This magazine has been put together to celebrate the achievements of some of our students during this challenging time. This is just a small sample reflecting what is being done.

We know all our students are doing their best to get through lockdown and keep up with their studies - this is a massive achievement in itself.

We are so proud of all our students and we can’t wait to be back in school together.
Erin Brahan, Year 8 - Horse Riding
Year 8 student Erin is a keen equestrian and during 2020, competed at competitions at a higher level than previously, smashing through her comfort zone and competing against adults. Mrs Brahan said, “The lockdown meant Erin has looked after her 2 ponies everyday throughout and overcome many challenges within that time including a few falls but Erin has got back in the saddle and cracked on. We are so proud of her dedication to the sport.”
Well done Erin, keep it up!

Harry Paulucci, Year 10 - Scooter Skills
Last summer Year 10 student Harry achieved his all-time goal by managing to do a back flip on his scooter during lockdown. Amazing! Mrs Paulucci said, “Harry enjoys pushing himself to the extreme on his scooter and was more than pleased with this achievement! He is a member of Mags on Ramps skateboard park in Halifax which unfortunately was closed during lockdown. This didn’t deter his enthusiasm for getting out and practicing so he would go to the local park instead.”
Nathan Leach, Year 9 - Karate and Driving!
During lockdown, Nathan has kept up his karate training in whatever form that has been possible. Online zoom lessons, 1-2-1 lessons with his Sensei when restrictions allowed and also practising with his younger brother at home. This has helped maintain both physical and mental fitness during these difficult times and gives him a break from his video games! Nathan has been learning karate from an early age and has won several medals during those years at club tournaments. Nathan’s other passion is driving! Since the age of 10 he has been having driving lessons on private areas via the young drivers scheme. Nathan’s dad said, “When restrictions were lifted he was able to enjoy his 13th birthday present which was a special skills driving event where amongst other things he drove his car at 90mph along a stretch runway at Elvington airfield! Sadly the restrictions mean these lessons can’t be held at the moment so he’s having to make do with his sim racing chair at home.”
Well done Nathan!

Georgina Allen, Year 13 - Farming
After her A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths were cancelled last summer, Georgina milked 200 cows on a daily basis at a farm in Gilstead. Plus, she rescued and hand reared two orphan lambs. Georgina has now started her Midwifery training up in Newcastle.
Well done Georgina and good luck with your studies!
Larna Brook, Year 7 - Author

Larna Brook in Year 7 aspires to be an author and has been entering lots of writing competitions.

Recently her hard work paid off as she was successful in getting one of her short stories published in a children’s anthology, called Crazy Cab stories by CAAB publishing.

Below and opposite you can read Larna’s winning story, ‘The Time Taxi’ - well done Larna!

The Time Taxi  By Larna Brook, Aged 11

I’m about to go to sleep when my phone starts to vibrate and ring noisily.

It shows ‘Incoming Call from Evie’ on the screen. “What is she doing ringing me at this time?” I ask myself, “and why?” However, in spite of my questions, I answer the phone. “Evie what are you doing, ringing me at this time? It’s nearly 11:00!”

“Hi, Alexa, it’s Evie.” Her voice sounds slurred.

“I know, you big idiot, I have you in my contacts!”

I worry that she is drunk, but I can’t tell and I’m not about to mention it. After all, we are only 15, so why would she be drinking? Well, that’s a bit of a dumb question, Evie’s always been a bit wild.

“Come over to my place, me and the whole of year 11 are having a massive house party because my parents are on holiday.” She’s being really crazy now; Evie knows how strict her parents are about this type of stuff.

“But your parents…” I say, trying hard not to annoy her. She gets even more insane when you annoy her, and everyone, even the teachers at school, know that.

“Whatever, Alexa Wexa.” She says in a baby voice, “I’ll just tell everyone that you’re too much of a wimp to come to a tiny house party!” Evie starts to rise her voice when she says this, so I know that she’s trying to make everyone at the party hear.

