

# Presspack

News from schools | stories from pupils

At school? This is the page you can write! We welcome your articles, poems, pictures and stories for this page. Send your articles to [news@wokinghampaper.co.uk](mailto:news@wokinghampaper.co.uk)



## Art works for talented duo

TWO Sixth Form students from a school in Earley have scooped the top prizes at a local art competition.

The pupils from Maiden Erlegh School, in Silverdale Road, achieved first and second place in the Reading Schools Art Competition, which took place on Thursday, September 28 during the festival of Sharad Utsav.

The huge event, celebrating Indian culture, took place at the Rivermead Leisure Centre and was organised by the Bengali Cultural Society, Reading.



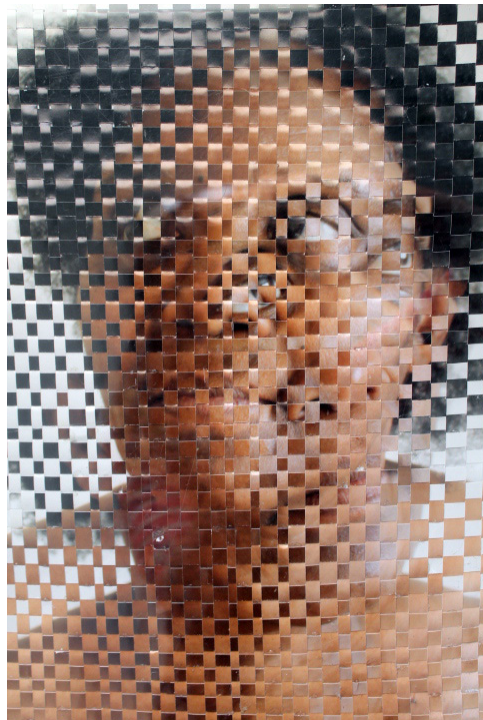
Sharon Muiruri in Year 12 gained first prize for her photography piece entitled "Woven Aunty", while Luke Hickling in Year 13 gained second prize for his painting

of Kew Gardens.

Both students received money as prizes and a huge silver cup for the school to keep for the year.

Amrit Manku, Mollie Rowland and Wiktoria Sternik, also in Year 13, all received commendations for their entries.

A spokesperson for Maiden Erlegh School said: "Congratulations to all of the students involved on their very impressive work. The Art Department at Maiden Erlegh School is extremely proud of all of the students involved."



## Young dancer scoops Stage scholarship

A YOUNG dancer from Wokingham is jumping for joy after winning a scholarship worth £45,000.

Amelia Lusted, 10, who has attended the Jayne A Coleman Academy of Dance since she was three-years-old, won The Stage Scholarship at the Barbara Speake Stage School, which will cover her school fees up to Year 11.

The young dancer, who is trained in ballet, tap, modern dance, street, jazz, musical theatre, singing and acting, appeared in a UK tour of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang last year, and has performed on BBC in My Team the Cheerleaders.

Speaking to The Stage, Amelia said: "When I heard I had won the

scholarship, I couldn't believe the news, it was like my dream had come true.



"I didn't have the greatest start in life before being adopted, and life is hard for my family as I have a disabled brother. I would never have been able to train in a full-time performing arts school for all of secondary school without this full scholarship.

"I am so grateful for this opportunity. It means the absolute world to me that Barbara Speake Stage School and The Stage believe in me. If I can bring some happiness to people with my performing, it makes me happy too."

## Students dive in to new learning initiative

STUDENTS at Bracknell & Wokingham College are literally diving into a new initiative launched by the school.

Working in partnership with the idiveteam, a local PADI 5\* dive resort, the college is offering students the opportunity to gain their scuba diving qualification at the only PADI educational facility in Berkshire.

Students can learn about how pressure affects the body when diving, the best gear to use and what to consider when planning dives.

The course offers the most popular international diving qualification, the PADI Open Water Certification which qualifies students to 18 metres.

Sport lecturer Stuart Carrington said: "I'm delighted to be able to offer our students this fantastic

opportunity. SCUBA diving is a fantastic experience, a great way to meet new people and another possible pathway to employment that we can offer our students. I urge both current and prospective students to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity."

Campbell Christie CBE, Principal of the College said: "Speaking as a former diver and Diving Officer in the Royal Navy, I know how much diving develops self-confidence, leadership, teamwork and camaraderie as well as a sense of wonder for the underwater world."



## Campus green space is officially one of the best

A UNIVERSITY campus in Earley has been voted one of the most popular green spaces in the UK.

The University of Reading's Whiteknights campus, which is made up of 130 hectares of beautiful parkland, was voted for out of almost 1,800 green spaces entered into the 2017 Green Flag People's Choice Award and is the only university campus in the top 10.

The University received its seventh Green Flag Award earlier this year in recognition of its well-maintained and well-managed campus.

All Green Flag Award-winning parks and green spaces were entered into the annual poll, and the public were asked to vote for their favourite.

The Whiteknights campus includes a lake, woodlands and the widely enjoyed Harris Garden. The Green Flag Award scheme is the benchmark standard for parks and green spaces in the UK and is run by Keep Britain Tidy.

Steve Boon, Facilities Maintenance Director at the University, said: "We are delighted to have been voted in the top ten green spaces in the UK, and hugely proud to be the only university campus on that list.

"Our beautiful Whiteknights campus plays a huge part in attracting students and staff to the University of Reading.

"The grounds and maintenance teams work extremely hard to keep the campus looking good all year round, so I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication, which has helped us gain this fantastic recognition."

A SOUTH HILL PARK PRODUCTION

# THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

BY E NESBIT  
ADAPTED BY DAVE SIMPSON

A family show  
suitable for all ages



What better way to  
end half-term week?  
GET READING ON THE MAGIC FINGER, 2016

Wed 25 Oct – Sat 28 Oct · Wilde Theatre

BOX OFFICE 01344 484123 · [SOUTHILLPARK.ORG.UK](http://SOUTHILLPARK.ORG.UK)

@SOUTHILLPARK /SOUTHILLPARKARTSCENTRE



South Hill Park Trust Limited.  
A charitable company  
limited by guarantee