

ST JOHN PAYNE



AVITA PRO FIDE



## NEWSLETTER March 2024

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Mr Thomas Coen, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH



## HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS

Friday 15th March saw our first sleep out in aid of Caritas Anchor House, a charity most dear to Bishop Alan and the Diocese for its care for the homeless. It was lovely to have every Year represented, students and staff uniting in witness before the Blessed Sacrament during Adoration with Fr Paschal, who remained throughout the night, leading morning prayer. We thank the students on behalf of us all for their selfless act of service, and all who helped through promotion and donation.

Throughout Lent and Passiontide we have prayed for all homeless, refugee & displaced peoples in anticipation of Christ's ultimate sacrifice and Passion, the salvation of his Resurrection and Ascension, and the work of the Holy Spirit as Christ's earliest followers established his church.

We were delighted to welcome Steven Webb, governor and friend to SJP, to present Catenian cheques to sixth form students volunteering in Lourdes at Easter. These funds afford our wonderful students the faith affirming journey of service and witness that always has a profound impact on all involved.

Though short, the half term has been full. Students visited the aquatics centre at the Olympic park to help lead and officiate the Panathlon swimming gala; staff and parents enjoyed rehearsals of the recent Year 11 & 13 drama examination performances; Year 7 & 8 drama students participated in the monologue & duologue slam with Chelmer Valley - as last year, there was lovely support and affirmation between all the children; drama students also helped children from Columbus College prepare for the Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Civic Theatre; a Bank of England representative visited to speak to KS 4 & 5 business and economics students, KS5 business groups visited Stratford, we hosted our first Music in Industry day, and there has been a wealth of extra-curricular enrichment, with our under-14 netball team making fantastic progress to the semi-final of the Essex Cup.





Fr Paschal continues to celebrate Mass every Tuesday morning in our Chapel - all are welcome. Adoration each Thursday lunchtime draws ever growing numbers as students and staff gather together in witness before The Blessed Sacrament, and we are always delighted to welcome our Deanery Priests to celebrate Form Mass each Friday. We pray for Fr Matúš Meleg, ordained by Bishop Alan Williams sm on Saturday 16th March at Our Lady of Grace and St Teresa of Avila in Chingford.

Our Lenten reflections have encompassed Reconciliation in school for 350 students. Last night's Lent service was a moving testament to our faith, and it has been lovely to gather in witness with the students as each Year group has attended the service today.

In a departure from our custom at the close of each term, students have attended in uniform today to ensure the reverence and solemnity this Maundy Thursday. Non-uniform day will instead be Friday 19th April in aid of CAFOD and Earth Society initiatives to support our stewardship of the environment.

We wish our whole community a Holy, happy & restful Easter break, and will look forward to welcoming the students back to school on our return on 15th April.

In Faith

***Thomas Coen***





## **Mass**

This month has been a great month for Mass at SJP. Forms in Year 10 and 8 have enjoyed Mass in the chapel with Fr Paschal, Fr Matthias, Fr Martin and Fr Paul. The reverence was impeccable and the students took an active lead with readings and writing of the bidding prayers. Every Tuesday many staff members and students come together at 8am to celebrate in the best way we know how, morning Mass. We thank Fr Paschal for joining us every week and starting our day with the miracle of the Eucharist.

## **Adoration**

Fr. Paschal and the Chelmsford group of the Legion of Mary have continued to visit us on a Thursday lunchtime in the Chapel. We start the lunchtime club praying a decade of the rosary. Adoration is now so highly attended that you often cannot see any carpet but instead a room filled with Christ's followers, giving thanks for our God.

Fr Paschal has taught our students the importance to serve God under the banner of Mary, to bring Mary to the world by practicing spiritual works of mercy and through the sanctification of its members by the means of prayers and devotion to Mary and the Holy Trinity and doing apostolic works for the glory of God. The praise of God continues to grow each week.

## **Reconciliation**

Last week, all students were invited to the sacrament of reconciliation. Over 350 catholic students received this healing and many other students joined for private silent prayer with God.







## CHAPLAINCY FAITH LIFE



### Called to Action

This month over 60 students with members of staff and Fr Paschal came together to offer a sacrifice for Lent. We were called to action and having been called, we certainly acted. Together with just our sleeping bags and cardboard, we slept out in the cold to raise awareness and funds for the most vulnerable in our community. After an evening of prayer and reflection, we all entered the chapel in Adoration of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Together and with the generosity of our wonderful families, we raised over £1800 for Caritas.