“Okay, Okay, I’ll come, count me in. I’m on my way.” I know I shouldn’t have accepted her invitation, but I like my reputation, okay?
I quickly got washed and dressed, making up my escape plan in my head as I went along. I decided to wait until I heard the click of Mum’s door closing, which meant she was going to sleep. Then, I crept down the stairs, put my shoes on, and dialed a taxi-cab number.

I was meant to press ‘222-333-444’ but I accidentally put ‘222-333-443’. “Ugh.” I hissed. I was about to end the call and ring the right number when a woman answered, “Hello this is magic cabs, driving through different times since 2000. How can I help you?”

Good, at least they were a taxi number. I decided not to end the call, and just get a taxi from this place instead. “Hi, can I have a taxi for Alexa Franklin at 8 Stripy Street, Dulux Village to 20 Valspar Drive, also Dulux Village please. Thanks.”

“And at which time will that be?” The girl asked. I guessed they are a hire company, so I check the time Evie has sent me for the party and say politely,

“Before eleven forty-five please. Thanks a bunch.” And end the call.

At around 11:30, five minutes after I called, the taxi came. But this was no ordinary taxi. No, this taxi really looked like it was stuffed with magic. It gleamed like the golden sun, like pirate treasure. I stood there staring, until the driver said, “Hi, are you Alexa Franklin? You’re wanting to go to 20 Valspar Drive, Dulux Village at 11:45, right?” It was like she was reading off a screen or putting on a play, but she wasn’t, she was looking right at me. By this point I’d been taken out of my trance. “What? Oh, yes. That’s me! Alexa Franklin!” I was starting to sound a bit drunk myself, but the woman took no notice. “Well, hop in honey! That’s a good loss. Now I’m in a bit of a muddle, because you have stated what place and time you want to go to, but not the day?”

What? Wait, no. She’s the drunk one now. “Err, today?” I say, looking at her like she’s mad. She belongs in the loony bin, with Evie. “Are you sure honey? You do know this is magic cabs, right?” She looks at me, a glow in her eyes, and a warm smile on her face. “And that makes a difference, why?” I quiz her. The cabs couldn’t possibly really be magic, could they? “Because we time travel! We can take you to any time in any place in the past or future, no fee required!” I look at her, glee filling my mind. I’m speechless. “Well, in that case, can you take me to the Victorian times? An exciting year?”

“Of course! 1840.” She confirms. This woman knows so much about history! Maybe she should be my new history teacher. Ha, ha. I open the door to the taxi and get in, nearly bursting with excitement and curiosity. Once I’m in, the lady tells me about her adventures in the past and the future. “We give rides to meet Queen Victoria, King Edward, and even young dinosaurs!”

“Wow! So, in this taxi cab, I could go and meet Queen Victoria?!” I ask, my mind blown. There was no way this could be true. “That’s the purpose love! That’s what magic cabs are for!” She said, winking at me.

When we got to 1840, a young Queen Victoria jumped in the car, looking quite fed up.

“Hello young madam! And who may you be?” her majesty asked, grace and crispness in her voice. “Oh, um, I’m Alexa Franklin!” I say, stuttering with nervousness. I cannot believe I’m sat next to the real Queen Victoria herself!

“Well, it is a pleasure to meet you. Now, dear Katie, please take me to meet Albert. You know how I like to sneak out and see him! We will be married soon.” The Queen said, looking at the taxi driver, well, Katie. At least now I knew her name! So, we took her to see Albert. They were such sweethearts.

And that’s how my historical adventures began! I have met Marilyn Monroe, Anne Frank, and so many more! Watch out for a gleaming taxi passing your house, or maybe you’ll be next to dial the wrong number...
Zachary Whitaker, Year 7 - Football

Zach has continued to play football as much as possible and where/when permitted, throughout the 2020 lockdown and into the new year. Zach took part in summer camps and a Covid safe football camp held at Woodhouse grove school in the October half term holidays.

Zach also plays for Bingley Juniors football club, and they have not lost a match in this new season. Zach’s mum said, “The team returned to training and league matches in December, post the last lockdown restriction and won the first fixture, after a month away from training. Pulling together as a team to finish with a 7/3 final result. Zachary and other team members scoring the goals.”

Well done Zach!

