

CATHOLIC TODAY
NOVEMBER 15

Pinking up Awareness for Breast Cancer Care

Emma Litterick

Princethorpe College, Rugby

PRINCETHORPE COLLEGE charity minded Sixth Formers blitzed the school day with a wash of pink costumes all to raise vital cash for Breast Cancer Care. As part of the Charity's 'The Big Pink' drive College students wholeheartedly embraced the theme by turning up dressed as crayons, fairies and 70's aerobic queens. With every pupil in the school making a cash donation the coffers were swelled by a break time cack

sale. Pastel coloured cup-cakes and biscuits went down a treat all in a bid to raise awareness of women who suffer from the disease.

Princethorpe College Assistant Head of Sixth Form Mrs Anne Allen delighted in the support students gave to the cause.

'We only have to make a suggestion and Sixth Formers run with the idea, keen to make it as successful and enjoyable as possible.'

A satellite lunch time event saw lower school pupils parading the cat walk in a variety of costumes. With the promise of a high quality photo as a keepsake further money was raised for Breast Cancer Care.

'It looks likely that we will have raised over £500 for the charity,' commented Mrs Allen. 'For an end of half term fund raising effort, this reflects how brilliantly the College community comes together to support those in need.'



Princethorpe College Sixth Formers enjoying The Big Pink

COVENTRY TELEGRAPH
8 OCTOBER 15

England call for Lucy

A 12-year-old Princethorpe College student has made it into the Rounders England Under-14s squad.

Year 7 student Lucy Gribben was spotted by talent scouts at the Independent Schools' Midlands Rounders Championships last June.

More recently, the national governing body for the sport held annual trials in a bid to secure elite players across various age groups.

A nervous afternoon's play at The Academy in Loughborough saw the former Warwickshire U-10 tennis champion put to the test as she competed against 84 other girls from across the country.

Lucy endured drills, match play and aptitude tests before finding out if her name would be in the mix for the 2015 England Rounders squad.

on the day, despite having trained with my former PE teacher at Crackley Hall School, Kat Vaughan, beforehand.

'I didn't think I'd done myself justice so when my mum told me the news I was thinking, 'oh no, it can't be true!'

Already making headlines at Princethorpe College with the hockey and cross country teams, Lucy's selection has boosted early season morale in the PE department.

'Head of girls' games Debs Brookes said: 'We knew what a strong sportswoman Lucy already was across many disciplines so we had high expectations of her potential.'

'The England selection has been an early feather in her cap and a first for Princethorpe.' Lucy began training last month with fixtures planned against Wales, Guernsey and the Isle of Man next year.



Lucy Gribben

COVENTRY TELEGRAPH
6 NOVEMBER 15

Guitar hero Toby is a hit in the States

Toby Lee and pictures off him enjoying his trip to America



Ben Eccleston
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YOUNG guitar hero Toby Lee has taken the States by storm.

The ten-year-old prodigy was living the dream after he travelled to Memphis and followed in the footsteps of his heroes after being invited to play at the BB King Blues Club. Toby has already been hailed as "a budding Jimi

Hendrix" and lived up to the tag with a show-stopping performance on stage. The Kenilworth schoolboy also had the honour of a VIP tour of the Gibson guitar factory and visited the Graceland home of rock 'n' roll legend Elvis Presley.

Toby, a Year 6 pupil at Crackley Hall School, said: 'I'd always wanted to go to Memphis, the home of the blues, so in a way it was a dream come true.'

Similarities can be drawn between Toby and Joe Bonamassa, another famous American blues player, who at the age of 12 opened a gig for BB King heralding the start of his phenomenal blues career.

And a meeting between Joe and Toby has been arranged in the new year - something Toby cannot wait for.

'He is my all-time hero so to actually meet him and chat about music will be the best.'

Since returning to Britain, Toby has also been showing his talent off to the whole nation as he appeared on Channel 4's TFI Friday.

Toby is already a favourite of host Chris Evans, having been live on air with the flame-haired presenter on Radio 2, and performed in front of the

cameras along with Duran Duran and Cheryl Cole. Crackley Hall headteacher Rob Duigan said: 'We are delighted to support Toby's music making. He is a very modest young man who manages to balance the rigours of academic work alongside his additional commitments.'

For more information visit www.facebook.com/tobyleeguitar.

RUGBY ADVERTISER
17 SEPTEMBER 15

Oscar one step nearer to England selection



Oscar Kay

Hockey hot-shot Oscar Kay has been selected to join the National Age Group Squads.

The dedicated 15-year-old impressed England selectors at the recent Future's Cup Tournament; a punishing three-day affair which saw the best in the country vying for national honours.