A message from Siân Thomas-Cullinan the Director of Caritas at the Diocese of Brentwood

*"The work of Caritas is vital across Essex and East London and the money raised by the staff and students of SJP will provide assistance to those most in need in our Diocese. From all those this will help - thank you!"*

*Please be assured of my prayers. You are setting a wonderful example to all young people about the impact such witness can have."*

### Lent Service

On Wednesday evening, our KS3 Faith Ambassadors and newly elected student leadership team led a beautiful Lent service, it was both emotive and reflective. The students involved created and delivered the whole service. The theme was Human, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "Man alone is called to share, by knowledge and love, in God's own life . . . This is the fundamental reason for his dignity. Being in the image of God, the human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just something, but someone", The singing was beautiful, special thanks to Mr Venables.

*"Nails were not enough to hold God and man nailed and fastened on the Cross, had not love held Him there." Saint Catherine of Sienna*

*I wish the whole community a happy & holy Easter. May your Easter will be bright with the hope and joy of our risen Saviour.*

*God bless,*

*Lay Chaplain,  
**Katy Adams***

# "The Duchess of Malfi"



"The Duchess of Malfi" at the Sam Wanamaker Theatre proved to be an unforgettable experience for our group of students. From the moment we stepped into the intimate, candle-lit surroundings of the theatre, it felt as if we were transported back to the Jacobean era, making the dark and compelling narrative of the play even more immersive.

The production was a masterclass in storytelling, with each actor delivering performances that were both powerful and nuanced. The portrayal of the Duchess, a role that demands a complex blend of strength, vulnerability, and defiance, was particularly captivating. Her resilience in the face of tyranny and her quest for love and freedom resonated deeply with us.

The stage design and use of lighting were ingenious, creating an atmosphere that oscillated between the claustrophobic corridors of power and the fleeting moments of personal joy and liberty experienced by the Duchess. The directors' use of the unique space of the Sam Wanamaker Theatre, with its focus on natural lighting and close proximity between actors and audience, intensified the emotional impact of the play. What also stood out was how the production did not shy away from the themes of corruption, power, and gender dynamics that are central to John Webster's text, making it relevant to a contemporary audience. The play's exploration of the consequences of defying societal expectations and norms sparked lively discussions among us afterwards, highlighting the timeless nature of its message.

The musical score, which seamlessly blended with the action on stage, added another layer of depth to the storytelling, enhancing the overall sense of tragedy and inevitability that runs through the play. For us, this visit to the Sam Wanamaker Theatre was more than just a night at the theatre; it was a profound educational experience that brought to life a classic piece of literature through stellar performances and innovative staging. It's a testament to the power of live theatre to educate, entertain, and inspire. We left the venue not only deeply moved by the story of the Duchess of Malfi but also with a greater appreciation for the craft of theatre.

## London Aquatic Centre – Stratford.

A group of 13 of our students were invited to take part in the final Panathlon at the London Aquatic Centre on 29th February 2024. The event was very well organised by a leisure company called GLL whose first event at the venue was the London Olympics with this event being the very last.

Our students behaved and performed fabulously. They came a close 2nd and left not only with certificates but also a trophy!

Huge well done to Ivy, Luca, Jaiden, Lydia, Shannon, Gabriel, Lily, Charlie, Liam, Oliver, Freddie, Kaitlyn & Maciej.



# Jack Petchey Speak Out



On an electrifying Wednesday evening that buzzed with anticipation, the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge showcased a remarkable array of talent, leaving the audience both inspired and reflective. The event, known for its rigorous standards and its role in highlighting the voices of tomorrow, did not disappoint, as participants from various backgrounds took to the stage to share their insights, stories, and visions for the future.

Among the standout moments was the performance by our very own Ariel (Year 10), who secured a commendable third place with a presentation that was both poignant and powerful. Ariel's topic, 'Simon Says...' , was not only timely but delivered with a passion that resonated deeply with the audience. What set Ariel apart was not just the clarity of argument or the compelling evidence brought to bear but the genuine emotion and personal investment that shone through every word, leaving the audience with the inspirational message to 'Speak Out' with their own voice.

Ariel's ability to engage with the audience, to weave narrative and analysis seamlessly, and to present complex ideas in an accessible manner was truly remarkable. The delivery was polished yet authentic, commanding attention not through volume but through the sheer force of conviction and presence.

The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge itself was a well-organised event, testament to the hard work of the organizers and the commitment of the participants. From the logistical smoothness of the evening to the quality of the speeches, it was clear that this was an event that celebrated not just the art of speaking, but the power of ideas.

Ariel's third-place finish in such a competitive field is a significant achievement and speaks volumes about the talent and dedication of this young speaker.