Scarlett Farr, Year 8 - Drumming

Scarlett took up drums just before the first lockdown. As she was enjoying drumming so much, her parents bought her a set of drums for her 12th birthday which she loves playing. Scarlett’s lessons were put on hold during lockdown, then moved to zoom and finally in August she could return to having lessons with her teacher. Despite this, in September, she took her Grade 1 drum exam and passed with a distinction (92.5%).

Scarlett also attends Speech & Drama and Performing Arts lessons. These were stopped in the first lockdown and started again in August with physical lessons, then moved to zoom lessons during the 2nd lockdown. Again, despite all the upheaval, in December Scarlett received 2 awards for her commitment to lessons and performances throughout the year.

Well done Scarlett, what an achievement!
Clara-Belle Oyedele, Year 7 - Bike Ride Fund raiser
During lockdown Clara-Belle in Year 7 undertook a cycling fundraiser for Children in Need. Clara-Belle had been learning about charity work as part of her home-schooling and was inspired to act when she saw a TV advert for the NSPCC.
Clara-Belle decided to use her exercise time each day to cycle in aid of the NSPCC and Childline. Her aim was to complete 100 kilometres in ten days – and raise £150, but she smashed her target, clocking-up 143km and collecting £1,075 for the charity.
Her parents said they were “extremely proud” of Clara-Belle’s achievement, which raised enough money to handle 268 calls to Childline.
Well done Clara-Belle, what a brilliant thing to do to help others!

Zachary Moore, Year 7 - Drumming
Year 7 student Zachary has continued his drumming lessons online throughout lockdown this year and found music to be a great source of comfort and fun! He just passed his Rock School Drum Exam grade 3 with a distinction!
Zachary’s mum said, “We are very proud of him.”
Well done Zachary, what a great achievement!
Pippa Holliday, Year 7 - Triathlon Athlete

Year 7 student Pippa is a very keen sports woman and trains with Leeds and Bradford Triathlon Club, Bingley swimming club and Keighley and Craven athletic club. During this year all her training has been cancelled due to covid but she has kept herself busy, by running and cycling.

In October Pippa ran with her mum to offer support and encourage whilst she finished a 10k run to raise awareness of miscarriage and infant loss.

In November, as a family they completed an 8k run on the 8th of November for the British legion raising £130 for the poppy appeal.

Pippa is currently working towards running 50km over 3 months as part of her pledge to the tenovus ultra marathon challenge, raising money for the tenovus cancer charity.

Pippa’s mum said, “After one week she has already ran 15k and I know she will go far beyond the 50k target she has set herself. Pippa is an incredible sports woman and always encourages others to do their best no matter what level they are at.”

Well done Pippa and good luck achieving your 50km goal!

Robin Smouse, Year 8 - Taekwando

Robin Smouse graded for his Second Dan in Taekwando September 2020. He had to take an exams as part of the grading process with a 1000 word Essay explaining his understanding of the characteristics of a Second Dan.

He will be competing in the Taekwando World Championships in Mexico in November 2021!

What an amazing achievement, well done Robin and good luck!
Isaaq Ali, Year 8 - Football
Year 8 student Isaaq is a keen goal keeper and has been playing since he was 6 years old. He has played for York City, Bradford City and trialed for Burnley.
He currently plays for Pro-Elite in Bradford in the u13s Junior Premier League and travels all over UK with his team.
Isaaq also got invited to play for Bradford school boys team to represent Bradford this year but unfortunately hasn’t played many matches due to covid)
Isaaq has won many trophies over the years including best new comer; most improved player, players player of the year and managers player of the year!
Isaaq’s mum said,
“Isaaq plays football Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays - its a full time commitment and he hopes to get a scholarship when he leaves bingley as its his dream to become a professional Goalkeeper one day!”

Zara Adnan, Year 11 - Academic Achievement
Year 11 student Zara Adnan has been inspired throughout lockdown by the doctors working day and night to treat and save patients. Zara has been so inspired that she has been putting her all into her studies to become a doctor herself. She knew the first step toward her goal was to improve her grades and has been putting her heart and soul to her studies ever since.
Zara’s mum said,
“She has been in bottom sets since Year 7 but she battled through perplexity and turned the tables around and now she is in top sets! We are very proud of her and sure she will continue to show the same level of diligence through this year.”
Well done Zara, we are sure your hard work will pay off!
Claire Rylatt, Year 12 - From volunteer to Optical Consultant!

