

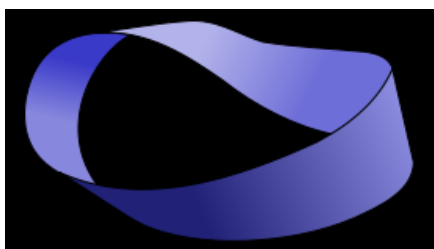


## Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

So what is in a name? This weekend we were visited by Storm Ciara. In 2015, the UK Met Office launched the "Name Our Storms" campaign, in the hope of raising public awareness of severe weather. A storm is named when it has the potential to trigger an amber/orange or red warning and have "substantial" impact. The warning system is based on potential impacts from severe weather and the likelihood of such events happening. It takes into account include the time of year, the location - is the stormy weather hitting an area of high population which would again have an effect on more people? A list of names of storms are compiled from names chosen by the public. Storms are named in alphabetical order but we have not gone further than K - Storm Katie, which hit the UK on Easter Monday 2016. So, if your name starts with a letter towards the end of the alphabet it is highly unlikely ever to be used.



Unlike Storm Ciara, the coronavirus, that has infected thousands of people, closed borders and put parts of China into lockdown does not yet have a proper name. It has also been given the temporary title 2019-nCoV. To try to distinguish this particular virus, scientists have been calling it the novel or new coronavirus - named for their crown-like spikes when viewed through a microscope. The task of formally naming the virus is the responsibility of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV). To avoid a backlash against members of particular religious or ethnic communities, create unjustified barriers to travel, commerce and trade, and trigger needless slaughtering of food animals the ICTV name for the new coronavirus will not include geographical locations, people's names, the name of an animal or a kind of food or references to a particular culture or industry.



As you will be aware from previous editions of WeLink the Willink has been designated a national Maths Hub – but up to this point the designation has been "South West 5". The task of formally naming the Maths Hub is the responsibility of the DfE and the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics. Following consultation with students, our maths staff and the NCETM, our new name was released last week.

The name must be linked to maths education, avoid any link to the lead school i.e. Willink, be easy to say, avoid copyright, not be confused with other commercial enterprises or have connotations detrimental to the school. So, in September we shall be the lead school for the Mobius Maths Hub. The Mobius strip or band, is a surface with only one side (when embedded in three-dimensional Euclidean space) and only one boundary. Its discovery is attributed to the German mathematicians August Ferdinand Möbius in 1858. If you google "Maths Hubs UK" and then "find my hub" it will provide a list and the website for each Hub. The Mobius Maths Hub will leading maths education and subject leadership currently covered by the Boolean Hub (Bristol) and Bucks, Berks and Oxon Hub (based in High Wycombe).

*Mr P Fry, Head*

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# CONGRATULATIONS TEAM WILLINK



Congratulations to yr8 girls, Izzy, Sophie, Holly, Daisy and Melanie who took part in the AWE Females in Engineering Challenge against other local schools and WON.

The girls won £500 for the school, a £10 voucher each and a cut glass trophy for the school to display for the next year.

The team took part in a range of activities accumulating points throughout the day. They made lava lamps, electrical circuits, built and programmed robots, took part in a maths challenge and the great egg drop. AWE also set up trade stands to showcase the different departments and opportunities on offer at AWE. Two inspiring female speakers also came along to talk to the girls about their experiences as Women in Engineering.

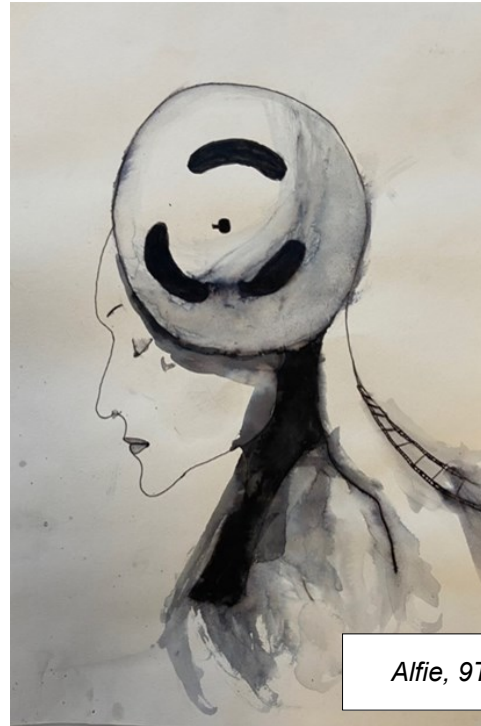
*Mrs F Morris*  
Careers Leader



## ART CLUB



*Lizzie, 8W Winner*



*Alfie, 9T Merit*

Fantastic news for the Year 8 and 9 Talented Art Club 'Group 1'!

