



LEGO Braille Bricks

We are so excited about our recent collaboration with The LEGO Foundation and LEGO Group in the trial of ground-breaking LEGO Braille Bricks, which will help blind and vision impaired children learn through play. NCW jumped at the opportunity to test the prototype and show the potential of learning with LEGO Braille Bricks in the classroom, which has so far included Mathematics, English and Spanish.

LEGO Braille Bricks are moulded with the same number of studs used for individual letters and numbers in the Braille alphabet, while remaining fully compatible with the LEGO System in Play. To ensure the tool is inclusive, allowing sighted teachers, students and family members to interact on equal terms, each brick will also feature a printed letter or character. This ingenious combination brings a whole new and playful

approach to encourage blind and vision impaired children to engage with learning Braille, enabling them to develop a breadth of skills needed to thrive and succeed in a fast-paced world.

Braille Bricks is a game changer in the vision impaired world – for both learning and teaching. The final LEGO Braille Bricks kit is expected to launch in 2020 and will be distributed free of charge to select institutions through participating partner networks. It will contain approximately 250 LEGO Braille Bricks covering the full alphabet, numbers 0-9, select maths symbols and inspiration for teaching and interactive games.

Carnegie Awards

A group of keen reading Year 9 students were lucky enough to be invited to the annual CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Book Awards.

The CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway medals are the UK's oldest and most prestigious children's book awards, and recognise both outstanding writing and illustration in books for young people.

Students at NCW were excited to be involved in 'shadowing' the judging process for the Book Awards; they were able to read, discuss and review the shortlisted books selected, and many students had their own ideas of who they thought should win! The group also discussed the ways in

which they accessed the books, whether it is by Braille, large print or electronically, and how that changed the reading experience.

They were all eager to find out who would win the awards!

After a smooth journey to the hustle and bustle of London by train and tube (albeit with a slight downpour of rain!), students made their way to the iconic British Library where the awards ceremony was being held.

Chelsea was thrilled that she had the chance to meet and speak to a few of the authors before the ceremony commenced including Frances Hardinge, author of 'A

Skinful of Shadows', and Kwame Alexander, Author of 'Rebound'.

Chelsea said "I wanted to speak to Frances in particular on the idea she had behind the book, as it is so dystopian but a great read. This was my favourite book from the shortlist."

Students heard many inspiring speeches from Librarians, Amnesty (human rights organisation) as well as award-winning authors, Elizabeth Acevedo and Jackie Morris.

We have definitely been inspired to read much more, and we look forward to being involved in next year's shortlist!



Ooh arr, me hearties!

The chapel and LRC at New College Worcester played host to fierce, roaring pirates, cowardly policeman and whimsical daughters for the

collaboration of the Music and Drama departments' 'The Pirates of Penzance'.

The Gilbert and Sullivan's classic

comic, operatic musical was directed by Ms Jones and Mrs Christie with assistance from Musical Theatre teacher, Mr Painter, who actually had to step into the breach when two of the lead characters were struck down at the last minute by a sickness bug.

The strong cast rehearsed solidly for five months and the hard work shone through. The lead actors' voices were superb. Carys and Grace did a wonderful job in their final roles on the NCW stage and Tobias and Chelsea are certainly talents to watch. Staff and parents agreed it was a fantastic show and we are all incredibly proud of the students and their efforts.





Traveller's Tales!

As part of the EU-funded Erasmus project which NCW is involved in with schools from five other countries in Europe, some KS3 students have experienced the life and rich culture of Poland, Romania and Bulgaria.

In March, Mr Snowdon and Mrs James led a visit to Santau in Romania. Students were excited to discover that this is actually in Transylvania! The students found out about the Roman origins of the country, as well as modern culture.

In early May, Mrs Belton and Mrs Tappenden took a group to Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. They were in the centre of the city so this was a very different experience. They also went up into the mountains and visited an Eastern Orthodox monastery – the mixture of Slavic and Ottoman influence on the architecture was really impressive.

A large part of all trips is meeting and socialising with young people from across Europe. Everyone was grateful for the hospitality provided by the host schools and the friendship of everyone from across the continent.

View the galleries on our website for more pictures!



Sports News



Cricket News!