# STUDENT AWARDS



# Student Awards



	<b>Total Year Group Achievement Points</b>	<b>Highest Form  Achievement points</b>	<b>Highest Achievement Points In the Year</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	<b>21889</b>	<b>7D 5472</b>	<b>Aida P 7F 309 Achievement Points</b>
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>18892</b>	<b>8F 4811</b>	<b>Eleanor M 8F 427 Achievement Points</b>
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>15836</b>	<b>9F 3802</b>	<b>Freddie G 9S 422 Achievement Points</b>
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>11373</b>	<b>10D 2333</b>	<b>Ella O 10S 241 Achievement Points</b>
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>4684</b>	<b>11C 1157</b>	<b>Daniel B 167 Achievement Points</b>

# Form, Vice and Sports Captains Year 9 2024–25



## From Mrs Coleman, Head of Year 9

I am very pleased to announce that the following students have been voted in as the Year 9 captains – well done to all. The Heads of House, Katy our Chaplain, your form tutors and I look forward to working with you all this year.

	<b>Form</b>	<b>Vice</b>	<b>Sport</b>
<b>9A</b>	Noah	Jack	Joe D
	Quincy	Daniel	Gibbeh
<b>9B</b>	Nidia	Filip	Timmy
	Tyson	Gabriel	Grace
<b>9C</b>	Kelvin	Joanna	Janvi
	Rodney	Lore	Owen
<b>9D</b>	Cheryll	Jacob	Natalia
	Suhanna	Katy	Maahi
<b>9F</b>	Rohan	Kaitlyn	Thabani
	Julia L	Scarlet-Rose	Sarah D
<b>9S</b>	Evan	Nathan	Archie
	Freddie	Valery	Alicja



# SJP Linguastars– Term 2



**There is nothing complicated about learning languages, but it takes hard work.**

These students have showed particular grit, resilience, curiosity and effort in embedding French/German knowledge into their long-term memory. They will have a very strong start to French and German this year because they have not given up and continued to ask questions and check their memory.

<b>Year 7 French</b>	<b>Year 8 French/German</b>	<b>Year 8 German</b>	<b>Year 9 French</b>	<b>Year 9 German</b>
Ed D (7A)	Noah G (8A)	Anna S (8A)	Robert R (9A)	Annette S (9A)
Vaeh D (7B)	Rio G (8D)	Emma F (8D)	Eloise S (9C)	Nour B (9C)
Chloe G (7C)	Ayobami O (8S)	Marta I (8F)	Aoife P (9S)	Connie W (9S)
Gianna R (7D)	Leo Q (8B)	Amelie M (8A)	Angela D (9A)	Joseph D (9A)
Ayla K(7F)	Zach M (8C)	Zach M (8C)	Erinn M (9D)	Faith B (9C)

# SJP Linguastars– Term 2



Moreover, **SJP Top Linguastars** are chosen amongst all others for their excellence.

**Chloe G (7C):** Chloe is a budding linguist who is a model to classmates with inspiring questions, grit and reflective perseverance.

**Zach M (8C):** Commitment to French studies at home and alertness in lessons.

**Zach M (8C):** Participates very well in class and works hard at home on Duo Lingo to improve his German.

**Eloise S (9C):** Mature approach to extended homework and connecting ideas from topic to topic.

**Nour B (9C):** Nour participates well in class and always pushes herself to produce written work of a high standard.

**Jonathan S (10C):** a fantastic attitude to learning. Jonathan completes all tasks to the best of his ability and has excelled in his last assessments.

**Henry A (10F):** A conscientious student who pushes himself to go the extra mile.

**Maysam K (11C):** Excellent written ability in a variety of tenses due to hard work at home and in lessons. Ideal A-Level candidate.

**Elsie W (11S):** Always attends revision classes and produces an excellent standard of written and spoken German.

**Ellen S (12A):** Positive attitude to learning vocabulary and spontaneous speaking

**Lilli O (12F):** Excellent translation and pronunciation.

**Nicole B (13F):** Considerable improvement in essay writing recently due to mature approach to text/film analysis. Very keen to demonstrate acquired vocabulary in long term memory.

**Nicole B (13F):** Nicole has worked hard to really improve her spoken German - excellent mock examination result.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT





# Student Leadership Team 2024



**From Left to Right: Ruby C, Tilda C, Toby B and Daniel O**

It has been a busy term in the sixth form for some of our students, where some have applied and been through a rigorous process, with the hope of being selected as Head Students.

Not only did they have to go through a Leadership interview, the students also had to stand up in front of both teachers and peers to present their speeches and also write a manifesto, describing themselves and their vision for St John Payne under their Leadership.

Well done to all that applied and it gives me great pleasure to introduce our new 6th Form Student Leadership Team.

## **Head Students:**

Tilda C  
Toby B

## **Deputy Head Students:**

Rubie C  
Daniel O



# Sporting Achievements



## Girl's teams update

This half term we have concluded our netball, basketball and football season. Y7-13 have played numerous netball matches. Our U14 netballers played an incredible Essex Cup Plate semi-final to Fitz. The majority of the girls are playing a year young and it is an incredible achievement to get that far.

Rohan 9F and Ewan 7F took part in an exhibition Bowls match during the National Bowls Championship which they won! Well done!