Just before lockdown Year 12 student Claire applied for a weekend job at Boots Opticians in Keighley. Originally she asked for voluntary work, however a vacancy arose, she applied and she got the post! Claire only worked at the opticians for a few weeks before lockdown and was initially furloughed but was quite quickly then put into a staff ‘bubble’ when the shop opened up again. This meant that she has been working on a rota throughout.

Claire’s mum said, “I am super proud of her as she has faced dealing with the public during the pandemic in a very mature way. She is being trained as an optical consultant and does all the pre-screening checks wearing full PPE. Quite something for a 16 year old! She also arranged clinics for the optician and carries out Covid-19 interviews with patients on the telephone prior to them coming in. Her confidence has grown as has her ability to cope in difficult situations due to her experiences. She had embraced 6th form in such a positive way and I’m sure that this is due to the support she received before lockdown from all of you, a fabulous set of GCSE results and her work experience at Boots.”

Well done Claire, it sounds like you are a valuable addition to the team!

Jack Grimshaw, Year 8 - Helping Out at home

Jack’s mum and dad have both worked throughout the pandemic. At the beginning Jack decided to help out and has been busy planning, making and serving tea for the whole family during the week. He has made lots of tasty meals so that his parents didn’t have to after work.

Jacks mum said, “Jack even took a three course meal round to an elderly neighbour on Christmas Day as she was on her own due to shielding.”

Well done Jack, I’m sure you made your neighbours’ Christmas!
Amelia Lightowler, Year 9 - Gymnastics

During lockdown, Amelia has continued to work hard with her gymnastics training with Ilkley Gym Club. She has attended her training on zoom three times a week, in addition to concentrating on her strengthening, flexibility and conditioning exercises and daily challenges set by her head coach. Some weeks, Amelia has put in more than 15 hours’ training a week. Amelia has also competed virtually which was a fun experience!

A few weeks ago, Amelia and some of her team friends and coaches had a three hour gym session with Daniel Cook. Daniel is one is the best acro gymnastics coaches in the country and has produced some GB champions. It was a fantastic opportunity for the gymnasts.

Amelia’s mum said,

“All Amelia continues to work hard and perseveres with difficult moves until she achieves and perfects them. She is looking forward to competing at the Yorkshire preliminaries next year with her trio. Just before Christmas, Amelia was presented with the ‘Most improved gymnast of 2020’ trophy by her head coach.”

Wow, well done Amelia! Keep up the hardwork.

Jessica Kelly, Year 13 - Piano

Year 13 student Jessica has continued to learn the piano throughout lockdown with lessons on Skype for most of it. She was due to take her Grade 8 Piano in March 2020, but this was cancelled due to the lockdown. Jessica finally took her exam in December 2020 and passed with a distinction!

Well done Jessica, all your practice and dedication has paid off!
Emmy Southwell, Year 9 - Sweet Shop Delivery Service

Year 9 student Emmy has shown great initiative to try to earn her own money. This year in the first lockdown Emmy used her own money to buy stock and set up her own sweet delivery business. She took care of her own social media accounts, put on special offers and managed all her own transactions and packaging even creating her own logo! Emmy made a huge success and made in the region of £350 pounds. Unfortunately once schools were opened Emmy had to give up the business but she still has the same drive to earn money and is looking for a job as well as doing jobs in the house offering to clean and wash the car, do general cleaning etc.

Emmy’s mum said,

“Emmy has really struggled without the social interactions of school and seeing friends and family but I’m so proud of how she has handled things and never given up her willingness to get on and achieve.”

Well done Emmy, what an entrepreneur!

Tom Hudson, Past Student - Charity Fundraiser

Last November past student Tom undertook a fundraiser for Alzheimer’s Research UK in memory of his late Grandad.

Tom decided to do something positive after losing his Grandad to Alzheimer’s earlier this year and so decided to run 65k over 13 consecutive days. His efforts raised £2,335 for a worthy cause.

