



## YEAR 9 'FINISH THIS' COMPOSITION PROJECT WITH THE ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA

The year 9 GCSE Music class have just finished a project with the English National Opera (ENO) called Finish This... In this project the class were given the start of a new and unfinished operatic piece called 'Blue, Red, Yellow' and they were tasked with choosing a fourth colour and composing the next section of this piece that represents that colour and finishes the original piece. Our school submitted five pieces this year ranging from "Midnight Blue", "Lavender" and "Blood Red".

This year over 14,000 pupils from 200+ different schools took part in the programme from across the country. 30 of the submitted pieces were then chosen to be made into short animations, one of those being a submission from Magdalen! It can be found on the ENO website below:

<https://www.eno.org/discover-opera/learning/finish-this/celebrating-finish-this-2023-24/>

All of the pieces that our school submitted can be heard on the website and are definitely worth a listen. I want to say a huge well done to the Year 9 class who had to really push themselves out of their comfort zones in this project and created some great pieces.

### GLIDING FOR BRITISH JUNIOR GLIDING TEAM AT 2024 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP!

Congratulations to Oliver who has been selected for the British Junior Gliding Team and will participate in the 13th FAI Junior World Gliding Championships 2024 from Ostrów, Poland.

The team has launched a crowdfunding campaign to ensure the pilots have the necessary resources for training, travel, and competition expenses. Please follow the link if you can donate: [GO FUND ME LINK](#)



HOUSE	POSITIVE POINTS
Barnard	31856
Beaumont	29280
Colling	27040
De Quincey	29713
Godwin	27504
Holdgate	27852
Lovell	32584
Waynflete	32905
Wodhams	28909



## Meet Laetisia - Supporting Mental Health at Magdalen

Hi, I'm Laetisia, a Youth Mental Health Wellbeing Practitioner and I work with a small charity "B" which is focused on enhancing young people's mental health and wellbeing in Brackley. Our charity embodies the essence of "being well" in Brackley and is run voluntarily by doctors from Brackley Medical Centre. The charity also provides yoga and art psychotherapy for schools in Brackley.

Over the past four years, I've had the privilege of getting to know the incredible students at Magdalen College School. Each individual brings unique experiences and perspectives, and I am continually inspired by their resilience and creativity. In my role I engage with students across all year groups. Whether it's through small group sessions or one-on-one meetings, I cover a wide spectrum of mental wellbeing topics.

Some students want to talk about their anxiety or low mood, friendships, loss of a loved one, things that might feel difficult at home, the list is endless. Maybe you are struggling with big and strong emotions and struggle to know why? Being listened to and understood in a confidential space can help things feel much more manageable.

***"I hope to talk about mental health and reduce the stigma people often feel prevents them from seeking help"***

One of the joys of my work is incorporating creative activities into our sessions. I firmly believe that learning and healing can be both enriching and enjoyable. Through art therapy and yoga, we explore emotions and foster resilience in a safe and supportive environment.

I also deliver presentations on mental wellbeing during Educational Learning Days (ELDs) so you may have already heard one of my presentations. My aim is to spark conversations about mental health and reduce the stigma that often surrounds seeking help. By fostering an open dialogue, I hope to empower students to prioritise their mental wellbeing.

If you're a student in need of well-being support, you can reach out to your pastoral year lead or contact Amanda Jones, Head of Pastoral Services. Remember, seeking help is a sign of strength, and I'm here to support you every step of the way.

Let's work together to foster a culture of wellbeing and resilience at Magdalen College School Brackley.

For more information about the charity, please visit their website here: [www.b-yourself.org.uk](http://www.b-yourself.org.uk)



## CELEBRATING YOUR SUCCESSES



### LOCAL DEBATING COMPETITION

On February 9th, 5 MCS students took part in a Debating Competition organised by West Northamptonshire Council and Debate Mate.

Magdalen came placed 3rd out of eight very strong teams. Our team won the first debate against Northampton Academy and then scored really closely to The Duston School in the second debate. Throughout the competition, our team's eloquence, depth of knowledge, and ability to articulate complex ideas with clarity and confidence were truly remarkable.

### UKMT INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

At the end of last month, 10 students from year 10 and 11 participated in the prestigious UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.

