

Edition 10 : 29/11/24



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- *Headteacher Comments*

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– *Inspiring Teamwork and Supporting a Worthy Cause*

– *Well Done Year 11*

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- *Sleeping Rough Tonight*
    - *Year 13 Winner*
    - *Future Writers*
    - *Calendars and Trips*
    - *Christmas Jumper Day*
  - *Christmas Card Competition*
    - *Footloose*
  - *Idsall Music Performed on Stage*
    - *Guest Author*

- *Ski Trip*
  - *Disneyland Trip*
  - *History Department Trip*
  - *Sport at Idsall*
- 
- 

- *Idsall Netball Club*
  - *KS 3 Boys Qualifying Tournament*
  - *Fabulous Netballers*
- 
- 

- *Idsall's Own Telford Tiger*
  - *Safeguarding*
  - *Contact Information*
-

## Michelle King - Headteacher



### *This week at Idsall*

#### **Inspiring Teamwork and Supporting a Worthy Cause**

This week, we had the pleasure of welcoming the Army back to Idsall to work with our students on problem-solving activities. It's always inspiring to see our students confidently dive into these challenges, collaborating in groups to find solutions. What's even more impressive is how they embrace working with peers they don't usually team up with, showcasing true teamwork and resilience.

Tonight, I'll be joining students, staff, governors, and a Trust member for the *Big Sleep Out*. When students approach you with an idea like this—"Miss, can we do this? It's for a worthy charity and will help raise money!"—how can you say no? So here we are, ready to head to Birmingham, wrapped up warm with our sleeping bags, cardboard boxes, and bin liners. It's going to be a cold 13 hours, but we're all prepared to show our resilience and determination, hoping for dry weather to see us through. Our goal is to raise £1,000 for *St Basil's – Preventing Youth Homelessness*, and we're nearly there!

A huge thank-you to everyone who has already supported us. If you'd like to help us hit (or exceed!) our target, donations are still welcome. Every contribution will be greatly appreciated by the amazing student team driving this fundraising effort.

**Just Giving Link :** [Idsall School is fundraising for St Basils](#)

**Thank you for your generosity and support!**

## Well Done Year 11

A huge well done to all our Year 11 students who have been diligently completing their first round of mock exams over the past two weeks.

It's fantastic to see so many of you using your time wisely, revising during lunch and breaks to prepare. Your hard work and dedication will undoubtedly pay off—it's an important step as you work towards success in the summer.

### Keep it up!

As part of our drive to improve the quality of education we have been popping into lots of lessons, in the best lessons we are seeing everyone getting involved, some lovely engagement techniques

What We Are Doing	What's New and Why
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Using new techniques in lessons, like turn-and-talk, sharing answers, and reading aloud.</li><li>● Encouraging all students to take part in activities during lessons.</li><li>● Reviewing the support we offer for students with additional needs, with input from specialists.</li><li>● Focusing on meeting the individual needs of all students in the classroom.</li></ul>	<p>To make lessons more engaging and help your child develop important communication and teamwork skills for school and beyond.</p> <p>To build confidence and ensure your child gets the most out of their learning experience.</p> <p>To make sure every child gets the help they need to succeed, based on feedback from parents, students, and Ofsted.</p> <p>To create a supportive environment where every child can thrive and reach their full potential.</p>

Sleeping Rough Tonight



*Please Sponsor Our Students For Braving a Sleep Out*

## **CHECK LIST**

- ✓ **CARDBOARD BOXES**
- ✓ **BIN BAGS**
- ✓ **SLEEPING BAGS**
- ✓ **TRANSPORT**
- ✓ **WARM CLOTHES**
- ✓ **THICK SOCKS**
- ✓ **WOOLLY HAT**
- ✓ **FOOD**
- ✓ **DRINKS**
- ✗ **LOTS OF SPONSORSHIP**

Tonight some of our staff and students from year 11 and year 12 are sleeping rough! They are participating in the Big Birmingham Sleep Out in support of St Basils, a charity dedicated to helping vulnerable young people experiencing homelessness. St Basil's is a charity our students feel very strongly about supporting in any way they can.

