



WOLSEY HALL OXFORD

THE HOMESCHOOLING COLLEGE



Welcome

Welcome to our annual round up of developments at Wolsey Hall. We're always looking at ways to improve what we do and how we do it. In this newsletter you will get a flavour of what the team has been working on over the last year and hear about some of the exciting new developments we have planned over the next 12 months.

It has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated and talented team as we strive to constantly improve the service we offer to homeschooling families during these challenging times.

At Wolsey Hall we believe it's important that we help our students develop skills for life - as well as

helping them achieve academic qualifications - and so we're planning to expand our range of non-examination courses over the next twelve months.

We'd also like to hear from you - our Wolsey Hall homeschooling families - about what you feel we do well and how we could improve, and we'll be holding open days during the next year so you can share your ideas.

We wish you all the very best for the holiday season and for a brighter 2022.

*Lee Wilcock,
Principal*





News from Primary

2021 Reflections

As 2021 draws to a close, it is a time to reflect on all that the year had to offer. It is easy to focus on the negatives and indeed, for many, 2021 has been another challenging year. Our new way of 'normal' is not without its difficulties, but the resilience and determination shown by many across the globe continues to inspire us all. We are delighted with the achievements of Wolsey Hall and our students in 2021, some of which we share with you in this newsletter.

So, as we see out 2021, I wanted to take the opportunity to congratulate all of our students and families on the amazing learning, growth, and resilience that has been shown across Primary. Our students continue to impress us all with their dedication to learning, and the progress that they are making in their education.

Wolsey Hall is a truly global family with students spanning over 120 countries and in 2022 we are looking at more ways to help bring our family of students together in both a learning and social context.

We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to supporting our families, adding to our course subject options, and developing our Primary community offering. Please keep reading the Primary monthly newsletter for updates in all of these areas.

I wish everyone a happy ending to 2021, and all the best for 2022.

*Christine Armstrong,
Head of Primary*





First Cambridge Online Primary School

Back in May, Wolsey Hall was delighted to receive the news that it had become the first Cambridge-approved online Primary school. This followed on from the college becoming one of the first Cambridge online schools preparing students for Cambridge IGCSE and A Level in 2018.

As a Cambridge school, Wolsey Hall Oxford benefits from the Cambridge international curriculum in the development of its courses. The curriculum is globally recognised as developing lifelong learners well-prepared for further education. Being approved as a Cambridge school is recognition of the quality of education we offer, and we continue to work with Cambridge International to look for new opportunities to enhance our homeschooling provision.

New courses launched

We are continually looking at developing new courses for our Primary students.

This year we introduced French and Music for Year 2 upwards, Lower Primary Humanities and Lower Primary Skills for Life.

In the New Year, we plan to launch a Phonics course, to help students with gaps in their knowledge of how letters form different sounds in the English language - an integral part of speaking, reading, and writing in English.

In addition, we will launch our Lower Primary Art course. You can find out more about all of these on [our website](#).



New Community for Primary students



We were excited to introduce our new Primary Community site in August. This dedicated area provides students with age specific clubs and competitions and we have been delighted to see so many children joining in.

Their creative entries can be viewed in each club's gallery, with these being updated monthly to reflect the new theme.

Recognising achievements

We have introduced certificates for Primary students this year to recognise the achievements and milestones they are reaching. Feedback from our Tutors and Student Progress Managers shows that these are being well received.

We also introduced ePortfolios. Your ePortfolio is YOUR space to use for your own personal storage of Wolsey Hall-related files and documents of your learning. On Canvas, the ePortfolio allows students (with parental help) to store examples of their work. To learn more, watch our [ePortfolio video](#).

Our Art and LEGO Show & Tells are growing in popularity too as the students are given the opportunity to share their creations, meet the Club Leaders and each other via video call.

If your child is yet to join in with our Community, encourage them to take a look at the site as it will help to enhance their homeschooling experience.

We hope that our families are enjoying the monthly [newsletter](#). It's another useful way for us to communicate all the news and developments in Primary!



Virtual Choir performs its first song



The Primary Homeschooling Choir is an opportunity for students to enjoy singing. The choir has just performed its first song 'You've Got A Friend In Me' and you can watch this on our [YouTube channel](#).

A big well done goes to the following students who have taken the time to rehearse and learn the song, before filming themselves for their group performance:

Adira (USA)

Frankie (UAE)

Jan (Brazil)

Judy and Yamin (Saudi Arabia)

Marcus (Philippines)

Ekkanut (Thailand)

Jonathan and Joanna (India)

Alexander (South Africa)

The choir is suitable for Primary children of all ages and all singing abilities. If your child is interested in joining, please email our Choir Leader [Maria Parfitt](#).

