

The Extracurricular Round-Up

SPRING 2024



Welcome to the second edition of the Extracurricular Round-Up!

The Spring Term was busy with a huge number of extra-curricular events taking place! From two drama productions (Antigone and The Addams Family) to the Spring Concert and Gym and Dance Show, we have been wowed by the incredible talents of our students. Below are the Spring Term reports from our non-sporting clubs and societies, providing students with a chance to celebrate all the wonderful things they have been exploring as part of the extra-curricular programme. As always, thank you to the staff and students who give up their free time to organise and run clubs; these wouldn't be possible without them. Please enjoy the round-up for the Spring Term.

Mr Coetzee
Deputy Headteacher

Afro Caribbean Society (ACS)

Report by Terin, 12F

In January, Year 9s acted as representatives of ACS for the Rwandan Memorial Service, performing an exciting Rwandan Dance to truly honour the Rwandan culture. Dance is something which many members of the ACS are passionate about, as it allows them to experience joy through harmonious Afro-Caribbean dancing. This was extended by their formidable STEP performance choreographed by Bianca in the Gym and Dance Show.

In February, we launched a narrative art project to allow ACS members to unleash their creativity by expressing what it means to be a black person. Many ACS members also decided to collaborate on their projects so that every person's contribution could be valued.



At the end of February, we said goodbye to our former amazing ACS leaders, Leah and Brienna, who will always be remembered for their dedication to leading the ACS to success! This swiftly led to the re-election of the new ACS leaders, which includes myself, Amiah, Beyonce, Nya, Rheyra and Akpene. Here, we commenced by launching a debate on the challenges experienced by black people in modern society, where everyone offered remarkable responses.

In June, we plan to launch a Charity Movie Afternoon, where the whole school will be invited to watch a movie, with the opportunity to buy drinks, popcorn and sweets. This event will aim to raise money to support impoverished countries in Africa. Additionally, we plan to bring an experienced STEP dance teacher to enable for ACS members to master their skills in STEP dancing.

The ACS takes place every Wednesday in 13:30, and so everyone is welcome to come regardless of their ethnicity. The ACS is all about embracing difference and celebrating culture!

Anime and Manga Club

Report by Beatrice 12A

This term we have explored more genres and discovered some underrated series. Overall, it was another fun term of activities including quizzes and entertaining discussions about favourite characters.

Board Games Club

Report by Vicky 12E

Board Games Club is a great place to unwind with friends! In a time of ever-evolving technology it's easy to get overwhelmed so it's important to appreciate the simplicity of board games (if you don't count adding 50 new rules to Uno). In a place as cosy as the Library, Board Games Club gives you a perfect mood boost to get you through the rest of the week. I highly recommend attending.

Bollywood Dance Club

Report by Rakshika 12E

Bollywood Dance Club has had another eventful term with vibrant performances and weekly sessions, where members have learnt various Bollywood dances. These sessions have not only refined their dance techniques but also provided a platform for students to express themselves creatively.

One of this term's highlights was the club's participation in the Gym and Dance show, where the dancers dazzled the audience with their electrifying performance. They performed 3 songs: "Jhoomo Jo Pathaan", "Chikni Chameli" and the Hindi version of the Oscar-winning song "Naacho Naacho". These dances were meticulously choreographed and taught by our 3 teachers. The hard work and dedication of the dancers paid off, and they all danced to perfection.

After the show, the students had the opportunity to perform in the Holi assembly, where they showcased their wonderful talent once again. They performed a semi-classical dance to the song "Rangi Saari" and a Bollywood dance to the song "Balam Pichkari". Despite having only one session to learn the dance, they managed to dance flawlessly. Their performance was met with an enthusiastic and well-deserved applause from the whole school.

Next term, Bollywood Dance Club has more exciting and fun sessions planned, along with more performance opportunities! The club aims to continue promoting diversity and to create an inclusive space for students to express themselves through the joys of Bollywood dance.

Bollywood Dance Club runs every Monday in the Dance Studio, so please do come along!

BSL Club

Report by Amelie 7F

This term we have covered a range of topics including saying where you live, transport and travel, numbers and personal description. I have really enjoyed learning a new language and learning new signs. My favourite sign is for France as you sign a moustache. It's possible it may become a GCSE in the next few years! BSL meets on a Tuesday Lunchtime at 1:30 in T8.

