



# WOLSEY HALL OXFORD

## THE HOMESCHOOLING COLLEGE



## Welcome

2022 has been another challenging year for families across the globe. As the pandemic receded in many parts of the world we were faced with war in Ukraine and a worldwide cost of living crisis. It's hardly surprising that we're all longing for a period of peace and stability!

But despite the challenges, Wolsey Hall students and families have continued to achieve tremendous results both academically and personally. A level Psychology and History of Art student, Phebe Bekker became British Junior Ice Dance Champion along with her partner while achieving excellent results in her IGCSEs. Zoya Yeadon, one of our Year 5 students, won the Children's Peace Image of the Year at the

Global Peace Photo Awards 2022, and A level student Sonja Sanjay was awarded the Cambridge High Achiever Award for her English General Paper.

The Wolsey Hall team have also continued to work hard during the last year to improve the quality of the service we provide and launch a range of new courses to offer even more choice to our students. You can learn more about this - and our plans for 2023 - in the Primary and Secondary news round up.

On behalf of all the Wolsey Hall team I wish you and your family a peaceful and prosperous 2023.

*Lee Wilcock, Principal*



## News from Primary

2022 has been an exciting year for Primary with lots of club challenges, competitions and new additions to existing courses and launches of new courses!

We have also enjoyed seeing students join our new courses for 2022, including Skills for Life, Art, International History and Computing. In addition, we were thrilled to launch English and Maths for pre-Primary age students to extend our offering.

We have added many Wolsey Hall created videos to courses to support our learners, and this will continue in 2023.

Our virtual library now offers plenty more book choices for our young readers, and our many clubs continue to thrive. We are very proud of the community spirit throughout Primary.

We would like to congratulate all of our students for working hard and making progress in learning. I would like to extend my best wishes to you all and wish you a lovely end to 2022 and a prosperous and happy 2023.

*Christine Armstrong,  
Head of Primary*



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## News from Secondary

2022 has been an exceptionally busy year for Secondary with a reassuring return to external examinations being taken in person. We are so proud of the results achieved so far in exams taken this year.

Our Secondary students have also grasped all the fantastic opportunities on offer with enthusiasm, both academic and extra-curricular, and we are thrilled with the exceptional progress across their Wolsey Hall courses as well as with their contributions to the Secondary Community.

Our competition and club entries this year have been fantastic – a personal favourite of mine was ‘Where’s Wolsey’ which gave us a glimpse into where our students are studying around the globe!

I hope that you enjoy the achievements of our students shared in this newsletter and look forward to even more Wolsey Hall student successes in 2023. Wishing you a restful and healthy end to the year.

*Ruth Young,  
Head of Secondary*



# Community clubs for all

We have a wide range of clubs in both Primary and Secondary that students are welcome to join.

Feedback from families has revealed that these free clubs enhance the homeschooling experience for many of the students. Some of our club leaders also run monthly online meetings, giving students from across the globe the chance to connect and share their interests.

Our full clubs list is as follows:

## PRIMARY

Art - with monthly Show & Tell

Books - with monthly Show & Tell

Cookery

Creative Writing

Eco

LEGO® - with monthly Show & Tell

Photography

## SECONDARY

Art and Design

Books - with monthly meet-up

Creative Writing

Cookery

Debate - with monthly meet-up

Photography

**Chess Club** - runs across Primary and Secondary with monthly beginners training sessions.

**Virtual Choir** - Primary and Secondary



Evie, 7, Indonesia



Atica, 9, Mozambique



James, 6, Thailand



# Musical homeschoolers perform together

The Wolsey Hall virtual choir has delivered several powerful performances this year.

Students of all ages and singing abilities can participate. Led by our Tutors Maria and Lucinda, the choir is given a song to practise and they occasionally meet online to rehearse. Each singer then records their final performance at home before the clips are edited together.

Head to our [YouTube channel](#) to watch the choir performances.