Student Achievements

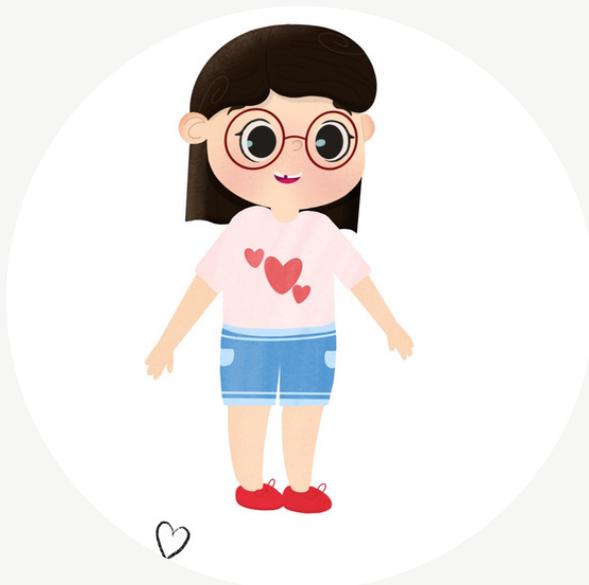
We know so many of our Primary students are achieving great things outside of their studies. Here are a few highlights from our Primary Community.



Menassa, aged 7 from Qatar, started horse riding lessons and within a month she could ride alone - an achievement she is very proud of.



Leonardo, aged 9 from Ecuador, has been developing his skills in tennis, guitar, robotics and swimming. Leo is now training for a tennis competition next year.



Samantha, aged 9 from Qatar, created digital artworks and animations to send as e-greetings to friends and family during the pandemic.

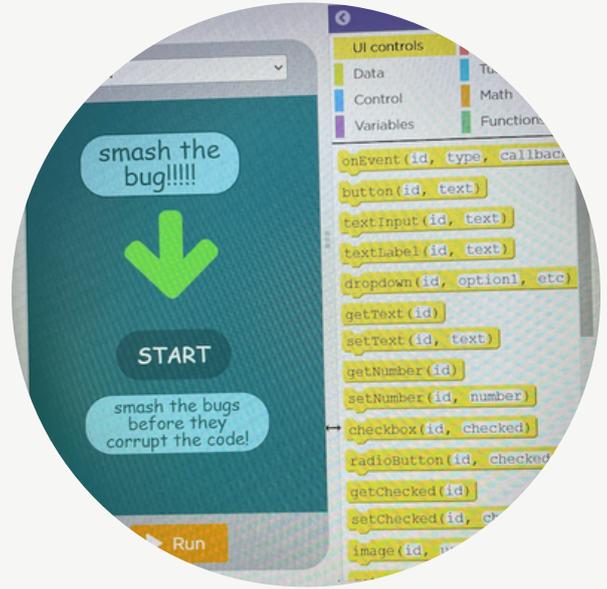


Ellie, age 11 from the USA, took part in her first swim team this year and won numerous ribbons in their races.

Student Achievements cont'd



Punyaphat, age 10 from Thailand, has mastered some super skateboarding skills, thanks to some teaching from his uncle.



Ahmed, age 8 from Dubai, completed a Rookie Game Developer course and successfully coded an online game named 'Smash the Bug'.



Zara, age 5 from Oman, braved the enormous 'Sky Trail' in TrampoExtreme all by herself.



Jonathan, age 8 from Malaysia, attended a couple of chess tournaments in Malaysia and came in the top 30.



News from Secondary

Welcome to the Secondary section of the end of year newsletter! It is my absolute pleasure to share with you just a few of the exciting items that have happened in Secondary this year, and I hope you enjoy the successes and developments in the next few pages.

The recent global challenges have changed the way in which the world sees education with a record number of families choosing to homeschool either entirely or in addition to mainstream schooling. We are continuously developing new courses and further improving existing courses to ensure that our Wolsey Hall secondary students have the best possible resources to support their home studies in an engaging and innovative way.

EM Forster said, ‘Spoon feeding in the long run teaches us nothing but the shape of the spoon.’ Our courses are designed to develop lifelong learners, ready to question and show original thought. Our unique approach embeds a thirst for knowledge in our students and equips them with the skills to succeed in external examinations. In this newsletter, we are pleased to showcase some selected student success stories but we are so proud of each and every one of our resilient and determined homeschoolers who demonstrate every day their drive to succeed and their passion for learning.

We are keen to hear from parents and students so please do take note of the platforms where you can engage with us on the last page of the newsletter! Providing our secondary learners with additional opportunities to connect with one another, outside of the academic sphere, is firmly on the horizon and I look forward to sharing more details of this with you soon.

I look forward to connecting with you over the coming months and years. Wishing you a restful winter break and a happy new year!

Best Wishes,

*Ruth Young
Head of Secondary*



What's New in Secondary?