***An excellent team performance!***

# Physical Education



## PE update

I would like to take the opportunity to remind parents and students of the kit requirements for PE lessons.

Physical Education (all kit must be labelled and in a separate PE bag)

Compulsory from Schoolwear Plus	Compulsory can be purchased from any provider	Optional but encouraged
White polo shirt with school crest.	Plain black shorts (school crest version optional from Schoolwear plus).	Outdoor mid layer top with school crest.
	Black football socks (school yellow and black version optional from Schoolwear plus).	Plain black tracksuit bottoms (no logo/motif).
	Football boots, trainers, shin pads.	Black & amber rugby shirt (boys only).
	Gum shield (for hockey & rugby lessons).	

Piercings & jewellery removed, long hair tied.

Unless they have a broken bone, students unable to participate are to change into PE kit to officiate/coach.

We do not have the space to accommodate for all classes to be indoors over the winter period please allow for your son/daughter to be appropriately dressed for cold weather. If you require support with funding suitable kit for your son/daughter please do not hesitate to contact Mr Magee and we will try and accommodate where possible [r.magee@sjp.essex.sch.uk](mailto:r.magee@sjp.essex.sch.uk)

Our new extra-curricular timetable will be issued next half term. Unfortunately we cannot accept spectators to our fixtures at this time. If students are being collected from site parents/guardians please wait at the school gates.

# Performing Arts



## **Shakespeare Schools Festive - Romeo & Juliet - Columbus School**

Well done to the ten Year 10 Drama GCSE students who volunteered to work with Columbus students by supporting them in their production of Romeo & Juliet as part of The Shakespeare Schools Festival. Both Columbus and SJP students benefited so much from collaborating on this project and the result was a very moving performance, performed to a live audience alongside 3 other school performances of abridged Shakespeare plays at The Chelmsford Theatre on Monday 4th March. We have never been prouder of the maturity, care, support, understanding and professionalism our SJP students demonstrated throughout rehearsals and the performance of this project. Well done Cece, Joe, Jonathan, Ash, Maja, Amy, Ariel, Ryan, Ellen and Lyla.



## **Year 11 & 13 Scripted Performance Showcase & Exam**

Both GCSE & A Level Drama courses require students in their second year of study to explore a professional play text and perform extracts (2 short extracts for GCSE & 1 long extract for A Level) from the play to not only a live audience but to a visiting examiner. This year our GCSE class explored award winning plays 'Harry Potter & the Cursed Child', 'Monster', 'Mudlarks' and 'Teachers Leavers '22'. Our A Level class explored the hard-hitting plays 'Pool (no water)' and 'Attempts on her life'. After an incredible amount of hard work in rehearsals both in lesson and in their own time, the students performed their pieces as part of a showcase evening to invited friends and family on Wednesday 6th March before performing to a visiting examiner on the 8th (A level) and 15th (GCSE) of March. All students performed with such professionalism on both the showcase evening and on their exam day, bringing such life and creativity to their roles and plays. Well done Chloe & Adam, Robson & Gene, Maame, Arianna & Olly, Joe, Amine and Satyam (GSSE) - Phoebe, Elizabeth, Tamsin and Evie, Menzel, Poppy and Erin (A level).





# Performing Arts



## Lower School Play 2024 The It

Please find information below about this year's lower school play. Open to all students in Year 7, 8 & 9. Auditions are 1st week back after Easter break...

SJP's 2024 Lower School Play:

### The IT by Vivienne Franzmann

**The IT** is about a teenager, who has something growing inside of them. They don't know what it is – it starts in their stomach but quickly outgrows that and takes over the entirety of their insides. It expands. It has claws. No one must know about it. They have to keep its presence, its possession of them, concealed. They pull away from their friends. They refuse to speak, in case 'The IT' is heard. But they can't contain it forever. Sooner or later something's got to give...

"Presented in the style of a direct-address documentary theatre, Vivienne Franzmann's 'The IT' is a darkly comic state-of-the-nation play exploring teenage mental health and the rage within."

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...

Auditions open to ALL Year 7, 8 and 9 students.

SIGN UP TO AUDITION ON THE DRAMA NOTICEBOARD AT THE BACK OF MERICI HALL (BOTTOM OF THE DRAMA STUDIO STAIRS)

AUDITION DATE: WEDNESDAY  
17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
3.30PM TILL 5PM – MERICI HALL

REHEARSALS WILL BE DURING  
SELECTED LUNCH BREAKS AND  
AFTERSCHOOL ON A  
THURSDAY – 3.30PM TILL  
4.30PM

SHOW DATES: TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> &  
26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024

SJP's 2024 Lower School Play:

### The IT by Vivienne Franzmann

*The Lower School Play is an **ensemble** performance where the **whole cast** work together to tell the story **BUT** we do need people to step up and take on larger speaking roles and the role of the main characters. If you would like to be considered for the larger speaking roles – please indicate this when you sign up.*

# Our World Book Day Poem

By Freddie G, SJP Poet Laureate.

