our pupils. I am really delighted one of our Year 8 pupils has taken the title for the second year running."

RUGBY ADVERTISER
10 SEPT 19

Talking a good Games

A SCHOOL with high hopes of getting involved in the Commonwealth Games has welcomed the host city's council leader.

Princeshoppe College, headed Coun Ian Ward from Birmingham City Council for a tour and a discussion about how the school may support and get involved with the tournament, which takes place in Birmingham in 2022.

Coun Ward was shown around the school, grounds, and sporting facilities - including the Sports Centre, Orchard, all-weather sports surface and Rugby pitches - which the college hopes visiting teams could use as training facilities.

Headmaster Ed Hester said: "The Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022 is the county's biggest sporting event since London 2012 and it is happening on our doorstep. It's a fantastic opportunity for Princeshoppe to get involved and showcase our brilliant facilities, grounds and hospitality."

"I'm grateful to Ian Ward for taking time out of his busy schedule to come and see what Princeshoppe has to offer. We think Princeshoppe could potentially offer a wonderful experience to visiting athletes to train, but it's also a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the college to be involved in such a high-profile sports event."

"We're very proud of sport at Princeshoppe and if the college can be involved with the Commonwealth Games, we would welcome the opportunity."

Coun Ward said: "I've had a fantastic visit to Princeshoppe College and it's great that the school is taking the initiative and wanting to get involved with the Commonwealth Games."

"Princeshoppe College clearly has a great sporting heritage and sport is at the centre of school life for staff and pupils."

"They have some wonderful facilities and beautiful grounds and I'm sure visiting teams would be very impressed to visit here as part of their Commonwealth Games experience."

"I am very keen that the Commonwealth Games benefits not just Birmingham, but the wider West Midlands region, and I'm very grateful that so many of the regions' schools are starting to engage and get excited about the games."



Lofy goals - left to right: Birmingham City Council Leader Ian Ward, Chair of Trustees Liz Griffin, Foundation Bureau Eddie Tolcher, Assistant Head Development Alex Darks, and Development Director Chris Lee.

STRATFORD HERALD
11 NOV 19



Primary teams rise to the maths challenge

TEAMS from Loxley CofE Community Primary School took first and third place in the inaugural Princeshoppe College Year 5 Maths Challenge this week.

The competition took place on Monday, 7th October and was run by Douglas Buchanan of DCBEAGLE Challenges, who specialises in organising exciting and innovative maths activities for primary school aged children.

Competing against 28 pairs of enthusiastic and talented mathematicians from 15 other schools, the pupils took part in a series of puzzles against the clock.

In six eight-minute rounds the children tackled Tangram Triangles, Broken Calculators, Domino Jigsaws, Catch The Train, Card Order and Curly's Cycling Circuits, before finishing with a bonus round of five final mathematics questions.

Absly supported and marked by a team of Princeshoppe's Year 10 pupils, the competition stretched and challenged the children with mathematical activities that required reasoning skills and mathematical knowledge.

The final results were:
 ■ 1st place - Loxley Church of England Community Primary School
 ■ 2nd place - Clapham Terrace Community Primary School
 ■ Joint 3rd place - Loxley Church of England Community Primary School, Brookhurst Primary School and Crackley Hall School.

The winning teams all received mathematical prizes and everyone who took part received a certificate and a special Princeshoppe cookie.

Loxley head Emma Barrick said: "Our Loxley pupils relished the opportunity to take part in such an exciting morning of mathematical challenge at Princeshoppe College. They exceeded our expectations with their 100 per cent score and we are very proud of their teamwork and resilience when faced with some very challenging puzzles."

Schools wishing to take part in next year's challenge should visit www.dcbeagle.com or email douglas.buchanan@dcbeagle@gmail.com

RUGBY OBSERVER
14 NOV 19



Crescent's victorious U11s team pose with their medals.

Magnificent 7 for champs

HOCKEY: CRESCENT School's under-11 mixed team returned from the Nottingham Hockey Centre victorious after being crowned ISA Midlands champions.

Taking part in the seven-a-side tournament against nine other teams from the region, the Bilton school team won all seven of their matches, without conceding a goal.