Chemistry Society

Report by Saffron Adey 12A and Nivah Vyas 12C

This term has been full of investigation and experiments! We conducted the 'Power Up' coin battery experiment which was recommended by the Royal Society of Chemistry and Oxford University. We were also very lucky to be given the chance to make slime. This was an interactive way of learning about polymers (which was a great head-start for the younger years). Other discussions have included artificial sweeteners where we dissected their discovery, chemical makeup and the effects they may have on us. We also discovered the chemistry of music through a series of documentaries.

However, the highlight of this term's meetings was definitely the elephant toothpaste experiment. Everyone had the chance to relight a glowing splint to prove the oxygen present within the soapy bubbles. This proved to be great fun and looked really cool!



If you like the sounds of doing fun experiments and learning something new every week then definitely come and join us at Chemistry Society!

Chess Club

Report by Jiya 12B

This term, our players have been meeting on Monday lunchtimes in HH3 and fostering a vibrant community of strategic thinkers. In our opening session, we looked at the history and benefits of chess and have since been engaged in (healthy) competition. Although the club comprises of players with a range of abilities, everyone has so far learnt something! From some fancy new chess rules to learning how the pieces move, every member of the club been enjoying themselves.

Looking ahead, we hope to start a chess tournament during the Summer term, so we encourage everyone to get some practice in and come and tell us if you learn any new moves in preparation!

Christian Union

Report by Merrie 12E

This term, Christian Union have been meeting regularly and fruitfully, and members have enjoyed the sessions. At the beginning of the term, we looked at God's promises to us, which members found supportive and comforting to explore. Later in the term, we planned and carried out "Random Acts of Kindness". Members had fun making coasters, posters and writing quotes to thank and inspire our very hardworking staff! In March, the members of Christian Union were invited to different departments in the school to help tidy up and carry out odd jobs for teachers. This was very rewarding and very helpful to the teachers too! We will continue to meet next term and spread compassion throughout the school.

Creative Writing Club

Report by Mr Montgomery

Following the publication of the second issue of our journal, there has been an increase in the number of students attending Creative Writing Club. This club continues to be a safe space for students to come and share their ideas and to express themselves. Each week we run exercises which have included writing a screenplay, creating a villain, using sensory imagery, dramatic monologues and many more. This term we decided to open submissions for the journal to the entire school and have been delighted by the response. We are currently finalising the third issue of 'The Watford Girls Review' which will be a collection of short pieces written around the theme of 'SPACE'. We look forward to sharing it with you!

Crest Science Award

Report by Mr Rushworth

The Crest Club has been successful again this year with another 12 students completing their project and presenting their work to obtain the Bronze Crest Award. Congratulations to all who took part!

Crochet Club

Report by Sakinah 12E

Crochet Club is a creative and relaxing outlet for me after a day of A level studies. The club helps me isolate all the stresses and focus on what I'm going to make next. I learnt how to start crocheting and the best part is admiring everyone's new creations!" – A sixth form member.

Crochet Club has had a fantastic term with its first ever competition! The entries for 'Crochet a Bookmark,' competition were phenomenal! All bookmarks were creative, neat and looked absolutely stunning!

Congratulations to Elena in Year 8 who was our overall winner and well done to all those who participated!

For the upcoming term, we hope to have a few more exciting events that will showcase more creativity, an end of year crochet sale and another competition! We hope to see many more of you joining us in the next term. It may seem daunting at first but the hardest part is always getting started. All are welcome.



Debating Society

Report by Millie and Acacia 10F

On the 6th February we attended the Oxford Great Debate, a competition adapted to an online format mirroring the layout of the British Parliament. The experience proved to be extraordinary, offering us a unique opportunity to delve into the nuances of parliamentary-style discussions and debates. We experienced first-hand glimpses into the art of forming rebuttals and arguments. The competition consisted of two rounds. We were given a motion and our position and 5 minutes to prepare our speeches. Our first motion was "As a secondary school student this house would actively use generative AI to assist with the completion of school work." We were given the positions of closing opposition. In our second round, we debated the motion of incentives given to workforces to encourage men into historically female-dominated roles such as nursing and teaching. Our fellow debaters each contributed in a way that served to deepen our understanding of these complex and current issues as well as sharpening our rhetorical skills.

