



Our star skier

YEAR 11 skier Gemima has her eyes on the biggest prize – competing in the Olympics for Team GB.

She has already been part of an English team that took part in a slalom competition in France.

She has skied since she was four months old and is part of the prestigious Uniq Snowsports, a professional coaching organisation that offers a pathway for Alpine skiers from the UK.

Gemima said: “The moment I started skiing I loved it. I’m a bit of a thrill seeker so I love the high speeds you do when you are slalom-ing down the slopes. The dream would be to ski one day for Team GB in the Olympics but I know I’m a long way off that at just 15. But I’m going to keep doing what I’m doing and hope I can get up to that level one day.”

PILL PIONEERING

A STUDENT who created an innovative medical engineering design inspired by a forgetful dad is in the running for the Arkwright Scholarship.

Year 11 Bailey (pictured right) came up with the idea for an automatic pill dispenser after her dad kept forgetting to take his medication.

The idea will hopefully help Bailey win the prestigious scholarship, which includes a £300 bursary and face-to-face time with a mentor.

If successful, she hopes to spend the money on travelling to CERN in Switzerland for an internship.

She said: “We met with students in

older year groups who had attained the scholarship to find out about the application process. It would be great to get my own mentor who could give me careers advice about my next steps.

“The money would also come in really handy. I would spend it on the travel to Switzerland for an internship at CERN. Everything else is paid for but not the travel so that would really help me out.”

Bailey has the most merits in Year 11. These are given out for participation in class, good behaviour and hard work.

Fellow student Oliver has also been nominated for the Arkwright



Scholarship for his hard work.

Oliver said: “I am really pleased to have been nominated for the Arkwright Scholarship. I’m really proud of myself.”



‘Outstanding achievements’

Headteacher Mr Moralee reflects on the term.

This term has been filled with outstanding achievements across our school community, with students excelling in engineering, science and leadership.

Year 11 student Bailey has been recognised for her remarkable creativity in medical engineering, earning a place in the running for the prestigious Arkwright Scholarship.

Inspired by her dad, Bailey’s thoughtful innovation reflects the real-world problem-solving the scholarship aims to recognise.

On the racing circuit, Year 11’s Finley is preparing to compete on the world stage after being scouted for the UK go-karting team during the junior championships.

Having completed nine rounds of the UK series, he now has the chance to compete at the world finals in California later this year.

This an extraordinary achievement for a young

Cadet passes on their knowledge

A young cadet wants to pass down the knowledge he has acquired to the next generation after taking a teaching qualification.

Year 11 Levi says joining the Royal Artillery Cadets Norfolk ACF is the best thing he has ever done.

He completed a weekend long training course where he learned to teacher other cadets.

He said: “I think it’s a really good thing because I’m able to pass on my knowledge to other cadets. I have had some amazing cadets teaching me so wanted to give something back.

“Before I joined I was really shy but now I have made so many friends. I was skinny, now my body shape has changed. It’s changed my life in the best possible way.”

Levi, who is a corporal with the cadets, was a standard bearer at the Remembrance Day parade in the city centre.

He said: “It was a big thing for me. I have family who fought and died in wars. It’s great to remember them and all the other people who sacrificed their lives so we can live how we live today.”

Parade lead

YEAR 13 student Esmee was brimming with pride after given the opportunity to lead the school’s Remembrance Day parade.

The Air Cadet formed all of her fellow cadets, 15 in total, and gave them the orders to march.

You could have heard a pin drop as staff and students observed a two-minute silence.

Esmee (*pictured right*), a sergeant in the Air Cadets, said: “I was a bit nervous at first but after that I felt really proud. This is something a lot bigger than me and I was proud to be part of it.

“My granddad is in the RAF. I am



lucky that he survived but think it is important to remember everybody’s story. Its that one day of the year where you respect and honour these people.”

driver whose dedication is as impressive as his speed.

Science also took centre stage this term with Year 11 student Hollie, who earned her Youth STEMM Award while attending the prestigious Science Camp at the John Innes Centre.

The experience deepened her passion for STEMM and also highlighted the exciting scientific opportunities open to young people.