Well done Tom, brilliant work!
**Leo Maitland in Year 12 - Voluntary Work**

Year 12 student Leo has been involved with the youth volunteer scheme in Wilsden, which was set up last year to support vulnerable people in the village. On Christmas Day he and his brother Rowan (who left School last year and can now drive) delivered Christmas dinners to elderly people in the village. The dinners had been cooked by volunteers at the village hall kitchen and then were distributed around (all by young people) to residents who were on their own. Year 13 student Jessica Kelly and her older sister Elizabeth were also heavily involved in the scheme.

Wow - well done to Leo, Rowan, Jessica, Elizabeth and all the other young people in Wilsden who dedicated their time and efforts to this worthy work. I am sure the elderly people you helped were extremely grateful.

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**Rosie Thomas, Year 7 - Piano**

Year 7 student Rosie loves music and dancing. During lockdown she has carried on with ballet and piano lessons when possible. Recently, she has worked particularly hard practicing her piano skills and in December she took her Grade 2 exam which went really well. Over the Christmas period, she also learned how to play carols for fun!

Well done Rosie, keep practising!
Ben Stewart, Year 7 - Football

It has been a tough year for football lovers worldwide but Ben has been keeping it up whenever it has been possible with training and matches with his team the Bolton Woods Titans. Ben is very committed to his team, never missed training or matches (when these have been able to take place) and is often praised for his efforts by his coach. He used to be a goalkeeper but now is working hard in defence, where he is a force to be reckoned with!

In one of the rare opportunities to play mid-October, Ben was awarded three trophies for the year’s efforts. These were: trainer of the week, the players’ choice (chosen by his team) and the members trophy. Ben loves football and other competitive team sports and absolutely loves PE. He is very much looking forward to becoming involved with school teams when we get back to some sort of normality.

Ben’s mum said,

“Sport has always been a passion for Ben and he is pleased he can still keep up with his martial arts (Jui Jitsu) which is being delivered online (one of his trainers is Bingley sixth form student Jim Churchill!). Ben is very committed to his martial arts which he has been doing for 5 years.”

Well done Ben, what a sportsman!

Isaac Milne, Year 7 - Scouting

Year 7 student Isaac is a member of 9th Bradford North Scout group. With his pack Isaac took part in community litter picks on his daily exercise during Lockdown 1 and also filled shoeboxes for Centrepoint, providing gifts to homeless teenagers.

Isaac’s mum said,

“His amazing Scout pack have given Isaac a focus throughout this most challenging year. They’ve held weekly zoom meetings and continued to set different challenges to continually support others.” Well done Isaac, it sounds like you have been doing lots of amazing things to help our local community.
Sienna Hughes, Year 7 - One Million Steps
Year 7 student Sienna undertook the ‘one million steps’ challenge with her family for Diabetes UK.
Well done Sienna, what a great achievement!

Thomas Pope, Year 8 - Drumming
Year 8 student Thomas practiced and passed, with merit, his Grade 5 Drums exam through lockdown. His original exam couldn’t go ahead due to the Covid-19 restrictions but it was rescheduled later in the summer when it could safely be done again. His aim is to pass his Grade 8 exam before he turns 15! That’s two and half years to do 3 exams! Well done Thomas, great dedication!
Ellie Wilkinson, Year 12 - KWVR Volunteer

Sixth form student Ellie is the Civil Secretary and Young Persons Mentor at Keighley Worth Valley Heritage Railway. She is in Year 12 studying her A-levels English language, Geography and Sociology and hopes to pursue a career at Network rail once she has studied a degree.