Written 2023



Fabulously first introduced in 1995,  
World Book Day in the UK has kept our imaginations alive!  
To encourage young people to read with delight,  
It has heightened empathy with much might!

Increasing vocabulary as each year rushes by,  
World Book Day: improving concentration, ambition will fly!  
Dressing up as your favourite fictional character,  
You can read any of your books, from your attic to your cellar!

One hundred different countries celebrate it annually,  
You may even commemorate it by writing a book review manually!  
To discover the pleasure of reading today,  
Go to our school library, please don't stay away!

An essential calendar fixture for all schools,  
Thursday 2nd March, this year, it falls!  
Never forgotten by us at SJP,  
Exciting activities took place as you will now see...

Having gracefully received a one pound voucher to spend on a book,  
To see our school's celebrations, you excitedly had to look!  
A two sentence horror story, you may have decided to devise,  
Or you could have created your own Manga... all World Book Day events making us wise!  
A masked reader was displayed in every lesson,  
All students scrambled to guess the right teacher in each session!  
Here at Saint John Payne we fully embraced this special Day,  
Wait; you thought that was all that there was to say?

PSHE lessons jam-packed full of book-passion,  
This event made reading the fantastic new fashion!  
Growing rapidly in countless different ways,  
DEAR Time, is vital to us and deserves much praise!

All children should have the right to read,  
We are the people in the future who will lead!  
The National Literacy Trust says, "Children reading is on a decline,"  
As a school body, we know that this is not fine!

A sanctuary for when - after a long day - you feel tired or sore,  
Book Day continues to set forth a notion of stories galore, forevermore!  
For those who are not as privileged to own books at home,  
Please come to our fantastic library where book lovers are free to roam!

So, let's celebrate reading: a gift which comes to no end,  
For many people, their favourite book can be their best friend!  
World Book Day is overwhelmed by the message of equality,  
Stunning stories should be present for all and not just the minority!







**The RE department** has been very busy over this half term supporting our A level students in their preparation for exams. We had the opportunity to attend a Philosophy and Ethics Conference, God and the Good, run by Doctor Peter Vardy. This conference was an excellent opportunity for the year 13 students to consolidate their learning over the past two years and aid in their preparation and revision for their upcoming exams. This opportunity was also extended to our year 12 students and due to its success, we are hopeful that we will be able to host this conference ourselves in future years, allowing future A level students to benefit from this conference as well as opening this incredible opportunity to our GCSE students as well.

We also welcomed the Reverend Julie Gardiner to our year 13 classroom. Reverend Gardiner spoke on the topic of feminist theology and LGBTQ+ theology to help students understand the unit on gender and sexuality. This session was run through Microsoft teams and enabled students to ask questions and interact with this topic, gaining greater insight into the complexity of the issues that are required to be able to define and argue for their A level exams.

In addition, GCSE and A Level students' have had the opportunity to attend a ten-week afterschool Philosophy Club, run by an external tutor.

## **Philosophy Club**

Every Tuesday, members of KS4 and KS5 attend a philosophical meeting led by an external tutor. Kyan, the groups conductor, proposes philosophical and ethically challenging analogies relating to modern society, bending the students' perceptions on real life issues over the 10-week course. The aim of these meetings is to combine knowledge from GCSE and A Level content, testing theories that students have studied and applying these to situations everyone faces in day-to-day life. Situations already campaigned by SJP students include; can a robot be a friend? What's the difference between a changed person and changing a person? Along with many other arguments promoted in the Philosophy and Ethics content at KS3 and KS4.

It provides attendees with a platform to discuss their opinions, but also be questioned by other students who may express an opposite view. Students gain the ability to verify their arguments, building on their need to analyse and clearly outline an argument. It allows for development in confidence, social skills and gives a space where students learn to display tolerance and patience when listening to opposing views. For many students, attending this club on a regular basis has encouraged new friendships across different year groups, creating a sense of reassurance and support, advancing pastoral care through harmonising a range of year groups. Studying Philosophy and Ethics at GCSE or A-Level enforces a subconscious change in a person's actions and attitudes to different situations in life. This club caters for that desire to change and see ethical situations from a multitude of perspectives in attempt to work out your own. It accommodates for anyone with an opinion on life, considering how perception on any situation may differ due to religion, social background or culture, advancing minds of today's youth as compassionate and understanding.

As an A-Level Religious Studies student I have been able to create an understanding of different perspectives on topics I apply to my course, and use these arguments presented by others to help expand on my knowledge. Attending this club has changed my view because of the range of interpretation on the analogies we are given to explore. Discussing this with a range of people has allowed me to challenge other perspectives as well as looking into my own opinions. It has also taught me to be more analytical and critical of the body of the analogy, increasing my strengths in attacking questions.