Meanwhile, Year 13

student Esmee displayed exceptional leadership during our Remembrance Day commemorations.

Her confident leadership set a solemn and respectful tone, and during the two-minute silence you could have heard a pin drop as the entire school community paused to reflect.

It just remains for me to wish you all Merry Christmas. Have a restful break and we will see you in the New Year.



Finley will now compete in California for the world finals

Finley 'buzzing' after reaching go-karting finals

RACING enthusiast Finley is set to compete in the world championship of go karting in the US.

The youngster was scouted for the UK team while competing in England's juniors circuit.

He has the opportunity after finishing second in the UK championship, taking part in nine rounds of races.

Tearing around the Tarmac at blistering pace has earned Finley a place at the world finals in California later this month.

He said: "I am absolutely buzzing about going to America to compete in the world championships. The chance to race against the best in the world will be a massive experience.

"I have been up and down the country to compete but never been abroad with my go karting, so am really excited for this next challenge."

The race is being held at the world famous Willow Springs Raceway, which has featured on BBC programme Top Gear.

Finley said: "I just love racing, the thrill you get from going top speed and negotiating the turns is just incredible.

"If I'm feeling stressed I know that at the weekends I've got the go karting and that makes me feel relaxed. I have made lots of friends."

Go Karting is an expensive hobby and Finley is looking for a sponsor to help pay for the cost of racing.

He said: "It costs around £6,000 to take part in all of the races. For anyone sponsoring me, we offer content creation on social media.

"I offer a unique prospective because I have autism and see things in a different way to other people. If anyone is interested, they can contact the school."

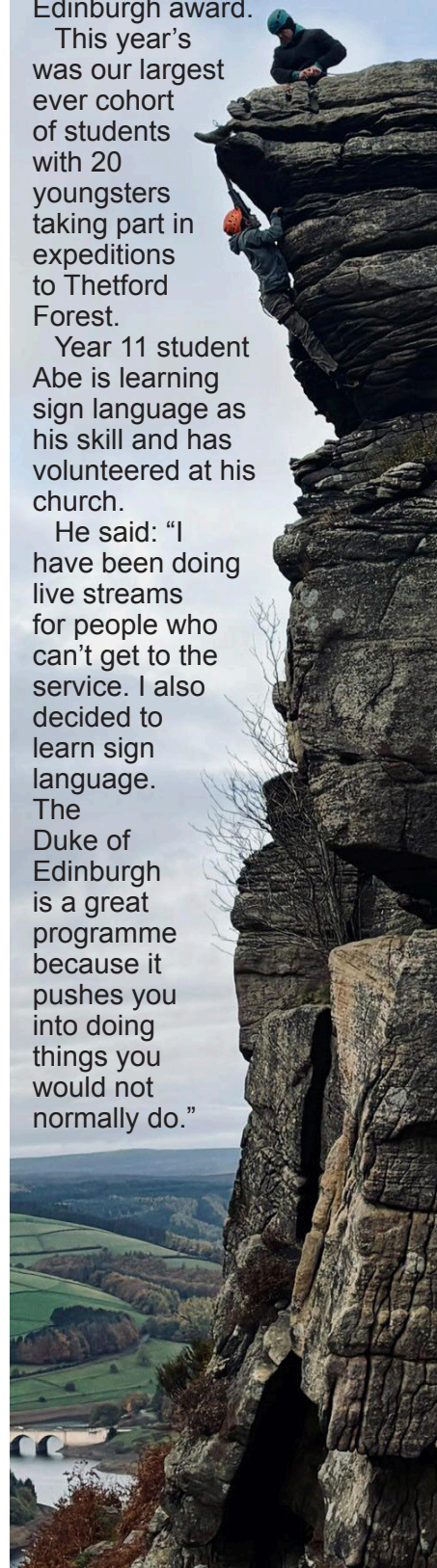
Hitting heights

STUDENTS will volunteer, learn a skill and go on a camping expedition to complete their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award.

This year's was our largest ever cohort of students with 20 youngsters taking part in expeditions to Thetford Forest.

Year 11 student Abe is learning sign language as his skill and has volunteered at his church.