They have their cardboard boxes, bin bags and sleeping bags ready (hopefully along with their thermals!) as with the dropping temperatures they are going to need them!

Please if you can sponsor them on the link for the just giving page or by sending in cash to the main office.

**Just Giving Link : [Idsall School is fundraising for St Basils](#)**

### **Year 13 Winner**

Students in year 13 were challenged to create a stop motion of how a nervous impulse is sent along a neurone. Congratulations to Oliver Pierce and Joe Broadhead who were the winners.

Check out the link below to watch the amazing video.

<https://www.idsallschool.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2024/11/My-Stop-Motion-Movie4.mp4>

## Future Writers



We are thrilled to announce that Adilen Lamptey entered a prestigious writing competition held in honour of Benjamin Zephaniah's inspiring poem, "People Need People."

Although their story was not selected as one of the overall winners for the main competition, the competition was incredibly tough, showcasing the exceptional talent of young and adult writers from across the country.

Despite the fierce competition, Adilen's story stood out and has been chosen as Idsall's winning entry.

This is a remarkable achievement, and we are immensely proud of her creativity, dedication, and hard work.

Please join us in celebrating this fantastic accomplishment and encouraging all our students to continue pursuing their passions in writing and the arts

.The winning story is featured below.

***Eclipse***

***Luna***

*Grey clouds covered the sun. Luna's mother was downstairs, happily making breakfast. Her mother was, green-eyed and giddy, she placed eggs on toast before her, but the smell made Luna nauseous.*

*"I'm not hungry."*

*Looking with a raised eyebrow, her mum took the plate away. Luna sighed. As she stared at the clock, waiting for the dreaded school day to start.*

### **Sonny**

*I woke up, the sun shining on the bed. Today was going to be the best day ever! I would befriend Luna and be officially everyone's friend! I slid down the stairs. I could smell Dad making breakfast. I scoffed down my food.*

*I ran to the red house next door and knocked, my friend Joan slipped out. As we walked, I explained my plan to befriend Luna, she was so anti-social and quiet. Befriending her would be a challenge, but a fun one. Who could resist my charm?*

*Sliding into the classroom, I saw Luna sitting on her own. I sat down next to her and peered over her shoulder. She was working on a drawing. She couldn't draw as good as me. I patted her on the shoulder. Angrily, she frowned in my direction.*

*"That's really good." A smile brightly shone on my face.*

*She grabbed the paper and crumpled it into a ball, shoving it into her backpack. How rude!*

*"Hey, why did you do that?"*

*"Sorry," she muttered under her breath.*

*She looked downwards. Her short dark glossy hair reflecting the sun. She looked so...sad? No one could be sad around me. Everyone should be smiling around me.*

*"Why do you look like that?" It suddenly came out, and a bit ruder than I expected.*

*"What...?"*

*She looked at me, and her eyes wide. I rolled my eyes, of course she didn't understand my words. She was starting to get on my nerves. No one could speak to me like that!*

*Instead of snapping back, she simply looked down. I would apologise, but I did nothing wrong. I ignored her and looked at the board, remembering I was supposed to make friends with her, not enemies.*

### **Eclipse**



*Today was tiring for Luna, because of Sonny, now she could finally get to the only place she felt like herself; the park. She started walking but stopped when she saw a blonde-haired kid. Sonny. She would have walked away, but he motioned her to come. So, reluctantly she sat.*

*“How was school?” Sonny questioned.*

*“OK,” she said, holding her tongue, “it was...good?”*

*“She tried to smile through the shyness. The park was silent, for the first time, Sonny looked at Luna, like really looked at her and finally saw what he needed to this whole time..*

*.“You’re so much better than me,” he blurted out. “You’re so...modest.”*

*“What?! No, you’re the one who’s better how many friends do I have? Oh yeah, none.”*