Crescent started their title bid with three convincing victories in the first-round group stage, beating Salterford House School 3-0, Twycross House School 8-0 and Dixie Grammar School 4-0.

After qualifying for the second-round stage, Crescent comfortably swept aside Stafford Prep School 1-0, Birchfield 2-0 and Old Vicarage 2-0.

Crescent then disposed of Dixie Grammar School 6-0 in their final match, ensuring they lifted the title without conceding a single goal throughout the tournament.

Teaching assistant Sally Dowling said: "It was a great day, the team were amazing. They played a super game, kept hold of the ball, passed confidently and were just on fire. We are incredibly proud of them all."

RUGBY OBSERVER
3 JAN 20

Inspired Michael determined to be 'Winning on Wheels'

A 'THRILLED' pupil from Crescent School was introduced to a range of wheelchair sports and activities by a triple Paralympian.

Year five pupil Michael Mercer took part in Winning on Wheels - a wheelchair sports event organised by Think Active and hosted by Warwickshire College.

During the day, Michael took part in wheelchair basketball, racing, rugby and dance, alongside children with disabilities from across Warwickshire.

He also met Great Britain wheelchair



Michael Mercer with Manni Sehmi.

rugby player Mandip 'Manni' Sehmi, who showed the youngsters the basics of the sport and let them try out special sports wheelchairs which allow players to collide with each other.

Michael said: "It was really fantastic to meet Manni and to have a go at all of the wheelchair sports. I really enjoyed the day, it was a lot of fun."

A Crescent School spokeswoman said: "It was a great opportunity for Michael and our thanks go to Think Active for organising the event."

RUGBY OBSERVER
14 NOV 19



YOUNG cornet players from Crescent School played a central role in three Remembrance Services in the area. Year 5 pupil Henry Corbin sounded the Last Post in the village of Newton, while fellow Year 6 pupil Matthew Thomas played at Yelvertoft and Year 5 pupil Alyssa Barnett at Princeshoppe.

Henry also played the tribute when the school gathered on Monday (November 11) for its own remembrance service.

Left to right: Matthew Thomas, Alyssa Barnett and Henry Corbin took centre stage at three Remembrance Services to sound the mournful notes of the Last Post.

RUGBY OBSERVER
29 AUG 19

GCSE pupils make the (new) grades

PUPILS impressed with their GCSE results, despite a tougher grading system. A new system introduced last year replaced the previous A* to U grades with figures 9 down to 1.

Grade 9 is higher than the previous A*, 8 is between an A* and A and 5 is between a B1 and C.

At Rugby High School, 95 per cent of all entries were awarded a grade 4 or better, while 60 per cent scored grade 7 or better. 35 per cent of pupils got an average of a grade 8 across all of the GCSEs that they sat.

Head teacher Charlotte Marten said: "This group of students have excelled before and of them. They have lots of transferable skills from all the other activities that they have undertaken over the course of the last few years."

All of Lawrence Sherill's GCSE pupils achieved five or more 4 grades - the equivalent of the old A*-C - including English and Mathematics.

Over 60 per cent of all entries were graded at 6-7, the equivalent of A/A-.

Over 80 per cent of pupils got the top grade 9 in mathematics, and 81 per cent overall gained 9-7 grades in the subject.

Headteacher Ivor Kent said: "These are a deeply impressive set of results, reflecting the outstanding achievements of our students who have been supported by their hard working and knowledgeable teachers."

Princeshoppe College is celebrating its best ever GCSE results.

From a cohort of 127 pupils, 85 per cent of all entries were grade 5, 8 or 7, and 30 pupils achieved eight or more 9, 8 or 7 grades.

Overall, 96 per cent of grades achieved were 4-8 grades - the equivalent of the old A*-C grades.

Princeshoppe pupils achieved 11 or more grade 9s, 10 or more grade 8s, 10 or more grade 7s, and 10 or more grade 6s.

Headmaster Ed Hester said: "It is a privilege to be among so many happy people and ourselves to be able to celebrate such success."

Princeshoppe College has been awarded the following GCSE results:

Among them were James Wilkins, who achieved seven grade 9s, one grade 8 and one grade 7, and Aimee Walsby, who achieved seven grade 9s, two grade 8s and one grade 7.