Participating in the Oxford British Parliamentary Schools Debate Competition was an enlightening experience. It provided us with the opportunity to engage in rigorous and fast-paced debates on diverse topics, improving our critical thinking and public speaking. As a pair, we had to utilize the knowledge we had on the motion and our ability to think on our feet. The experience was intense and heated, and although we narrowly missed a spot in the final, we found it very rewarding.

Dungeons & Dragons Society

Report by Ella 12E

This term, we have finished creating characters and have begun our first exciting campaign! Club sessions are fun, lighthearted, and a little unhinged — but that's the fun of the game!

Some quotes from our members:

"DnD Club is very cool and definitely the best club in the whole school. I've had a lot of fun this half term watching the campaigns and seeing what funny stuff the other members come up with!" – Amita

"DnD Club this half term has been fun! I've especially enjoyed meeting new people and role playing. I look forward to new encounters. DnD Club is the best club out there!" – Merrie

Eco-Committee

Report by Anjali 13C

This term we have continued some common activities such as discussions about current events, signing petitions, emailing local MPs and quizzes. The younger members of the club have started to take the lead on

more sessions as they are thinking of running it in the future. They have done presentations and are taking the lead on running activities for Earth Day with Mrs Brummerstadt. We have spent time planning events for this, such as a recycling challenge for Year 7. We've been making posters and organising roles to run this. We have also been talking about plans for the future of the club. Future discussions will include ways in which we can live sustainably in the long term with an emphasis on accessibility.

Feminist Society

Report by Ms Rowley

FemSoc has certainly been busy this term! Each week our attendees discuss a plethora of issues, both past and current. With Tanaaya at the helm, the students have got their teeth into women in sport, period poverty and what it is to be a feminist in 2024. This year's International Women's Day celebrated inclusion with the students running an assembly and putting on a charity event which was particularly apt; a movie showing of Greta Gerwig's 'Barbie,' a postmodern exploration of feminism. We look forward to the summer term and continuing to fight for gender equality!

Government & Politics Society (GAPS)

Report by Nadia 12H

This term, GAPS has hosted three amazing events! First of all, we had Bob Nutter, a former teacher who used to work at our school and an educational consultant, share his thoughts on the future of the NHS. This was eye-opening and particularly interesting for students who wish to pursue medicine as a career. Next, we welcomed Zack Polanski, the Deputy Leader of the Green Party, who discussed his party's values and the need for electoral reform. This was beneficial for Politics students, as electoral reform is part of the Politics A level specification. Following the event, Zack was interviewed by students for our school's Economics magazine! Lastly, we organised a bake sale that raised £55 to fund our society. Thank you so much to everyone who attended and helped make these events successful. Make sure you look out for more by following @wggsgaps!

Hindu Society

Report by Rakshika 12E

Hindu Society continues to promote cultural awareness and understanding of the rich heritage of Hinduism amongst the students at WGGGS. We have had quite a few events this term. One of the sessions was a captivating and thought-provoking talk on the Bhagavad Gita and how we can apply some of the key lessons in our day-to-day lives.

The highlight of this term was having opportunity to participate in the Holi assembly. Hindu Society performed a drama based on the story of Holi. The students had practised the play thoroughly and their efforts paid off as it was met with an enthusiastic and well-deserved applause from the whole school.

Next term, we have more exciting events planned. Hindu Society hopes to invite renowned speakers to give insightful talks on various aspects of Hindu philosophy, mythology, and spirituality. These talks will provide a comprehensive understanding of the diversity within Hinduism and its relevance in today's day and age.

Hindu Society is open to students from all religious backgrounds! We hope to see you all there next term!

Islamic Society

Report by Miss Naqvi

Islamic Society has had an extremely busy term as the holy month of Ramadan began in March. Our team of sixth formers ran our weekly sessions on how to make the most of this blessed month. We concluded the term with our annual charity Iftar dinner that raised over £1000, profits go to Islamic Relief UK.