Well done to all who took part in the MCC Cricket Match in June! Under the captaincy of Tom, this was the first match for the NCW team after a year of training. Although the NCW team lost 53 - 97, to get 50 up from only 11 overs is a great achievement. Congratulations to student Andrew, who received the MCC cap for Spirit to Cricket! A special thanks goes to Tom who has worked so hard this year to develop the team over the last few months and showed fantastic leadership skills captaining the NCW team.

Only a few days later Tom's hard work all paid off as he led the student team to victory over the staff at the much-contested Staff versus Students end of year cricket fixture! Miss Ross was devastated as, on Celebration Day, she presented Tom with the award. She has vowed to turn it round for next year!

Your School Games

Year 8 students Rico, Klara, Daniel and Carys were delighted to visit Bromsgrove School and compete in New Age Kurling as part of the Your School Games. The games brought together primary and secondary schools from all over Worcestershire who challenged each other in football, netball and hockey to name a few! Students also got to meet inspiring young man Charlie Fogarty, who opened the games with a brilliant speech!





Great at Goalball

At the beginning of May NCW was represented at a goalball tournament by two teams, the Wolves and The Worcester Warriors. The Wolves came in eighth place and The Worcester Warriors came in second. We asked Hasan about his experience with the team; he replied with "It was very exciting, gave me an adrenaline rush and was lots of fun!"

In March, Stuart represented Great Britain in the International Trakai Goalball Tournament in Lithuania. The Men's U23's (Stuart's team) gave an excellent performance and won a Bronze! Well done Stuart.



A very big well done to Stuart and the rest of the GB U23's Men's Goalball UK Team who competed at the European Paralympic Youth Games in Finland! Their fight, dedication and hard work got them a bronze medal - a magnificent achievement!

Great Britain are also sending an U19 female talent team to the World Championships in Sydney Australia, for the first time in their history and NCW student Chelsea is part of the team. This is a fantastic opportunity for the young athletes. The competition will be in Sydney Australia from 2nd - 10th August 2019.

Chelsea is one of a squad of nine who will be competing against teams from Australia, Brazil, Japan, Germany and Russia.

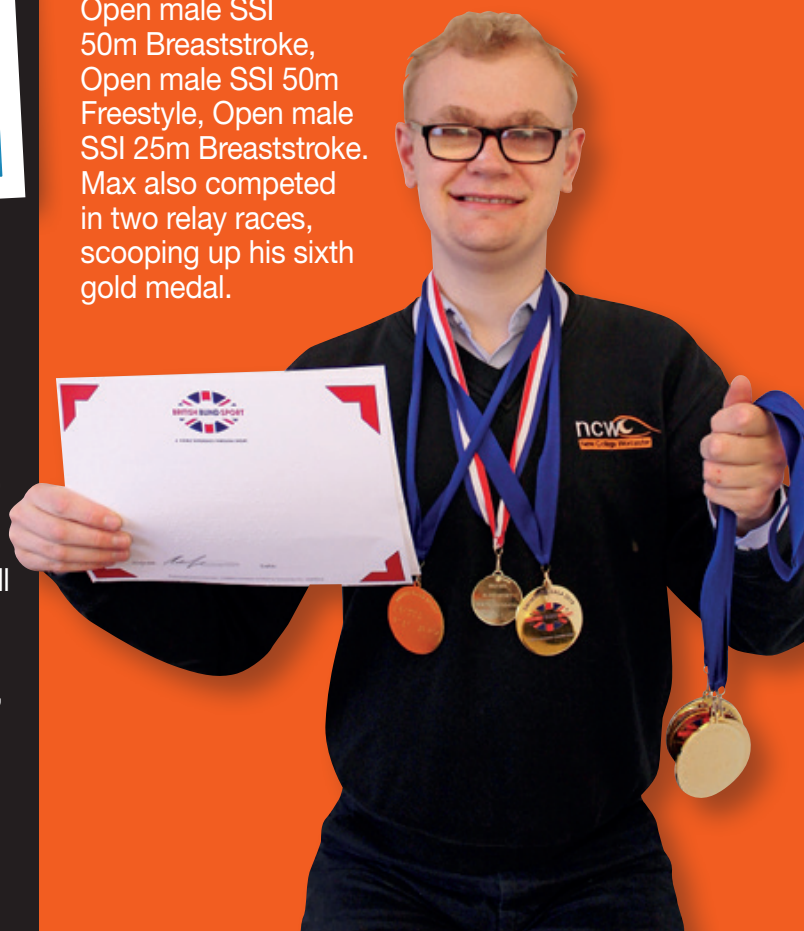


Swimming Success!