Ellie has been volunteering for five years every weekend and during the holidays. Normally pre-Covid Ellie would spend her time working alongside other volunteers in the locomotive workshop/stations and catering departments ensuring all tourists and locals alike enjoy their experience at keighley’s highly regarded Heritage railway. In the October issue of Heritage railway magazine (the uks leading railways publication) Ellie was interviewed about her volunteering career and particularly her work as the young persons mentor in a highly male dominated environment. She is the only female within her age bracket actively volunteering and is hoping to inspire more young people and particularly females into the railway family. Over Christmas Ellie worked on the Santa specials and was so pleased that the young children and their families could enjoy a socially distanced festive treat. As the railway closed during lockdown Ellie was worried about not being able to volunteer however she became the railways civil engineering department secretary. Her role involves working with others to plan major track works, balance budgets and take minutes in meetings ensuring the railway is fit for running trains. During all lockdowns when Ellie couldn’t participate in her usual roles she devoted her time and effort to ensuring the railway stayed safe and secure by completing security track walks (4 miles) in the evenings, inspecting the main line and ensuring it was clear for running trains.

Ellie said,

“If you are 13 and over and you would like to make a difference in your local community you can get information about joining from me at ellie.wilkinson@kwvr.co.uk. You have to be 13 years old but you do not need any skills to join the young person’s group, just a willingness to make a difference!”

Well done Ellie, your dedication to the KWVR is admirable!
**Emma Wilkins, Year 8 - Gymnastics**

Emma Wilkins in year 8 competes at a high level at both gymnastics and trampolining. To keep the competition squads busy and active during lockdown as well as weekly zoom classes and conditioning routines her coaches set regular challenges to complete over the weekend. The challenges always gave Emma a sense of purpose and became a highlight of her week.

Emma’s mum said, 

"Emma threw herself into these challenges and week after week came up with some brilliant ideas. A few of my favourites were the most unusual place to do the splits or a plank, spelling out a trampolining move with your body and #HandstandUpToCorona in fancy dress.”

Well done Emma, we love your commitment and fun attitude to your sport.

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**Kya Martin, Year 7 - Contortion!**

Year 7 student Kya has been learning contortion since April 2020. She can now do all sorts of contortion positions.

Before April she couldn’t even do the splits!! She has really persevered and shown great dedication.

Wow, well done Kya!
Ellie Hickling, Year 8 - Dance

Year 8 student Ellie has continued with her dancing lessons, albeit online, all through the last lockdown and now in the current one. Ellie and her dance team mates have even participated in a remote team dance competition, which she was pleased to hear their team were the highest scoring group! The lockdown has also provided an opportunity for Ellie to participate in online master classes held by professional dancers and choreographers from Broadway and West End musicals including Elf, Matilda, Back to the Future and Frozen - opportunities that may not have been available in ‘normal’ times.

Ellie’s parents said, “We’re so proud of how Ellie has adapted to online learning in regards to her dancing and her schoolwork - she has taken it in her stride. As her parents, we have both continued to work during the lockdowns and Ellie has cracked on with her work with little fuss.”

Well done Ellie, brilliant work!

Safiyah Khan, Year 8 - Competition Winner

During the Christmas break year 8 student Safiyah entered a national poster competition run by Together We Thrive. togetherwethrive.co.uk

The brief was to create a poster featuring the word “TOGETHER” and Safiyah’s brilliant entry was chosen as one of the runners-up out of entries from all over the UK. Safiyah’s design has been turned into a postcard, along with the other winning entries.

Well done Safiyah, well deserved!
And finally,

Jonathan Morgan, Year 10 - Scouting

Year 10 student Jonathan achieved his Chief Scout Gold Award over the summer and was awarded his badge and certificate in October.

Well done Jonathan, what an achievement!

Sameer Hussain, Year 12 - Voluntary Work

Year 12 student Sameer spent his Christmas day delivering Christmas meals to the elderly. Sameer volunteered to help at the Khidmat Centres in Bradford. Ordinarily the Centre invites elderly and those living alone to join them for Christmas Dinner but this year the service had to be taken to people’s homes.

Well done Sameer, we are sure the elderly people you visited and provided with their Christmas Dinner were so grateful.

Oliver Humphreys, Year 9 - Cooking

Year 9 student Oliver has used his free time during lockdown learning to cook different meals. Oliver often takes part in online classes like the Jamie Oliver Masterclasses, and recently started using his Christmas present, a pasta maker!

Over the past few weeks of home learning Oliver has been making lunch for his family during his breaktimes.

Well done Oliver, I am sure your family have enjoyed tasting all your creations!