Phoebe Yr13

We are hopeful to continue and strengthen our relationships with external professionals to allow our students at Saint John Payne a unique and beneficial learning experience.

# KEY SCHOOL EVENTS





# Ski Trip Aprica 2024



In the February half term, 40 year 11 students travelled via coach to Aprica, Italy. We had an exceptional week of skiing with students physical resilience and positive behaviour playing a key factor in the excellent time that was had by all. A big thank you to the staff who gave up their week to assist with the running of the trip.



## 'Lessons From Auschwitz'



On February the sixth 2024, we visited Auschwitz as part of the 'Lessons From Auschwitz' programme, which we have found to be an invaluable experience that has taught us so much history and humanity. We would like to tell you about our biggest takeaways from the trip, what was the most poignant aspect of the visit and what we have learnt going forward in holocaust and genocide studies.

The aspect of the trip to Auschwitz that impacted me most was when we stood outside of Rudolf Höss' house. Rudolf Höss was Commander of the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp, and oversaw the murder of millions of innocent people. This ominous house is where he lived with his family, his children, where he conversed and had meals, slept comfortably and led his life. The reason this struck me so strongly was the fact he lived on site at the camp, where he enjoyed freedom, power and status, happy with his family, whilst simultaneously ripping apart innocent peoples families and murdering them. This was ever more sickening when we then went into the exhibition with the personal belongings, where babies clothes and children's shoes were displayed, which really emphasised to me how the millions of people murdered during the holocaust were normal people, innocent people, among them children, children who did no wrong. Standing before his home where he brought up his children and lived without persecution and with dignity, in a place surrounded by death, injustice and torture I was furious at how this was allowed to happen. The biggest takeaway from the day was the reminder that the Shoa ('catastrophe/calamity'- a word also meaning holocaust in Hebrew) was perpetrated by human beings, not monsters like it is so easy to imagine, just like how Rudolf Höss, the deputy Führer to the Nazi party, was a human being too who did this to other human beings. We must not forget this and reduce perpetrators into being inhuman creatures, because they weren't, they were people doing this to other people, and this general feeling that they were not human, seeing them as different creatures also assisted in allowing this unacceptable destruction of human life, dignity and freedom to happen. - **Rubie C**

For me, the most memorable part of the entire trip was going into the gas chambers and crematorium at Auschwitz one. I can remember only hearing the footsteps of the other members of my group. We had seen so much death throughout our trip so far, but we had not truly felt it until this point. The gas chamber was large and eerie. After a long silence, our tour guide explained where the gas would have come through, how the chamber was disguised as showers and how painful the death of these innocent people would have been. Down the corridor from the gas chambers was the crematorium. There were imposing furnaces that took up the entirety of the room. I remember reflecting upon the lives of these people, thinking about the videos we were shown upon first arriving. I have always had such an appreciation and shown respect to this period in time and to the countless numbers of lives lost, but seeing the crematorium and the gas chambers gave me such a new, different and inexplainable understanding. I believe that my time visiting Auschwitz has taught me that history cannot just be forgotten and consigned to the history books. The holocaust happened; we must not let such horror happen again. We must therefore share the knowledge and learnings so we treat our fellow humans with compassion, empathy and respect. - **Amelie R**

# 'Lessons From Auschwitz'



Throughout my trip to Auschwitz and the surrounding area, I was faced with a range of emotions following the sights that my peers and I witnessed. Personally, a moment that really stuck with me was in the second camp – Auschwitz-Birkenau. Walking past and seeing the ruins of the blocks that once held hundreds of prisoners was distressing to say the least, however our group stopped at one particular point by the fence as our guide stated that the building that once stood before us, was the infamous Family Camp that housed the Roma and Sinti people that were deported to Auschwitz II in 1943. Upon arrival, a new block was established to house them for a period of time, as many of these people were murdered almost immediately, although there is no definite number. On August 2nd 1944, the SS soldiers murdered the remaining Roma and Sinti men, women and children by sending them to the gas chamber. Seeing the building ruins in person made me feel sick. It was at this moment when I realised the true extent of how inhumane and monstrous the camps were – which is why we all have a responsibility to ensure it never happens again. - **Emily H**

Visiting Auschwitz camp 1 and Auschwitz camp 2 (Auschwitz Birkenau) was a very emotional, eye opening and educational experience. One thing that stood out to me the most was one of the rooms in one of the blocks. The room was completely blank with no furniture or objects, except projections on the walls. Projected on the walls were images and videos of children playing, men drinking, and girls dancing. It made me think about the lives of the victims before the holocaust. They had normal, ordinary lives, just like us. It is important to remember the individuals behind the numbers, and how their lives were before the holocaust.

