



NCS Graduation

Another graduation ceremony for the National Citizen Service took place last Thursday, the second one for this term. Congratulations to our students who were recognised on this occasion: John Portugal, Laila Jahangir, Bilal Mohammad, Maria Reina, and Samier Akhbary.

Reconciliation

The season of Advent began last Sunday as we count down to Christmas. As part of this we will have Reconciliation Services next Wednesday morning. Students will be able to speak to a priest and/or receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday or Thursday. My thanks to the priests who have made themselves available.



Carol Service

The annual Catholic Schools' Carol Service takes place on **Wednesday 14 December** at 6pm. This is a joint event with St Thomas More, Sacred Heart and All Saints schools which we are again hosting. Everyone is welcome.



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A small gesture

At last week's Rochester House Mass, Father Jeffrey asked the students to pray for Piotr Patorski, a gentleman who had died and whose funeral was due to take place the following day. Sadly, Mr Patorski's family could not be traced and so it was feared that there would be no one at the funeral. When our students and staff heard of this there were several volunteers to attend and we were able to take two car loads to the crematorium the following morning. Some of Mr Patorski's work colleagues also attended and there were some members of St Luke's parish too; together we were able to pray for him and stand in for his family. May he rest in peace.

Sean Hayes

KS3 Assessment



You may be aware that the Government has removed the old Key Stage 3 levels as a way of assessing students. Schools are now free to decide on their own method of assessment for Years 7 to 9. Whilst that means there are lots of changes and new systems to get used to it has also given schools the opportunity to create something that we feel will support our students in making as much progress as possible.

Our system follows the following key aims:

- break down the curriculum in every subject into meaningful, assessable skills;
- assess students on the individual skills – ie what they can do and what they can't do
- Use GCSE grades 1-9 with all year groups

We've recently invested in a subscription to Doodle, an online teaching, homework and assessment resource, to help us in implementing this new system. It allows:

- Teachers to track student progress and provide instant feedback on students' work;
- Students to access Doodle resources online and find support materials to support homework and exam revision;

Key Stage 3

We have recently introduced Year 7 and 8 students to Doodle via assemblies and Year 9 will be delivered next week. Students will be given a username and password to allow them to log in both at school and at home. Doodle is tablet friendly and can be accessed via a free app that is easy to download.

We are committed to ensuring that students build on the progress they have made at Primary School and ensure they have not only first rate teaching in lessons but the resources to become independent.

**Academic Tutoring – Year 8
5-9 December**

Author Visit

Last Friday, 25 November, one of the events held in the Learning Resource Centre was a workshop by the Author and Storyteller, Cat



Weatherill, who likes to write magic and fantasy books for children. Cat's first book was *Barkbelly* followed by *Snowbone*, *Wild Magic*, *Jaco the Leek* and *By Lantern Light*.

There were twenty six Year 8 and Year 9 students who enjoyed a morning of listening to Cat's stories and engaging with her.

Cat talked about her work, how she started writing and she answered everyone's questions with enthusiasm. The students were shown how to start a story using the Smith six word memoirs.

There was a clear focus on improving creative writing skills and techniques to follow when writing a short story.

During break-time Cat was interviewed by one of our 6th form student's, Afifa Zaman.

Here are some quotes from the students:

"I enjoyed the advice the author gave us and the activities" Axxa Hayat.

"I enjoyed writing the six letter words to make a story" Alesha Walji

"I enjoyed writing the short creative stories" Mastura Arghandeival

"I enjoyed the writing and stories we wrote, I hope to see her again" Ismaeel Khan

"I found it so good and inspirational to listen and talk to a professional author" Alex Guy

Author's Website: catweatherillauthor.com and Smiths, Six Word Memoir

Mrs Valenti



KS3 Recipes

Please note all the recipes from year 7-9 are on the school website. They can be found by clicking on the students button and scrolling down to 'Food for thought' KS3 Recipes.

Mrs Bartle

Team Heroes

Last Friday we saw our latest Team Hero recruits complete their first training session. They spent time with the original Heroes and then some time with an external mentor trainer, Claire Strainer. The day was a great success and allowed the new recruits to become familiar with the techniques and skills of a great mentor. They are looking forward to meeting their Buddies and putting their training into practice.

Our latest recruits are as follows:

Madeline Mason
Alexson Fernandes
Jennifer Lakatosova
Angelo Maniraguha
Joshua Ralph
Maria Ferrao
Ivo Ribeiro
Maxwell Guest
Devshi Karavadra
Sanchia Fernandes
Mr J Hayes and Miss E Devanny

Ali Sina Akhbary
Wanessa Zerella
Cristina Femminile
Brooke Muncey
Charlotte Pollard
Jade Paling
Stella Smith
Joice Gomes Pina
Tiago Jalo
Evelina Liugailaite

Stem Newsletter

On Tuesday 29 November a group consisting of years 7, 8 and 9s attended a STEM workshop lead by The Engineering Development Trust on Carbon Capture. The Workshop brought opportunities for us to both reinforce our learning in the classroom and extend our knowledge. The Engineering Development Trust delivers these workshops to many schools around England as there is a vast decline in engineers, predominantly with the younger generation and females. Therefore by having this workshop they hoped this would make us interested in engineering, which for most of us it did.

We first started with learning the different types of engineers. There are not just a few as most would think, but 6 different engineers all doing different jobs. This part was really interesting as we all got to learn how many engineers there actually are and what they do. We then learnt about energy, looking at both renewable and non-renewable and what types of energy are used around the world. For the most part, we concentrated on wind energy, also known as kinetic energy, which is gained from wind turbines. Within this we learnt why it is beneficial in England as well as other countries and how they work. We did this by engaging in a range of activities from puzzle pieces to discussion, however everyone's favourite was constructing our own wind turbine using a variety of materials. Each group was competing with each other but group 12 won! Congratulations to them.

Overall it was a very enjoyable experience helping us develop our knowledge in a fun way. Thank you to all the teachers who helped organise this experience along with the teachers that helped out on the day.

By Urte, Erin and Sabina