Headmaster Ed Hester said: "This is a year group which has achieved considerable academic success and have done much to enrich the cultural and sporting life of the school."

Headmaster Peter Green said: "This is a year group which has achieved considerable academic success and have done much to enrich the cultural and sporting life of the school."

BILTON School celebrated outstanding results in their GCSE results this year.

The percentage of pupils with a grade 4 or higher in both English and Maths rose to 65, and those gaining a grade 5 or higher in both subjects rose 7, per cent compared to last year.

Top performers included Amy Mathias (five 9s, two 8s), Patricia Toles (four 9s, one 8, one 7), and Dan Collins (three 9s, one 8, one 7).

Head teacher Barbara Harrison said: "We would like to congratulate our Year 11 students on their hard work and wish them every success in future."

HARRIS Academy pupils helped the school to achieve record results in four subjects.

All Engineering results were at grade 5-4, six were over 85 per cent of French results.

The same grades were achieved by over 84 per cent of Drama pupils, and 60 per cent of Business Studies pupils.

Head teacher Barbara Harrison said: "We would like to congratulate our Year 11 students on their hard work and wish them every success in future."

AVON Valley pupils improved on last year's GCSE results in English and Maths.

Some 63 per cent of students achieved



KENILWORTH NEWS
4 OCT 19



New wildlife theme for tots to enjoy at nursery

BY KAREN ALMOND
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Little Crackers Nursery invited Warwickshire Wildlife Trust into school to help celebrate the nursery's exciting 'back to nature' makeover.

Over the summer holidays Little Crackers Nursery, at Crackley Hall School, has been transformed with a new natural look in its spacious classrooms.

The revamp includes new furniture, flooring and decoration. There is also a completely new indoor/outdoor garden room with a decked area, a sunken sand pit, a glazed roof and retractable folding doors which open up to the woods behind.

In the morning the nursery's parent and toddler group, 'Stay if Play', explored the new look accommodation and took part in wildlife themed activities in the bright rooms.

school's woods and joined in wildlife-themed activities run by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

The children really enjoyed searching for toy hedgehogs and making hedgehog homes. In the afternoon the nursery children had their own party, with wildlife activities indoors, which included small studies, bird watching and woodland craft.

They then joined the representatives of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust outside for some wonderful woodland fairy folk fun.

The summer makeover has also seen improvements to the front nursery playground and the nursery children are now enjoying regular visits to the newly opened woodland at the back of the main school.

The 'back to nature' summer makeover means the children now enjoy outdoor learning experiences in three very different settings.

To celebrate the new look, Little Crackers has adopted new animal names to reflect the 'back to nature' theme, with the 'Tuffie' Two be-

coming Doreen, the 'Thilling' Threes changing to 'Hedgehogs and the Fabulous Fours' transforming into 'Badgers'.

Susan Glen-Boots, assistant head - early years and Key Stage 1, said: "This is an exciting project which will transform our children's experiences in nursery."

"A more natural environment inside creates a sense of calm while stimulating interest and providing the children with a blank canvas in which to learn and develop."

"This, coupled with more opportunities to take their learning outdoors and explore the wonders of the natural world will reap fantastic rewards in terms of self-confidence, imagination and physical development."

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, added: "We had lots of fun with the youngsters, helping them explore the natural surroundings and encouraging their interest in wildlife."

"The school's woodland learning area is a special and a super space for the children to explore."

RUGBY ADVERTISER
28 NOV 19

County cricket call up for Amy

BY LUCIE GREEN
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A rising Rugby sport sensation has been selected for Warwickshire's Development of Excellence Cricket Squad for their U11 Girls.

Amy Robinson, who attends Crescent School, is only nine years old and has been playing cricket since she was six.

She currently plays for Oakfield and Rowlands Cricket Club, in their U11 team.

Amy took part in a six-week trial with the Warwickshire coaches at Edgbaston during October and November where she showed her hard-batting, bowling and fielding skills.

She will now train weekly at Edgbaston through the winter until March honing her cricket skills, with a view to being selected for the summer



Amy Robinson.

squad to play matches against other counties.

Amy is a key member of Crescent's U11 cricket team and was nominated for the county trials by head of sport, Matt Phillips.