Lower Secondary news

Lower Secondary is when we ignite students' passion for learning and as such, we seek to provide a breadth of courses to allow our homeschoolers to explore and develop their knowledge across a variety of content. This year saw the addition of a number of new courses and updates across the Secondary Curriculum.

In Lower Secondary we introduced five new courses:

- Music
- Skills for Life
- Art and Design
- Global Perspectives
- International History

We also updated some of our existing courses extensively to give learners the most up-to-date resources possible: Maths, French and Spanish.

IGCSE and A level news

At IGCSE and A level there were new courses and extensive revisions in Business Studies, Computer Science, English Literature, Biology, Physics and Chemistry. These included additions of new Wolsey Hall resources to support learning, as well as increased use of interactive activities to allow students to assess their progress.

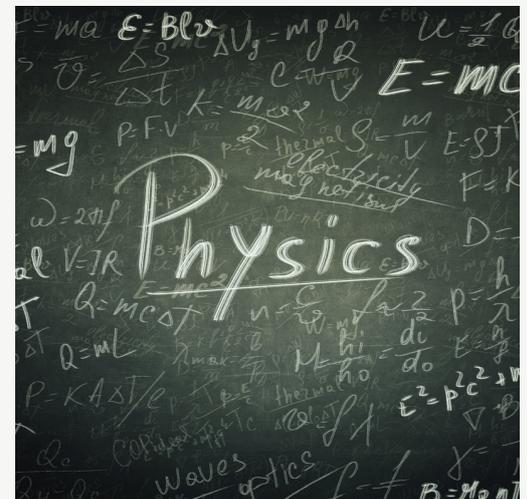
All of our externally examined courses are regularly reviewed and updated in line with changes to exam board specifications.



Across Secondary

We also introduced a brand-new, standalone course 'Own Your Work'.

This course is available to all Secondary students and helps them understand plagiarism and how to avoid it.



Wall Of Fame

Another new addition for 2021 is the Wolsey Hall 'Wall of Fame'. This page on our website showcases the success and future aspirations of our Alumni.

We are incredibly proud of our Wolsey Hall students and couldn't resist sharing some of their achievements with you!

Lucy, Queen's University, Belfast
International Business with Portuguese

"Lucy's interest in Business developed during her time at WH as she studied it at IGCSE and then A Level. When she discovered she could study Business with a language at university she was excited. Studying with WH was great preparation for university as she learned self discipline, how to manage her time and how to study more independently."



.....

James, The University of Nottingham
Financial Mathematics

"Leaving mainstream school and embarking on A levels through Wolsey Hall enabled James to represent GBR at Fencing and compete in all National and International Events with no interruption to his studies. He excelled due to this and also found studying at his own pace, together with the assistance of the excellent online platform and tutors, enabled him to obtain the high grades he required in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics."



.....

Hana, New Giza University
Faculty of Engineering - Architecture

"It was a great experience and helped Hana to start her beloved career in architecture engineering."