Student Max made a splash at the British Blind Sport National Youth Swimming Gala, and scooped up a whopping six gold medals.

At the end of March, the University of Birmingham Sports and Fitness Club played host to the BBS National Youth Swimming Gala 2019. The event has been held successfully for over 20 years and is the only vision impaired specific youth swimming competition in the UK, attracting participants from across the country.

Keen swimmer and sixth former Max jumped right in at the deep end and competed in a number of races - winning all of them; Open male SSI 25m Freestyle, Open male SSI 25m Backstroke, Open male SSI 50m Breaststroke, Open male SSI 50m Freestyle, Open male SSI 25m Breaststroke. Max also competed in two relay races, scooping up his sixth gold medal.



Out of School Gymnastics

Dot's resident Stanley has always had an interest in gymnastics so it is great that he has joined a local gymnastics class to expand his knowledge of the sport. Even in the first class he was able to successfully complete advanced moves for his level and by the end of the hour he was very hot and tired - which are signs he really did exert himself!

Driving Experience

Sixth Form students had such fun getting behind the wheel and experiencing what it might be like to learn to drive! Using the vast space at Turweston Aerodrome, students could safely navigate the way-marked roads. Thank you to Driving Ambition for facilitating a brilliant experience.

Musical Theatre Exams

Huge congratulations to students Carys, Grace and Harvey who have all received Distinctions in their Musical Theatre exams - they are also the first to do these exams run by the London College of Music - what an achievement!



A Right Royal Day

It seems a long time ago now since we were honoured to receive a visit from HRH The Princess Royal. What a brilliant day we all had with the whole school involved in one way or another. The visit was to celebrate the work of our overseas volunteers via Latitude Global Volunteering. HRH received a tour of many areas and facilities at NCW, and took the time to engage with lots of our students, volunteers, staff and associates. There were many proud moments - well done everyone!

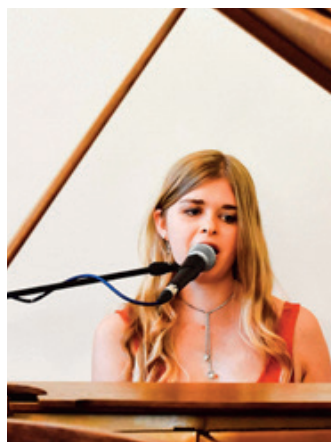
It's all 'Good!'

We were delighted with the results of not one, but two, Ofsted inspections recently. With Ofsted Education and Ofsted Care in school at the same time, it was a busy week for staff and students. Thank you to all the staff, students and parents who spoke to the Inspectors and shared their experiences which resulted in two such positive outcomes.

Science

Thank you to Tactile Collider for providing such a fun and engaging science workshop for our students this term as part of the Cheltenham Science Festival. Well done to the students for asking great questions and getting involved.

Drama School for Grace



Sixth Form student Grace has been celebrating this term after receiving an exciting offer to fulfil her dream at Drama School in September!

Grace has been busy auditioning for a place at the Guildford School of Acting (GSA) - one of the most highly regarded

theatre schools in the UK. Grace is a singer, pianist and songwriter, and is a high achieving student at NCW. Nervous but ready for her GSA audition, Grace participated in a dance workshop with other applicants (a routine chosen by GSA), and had to perform a song of her choosing, execute a short act and showcase her talent on the piano to the panel. Grace was delighted to be offered a conditional place at Guildford School of Acting!

Code Jumper

NCW students have been part of a group of students across the UK who have been beta testing Project Torino, a research project that led to the development of a new product called Code Jumper. It's a physical programming language designed to be inclusive for children with all ranges of vision. With Code Jumper, experts look to jump start computer science interest for children who are blind or vision impaired.