We were blessed to welcome over 150 guests to share iftar - the meal which Muslims break their fast with. It was heart-warming to see the wonderful sense of community spirit as a mixture of staff, students, family and friends shared excellent food and much laughter. Our Watford Girls community values were on display throughout the evening from the collaboration shown by the volunteers in ensuring the event went smoothly



We'd like to thank our guest speaker Syed Ammar Ali Naqvi for his enlightening words on justice; Sakina (Y13) Sakinah (Y12), Aisha (Y12), Mariam (Y10) and Shehzadi (Y7) and Mrs Khan for reciting Quran and supplications. We are also grateful to Tarboush, Taste of Lahore, Clucksters, Wings Factory, Tops Pizza, Oodles and Maemaes for their kind

donations, the site team for all their assistance and to the compassion shown by all in raising funds for Islamic Relief. Finally, we'd like to express our immense gratitude to all involved for making the evening a wonderful occasion. During this incredible event, our guests were able to enjoy having henna applied by our Watford Girls professionals. This contributed towards our donations to charity.

Jewish Society

Report by Mrs Smith

Jewish Society have heard from a range of charities and speakers this term. We've heard about how Jewish Blind and Disabled supports disabled members of the community and how Keshet UK supports LGBTQ+ young people. We have also celebrated Purim with tasty hamantaschen.

Junior Classics Society

Report by Anna 12D (with help from Trisha 7E, Eliza 7E, Nomsa 7E, Judith 7E, Karis 7E, Agatha 7G, Vincy 7E, Candice 7D, Afrin 8A and Shriya 8A)



When we asked the Junior Classics Society members what their favourite thing was about attending the club, they immediately began listing the multitude of interesting activities and topics we've covered since the beginning of the year. We pride ourselves on being a very interactive club, with our weekly activities including mummifying a hand-made doll, a pyramid building competition, scavenger hunts, playing the role of the fates and weaving our own designs. The leaders of this club are fun and kind role models (thank you!), and members enjoy learning new things about the ancient world, making and strengthening new friendships and how interactive the sessions are. As we go into the Summer Term, we intend to run some activities outside in the sun while the weather is nice. We love encouraging friendly competition within the group activities, and sometimes give out chocolate and other prizes to the winners of the day, and the students have said this adds a sense of excitement to the sessions. Overall, Junior Classics Society is an educational but exciting club that is a joy to run every week, and we welcome all new members with open arms!

Junior Medical Society

Report by Hritika 11G and Lucy 11D

Lucy and I have been running Junior Medical Society since October. There have been a large amount of people attending and the society have hosted activities on really interesting sessions on topics ranging from making anatomy out of sweets to debates on genetic engineering. Unfortunately, we had our last session in March since we have our GCSE exams soon, but it's been a brilliant experience!

Junior Science Club

Report by Simran 13H

During the Spring term, Junior Science Club have continued to conduct new experiments to allow for pupils to further develop their understanding of science, adding on to what they learn during lessons. Every Tuesday lunchtime in MB26 members have been partaking in activities to widen their knowledge of the periodic table, learning about wildlife as well as the science behind naturally occurring phenomena such as the Northern Lights. Members have had the opportunity to make slime and invisible ink, allowing them to learn about how the composition of these substances links to its physical properties. In addition, we have also conducted flame tests to show us how to identify and test for various metals through the different colours that were produced. Members are inquisitive and continue to be eager to see the results of these experiments. In the future, we hope to conduct further experiments that link to topics that students will be studying in lessons.

K-POP Club

Report by Abirah 13F

Throughout the Spring Term, K-pop club has remained a fun and friendly environment for K-pop enthusiasts and casual listeners, hosting engaging activities such as checking out new releases, holding listening sessions, doing plenty of quizzes, and photocard decorating which was the most popular activity of this term. Members brought in their own photocards and used the range of resources we provided to decorate their cards in their own unique styles. K-pop club will be back with new activities in the Summer Term. Join us every Tuesday lunchtime in MB3!