*“You’re everything I strive to be!,” they said in unison and a friendship bloomed into a flower that no conflict could ever pluck.*

## Calendar and Trips



- Fri 29th Nov : Big Birmingham Sleep Out
- Tue 10th Dec : Local Primary School at Idsall Christmas Lunch
- Thu 12th Dec : Year 11 Parents Evening
- Fri 13th Dec : School Christmas Lunch
- Fri 13th Dec : Christmas Jumper Day

- Tue 17th Dec : Christmas Concert at St Andrews Church
- Fri 20th Dec : Break up for Christmas Holidays
- Mon 6th Jan : Spring Term Starts

## TRIPS

We are presently putting together potential / already in process trips for :

- Year 10 & 11 - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre Trip for Performing Arts Students to see Warhorse (20 March 2025)
- Year 7 & 8 - France Disneyland Paris and Paris <https://www.idsallschool.org/disneyland-paris-trip-presentation/> (April 2025)
- Year 8 - PGL (May 2025)
- Year 9 - France and Belgium Battlefields Trip (May 2025)
- Year 8 & 9 - Las Vegas Geography Trip (see Mrs Green in G3 for more information) (October 2026) <https://www.idsallschool.org/las-vegas-trip-presentation/>
- Year 10, 11 & 12 - Kenya Expedition (see Mr Pittam in G2 for more information) (Summer 2026)

## Christmas Jumper Day



# CHRISTMAS JUMPER Day



It's the most magical time of the year - fairy lights and baubles, snowmen and christmas trees! On Friday 13th December, staff and students at Idsall are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper instead of **school blazer (only)** for a £1.00 donation (information has been sent out in a letter).

The money raised goes to Save the Children, by taking part we'll be helping kids who don't have the basics they need to survive – like food, school or medicine – to start seeing the magic in the world again.

So whether you buy one, wear a vintage one, decorate an existing jumper or knit your own help us raise some money for an excellent cause and ditch the blazer for a day!

Friday 13th December is also the day for our School Christmas Lunch!

## Christmas Card Competition



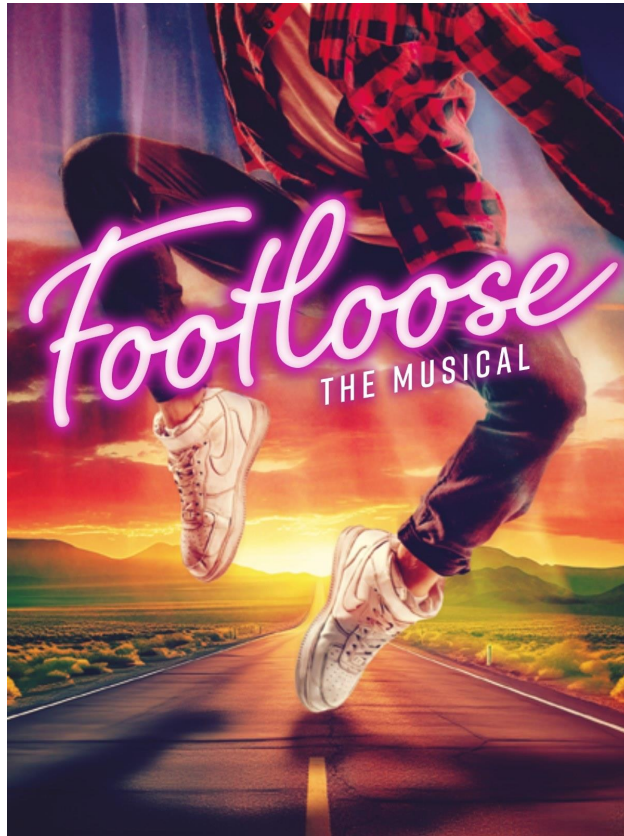
The Art Department held their annual Christmas Card Competition for the KS3 students and once again the designs were amazing. So much creativity made the judging so difficult. However choose they had to and above is a picture of the winning entries!