Students use brightly coloured plastic pods, connecting them together with thick white wires

and then adjusting the pod's buttons and knobs. These physical components will be used to create computer programs that can tell stories, make music and even crack jokes.

"What I like about Project Torino is that you can actually touch, physically, the program" said Victoria. "I just felt very independent, and I liked that" said Daniel, who at 11 years old already knows he wants to pursue a career in computer science. "It kind of made me inspired to do more coding." With Code Jumper, they said they were immediately

able to experiment and build programs.

The nonprofit's leaders say the goal isn't just to introduce children to coding – it's also to give them the underlying skills that can lead to a career in computer science, creating an opportunity for thousands of people to have meaningful and well-paid jobs.



Horsing around!

A very big well done to Year 8 riding enthusiast, Carys, who attended a Riding for the Disabled competition earlier in the term. Carys qualified in the National RDA Championships for the Walk, Trot, Dressage and 1ft 6" Show Jumping competitions - and here she is showing off her rosettes. Carys rode her new horse Sunny-Day.



Fundraising News

Date for your diary

The Walk, Rest and Rail sponsored walk, kindly sponsored by Thursfields Solicitors, unfortunately had to be postponed due to bad weather in June. We have a new date - Sunday 15th September. We'd love you to join us on this wonderful walk in the Worcestershire countryside before finishing at the Ship Inn for refreshments. For more details please visit our website or email emillward@ncw.co.uk



Eye Care We Care

Eye Care, We Care month – October 2019

The idea behind this new campaign is to raise awareness and funds for NCW. Lots of individuals and companies have already pledged their support and are holding dress down days, bucket collections and events. Get involved by emailing Ele Millward – emillward@ncw.co.uk or give her a call on 01905 763933.

Waitrose – Worcester will be holding a wine tasting event on Tuesday 22nd October, further details to follow.

Do something small – achieve something great

Regular Giving is a great way to support us and is so easy to set up. Each gift adds up and really does help make a difference. We'd love you to be part of our students' journey and help create brighter futures. One of our regular givers said, "It's an excellent way of providing a stable income for a cause you feel passionate about". For more information please go to the website or ring 01905 763933 for a standing order form.



Fundraising News

Join the team and volunteer with us!

We're looking for a volunteer to help in our fundraising department. If you have a few hours to spare for an on-going project please get in touch with Kevin Hateley on 01905 763933 or email khateley@ncw.co.uk

Student fundraising

The Senior Student Team got stuck into the fundraising for Comic Relief this year and had everyone busy baking ready for our Comic Relief Bake Off! The goods were judged and the results were: Sean came in third place with chocolate cupcakes, in second place we had Ryley with his chocolate sponge and Ollie took first place with his delicious bread! The various activities raised almost £400 for this worthwhile charity.

Nouvelles salles de classe! Nuevas aulas! Neue Klassenzimmer!

The refurbishment of our Modern Foreign Languages classrooms is now complete! They are looking really fresh, donning our corporate colours. We will soon be moving on to our Art, Drama and Humanities areas of the College. Special thanks go to St James's Place and The Percy Bilton Charity for their contributions to the project.

Thank you

A big thank you to everyone who has supported the College during this academic year, whether it's been through a grant, a donation, volunteering your time or promoting the College. It really is appreciated

as we wouldn't be able to achieve the things we do without your support. Thanks to your generosity we can continue to update classrooms and residential accommodation and provide the best opportunities possible for our students.



Adventure Calls!

A group of excited **Year 9s** eagerly packed their bags and were whisked off to Aberdovey for 5 days of action-packed residential fun! Arriving on the beach, the group enjoyed a spot of lunch and a run around on the sand before heading off to the Outward Bound education centre to be welcomed and get settled. The much anticipated first activity was the 'Jog and Dip', where students jogged down to the water's edge and took a chilly dip in the sea! Tuesday was the much loved trapeze jump, where some students faced their fear of heights, followed by exploration of a nearby mine and attempting the challenge wall! Canoeing on the river was on the cards for Wednesday, followed by a boat ride over the Dyfi estuary and a quick swim. The group then spent a day in Barmouth, where they had a go at climbing and got cosy around a beach fire to roast marshmallows! The week's final challenge was

the much-loved jetty jumping! The jetty is a famous, iconic landmark in the village of Aberdovey and the students were very eager to have a go! Well done to everyone for pushing themselves out of their comfort zone!