She is one of only 25 girls selected for the squad and impressed the coaches with her all-round excellent play.

Matt praised the young sports star.

He said: "We are very proud of Amy."

"She is a talented and exciting cricketer and this is a great opportunity for her."

"We look forward to following her progress over the winter in the Development Squad."

Amy said she is thrilled to be selected.

She said: "I love playing cricket."

ATTAIN
AUTUMN 19



Jaguar Challenge

Crackley Hall School's Firecrackers have won Best Engineered Car at this year's national finals of the Jaguar Primary School Challenge. The team travelled to the British Motor Museum at Gaydon to take part, alongside 39 schools that had also won through from local regional finals.

ATTAIN
SPRING 20



Roman visitors

Two Roman Centurions visited Year 7 at Princethorpe College for their Roman Day. The Centurions' passion and knowledge of the period was vividly dramatised as the two men, dressed in full legionnaire's costume, brought to life the tactics and organisation of the Roman army.

RUGBY OBSERVER
19 SEPT 19



Children from Crescent School took time out of their busy day to cheer on riders taking part in the OVO Energy Tour of Britain as they raced down Alwyn Road.

Welcoming the top riders

EXCITED schoolchildren lined the street to cheer on riders taking part in the OVO Energy Tour of Britain as they raced past their school.

Crescent School's Class 6Y went out to welcome the cyclists as they rode down Alwyn Road near the school on Friday (September 13).

They cheered and waved flags as

the leaders and then the peloton flew past, followed by their accompanying cars and police outriders.

The pupils then collected water bottles and snack bags left behind by cyclists. A school spokeswoman said: "They are going to make wonderful souvenirs!"

For the second consecutive year,

Warwickshire played host to a stage of the tour.

The penultimate stage of the race set off from Warwick Racecourse and weaved through all five boroughs and districts of Warwickshire - and once again thousands turned out to cheer on the riders.

See pages 10 and 11 for more.

RUGBY ADVERTISER
6 FEB 20

Boys reach national hockey finals, again

BY LUCIE GREEN
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Crescent School's U11 boys hockey team has qualified for the Independent Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS) U11 Boys National Hockey Finals for the fourth year running.

The boys secured their place last Monday, January 20, at Rugby School when they faced school hockey teams from across the Midlands area.

The team sailed through the group stage with four wins without conceding a goal. They then faced local rivals Bilton Grange, followed by Nolithull and, finally, Moulford.

Matt Phillips, head of PE and games, said the win was "an amazing achievement for our small school, and a reflection of the commitment our boys have for their sport."



The U11 team players and, behind, Matt Phillips

RUGBY OBSERVER
19 DEC 19



Sixth form politics students counted the votes.

Another majority

A LESSON in democracy was on the syllabus for pupils at Princethorpe College on election day.

A mock election was staged to teach pupils about the UK's democratic process.

Introducing the election to pupils in a school assembly, deputy head Dr Michael Reddish talked about the choices the country would be making and the challenge of voting for a manifesto versus a party leader figurehead.

Party manifestos were summarised, put on display across the school and discussed in form time, and politics students organised hustings.

Voting took place in secret, with each of the school's 49 tutor groups representing an individual constituency, reflecting the structure of the UK parliamentary system.

Turnout was high, with 92 per cent of pupils choosing to vote.

Sixth form politics students counted the votes and the Conservatives won, taking a majority of 13 seats over the second-placed Liberal Democrats.

Politics and history teacher Abi Adams said: "Democracy is an important British value, and we wanted to educate pupils on how people participate in the democratic process."

"Social media and 24-hour access to news has made politics far more accessible for young people, and across the world younger generations are engaging with issues that directly affect them, so appreciating the democratic process is important."

She added the school wanted to encourage and challenge pupils to think for themselves, move beyond preconceptions or prejudices, and consider the bigger picture.

ATTAIN
AUTUMN 19



Charity skipathon

Crackley Hall School raised £2,838.73 as part of a charity skipathon for the Sister Mary Aloysius College of Mercy in Nigeria. It will help fund urgent building works and to repair the school minibus enabling more children in Nigeria to benefit from an education.