Prizes will be presented during assembly.

Congratulations to all those that took part and well done to the following students :

<b>Year 7</b>	<b>1st Place</b>	<b>Jessica Merriman</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Lacey-Anne McCullough</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Abigail Price</b>
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>1st Place</b>	<b>Izzy Kucharczyk</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Annie-May Weaver</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Lily Green</b>
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>1st Place</b>	<b>Shalom Elegbusi</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Amelia Middleton</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Autumn Deeves</b>

## Footloose



This week the Performing Arts department announced the cast for Footloose.

Thank you to all students who auditioned!

The cast now have their scripts and are ready for rehearsals to start next week. (Please see the rehearsal schedule for this term attached below)

Moving forward, the schedule will be published at the end of each term, providing students with adequate time to learn lines over the half-term break.

We look forward to updating you all on our progress throughout the year in anticipation for the show in July.



FOOTLOOSE CAST LIST		
Ren	-	George Robinson
Ariel	-	Lily Shone
Rev Shaw	-	Storm Woolley
Vi Moore	-	Zoe Partlett
Rusty	-	Summer Creighton
Willard	-	Nancy Lakin
Ethel	-	Keira Elcock
Chuck	-	Ivy Littleton
Urleen	-	Ellie Griffin
Wendy	-	Georgia Garratt
Jeter/cowboy Bob	-	Kenna McIlmoyle
Lulu	-	Izzy K
Wes	-	Autumn Deeves
Coach Dunbar	-	Lily Palmer
Eleanor Dunbar	-	Erin Dyke
Lyle	-	Sapphy Owen
Travis	-	Harper Cheshire
Garvin	-	Leyla Clibborn
Bickle	-	Alice Moore
Lois	-	Charlotte Garratt
Mitzy	-	Jamillia Powers
Elliot	-	Maia Salt
David	-	Sadie Lomax

AUTUMN 2 REHEARSAL SCHEDULE: SESSION SIX 15:15-16:15

A reminder that all cast should attend the acting and dance rehearsals with Mrs Creighton. Please make sure that lines should be learnt before each rehearsal but please bring scripts with you to the rehearsals. You are responsible for making sure you pay for the late bus, if required.

Mrs Creighton D1 Acting <i>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</i>	Mrs Creighton D1 Dance <i>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</i>	Mr Austin STA Singing <i>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December</i>
Pages 1-12: Scene 1 and 1a	Footloose / on any Sunday (song no.1) <i>Pages 1-16 in the back of the Libretto</i>	Footloose / On Any Sunday Footloose Finale (full company)
<i>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December</i>
Pages 12-22: Scenes 2, 3 and 4	Footloose / on any Sunday (song no.1) <i>Pages 1-16 in the back of the Libretto</i>	Footloose / On Any Sunday The Girl Gets Around
<i>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>No rehearsal due to Church service.</i>	<i>No rehearsal due to it being the end of term.</i>
Pages 22-40: Scene 5		

## Idsall Music Performed on Stage



On Saturday 23rd November, Idsall's music department took part in the festivities at Shifnal's Christmas Lights Switch On!

The band and singers impressed the crowds with renditions of songs ranging from Valerie by Amy Winehouse to I Bet That You Look Good On The Dancefloor by Arctic Monkeys.

For many of the students, this was their first opportunity to perform live at an event in a gig like atmosphere. The students performed professionally and confidently.

Thank you to those who attended and showed their support!

The music department's next appearance will be at St Andrews Church on 17th December - please save the date, come along and support our talented students.

## Guest Author



We are delighted to share the success of our recent writer's workshop, designed to inspire our Sixth Form and Year 11 students to explore the world of writing and think like writers.

Felicity Radcliffe, the writer, lead the event, which was a fantastic opportunity for students to engage with the creative process, develop their writing skills, and gain valuable insights into the life of a writer.