The group were entered in the 'Rotary Young Artist Competition 2020' and each student produced a piece of art based on the theme of 'memories'. The level of commitment shown by each member of the Talented Art club was outstanding and the quality of art was so high that the Rotary Club Judges expressed their appreciation at what talented students we had at the Willink School.

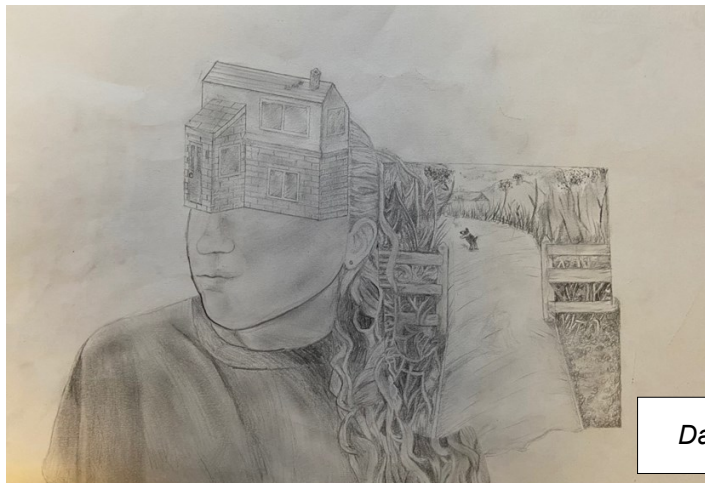
Hearty congratulations to Lizzie, 8W who managed to beat some extremely tough competition and triumphed by coming first in the Intermediate category. Well done Lizzie!

Special acknowledgements also go to Alfie, 9T and Daisy, 9Y who were both awarded Merits of excellence for their art pieces.

Well done to all students that entered the competition and in helping the Willink Art department continue its winning streak.

Good luck to Year 8 and 9 Talented Club 'Group 2' who will be working towards entering their work in to the Royal Academy Exhibition 2020.

*Miss G Berry, Art Teacher*



*Daisy, 9Y Merit*

# THE ENGINEERING EDUCATION SCHEME

The Engineering Education Scheme is a program which pairs sixth form students with Engineers from industry and has them work to design and make a solution for a real world problem. Six year 12 students who study the STEM subjects, Science, D&T and Maths, have been working with Engineers from ISIS to design and manufacture a prototype for a product which operates in Radioactive environments. For the first trip this month Leo, year 12 from the student team explains what they did.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of January myself and five other genius students went to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. After having regular meetings with two mechanical engineers about our innovative lifting mechanism to remove radioactive waste we were invited to their place of work to further discuss the project.

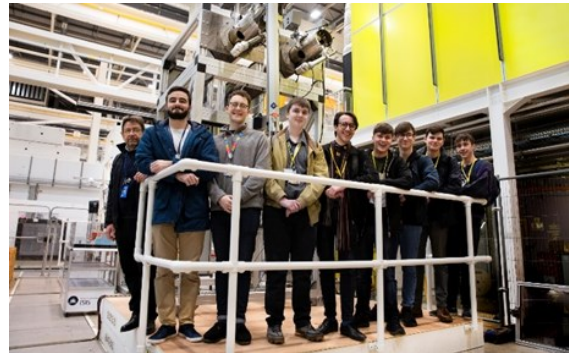
Whilst there we had the opportunity to use manipulator arms (super cool mechanical robot hands) to perform incredibly complex tasks such as stacking Lego and putting shapes through holes, because we're Willink students we obviously prevailed. One of us was even offered a job for their insane block stacking capabilities.

After chatting to an engineer about how the facility works, from focusing the proton beam to moving 400 tons of equipment with a single one horsepower motor we had our meeting to discuss the upcoming university workshop where we will actually be making our revolutionary product.

With each meeting it's becoming increasingly obviously that we've got this competition in the bag and that very soon we're going to revolutionise the world... Failing that we might get mentioned in an assembly.

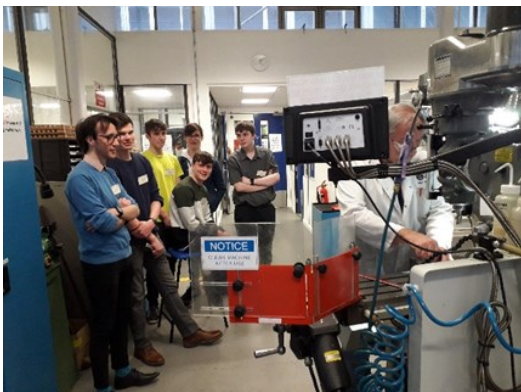


Operating the manipulator arms at ISIS



Students and Engineers at ISIS

Following the visit to ISIS the students went to Bath University to build the device they had designed. This was built over two days in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Bath and the final outcome worked!!! Now students are in the process of building a display stand, writing reports and preparing a presentation for the final event which will see them competing with other students nationwide to hopefully win and 'revolutionise the world.'