From a starting pool of over 80 boys just 34 have hit the mark with numbers being further whittled down in February 2016 to a final 26.

Oscar puts his selection down to sheer hard work: 'I've put in the effort,' he admits.

'I wasn't certain that I would be picked but I knew I'd worked hard.'

Princethorpe College Head of Hockey Marc Edwards agrees: 'Oscar has speed and strength.'

'His formidable fitness levels

give him the edge on the pitch as well as his natural instinct for the game.

'England selection has been his goal since he was brought into Future's Cup and he is one step nearer to representing the country at next year's Six Nations Tournament.'

A series of one-day training camps beckons with these kicking off in December.

Wishing that he could dedicate himself full time to the sport, the Princethorpe College Year 11 student will have to balance the glory of representative honours with graft in the classroom.

Optimistic, Oscar added: 'I'll just have to get on with it. This is the path I've chosen and I'm determined not to let this chance slip through my fingers.'

COVENTRY TELEGRAPH
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Victorious Princethorpe College swimmers

Force in the water

PRINCETHORPE Girls' Swimming Team emerged victorious at the ISA Midlands Championships.

The event at Walsall Baths on November 5 saw 15 Midlands Independent Schools take part.

There were some impressive swimmers from Year 9's Caitlin Newbold, a City of Coventry swimmer, as well as Emily Smith-Williams in the senior girls' race, Year 7's Lucia McKosker-New, Mollie Dibb, Cerys Allen, Freya Barnett, Grace Webber, Sophie Hutchinson and Beth Taylor.

Also doing their team proud in the pool were

Jack Dennis, Luke Palmer, Stan Brocklebank, Will Dunderdale, Toby Rigg, Lauren Mason and Charlie Bracken.

Individual event winners earned automatic selection to the ISA National Gala, which takes place at London's Olympic Aquatic Centre in January.

Head of Girls' Games Louise Harrison said: 'We had a great day. Princethorpe has shown what a force they are in the water. New additions to the team from Year 7 up have increased the depth of talent we have in this sport.'

'Here's to 2016 and the nationals.'

Netball

Netballer Molly earns regional selection



Princethorpe College Year 10 netballer Molly Geehan

At five foot eleven, Molly Geehan cuts an impressive athletic figure, making it relatively easy to guess her preferred sport.

The Year 10 Princethorpe College student has this week heard the welcome news that, despite a serious injury, she has successfully trialled for the U17 West Midlands Regional Netball Squad.

As Molly is just 14 the magnitude of her selection is all the more impressive.

The tenacious goal shooter endured four successive weeks of summer training at Walsall University, where her place on the regional squad was up for grabs.

Resilient to the last, Geehan proved her mettle by icing her damaged left ankle in between bouts of top quality netball and her determination paid off.

'I was so happy to know that I'd made it through,' she said.

'Last year I was gutted that I didn't make selection and this year, what with the injury happening at a tournament just a day before the trials, I thought I'd blown it again.'

Not so. Geehan's prolific playing profile with Henley Ladies, Warwickshire as well as Princethorpe College's own U15 1st team has ensured that her sights are set on the highest of goals. Couple this with regular shoot outs in her Hillmorton back garden against dad and there's surely a recipe for sporting success!

'My dream is to play for England and in a couple of

weeks' time I'm going to train with England Netball Head Coach Tracy Neville,' she added. 'That's the sort of place I want to be in the future.'

Molly's success has been lauded by Princethorpe College Head of Girls' Games Debs Brookes: 'We know how much this means to Molly. She works so hard to achieve the highest standards and we'll look forward to seeing how the season unfolds for her.'



Crackley Hall
School



Princethorpe
College



Successful students Lauren Mason, Aidan O'Rourke and Caitlin Parris.

College pupils take away top maths awards

BY LUCIE GREEN
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It's been a bumper year for 79 Princethorpe College students who have received bronze, silver or gold certificates in the UK Maths Challenge.

They are celebrating their success in the competition, which is designed to enrich young people's experience of mathematics.

Over half a million secondary age pupils nationally take part in this intense lateral thinking challenge, run by the UK Mathematics Trust.

Those in the top six per cent receive the highest commendation, a gold certificate and an invitation to sit the follow-on Junior Olympiad or Kangaroo Challenge. The challenge presents pupils with progressively more demanding questions as the timed paper unfolds.

Organiser of this year's event, Princethorpe College Maths teacher Will Uglov said: "We had five students invited to take part in the Kangaroo competition."

Three Junior mathematicians, Caitlin Parris (Year 9), Lauren Mason (Year 8) and Aidan O'Rourke (Year 9) excelled, with Caitlin doing especially well to be awarded a prestigious Merit certificate making her in the top one per cent of those who took part.