We hope that this workshop has ignited a passion for writing in our students and encouraged them to pursue their literary ambitions.

Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event a memorable experience. We look forward to seeing the amazing stories and ideas that our students will create in the future!

Watch this space for more writing competitions in the future...





## Ski Trip



Mr. Goodison sent out an email to all parents / carers of the students on the 2025 ski trip regarding the parental meeting - bullet points are :

- Parental Meeting : Wednesday 4th December at 4.00 pm in the main hall
- Rep from the tour company Equity will be here to tell you about the resort and venues along with trip transport, code of conduct, extra non skiing activities booked in etc
- Rep from Sub 32 will be here for you to ask questions and information on equipment / clothing / ski essentials - they are a hire and sale company so you can hire all the equipment needed if you don't want to buy.

Any questions please email : [phil.goodison@ids.mmat.co.uk](mailto:phil.goodison@ids.mmat.co.uk)

## Disneyland Update



Reminder : 2nd Deposit of £215.00 payable by : Thursday 12th December 2024 (Parent-Pay has now been set up)

If you have any questions about the trip please email : [cathy.leverington@ids.mmat.co.uk](mailto:cathy.leverington@ids.mmat.co.uk)

## History Department Trip



The History Department is offering our current Year 9 students the chance to take part in a residential visit to Belgium and France in May 2025. There are places for 40 students on this trip.

By visiting battle sites, museums and cemeteries, students will gain an experience that usual school resources cannot offer. This excursion will enable pupils to develop an understanding of events of the First World War and the nature of warfare.

Invitation letters will shortly be sent out by email. Any further queries, please contact Mrs Strachan/Miss Evans.

## Sport at Idsall

### Idsall Netball Club

We are super proud of Idsall's netball club, we have over 45 students attending every week, their dedication now the weather has turned cold and the nights are drawing it has been amazing.

Within the group we have students taking on leadership roles, coaching responsibility and umpiring.

Their passion for netball shines through and we, as staff, appreciate their help each week. We would struggle to run the club without them.

We have got several fixtures planned in for the coming weeks across all year groups. Details will be via email to parents/guardians.



### KS3 Boys Qualifying Tournament



The KS3 boys had their East Shropshire School Games qualifying tournament against Oldbury Wells, Bridgnorth Endowed and William Brookes schools on Wednesday.

Winning all 3 games with outstanding defense and attack, the 10 min games saw the biggest win - 17 points to 2.

Well done boys for booking your place to be county champions in the finals after Christmas.

### Fabulous Netballers!

**Well done to our Yr 7 and Yr 8 Netballer's who on Thursday played games against, Ercall Wood, BBS and Langley.**

**Despite the freezing conditions the girls organised themselves brilliantly and played some excellent Netball.**

**Yr 7 won all 3 games**

**Yr 8 won 2 and lost 1.**

**Yr 7 coaches player : Emilia (Fabulous captain and played out of her skin in defense)**

**Yr 8 coaches player : Lola (First competitive game for Idsall and she dominated in defense)**

**Fantastic results - well done to you all.**



## Idsall's Own Telford Tiger!



At the beginning of the season, Josef was delighted to be told he was to be signed to the Telford Tigers senior team at 16 years old.

To date he has made 10 appearances for Tigers 2 (the reserve team) in the National North Division 2 (Tier 4) and 1 appearance for the main Telford Tigers team in the National League (Tier 2 of ice hockey in the UK) - this is a massive achievement.

He is also still playing junior hockey and is captain of the U18's team.

In the summer he was also selected to play in the National Showcase. The best juniors from around the country, drafted to play in a round robin tournament.

Huge congratulations to Josef from everyone at Idsall. It takes a huge amount of dedication to get these kind of results and we wish you all the best as you continue your ice hockey journey.

# Safeguarding



This week's safeguarding focus for parents is on the topic of VPN's.