Milling the components at Bath University



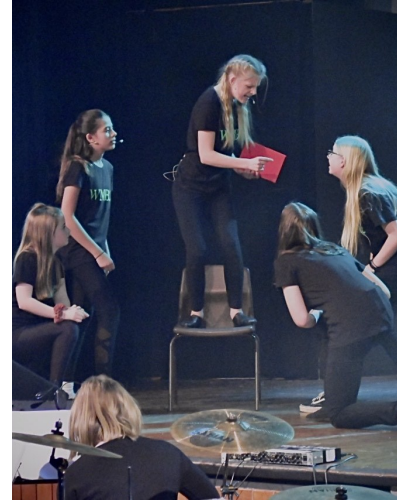
Testing the final prototype

## **WILLINK MEETS BROADWAY**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February a group of students from years 8-12 came together and put on a charity performance to raise money for the Reading Samaritans. The show consisted of a variety of different musical theatre songs, plus a bit of Take That and Dean Lewis. The show went amazingly and we managed to raise £937.90!

The fact that we could help people by doing something we love spurred us all on through rehearsals and will continue to inspire our efforts. The Samaritans charity means so much to so many people and I am beyond glad that we could help out.

The show was run by Maddy 10B and Luca 11N, but without the support from other people it would not have been possible. So I would like to say a huge thank you to the tech team, the band, the cast and of course the amazing teachers that donated their free time in order to supervise our rehearsals including Mr Williams, Mrs Ross, Mr Rakowski and Mrs Lawrence.



*Maddy, 10B*

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## **ABLE LINGUISTS DAY**



On Friday 31st January, 15 students from the Willink were selected to take part in a linguistic activity day in collaboration with the Hurst school. When we arrived at the Hurst, we watched a video about language students at Reading College answering some questions the teachers had sent them. After that we Face Timed the language students and asked them our own questions. Meanwhile we were put into groups and were tasked to advertise a local area with a poster or leaflet and a radio jingle. This was really fun. At lunch we got to have pizza with our packed lunches which was delicious. At the end of the day prizes of chocolate and awesome language pencils with French phrases on them were given out. I had a brilliant time at this event and it has inspired me to study more than the languages French and German in the future.

*Leila, 8Y*

## KS3 COOK UP A FEAST IN FOOD & NUTRITION

As part of our curriculum all KS3 students take part in a range of creative lessons, including; textiles, art, design & technology, drama and food and nutrition. We believe it is important for our students to not only be challenged academically, but also be allowed to develop their creativity to help them develop a wide range of skills relevant to adult life and employment.

In food technology with Mrs Spedding and Mr Collot our students cook a wide range of healthy and nutritious dishes during years 7, 8 and 9. Starting with the basics in year 7, such as fruit salad and vegetable stir fry to chicken and moving on to vegetable couscous and spinach, potato & chick pea curry in years 8 & 9.

The kitchen always has a great buzz about it when you visit, which is great to see. Last week our students were enjoying cooking carbonara, calzone pizza and vegetable stir fry.



"I really enjoy food tech because we get to be independent and make different meals." Beth 8U

"I think food tech is a vital lesson as you learn to cook healthy meals for yourself." James 7T

"I really enjoy food tech because we get to learn on of the life skills, also food tech is really fun and the food we cook tastes amazing." Ethan 8U

"Teaching Food at the Willink is exciting and rewarding as all students love the practical experience of making great food. Our practical lessons at KS3 are designed to link with the theory lessons where students learn to appreciate not only the nutritional aspects of the food, but also the science and skills behind the methods used in the cookery processes. This should be a positive experience for the students and develop their ability to cook in the future, but also give students some basic knowledge and key skills that will support them if they opt to take GSCE Food Preparation and Nutrition at KS4". Mrs S Spedding

For more information about our food technology curriculum please visit our [website](#).