This is a challenge that the college enters every year. It's aim is to provide an additional exciting step up from mathematics enjoyed in the classroom.

Sarah McKeever, head of maths at Princethorpe College, said: "The results this year bear testament to the enthusiasm surrounding the subject."

"It remains a very popular A Level choice with our headteacher Ed Hester actively engaged in the teaching of high quality maths at the top end of the school."

Three of our students did exceptionally well which is great

Princethorpe trio following in the footsteps of Redmile

Four experienced Princethorpe College Hockey players have been selected by England Hockey to form part of the regional HIPAC or Futures' Cup squads.

The High Performance Assessment Camps attended by Oscar Kay (under-16), Jack Hobbs (under-17), Becky Redmile (under-18) and Bethan Ellis (under-17) involve both intense residential training camps as well as top quality fixtures against other regions.

The grand dame of the group, upper sixth-former Redmile, has played at this level now for over three years.

With her eye on future England selection she said: "Hockey at this level means that you are a step closer to national representative honours."

"It takes a huge commitment to get to this point so all the Princethorpe players must have shown exceptional skills."

Meanwhile, four Princethorpe players have been selected to represent Warwickshire at netball.

Year 8's Emelia Tubb is the youngest of those to be selected.

The goal attack, who also plays for Leamington Ladies, will form part of the under-14 squad despite being aged just 12.

For the second year running Amelia Hagan will be wearing the Warwickshire strip with fellow Year 9 player Emily Nicholls joining her.

Chloe Kempton, who plays goal attack for Harbury, will link up with the under-16 squad.



Hockey players Oscar Kay, Jack Hobbs, Becky Redmile and Bethan Ellis.

Commercial success with pictures of Lily

A PRINCETHORPE College student is getting more and more used to being recognised for her acting skills.

Fifteen-year-old Lily Blunson-Washbrook has been featured on a television commercial, billboard and on London Transport posters after playing the role of the daughter in holiday company Villa Plus' 2015 advertising campaign.

The GCSE student, who has her heart set on a career in the business, successfully sailed through a three-round audition in London and was subsequently sent on a two-week working trip to the Algarve in Portugal to film and photograph the campaign.

This is Lily's second dip into the world of advertising, having also appeared in a commercial last year.

She said: "This experience was totally different and I gained so much from it. Working with a professional production company as well as experienced actors has given me a better insight into the world of television acting. The whole crew were very friendly and supportive; they shared advice about auditions and agencies that has been so useful."

"My aim is to go to drama college. That's where my passion lies. Ever since I was at primary school and became smitten by the acting bug I've known that this is what I want to do."

The college's head of drama, Vicky Roberts, said: "Lily is a modest, yet invaluable member of the GCSE drama group. Her commitment to every production as well as to her academic studies is outstanding."



Lily Blunson-Washbrook

Young people in sport

Pupils show their talents in Aquathlon



Winners in the South Aquathlon

Children from south Warwickshire have made an "excellent" start to the new sporting season during this year's South Aquathlon.

The event, which takes place at Southam Leisure Centre and has become a regular fixture for Crackley Hall and Princethorpe College athletes, gives youngsters aged eight to 14 the chance to combine their swimming and running skills.

Princethorpe's Mollie Dibb led the 400 metre swim and moved on to the 3,000 metre run phase, managing to clinch a second consecutive victory in the Tri-Star 3 age group.

Year 8 pupil Toby Rigg claimed second place over-

all in the Tri-Star 2 category, while in the Tri-Star 1 category, Crackley Hall's ten-year-old participant Madoc Williams, who has spent the summer recovering from injury, finished in third place.

Princethorpe College teacher Emma Litterick, who accompanied the pupils at the event, said: "After a busy first week back at school, it's fantastic to see our athletes across the foundation getting straight back into competition. With a victory at both ends of the age groups, this is an excellent start to the new sporting season."

Visit southamtriathlon.org.uk/aquathlon for more.

European silvers for Luke, who was inspired by 2012 Olympics

Shooting

Inspired by watching the London Olympics in 2012, 14-year-old Princethorpe College pupil Luke Daniel and his dad, Simon, took a trip to their local shooting club, Cosford Shooting Ground, with the aim of enjoying a hobby together.

Two years later - and with an average score of 89% - Daniel has his eye on the target of possible England selection.

Skeet competitors fire at clay targets that are mechanically flung from different angles. Described by Luke as a 'mind game' it challenges concentration and reflexes to the highest degree.

The American Skeet specialist already holds the title of County Colt Champion, Junior Iron Man Champion and the British Skeet Shooting Association's Rookie Champion.

Competitions at this level often take place over two or three days with competitors firing up to 500 shots in a series of rounds.