He said: "I have been doing live streams for people who can't get to the service. I also decided to learn sign language. The Duke of Edinburgh is a great programme because it pushes you into doing things you would not normally do."



Students took part in expeditions at Thetford Forest



‘I knew it was helping me’

Deputy head student Tegan explains her journey from shy Year 10 to addressing a room full of hundreds of people at our open evening.

When I came to UTCN I was so shy. I did not feel confident talking to people, I kept my head down, I did not want to be noticed at all.

In class I would not put my hand up and just quietly get on with my work, but never felt like I was part of something.

But at UTCN you can't stay in your shell for very long. They push you to get involved with employability skills workshop where you must learn to present yourself properly.

In those sessions they would place emphasis on being able to articulate yourself well. For a shy person that is hard, but I knew that it was helping me.

Also, in class now we have certain way of asking questions, we have to shape our questions into full sentence.

All of sudden I found myself getting involved with different things around the school, socialising with people and becoming more confident.



Rocco only started playing touch rugby last year

Rugby player shows a touch of class

A talented touch rugby player is on the cusp of being picked for the England under-18 team.

Rocco only started playing the sport last summer because there were no contact rugby matches.

He soon discovered he had a talent for touch rugby and was scouted by the Midlands Tigers.

He has since had a trial for the England under-18 ahead of a tournament they are due to play in the summer of next year in France.

He said: “I was really bored last summer because there is no rugby. The ground is too hard. So, I decided to give touch rugby a

go as kind of a little hobby. It massively took off, almost straight away because I was scouted for Midlands Tigers. From there, I was scouted for trials with the England team.

“I will find out in December or January if I made it through to the England team and am playing in France.”

Touch rugby was started in Australia and is in line to become an Olympic sport at a future games.

Rocco said: “I will hopefully be just the right age to take part in the touch rugby Olympic Games, which will be incredible.”

When I applied to the student council, I knew it would involve lots of public speaking. I wanted that opportunity, the chance to grow and learn more skills.

At the school open evening, I looked out at the sea of faces, and I did not feel nervous, I felt

empowered. I had prepared well and worked hard and now it was happening.

I could not have done any of this if it were not for the support I have received here at UTCN. I am a changed person, much more confident and outgoing.



Keely delves into the past for business's internship

STUDENT Keely helped to archive 50 years of business during an internship with offshore energy training company Petans.

The T Level engineering student also featured in a newspaper article commentating the anniversary.

The opportunity came through the Coastal Energy internship programme, administered by The Ogden Trust.

Keely (*pictured above*) was tasked with organising half-a-century's

worth of pictures and document for a company project.

She said: "I want to pursue a career as an archivist in a museum so this was right up my street, I really enjoyed it.

"It was fun but quite stressful, helping to find photos, lots with no dates on them. For example, I had to date a photo of a helicopter by using the helicopter tail number to see where it may have been at that time."

Keely, who spent four weeks with

Petans, believes students have a lot to gain from internships.

"It's good to have a taster before entirely dedicating yourself to a career path," she said.

"It's longer than a week of work experience, but you're also not committing to a project for a number of months, so it's just enough to get a real feel for it."

Fellow UTCN student Callum visited Petans during his internship with Nu-Gen Energy Services.



Science camp stay earns award

YEAR 11 student Hollie gained her Youth STEMM award while at the prestigious Science Camp at the John Innes Centre.

She spent a week taking part in practical experiments, shadowing scientists and visiting various institutes at Norwich Research Park.

Hollie (*pictured left*) also became the first person at UTCN to achieve the bronze level award, a skill award where students design their own programme of STEMM activities.

She said: "It was great to be chosen

for the Science Camp at John Innes. There were only 14 that got accepted out of lots of applications.

"I spent the week doing practical experiments, which was fun and then spent two days shadowing a PHD student. It was a good opportunity; I met lots of new people and made friends plus I got to build on my science skills.

"I was pleased to get the STEMM award. I am the only one in the school that has it so far, so I was happy about that."