Another thing that stood out to me was how bitterly cold it was in Auschwitz Birkenau. We visited Auschwitz 1 in the morning, where the weather was cold but bearable. We then visited Auschwitz Birkenau in the afternoon and the temperature dropped massively. It was absolutely freezing. We were in many layers; it's heartbreaking to think that the prisoners in Auschwitz Birkenau would have had very thin, flimsy clothing to wear. Enduring this temperature in their fragile conditions would have been extremely hard and shows just how poorly they were treated. - **Tilda C**







# EASTER Reading Game

During Easter, we have a two-week break to commemorate the sacrifice Jesus made and the gift of eternal life that has been offered to everyone. Jesus died on the cross in our place to wipe away our sins so that we may have eternal life.

To celebrate Easter, the library is hosting a 14-day reading challenge. We will be reading 'The Easter Story' in 14 Bible passages.

## Rules:

You read one passage a day and answer the questions to earn HP. Remember to keep your answers and hand them into Miss O in the library. Each reading and question is worth 3 HP! That's a total of  $3 \times 14 = 42$  HP that can be earned.

You can read along every day on your own or, even better, with your family.

You can choose to read just one passage or all 14 of them! It's up to you!

Most importantly, remember that you don't have to be Catholic or Christian to participate. Anyone can take part and learn something new! Whether you celebrate Easter or you are just interested in learning about the beliefs of your friends or some of the history behind the holiday!

This game has been shared with all students via Edulink





## A vibrant illustration for World Book Day 2024. A large blue banner with white stars and the text "World Book Day 2024" curves across the foreground. Behind the banner, a diverse group of children and adults are depicted. On the left, a boy in a wheelchair holds a small globe, and a girl holds a book with a cat on it. In the center, a boy holds a book with a dog on it, and an older man with glasses holds a small green plant. On the right, a boy holds a book with a globe on it, and a girl holds a book with a cat on it. The background is a solid red color with a large yellow starburst shape.

**BOOK DAY**  
celebrating 100 years

# 2 SENTENCE HORROR STORY CONTEST

WRITE A  
HORROR STORY  
IN JUST 2  
SENTENCES

2 SENTENCE HORROR  
STORY CONTEST

WRITE  
HERE

THE BEST STORY  
WILL WIN A  
CERTIFICATE AND 20  
HPI

VISIT THE LIBRARY  
TO GRAB A SHEET

ENTER THROUGHOUT MARCH  
ENTRIES WILL RECEIVE 5 HOUSE  
POINTS EACH  
THE CONTEST IS OPEN TO ALL  
YEAR GROUPS



SCREAM! THUD!!!

IT IS JUST A normal day today...

Meanwhile... darkness was spreading quickly but who could have done this!!!

The villain hid in the dark... THIS! And if you fight me it will all go bad for you!

What have I got myself IN TOOOO!

To escape this is a normal day in the life of super noisy will life be boring as always until next time...

Joanna's story:

## Nanaserwaa's Comic

# Literacy & Library News



To mark the occasion, the library also organized a virtual Meet the Author event on Friday, March 8th, where year representatives gathered in the library to do a live poetry session with Waterstones Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho.



The Masked Reader game was another event that was held, where students had to guess who the reader was and the book they were reading in each lesson.





# Literacy & Library News



The whole school participated in a Mini Book Quiz during their PSHE lesson to learn more about the charity and engage in various contests and games related to reading.

## HIDDEN BOOK GAME

[Click here to play the hidden book game](#)

A game where players solve 20 clues related to book titles. The clues either relate to the title of the book or feature something that only exists in the world of the book they're referring to. Answers are not case-sensitive, and a glow appears around unsolved clues when hovered over on desktop. The game provides hints for nearly correct guesses but requires the exact title of the book, including any articles.



## DESIGN A BOOK TOKEN

National Book Tokens Sponsors World Book Day:

National Book Tokens are gift cards that can be used to purchase books. Each year, National Book Tokens selects their favourite designs to be featured on the tokens for the following year. Let your imagination and creativity run wild by designing your very own book token that's both unique and stunning.

**SOME OF THE WINNERS FROM LAST YEAR**



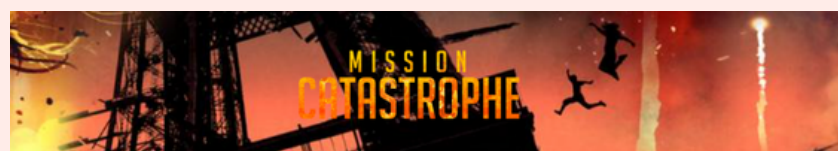
Why not try your hand at one of the Bookish games we played during PSHE

[Click here to play the Fictional Locations quiz!](#)

[Click here to play the hidden book game!](#)

Congratulations to Alexia, Annaise, Annmiya, Aurana, and Ethan from Year 7, who are all set to have their short stories published by Young Writers! Why not try writing a short story yourself, all Young Writers competitions are on going in the library:

<https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions>



# Literacy & Library News



The library organised a Bookcycle event on the occasion of World Book Day, which aims to encourage reading and provide books to all children. The library is committed to promoting eco-friendliness and ensuring that every child has access to books. During the World Book Day week, students were invited to visit the library and select a book to keep permanently. The Bookcycle initiative aimed to prevent books from being thrown away or recycled, and anyone was welcome to choose a book to keep forever.