"There are 100 clays in each round," explained Luke. "And the aim is quite simply to hit as many targets as you can in a given time period. It's draining but equally rewarding."

Most recently, in the European Skeet Championships held in Dartford, Luke achieved a fine number of second places at Junior level in the various technical gauge categories.

Luke recognises the need for further practice if he is to be seriously considered for future England selection.

"I'm going to have to work hard on improving my registered average," he said. "Like



Skeet shooter Luke Daniel, a student at Princethorpe College

in golf your average enables you to shoot in different categories often against older players. If I can maintain this then I'm pretty optimistic that this goal can be achieved."

Dad Simon recognises that he has been beaten fair and square by the skill of his son. "Yes, I'd be lying if I didn't say it bothered me, but ultimately I'm so proud of how far he has come," he added.

Molly reels in UK Irish dancing champion crown

by Ian Hughes
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When I found out I'd won I was just so excited."

Molly, who trains four times a week, is now preparing for the World Regional Qualifiers later this month - although she will not have far to travel as they are being held in Coventry.

She will be joined by a number of Crackley Hall Irish dancers including fellow junior competitor Julia Loftus who also took part in the All Ireland Championships and performed well in her first major competition.

Crackley Hall Headteacher Rob Duigan said: "What outstanding news for both Molly and Julia. We are so proud of what they have achieved against dancers from all over the world. The energy and commitment level is something all of us at the school can learn from."

Performing before a packed audience is becoming second nature to the modest youngster who confessed her absolute surprise at being crowned champion.

"I thought I had danced well even though it was a bit nerve wracking and I could see that I had been given high marks by some of the judges.



All Ireland Irish Dancing Champion Molly McGroary. (8)

Heptathlete strikes gold at nationals

Following in the revered footsteps of Jessica Ennis-Hill, Princethorpe College heptathlete star Annabelle Pask swept the board at the English Schools' Athletics Association's National Combined Events Championships by winning the senior ladies category.

This elevates the Godiva Harrier's U20 national ranking to third behind Morgan Lake and Olivia Montez-Brown.

Securing a championship total of 4918 points has made the long hours of training all the more worthwhile as Pask, now fully recovered from an ankle injury, is feeling on top of the world.

The two-day event held at Bedford's International Stadium began with an excellent 100m hurdles, a favoured discipline, where Pask ran clear of the 34-deep field to win in a time of 1.70seconds.

A confidence boosting high jump of 1.66m gave her a 2cm personal best.

Warwickshire Team Manager Gwil Price said: "The all-important 1.65m clearance palpably changed Annabelle's demeanour."

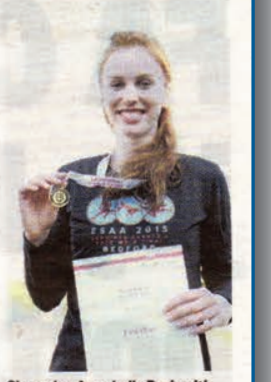
"She suddenly became an athlete with a 'can-do' attitude." Aiming for an 11-metre shot Pask dropped just 5 centimetres before having a hurried 90-minute turn-around to set up her blocks for the 200 metres.

Her lane draw wasn't good either so she felt to come out with 26.35secs was fair all things considered.

With a 100-point lead at the end of day one the second day was all about holding things together.

Beginning with a secure long jump of 5.46m under her belt Pask then went on to mimic fellow GB star Katarina Johnson-Thompson by pulling out an almighty final jump only for it to be given the red flag by the most minute of measurements.

"I was gutted about that because I knew that with that distance I could have edged nearer to a total score of over 5000 points but I had to put it



Champion Annabelle Pask with her medal and certificate

behind me and focus on the javelin."

Without having thrown over 30-metres all season Pask was hoping that a recent session with GB javelin coach Mike McNeil would pay dividends.

"Mike had tweaked a few things including my run up and foot plant. It made all the difference as each of my throws went over the 30-metre mark with my final throw another PB at 32.67."

With almost certain victory at her fingertips as event seven, the 800 metres dawned, Annabelle admits to losing some focus.

"I tried hard to stick with the leading pack but in the final 100 metres my legs just went." Her time of 2:32.09 mins was still enough to take gold with a margin of 116 points.

Princethorpe College Director of Sport Neil McCollin celebrated Annabelle's exciting victory: "To put it bluntly, she is a star," he said.

"She combines her A Level studies alongside training and produces the goods both in the classroom and on the athletics field. She is a class act."

"Annabelle is aiming to win a sports scholarship to study Bio-Medical Engineering at Stanford University, California, so this recent result will surely put her in contention for achieving this next step in her career."

Please email your reports and results to: sport@rugbyadvertiser.co.uk Deadline is 1pm on Tuesdays, but the earlier the better please