VPN stands for Virtual Private Network, and whilst they have advantages such as hiding your location, and increased privacy, are a concern if used by children, as they can be used to bypass restrictions and access age-inappropriate content, amongst other things.

Please see the information leaflet below for more details.

All National Online Safety web pages are written in partnership with parents, carers and educators with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit [nationalonlinesafety.com](http://nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, tips and sign for adults.

## What you need to know about... VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS (VPNS)

Part of our Privacy & Security Series  
**NOS** Online Privacy & Security  
brought to you by  
**NOS** National Online Safety  
[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

### What are they?

**'Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)'**

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) is a privacy tool used to hide internet activity from prying eyes. Without a VPN, internet traffic is sent directly from your computer or smartphone, letting anyone in-between you and a website or service that you're accessing (such as a wireless hotspot owner or your ISP) see what you're doing. With a VPN, a secure tunnel is created between your computer or phone and a server known as the endpoint. The endpoint is merely the part of the Internet where your connection comes out and can be in some country as you or located anywhere else in the world.

### What are they used for?

**Hide location**

Using a VPN has two main effects. First, as the tunnel is fully encrypted, nobody between you and the final endpoint can see what you're up to. Secondly, as all of your traffic looks as though it's coming from the endpoint, you can either avoid being tracked and monitored, hiding your real location from everyone.

**Improved privacy**

VPNs have many legitimate uses, e.g. running a VPN on an unsecured hotspot or other network that you don't trust, gives you additional security. Using a VPN also provides improved privacy, preventing ad networks from tracking you and sending out more ads you like. VPNs can also be used to bypass geo-restrictions, e.g. watching UK streaming TV when abroad by pretending that you're in the UK.

### Know the Risks

**Bypass restrictions**

Although a great privacy tool in the right hands, VPNs can be abused. Children can use them to bypass restrictions on web browsing, potentially accessing their privacy and yours. Children can also use VPNs to hide what they're doing and use the Internet completely anonymously.

**Age-inappropriate content**

Potential control tools work by looking at the sites that a child is trying to visit and blocking according to a list of what's not allowed. VPNs control a child's traffic, which means that any traffic can't be viewed, and potential controls stop working. Once a child knows where a VPN is, they can use it to access any website, or to use a VPN to access content that they're not allowed to see.

**Malware infections**

Installing an untrusted application is a huge risk, and the same applies to many free VPN applications. By getting a malware infection, a child may be spying themselves up to being spied on and their privacy rights being stolen. You use a shared device with a VPN, an infection can then affect your network and spread, and there's then higher risk to other devices on your network.

### Safety Tips

**Check parental controls**

Although the risks might seem entirely different, protection from VPNs is the same for all other threats. Check the parental control software that you're using to see if there's a filter to block VPNs from working. If this is selected, it will prevent most known VPNs from working, along with proxy websites.

**Remove VPNs**

If you have parental control software that can restrict applications, make sure that you investigate any application that your child wants to install and block all VPNs. If you've recently installed any applications, go back and check what they're used for and remove any VPNs that you find.

**Ensure safe use**

You can use a child's computer to try and view a restricted website or service that they're not allowed to go to. Also look for computers and phones that display a shared connection symbol in the top right corner. If you've searched for Internet usage and have open discussions with them about their online activities.

### Our Expert David Ludlow

This guide has been written by David Ludlow. David has been a technology journalist for more than 20 years, covering everything from internet security to the latest computing trends and the smart home. A father of two (a nine-year-old and a six-year-old), he's had to control and manage how his children access online services and use apps.

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter: @natonlinesafety Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram: @nationalonlinesafety

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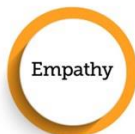
### Our values :



**Excellence:** striving always for mastery and personal success



**Integrity:** consistently acting with honesty, compassion and respect



**Empathy:** embracing and supporting the uniqueness of every individual



**Creativity:** inspiring and challenging through invention, experimentation and exploration



**Equality:** ensuring fair opportunity for all