#JBA2024

## The Juniper Book Awards shortlist

Stories that engage...

In the Juniper Awards, Year 7 students participated in a unique book club. Students who joined the book club took turns reading and swapping short-listed Juniper books. After reading all the short-listed titles, students were able to vote for their favourite. At the end of this term, participating students will be invited to join the Juniper Award ceremony, where the authors will speak about their books and the winners will be announced.



# Literacy & Library News



Congratulations to our shortlisted candidates for the student librarian position! They have already started making the library a better place. Once their training is complete, they will be officially awarded a certificate and a badge to become student librarians:



## Shortlisted Candidates

7B: ANNMIYA, ABIGAIL, MIA

7C: ANNABEL, CHLOE, IVY, IZZY

7D: LEXI

7E: AIDA, ALYSON, AYL A

7S: EVA

8A: CONNIE, NANASERWAA

8C: ANNA, CARA

8F: ABIGAIL, ELEANOR, ELLIE, MARTA

9D: ARABELLA, JACOB, MAAHI

9S: AOIFE

12C: RUBIE





# PASTORAL CARE, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Tips for:

## **‘How to look after my wellbeing right now’**

From Mind

Sometimes we need to take a moment to look after our wellbeing in the short term. You might want to try some of these tips now. You could also save them to try later, if things start to feel difficult.

### **1. Take care of the things you need right now**

It can be hard to improve how we’re feeling if we haven’t looked after some basic needs first. Do you need something to eat or drink? You might also be physically or mentally tired.

You might need to find a way to feel more comfortable in your body or mind. That could be things like leaving a loud place or adjusting your clothes.

### **2. Take a pause**

If there’s a lot going on, taking a moment to stop can help. Things might feel less overwhelming if you take a break from whatever you’re doing.

It’s okay if you can’t take a proper break right now. Even taking a few seconds to notice how you’re feeling, or to have a quick rest, can help. See our page on understanding feelings for help with recognising your feelings.

### **3. Notice where you are**

Some people find it calming to pay attention to where they are physically. You can try to notice what you can see, hear, touch, and smell around you, going through each sense in turn.

It might be easier to do this if it’s not too loud, bright or overwhelming where you are. You might need to put in ear plugs or to change the room you’re in. This can help you feel calmer, and make it easier to decide what else you need right now.

### **4. Try something else**

Is there something that’s helped you feel better before, like going for a walk or listening to music? You could give that another go.

If you’re not sure what could help, see if there’s anything that could distract you. Distracting yourself can help when you feel like you can’t cope with your feelings. You could try watching or listening to anything simple and comforting.

### **Connect with others**

Talking to someone can help you feel less alone. You might want to talk about what’s going on for you, or about something completely different.

If there’s no one you feel comfortable talking to right now, you can reach out anonymously on places like The Mix and Childline. You can message, email or call advisors. You deserve to feel supported.

You might also want to be around other people but not talk to them. You could do things like visiting a public space like a library, youth centre or cafe.

Try to remember that everyone finds different things helpful. Just because something worked for someone else, doesn’t mean it’ll work for you. Or it might help, but just at another time in your life.



# E-SAFETY

## ONLINE BULLYING

### Supporting young people who have experienced bullying online.

**12%**

of young people in the UK are affected by cyberbullying



#### Best practices for parents and carers

**Cyberbullying, or online bullying, is when someone uses the internet to bully someone else. The Cambridge dictionary defines cyberbullying as 'Someone who uses the internet to harm or frighten another person, especially by sending them unpleasant messages.'**

#### ■ Have an open conversation

Listen, and offer support and encouragement. If your child is the victim of cyberbullying, remind them that this is not their fault and that no one deserves to be treated in this way. Some young people think that if they are the target of online bullying, they must have done something wrong. It is also important to encourage your child to save the evidence. They can do this by taking a screenshot of what has happened or by keeping the messages they have received.

#### ▲ Don't reply

Most of the time the person doing the bullying is looking for a reaction when they are being mean online. Tell your child not to reply, instead they should tell a trusted adult what has happened. Reassure them that even if they are also at fault, they should come and talk to you or a trusted adult. You can then work out the best way to resolve the situation together.

#### ● Don't deny access to technology

Although it can be very tempting to remove a device from a young person if they are being bullied, having their device taken away may prevent them from speaking to you about worrying issues in the future.





*The Lord Is Risen!*

*Happy Easter!*