"You've Got A Friend In Me"

"Power In Me"

"Sing"

"Let Love Shine Through"

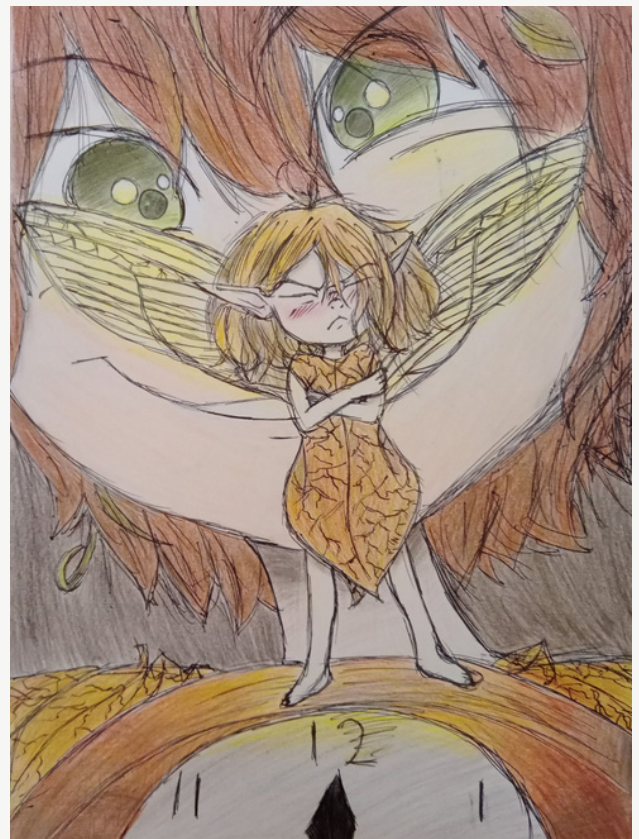


# Art clubs inspire creativity

The Primary and Secondary Art Clubs are two of our most popular student clubs.

Our Club Leaders Rachael and Heather work hard to choose projects that will develop the student's artistic skills and creative thinking. We are always impressed with the entries received! You can view some of them in our [round-up video](#).

Our latest Secondary Virtual Art Exhibition is now live on [our website](#) too. The theme '[Magical Creatures and Mythical Beasts](#)' inspired some amazing student artwork.



Zita, 16, Kenya

# Photography clubs spark curiosity

In response to student requests, this year we launched a Photography Club in both the Primary and Secondary Communities.

Photography encourages children to become curious about the world around them, prompting them to spot and document smaller details.

With different themes and challenges each month, it is easy for students to join as they can take part using just a mobile phone camera.

Here is a snapshot of the impressive entries we've received this year.



Matthew, UK



Jana, Saudi Arabia



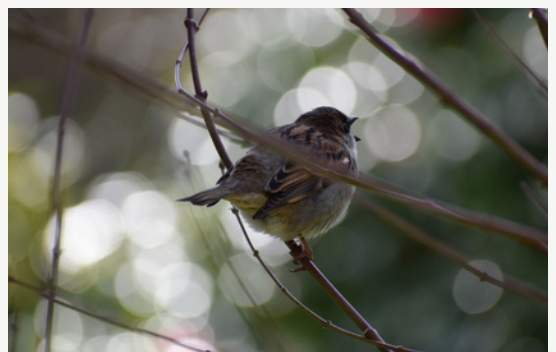
Marita, South Africa



Sai, UK



Zara, Oman



Jeremiah, New Zealand



# Homeschool community

Our [merchandise store](#) launched this year and students have told us how it makes them feel a greater part of the Wolsey Hall community.

We have loved receiving photos of students wearing their new kit. Thank you for sharing these with us.



Joey, New Zealand



Evan, Namibia



Domino, Philippines



Antigone-Louise, UK

# Video competition winners

In the summer we launched a competition inviting students to create a short video about why they love their Wolsey Hall courses.

We were delighted with the entries and choosing the winners proved too difficult, so we handed over the voting to students and Wolsey Hall staff!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote. You can watch all of the entries on our [YouTube channel](#).

Look out for new competitions launching in 2023!