Years 7 and 8 had a combined camp this year for a truly fabulous, if tiring, couple of days. The students were amazing and staff and students have made memories that will stay with them forever. Activities included erecting their own tents and sleeping in the outdoors, canoeing, paddle boarding, a Malvern Hills climb, bowling, a walk in the Forest of Dean searching for sculptures, tandem riding in the Forest of Dean, camp BBQ and songs around the camp fire. The students

all looked after each other, supported each other and were always willing to give things a go to discover that it wasn't quite so scary after all.

For more photographs of our adventures, view the Gallery on the NCW website.





STEM Event

Thank you to students from local secondary school Tudor Grange Academy, who came along to our STEM day at NCW! Students had the chance to experience a Science experiment whilst wearing sim specs, find out about the different technologies students with a visual impairment might use and even tried their hand at Braille!



Reunion Weekend

We had a wonderful long weekend in June for a series of reunion events. The Former Students' Association met up for a weekend at the Fownes Hotel in Worcester which included the annual AGM, dinner and quiz. Also during the weekend the sun shone as NCW hosted their own Reunion BBQ – a relaxed opportunity to catch up with old classmates over an informal drink and lunch. With leavers from every decade it was a wonderful opportunity to catch up and find out what everyone is up to.

Alumni News!

We were delighted to hear that 2014 leaver Jack has been awarded Alumni of the Year by Birmingham University where he studied Maths. 23-year-old Jack is also thought to have become the first blind British man to reach the summit of Europe's highest mountain.

Jack Garner faced winds of more than 50mph, -37C wind chill and a longer stay than usual on Mount Elbrus due to extreme weather conditions. Jack got involved seriously in mountaineering in 2015. He has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro over a six-day trip and in 2016 he took part in an 11-day Everest

base camp trek. Eventually, in 2018, he decided to take on Mount Elbrus. In total, he spent eight exhausting days on the mountain. How did he feel when he reached the summit? "It's the best feeling there is."

We were also delighted to learn at the reunion that former Head Boy Eddy has achieved a first class Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Birmingham in Business Management! Congratulations Eddy!

We were delighted to welcome back to NCW former student Holly – who has been with us



on her work placement as part of her teaching course. It was interesting for Holly to be on the other side of the classroom this time!

If you are a former student and would like to share your news, you can sign up to our online alumni networking site – ncw-connect – and start re-connecting!

News from the Houses!



Green fingers!

Students in **Bradnack** house have turned green-fingered! They have been busy sourcing plants from the garden centre and sowing seeds for their team garden project!

Luck of the Irish

Back in March it was hard not to feel lucky with the abundance of festivities for St Patrick's Day. All the lower school boarding houses joined together to celebrate the very green occasion with quizzes, music and treats.

In **Bradnack**, Chelsea made some delicious cupcakes; the students created Shamrock decorations and painted their own Irish flag to decorate for the night!

Talent show

We have future stars among us! On an exciting Thursday night, we all gathered to hear the talents of the school at a New College Worcester talent show. We sang along to the music played, laughed with the comedy acts and even saw some impressions (ranging from goats to our own teachers). But it was Sydney, Ciara and Chelsea who took home the first place prize with their rendition of 'You Belong With Me' by Taylor Swift. Great singing girls!



Food from around the world

It was another fab evening in **Peggy Markes** house when lower school students celebrated all things Español! Staff and students tuned in to some Spanish music, tried lots of lovely food and had a competition to see who could do the best Spanish accent! - Alejandro came in top.



Students in **Peggy's** were also recently treated to a delicious traditional Indian meal cooked by Sonali's parents! Chole batura (fried bread), vegetable biriyani and raita were all on the menu, and students were able to learn about the different foods, ingredients and their origin!

Tech-Free Tuesday

In **Dorothy McHugh** Tech-Free Tuesday has continued its success at bringing the house closer and entertaining the students the old-fashioned way. We have been playing a game called "5 seconds" where the players have 5 seconds to say 3 answers to various questions, such as: name 3 things in the bathroom. This fast thinking game has become a regular in Dot's!



New College Worcester

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