MFL Choir

Report by Miss Barker

In its first-ever year at WGGs, the MFL Choir has gone from strength to strength. Students have worked together to select songs in French, German or Spanish that they'd like to learn; we've then pooled our collective language skills together to teach everyone the songs. So far, we've learned Juli's 'Perfekte Welle', Louane's 'Je vole', Papá Levante's 'Se me va la cabeza', the traditional song 'Campana Sobre Campana' and Karol G's 'Contigo' (to name a few!). A particular highlight was our Christmas performance and we're looking forward to a performance of 'Je vole' later in the year!

Senior Medical Society

Report by Simran 13H

Senior Medical Society is open to Year 12s as a place for aspiring medics, dentists, vets and even those interested in a career in the healthcare industry. We discuss and ask questions about their future career during Friday lunchtime. With sessions led by Med Soc leaders, members have been given the opportunity to present to the rest of the club any topic that they feel passionate or interested in. Presenters have encouraged other members to continue to research the medical sector in their own time at the same time as improving their presenting skills. In addition, the Year 13 leaders have also provided information on pathways into medicine by explaining timelines, providing personal experiences of the application process and advising on how best to prepare applications. In future sessions we hope to continue to help support the Year 12s in their applications.

Swiftie Society

Report by Safaa 12B

Swiftie Society continues to welcome students from across the key stages to enjoy their lunchtime filled with song, joy and 'bejewelled' fun. Swiftie Society has offered lots of activities this term including quizzes, bracelet making and watching the Taylor Swift Documentary, all of which have been very popular with the society's members. Looking forward, Swiftie Society are aiming to organise a fundraiser in the upcoming term to help raise money to run more bracelet making sessions which always draw in a large crowd.

Uno Club

Report by Hannah 12B

It's been another good term for Uno club. People from all year groups have been coming to play games with their friends; as it's become colder, the club has been an especially great place to hide from the elements! The most exciting part of this term has been discovering the (surprisingly large) range of UNO spin-off games. Did you know that there are 650 different types? Uno Club's favourites have included Uno All Wild, which is comprised of solely wild cards, and Uno Flip, which involves eight colours instead of just four.

Whichever variant of Uno is your favourite, if you fancy playing a game, come visit us on Monday lunchtimes in HH8!

Year 11 Physics Challenge

Report by Mrs Smith

Year 11 students have been working hard preparing for the Physics Challenge paper, and have worked well together to solve challenging problems. Students sat the paper on 5th March, and they should be very proud of their achievements.

Year 12-13 Form Book Group

Report by Jiya 12B

This term was slightly busier for Wider Reading Club with World Book Day being held in March. During the week of World Book Day, we published a newsletter every day and if anyone would like to see a copy, please stop by the library. We have also just finished our Spring Newsletter to (hopefully) provide some encouragement to read a wide variety of genres. If you haven't read it already, "Legendborn" is a wonderful book to pick up if you're looking for something to relax with.

Year 7 Drama Club

Report by Raphaella 12G, Sara 12D, Lucy 12G and Grace 12G

Year 7 Drama Club runs every Monday lunchtime in Upper Drama. We play a mixture of drama games, while allowing the Year 7s to practice their acting and devising in improv pieces. Just recently, we have cast them in our Snow White play. Rehearsals will begin next term and we hope to perform this at the Summer Soiree in July. Girls who want to perform else will also be given the chance to devise their own pieces that they can perform in summer.

Year 7 History Club

Report by Vani 7D and Maia 7D

This term, we have enjoyed watching Horrible Histories and Enola Holmes with the Year 12s who have just taken over running the club. They also run some quizzes & there are sweet prizes!

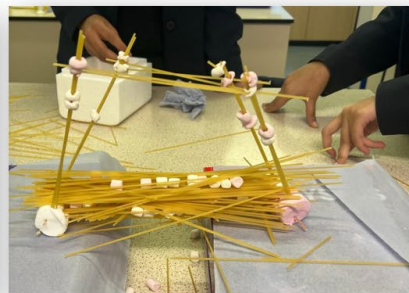
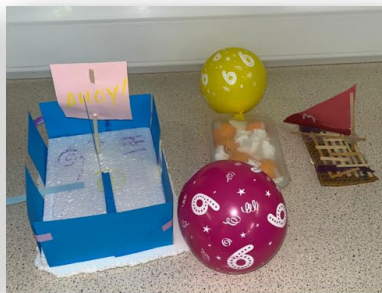
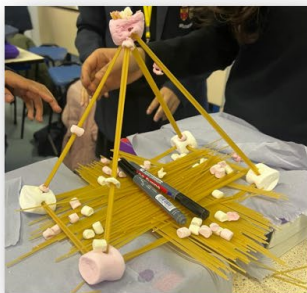
Year 7-10 Engineering Club