Jasper B. scored the highest mark amongst all MCS Students and was awarded a Silver Certificate. Jesse B., Daisy B. and Joseph P. were also awarded Silver Certificates. Harshit D., Johnny L., Luca J. and Harry M. were awarded Bronze Certificates. Well done to all involved - we look forward to you competing in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge in the near future!



**United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust**

### SIXTH FORM SUCCESS IN THE BRITISH BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

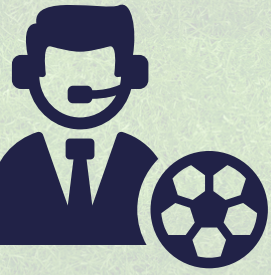
Before half term, 5 of our Year 13 students elected to take part in the British Biology Olympiad; Jonathan B., Megan E., Thomas R., Grace Moore. and Dulcie H.

This requires 2x 45 minute papers designed to test their Biology knowledge and critical thinking skills. Out of the 5 students who entered, 2 achieved a Gold Award and 1 a Silver. Gold award means they were in the top 5% of students who entered the Olympiad, with Silver being in the top 10%. The average number of students who enter across the UK is 13,000. We are so proud all our students who took part!





## Y11 BOYS FOOTBALL COUNTY CUP SEMI-FINAL - MR WARD'S COACH REPORT



The Year 11 boys football team played in the semi-final of the County Cup on the final day of last half-term, Thursday 15th February. Motivated to maintain their 10-match unbeaten streak, the boys were determined to win again, arriving at Northampton Academy (NA) to sunshine and blue skies, with hopes high and morale stronger than ever. Theo H. (Captain) led a very professional-looking warm-up for the outfield players, whilst Rory P. worked goalkeeper Ben C.

The game started at a high tempo, with Magdalen dominating possession. Against the run of play, NA scored with their first chance on target, a very well-taken goal after Magdalen's defence failed to clear their lines. 1-0. The game's momentum shifted and Magdalen found themselves under pressure following NA's early opener. 20 minutes passed with goalkeeper Ben C. making some excellent saves and Oscar H. and Ronnie B. working relentlessly to keep the deficit at 1.

Students from NA had by now come out en masse to support their side, but Magdalen were not deterred. Suddenly, Deja O. gathered the ball superbly, and charged into the opposition's penalty area - foul! - penalty! Kieran L. was the man of the moment as he confidently swept the ball past the NA goalkeeper. 1-1. Magdalen now felt the momentum was back on their side, with Alfie B. causing havoc down the wing. Unfortunately, MCS were unable to capitalise and before long the half-time whistle sounded.

Following a quick and motivational briefing from their coach, Magdalen started the second half confidently, dominating the possession again. It didn't take long before Rory P., Ali F. and Deja O. combined superbly to allow Theo H. to bury the ball into the bottom corner, a brilliant team goal from MCS. 1-2. The excellent attacking play continued with Lawrence M-C. and Charlie S. running tirelessly up and down the left wing, and the omnipresent Dan S S. thwarting any danger from the opposition. As the game neared its end, with NA desperately searching for an equaliser, Joe K. made some excellent challenges to keep the opposition at bay.

Tensions were now running high - Mr Ward and chief supporter (and mini-bus driver) Peter Nesden were barely able to watch! Magdalen could almost taste victory when a high and long goal kick from the NA goalkeeper bounced into the MCS penalty box and an onrushing Ben C. clattered the NA striker. Penalty. 2-2. With less than 5 minutes to go, a cagey final few moments saw no more goals and so when the final whistle came we all knew it was going to be penalties.

Magdalen were prepared having selected penalty takers at breaktime that morning in Dashwood. No fuss, no discussion, only focus and confidence. After 4 penalties each, Magdalen just needed to score their 5th to win. Joe K. stepped up to the mark and... smashed the ball against the cross-bar. It ricocheted out. NA now had to score to send the penalties to sudden death, having missed one of their previous. The NA striker stepped up and smacked the ball beyond the post. We had won! 2-2 (3-4) on penalties. Celebrations broke out amongst the Magdalen players who were ecstatic with joy and relief. The mini-bus journey back to Brackley was fabulous with the boys singing the likes of Neil Diamond, Abba and "Daniel's On Fire!". **Man of the Match went to Dan S S.** for a tremendous performance at CDM.