'A great place if you love science'

Workshops, engineering and making friends: Student Dalton on his first term at UTCN

When did you join?
In Year 10

What was your previous school?
Langley Senior School, Loddon

Favourite subject?
Practical engineering. I am a very practical sort of person.

Best thing about being a student at UTCN?
The workshop and the people. My old school was a private school, but they did not have anything like the facilities we have here.
Plus, everyone here is really

into the same sort of stuff I am

How have you settled in?
It's been great. I already knew quite a few people here from the air cadets, so I have managed to make lots of friends quite quickly. We all have similar interest, which makes it so much easier.

What advice would you give students considering making the switch to UTCN?
Don't be afraid, just go for it. This is a great place if you love science and engineering like I do. You will meet lots of like-minded people, students and teachers.



Time to talk at institute

T LEVEL SCIENCE student Jack was asked to run a stall at a science talk after impressing bosses at the Earlham Institute. He spent a week looking at bioinformatics, which is the study of large biological datasets. While there he attended the Accessible Science talk held at the Norwich Bioscience Institute. Jack (*pictured right*) said: "The people I met there were really welcoming. It felt like I had been working there for a long time because they made me feel part of the team."
"I was asked to run a stall at the Accessible Science talk, which all of the T Level students attended."





Members of UTCN's student council

New Head Student: 'Council can be school's friendly face'

THE new Head Student wants to introduce a mentoring programme among students in the school.

Josh pledged to work together with teachers to create a scheme where older students counsel younger pupils.

He was selected after completing a written application and being interviewed by the Headteacher.

He said: "I really think older students could be very helpful to

their young peers because we have been where they are and can offer a fresh perspective.

“I really think older students could be very helpful to their young peers because we have been where they are and can offer a fresh perspective”

incredible honour to have been chosen as the Head Student at this school. I feel very proud.

"I love this school and it really is

"I certainly believe it would have helped me to have someone of a similar age I could talk to about things, like A-level courses, university and apprenticeships."

He added:

"It's such an

a great privilege to be able to give something back to the staff that have helped me so much.

"I really want to make a positive impact during my time here at UTCN. If I can do that then that would be a success."

Josh is supported by Deputy Head Student Tegan and the school council consisting of 19 students.

The group meet fortnightly to discuss issues of sustainability, student voice, employee liaison and events.

Josh said: "I want the council to be seen as the friendly face of the school. We are all down to earth and friendly. We are here to help our fellow students."

Mixed results for Year 10's football team

OUR Year 10 football team got off to a winning start despite playing together for the first time.

They beat Taverham 1-0 in a close fought game.

They played the next two matches

but, playing without a proper goalkeeper, they lost both those games.

‘It’s a nice compliment’: Mr Pope scoops award

TEACHER Mr Pope is over the moon after winning an outstanding teacher award.

The Education Showroom awards shine a light on those who go the extra mile for their students in education.

Good teachers can engage, entertain and inspire in the best possible ways.

This award recognises those teachers who make exceptional contributions to the profession and inspire pupils.

The head of humanities was nominated by colleague Ms Rump who described his lessons as “intellectually stimulating and enjoyable”

Mr Pope said: “I was really pleased to be nominated and even more pleased to have been given the honour of winning. It is a nice compliment.

“I am proud that the school’s name is getting out there because this is a wonderful school and deserves the recognition.

Ms Rump said Mr Pope “brings history and English alive through lessons that are both intellectually stimulating and full of joy.

“His creativity, organisation and care for his colleagues make him a true asset to the school.

And when times get tough, his legendary midweek lemon drizzle lifts everyone’s spirits.”



Mr Pope won at the Education Showroom awards



Army drops by for a school visit

STUDENTS heard from a soldier who drives tanks during an Army drop down day.

The Year 10 students took their learning beyond the classroom when they took part in mini games and listened to a talk from a British Army instructor.

The games were designed to build vital skills needed in the

Students took part in mini games as part of the event

Army, such as problem solving, teamwork and communication.

Student Alfie said: “After the drop-down day I have been considering joining the Army. The sessions were enjoyable and I enjoyed hearing from the tank driver.

“There was lots of problem solving, which meant working together as a team, which was really enjoyable because I got to work with my friends.”