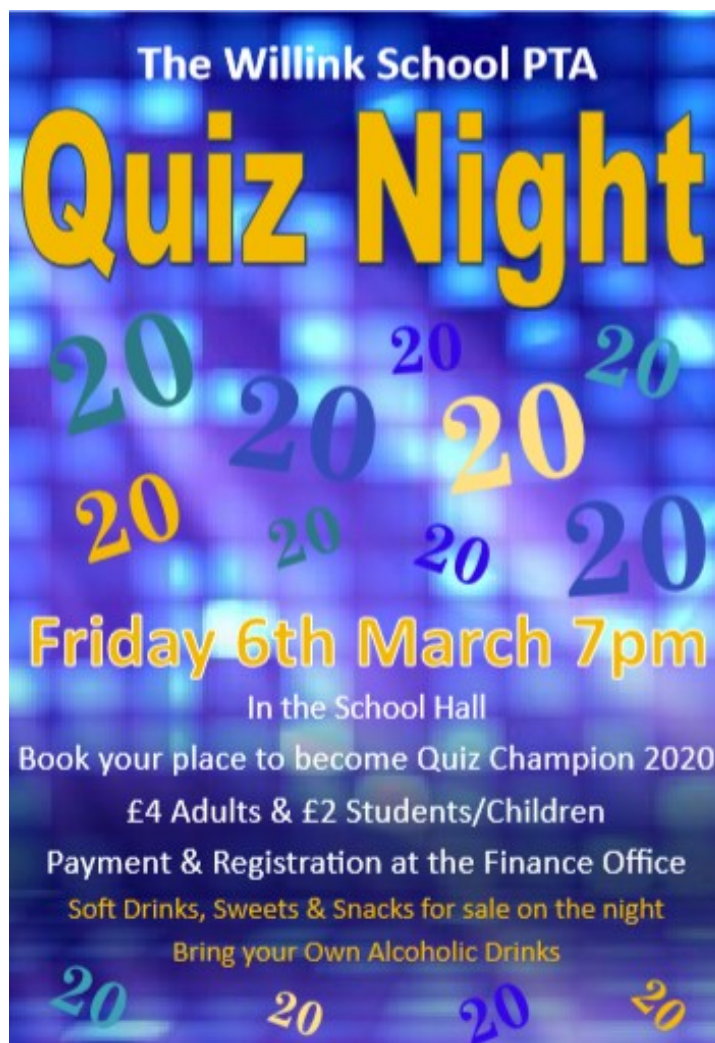


Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January and is held in remembrance of the millions of people that lost their lives under Nazi persecution as well as those that died in following genocides. Holocaust Memorial Day is on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January as it signifies the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau the largest and most prolific Nazi death camp. HMD aims to resist prejudice by bringing people together to look at the past and stop it from repeating itself. This year was particularly significant as it has now been 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and this has shown the importance of hearing personal stories about what happened from those who were there by reminding us that the survivors will not be able to tell us their stories for much longer making it imperative that we educate while we can.

On HMD all of year 9 had an assembly to listen to the testimony of Susan Pollack who was a survivor of the holocaust who now tells schools around the country her testimony. In 1944 the Nazi's invaded Hungary and shortly after the invasion the council of Felsogod sent an invitation asking all Jewish Fathers in the town to go to a meeting to talk about the welfare of their families, but were forced into lorries and sent to a concentration camp, Susan's father was one of the fathers to go to the meeting. Soon after the deportation of all Jewish people was organised and was successful. As part of the deportation Susan, her brother and mother were sent to an internment camp where they were then separated from her brother. After the internment camp Susan and her mother were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau where they separated, with her mother going to the elderly group which was killed in the gas chambers. Whilst at Auschwitz-Birkenau

Susan was selected to work for 10 weeks before being sent to Guben Germany where prisoners were then forced to march to Bergen-Belsen. On the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1945 Susan was liberated and then hospitalised for tuberculosis, typhoid and severe malnutrition. After Susan was liberated she learnt that out of her 50 family members only her brother survived. Susan's testimony was very motivating as it truly put the horror of Nazi persecution into perspective as it was the first first-hand Testimony I had heard and it represented the danger prejudice has for a society when a government endorses it. In addition, her testimony provided a true insight into the effect the Nazi camps had on the prisoners which emphasised the bravery of Susan to recount her experiences.





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## KEY DIARY DATES

- 13th February - West Berkshire Table Tennis, Willink
- 13th February - Year 9 Parents Evening XYZ**
- 14th February - End of Term 3, 3.05pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> February - Start of Term 4, 8.40am
- 25<sup>th</sup> February - Barcelona Parents Meeting 5pm, in the Hall
- 26<sup>th</sup> February - Year 7 Parents Evening TUVW**
- 28<sup>th</sup> February - Mortimer's Got Talent
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March - National Careers Week
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Year 10 History Theatre Trip
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Year 8 Exams Week Starts
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Barcelona Trip Departs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Year 10 Enterprise Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March – A Level Drama Practical
- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> March – Year 8 Enterprise Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> March – GCSE Food Practical
- 5<sup>th</sup> March – Year 7 Parents Evening XYZ**
- 6<sup>th</sup> March – PTA Quiz, 7pm in the Hall
- 7<sup>th</sup> March – Barcelona Trip Returns



For news throughout the year follow us on Twitter : [@WillinkSchoolUK](https://twitter.com/WillinkSchoolUK)