RUGBY ADVERTISER
6 FEB 20

Squad success for hockey duo

BY LUCIE GREEN
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A sporting duo from a Rugby school have been selected for Warwickshire Hockey's U13 Academy Squad.

Marco Rodriguez-Hernandez and Noah Windley, both Year 6 pupils at Crescent School, were chosen after attending trials at the end of last year.

Securing spots in the county line-up is no mean feat, and Marco and Noah, who are both only 11 years old, have earned the honour a year and a half ahead of some of their Warwickshire Hockey U13 squad peers.

In recognition of their selection, Crescent's Headmaster Joe Thackway presented the boys with their county tie in the school's assembly.

The boys said: "We are really pleased and proud to have been selected for the squad."



Noah Windley and Marco Rodriguez-Hernandez.

They are now both attending regular County training sessions and will be introduced to England Hockey's Player Pathway, a development programme that helps junior players realise their potential and are looking forward to their first matches.

Head of Sport, Matt Phillips said: "Hockey is one of many sports we play here at the Crescent and the boys are key members of our U13 team."

"They are both talented players with excellent technical skills and that has clearly been recognised by the County selection team."

"This is a fantastic achievement; their success is thoroughly deserved."

CATHOLIC UNIVERSE
20 DEC 19

Princethorpe mirrors national poll in own vote

As the country went to the polls on Thursday, 12th December, pupils at Princethorpe College learnt about the process of democracy by participating in a mock election.

Politics and history teacher Abi Adams explains: "Democracy is an important British value, and we wanted to educate pupils on how people participate in the democratic process."

"Social media and 24-hour access to news has made politics far more accessible for young people; younger generations are engaging with issues that affect them, so appreciating the democratic process is important."

"The UK national election affects all of our pupils and their families and not just those studying politics."

Deputy Head - Academic, Dr Michael Reddish, introduced the mock election in a whole school assembly and talked about the choices the country would be making and the challenge of voting for a manifesto versus a party leader figurehead.

Party manifestos were summarised and discussed in form time, while politics students organised hustings. Each of the 49 tutor groups was set up as an individual constituency, to reflect the structure of the UK parliamentary system.

After a fantastic turn-out of 92%, the vote mirrored the national one, with the Conservative Party taking a majority of 13 seats over the second placed Liberal Democrats.

RUGBY OBSERVER
30 JAN 20



Joining the top brass...

A TALENTED young musician has blown away judges at an audition to land a place in the National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain.

Henry Corbin, 10, first picked up the cornet when he was just seven years old and has been taking lessons at school ever since.

Coeached and encouraged by his music teacher at The Crescent School Dr Fisher, Henry has made such progress that he has already achieved Grade 5.

A stalwart of the school orchestra and brass group, he always enjoys taking part in the school's concerts and musical activities. He also plays for the Bilton Silver Training Band and has been called on to play the Last Post at a number of local Remembrance services.

He auditioned for the prestigious National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain last October - and is now celebrating after learning he has been selected.

Crescent School's director of music Julie Barnes said: "This is a huge achievement for Henry and we are delighted and very proud of him. Only the very talented are selected to play in the National Children's Brass Band and it is a wonderful opportunity for him."

Henry will attend an intensive residential course at Rippon School in the summer holidays, where he will get to play with the very best brass players in the country.

RUGBY OBSERVER
14 NOV 19



GENEROUS pupils from Princethorpe College have filled boxes with gifts for disadvantaged children overseas, who would not otherwise receive a Christmas gift.

They were taking part in the Parish Christmas Shoe Box Appeal organised by St Anne's Church in Wappenbury.

A total of 81 boxes have been packed full of gifts, and educational and hygiene essentials such as toothbrushes, hairbrushes, paper and pens.

The boxes will be distributed by charity Teams4U in Romania and will be given to vulnerable children, families, schools, nurseries, hospitals and orphanages.

The school thanked the pupils and parents who took part - especially Year 8 pupils Daisy Burke, Jemima Teeton and Isaac Kirby who worked tirelessly in lunchtimes to sort and pack the boxes, and to Chaplaincy Co-ordinator Mary Benham and parish member Loretta Curtis.

Left to right: Daisy Burke, Jemima Teeton and Isaac Kirby with the completed boxes ready for transport.