**PRIMARY WINNER:** [Joey, New Zealand](#)

**LOWER SECONDARY WINNER:** [Katherine, South Africa](#)

**IGCSE WINNER:** [Malachi, UK](#)

**Primary runner-up:** [Martina, Mozambique](#)

**Lower Secondary runner-up:** [Samuel, UK](#)

**IGCSE runner-up:** [Kaede, UK](#)

# A community of book lovers

Our virtual library continues to prove popular with nearly 3,000 students now signed up to borrow books.

This year we introduced extra Primary titles to increase the offering to our younger readers and these have been well received.

We have also just introduced a new immersive reader function. With features including text to speech (TTS), translation to 150+ languages, text to speech for translated languages, sentence structure mark up (nouns, verbs, adjectives etc) and simple image depiction of words - there is something for everyone!

You can read anywhere, any time, on all major devices.

Any student wishing to join the library can find the sign-up link in their Canvas account.



## What have students been reading?

**Primary:** The top three books loaned by students were:  
"I need a new bum" by Dawn McMillan

"Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" by J K Rowling

"Today I'll be a unicorn" by Dana Simpson

**Secondary:** The top three books loaned by students were:  
"Harry Potter and the goblet of fire" by J K Rowling

"Murder Mysteries series" by Tanya Landman

"Percy Jackson and the lightning thief" by Rick Riordin



# Wall Of Fame

The Wolsey Hall 'Wall of Fame' showcases the success and future aspirations of our Alumni. Some of our students have progressed to top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, to study a variety of subjects including Medicine, Veterinary Science, Law, Business, Psychology, Engineering and Mathematics.

We are incredibly proud of our Wolsey Hall students and couldn't resist sharing some of the achievements we heard about this year.

## **James, 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.”

## **Salome, University of Pretoria - BCom Business Management**

“Studying through Wolsey hall helped me become more independent, it allowed me to study from home and manage my own time and schedule. I enjoyed Wolsey Hall’s business subject a lot, which aided in my decision to study business at university. After graduation, I hope to further my education by doing a masters degree.”

## **Jesper, University of Kent - History**

“Wolsey Hall provided a wonderful and supportive learning environment that enabled me to pursue my academic interests and realise my passion for history, convincing me to do a degree for the subject.” After graduating Jesper hopes to pursue a career in Law.

## **Lily, University of Newcastle - Psychology**

Lily had this to say about the impact homeschooling with Wolsey Hall had on her life/career choices.

"Wolsey Hall helped me discover a love for physics and allowed me to discover my own passions for specific aspects of the subject, therefore allowing such a strong career path in mind."



# Well-being at Wolsey Hall

In September, 343 Wolsey Hall families completed our well-being survey giving us honest feedback. We were delighted by the overwhelmingly favourable responses.

When asked: 'Do you feel that homeschooling has had a positive impact on your child's well-being?', 91.5% of all respondents said 'yes', 5.8% had mixed feelings – answering both 'yes and no', and 2.6% said 'no'.

Parents commented that the flexibility and pace at which children can study had been one of the major benefits. One parent said: 'Homeschooling has [had] a positive impact. My daughter is getting more time to study as well as participate in her various hobbies. It also helps her to study things in a practical way. Homeschooling gives her more time to experiment with her ideas, helps her to do things in her way and [to] learn from her mistakes.'

114 respondents (33%) stated that their child suffered from anxiety and that homeschooling had helped to reduce their anxiety levels. 'Homeschooling has absolutely had a positive impact on my child's well-being. He is no longer anxious and he shows much more self-confidence, in part because he has time to complete his work now,' answered one parent. 'He is happier, and he has learned ways in which he works really well.'

While 139 respondents (42%) said that they had never needed to make use of our Learning Support services those who had contacted the Learning Support team were very satisfied with the assistance and guidance provided:

One of the responses said: '[My daughter] finds her weekly Learning Support sessions very helpful in planning her work, preparing for assignments, knowing what is expected and building confidence.'

Thank you to parents who took the time to complete the survey – your feedback is invaluable.





## 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 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 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 2023.