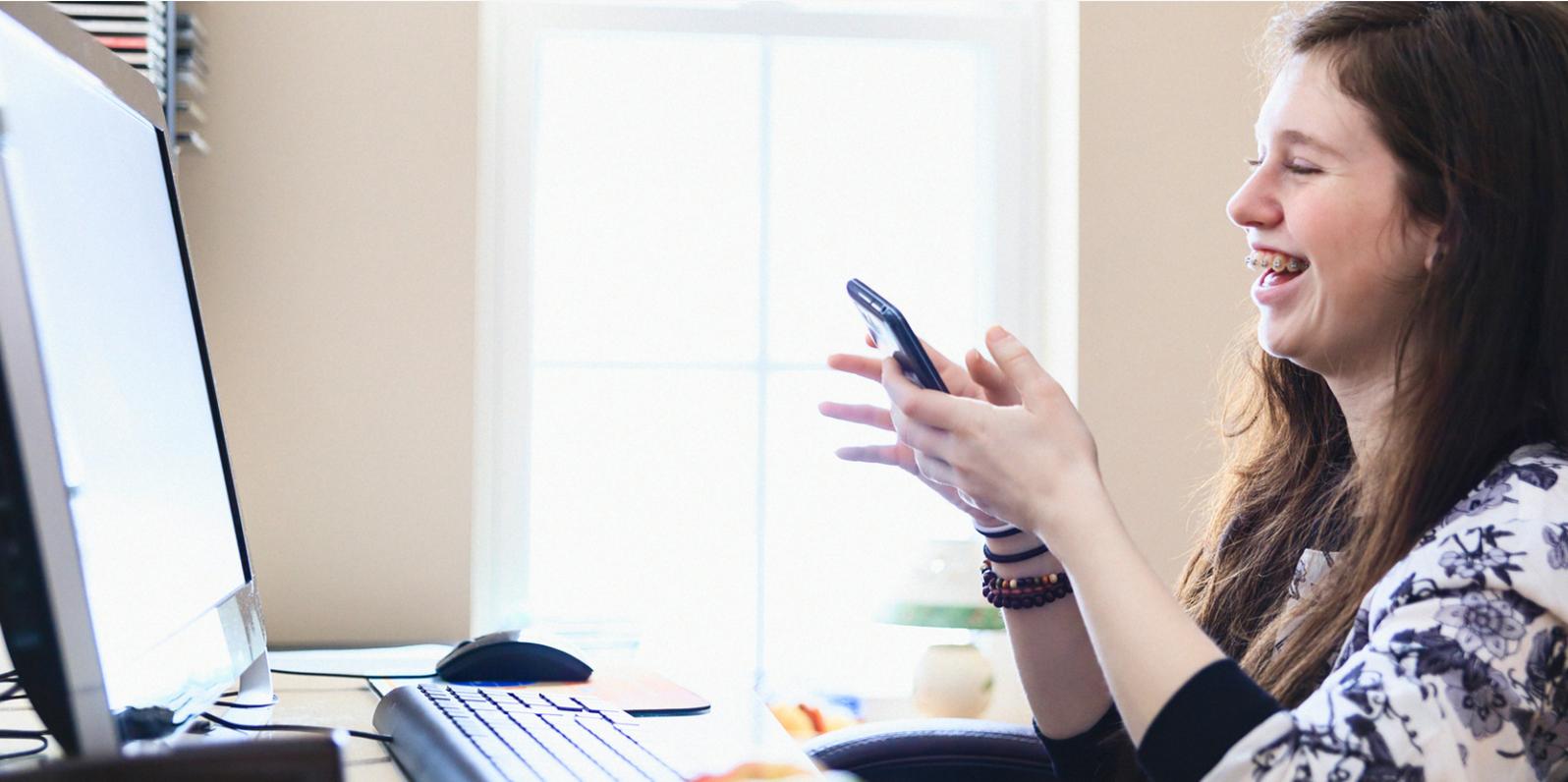
.....

Sanjana, University of Warwick

Undergraduate Degree - B.Sc., Economics with Honours

"Studying through Wolsey Hall has allowed Sanjana to concentrate exclusively on her studies and devote maximum time to academics which would not have been possible had she attended a regular school. Wolsey Hall provides high-quality study material and the feedback given by tutors is extremely helpful to the student in understanding how to answer questions in the A levels examinations. The guidance provided by Wolsey Hall's Higher Education Counsellor Joel Roderick and Manager of Student Support Sarah Webb was invaluable in Sanjana getting admission to the University of Warwick which is one of the top universities in the world."

New Secondary Community Website



We are extremely excited to announce that we will be launching a brand new Secondary Community website in January 2022. We are always thinking of ways to help our students feel part of the Wolsey Hall international community of learners, and we continue to develop our Community site as a space where students can connect with each other.

The new community site will feature the following areas:

Secondary Community Forum
Art and Design
Wellbeing Hub
Cookery Club
Creative Writing
Chess
Debate
Choir
Careers and Further Education

FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT
OUR VIRTUAL
LIBRARY

This will be a place to sample something different or to share a personal hobby, meeting fellow Wolsey Hall students along the way. We also particularly recommend the free Wolsey Hall Virtual Library where our students can borrow a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to former Wolsey Hall student Amelie Morgan, and her team, for achieving a bronze medal in the ladies gymnastics team event in Tokyo. Read all about their historic victory [here](#).



Congratulations to Alex Miller, one of our AS students, who made his Olympic debut representing Namibia in the highly competitive cross-country mountain bike race, clocking in at 1:34:26!



Congratulations to Cedar-Rose Newman who was asked to choose and perform the music to accompany a video about The Clifton School of Arts in NSW, Australia. Click [here](#) to watch.



Congratulations to Phebe Bekker, who along with ice dancing partner, James, took first place at The British Championships.



Congratulations to Pedro Aguinaga Procel who secured third place at the 2021 South American Youth Championship in Fencing.



Congratulations to Radha who won the Silver Award for an essay she entered into the Queens Commonwealth Essay Competition 2021.



Staying connected

While our students have active and varied clubs to participate in, we also offer platforms for Wolsey Hall parents to connect with each other.

Our Facebook Groups are a good starting place for meeting other parents of students studying at the same level.

[Primary level Facebook group](#)
[Lower Secondary level Facebook group](#)
[IGCSE/A level Facebook group](#)

We also have a [parent forum](#) for parents of Primary students.

You can also keep up to date with Wolsey Hall news by following us on social media.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Lastly, a huge congratulations to all our Wolsey Hall students who, despite the circumstances faced this past year, have continued to work hard, to persevere and to make the most of the opportunities homeschooling has afforded them. Sending best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022.