Report by Victoria 12C, Chahat 12C, Diya 12F and Aniya 12B

In first week back after Christmas, we made catapults. We started by talking about the different forces acting on the catapult and moments (which is essentially deciding if the system will tip). The students then had an opportunity to make the catapults themselves, using pencils, spoons, and rubber bands. We then had a competition to see whose catapult could fire an object the furthest. All the catapults that were made did in fact work and none of them broke!

We also held a discussion about Civil Engineering. We looked at some examples of real-life constructions such as roads, bridges, canals, drainage systems etc. We also talked about bridge building and the importance of the materials used as they are an integral part of the lifetime of the structure. After presenting some examples of the shapes of bridges, we let the students use marshmallows and spaghetti to try and build the tallest and sturdiest bridge.

Our final investigation this term was into parachutes. We discussed the forces acting on the parachute and how they caused the parachute to move. After the discussion, members conducted the Egg Drop Challenge. They were given materials such as foam, cloth, and balloons from which they had to make a parachute to protect an egg. There were some very successful parachutes, with only one egg breaking.



Year 7-11 Computing Club

Report by Spencer 12E and Silvia 12D

This term we have spent a lot of time codebreaking, using micro:bits, and helping students revise topics for their end of year exams. Alongside this, Computing Club have been writing their own articles for the next issue of IT GIRL magazine. When the club starts again in the Summer Term, we will be making printed circuit boards - mini computers that we will be able to design and use in real life! They could make keyrings, digital business cards, mini keypads and much more!

Year 7-11 Languages Club

Report by Eleanora 7D

Languages Club is the most amazing club to be in! We use Duolingo to try and learn a new language and we try to communicate in our chosen language at the club. We also take part in Duolingo leagues, and the top three win a chocolate for the hard work they are putting in to learn a new language.

Year 7-13 Psychology Club

Report by Reeya 12G, Cindy 12H and Aditi 12G

Psychology Society has been looking at the psychology of certain shows or movies and analysing the behaviours of the main characters and any underlying issues that impact their actions. We have enjoyed discussions about para-social relationships and analysed the psychology behind the formation of these relationships. We also have done personality tests and analysed our behaviour with others around us. Psychology Society welcomes anyone to join, every Thursday lunchtime!

Year 7-9 Art Club

Report by Mrs Kearns

Art Club has been busy over the last few weeks, designing and making our tic-tac-toe boards and pieces. The making process involved rolling out our clay, thinly and evenly and then cutting around a template that we had previously prepared.

The boards are all drying out now and after the holiday they will go into the kiln to be fired. Firing is when the dry clay is heated to 1000 degrees Celcius for a few hours, and afterwards the clay is permanently changed and becomes hard and strong. After Easter we will be finishing making the icons to go on the boards and then painting the fired pieces with acrylic paints.

Projects to follow include macramé and printing and maybe more clay work.

Year 8 Drama

Report by Ms Nock

The Year 8 Drama Club are rehearsing enthusiastically and animatedly for their modernised production of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.' They are working hard to learn their lines for the show which will be in May in the Elizabeth Gardens. Elena has even started handmaking crochet props such as crowns and animal ears for the actor's costumes - it is set to be an enchanting show!

Year 9-11 Book Club

Report by Maya 9B

Year 9-11 Book Group is a great place, whether you're a book lover or not. We meet on a Thursday, 2 to 3 times a term and we talk about our most recent reads, our favourite book (if we can pick one) and our book of the term. Recently we have read Pirates by Celia Rees, which is one of those swashbuckling, action-packed novels that are deeply enthralling. This book invoked lots of interesting discussions about relationships, pirates, and the slave trade. In the last half-term, we read Little Women by Louisa May Alcott which tells a story of four sisters and their relationships and lives. I think book club is really important because it allows all of us booklovers to come together, voice our opinions and connect with others, especially those outside our year group.