



## Holy Week

Next week is Holy week, starting with Palm Sunday this weekend. It is a solemn week in the Church's year as Christians remember the events that took place in the last week of Jesus' life. The week starts with the triumphant entry into Jerusalem with Jesus being welcomed as a King and ends with his crucifixion on Good Friday. The commemoration of the Resurrection of Jesus three days later on Easter Sunday is a day of great celebration of new life with God and great hope for everyone. Holy Week is a time for all of us to reflect on our own struggles and difficulties knowing that God is with us through it all and experienced human suffering through Jesus on the cross. Easter is an opportunity for us to be thankful for what we have and to bring joy to other people in a spirit of hope for our future.

## Staff Leaving

Mrs Sue Mayo, one of our teaching assistants is leaving today. We thank her for everything she has done to support our students with Special Educational Needs and wish her well in her new role.

## Thank you

I would like to say thank you to all staff, parents, governors and students for the hard work and great efforts you have all put in to this term. It has been a challenging term with most of it taking place during the lockdown. Nevertheless, students have shown themselves to be mature and sensible in their approach to the COVID restrictions, testing and to learning remotely when needed. Staff are certainly in need of a break and I know that parents and students would wish to thank staff for their support over the term. I wish you all a good break and a Happy Easter.

*Kate Pereira*

## Take Your Place at the Parent and Carer Higher Education Open Days

To help simplify the process of applying for a Higher Education place, Take Your Place would like to invite parents of Year 10 - 13 students to their bite sized open day event. In their collection of free 'short but sweet' presentations, they will introduce parents to the world of Higher Education. They will show you how you can support your young person and help them to apply for a place. Parents of students in Years 10 – 13 will receive an invitation with more details via email.

## Schools Poetry Competition

The University of Lincoln launched a new poetry competition to inspire children and young people to use their imagination and get creative.

Dame Carol Ann Duffy was helping to launch the Schools Poetry Competition and she will be judging entries. Budding poets from the UK and around the world were invited to submit their poems to the competition on the theme of the COVID-19 pandemic. Poets were encouraged to freely express their interpretations and experiences of the pandemic and lockdown. We had lots of entries into the competition and are awaiting news of winners. Kazim Raffiq-Fazal's entry 'Unseemingly Dread' is a great example of some of the creative skills our students have.

### Unseemingly Dread

A long time it has most certainly been,  
Since the dreaded wheel of twenty-nineteen,  
Anguish, torment, death, endless to follow,  
Such torture, such pain it leaves us hollow.  
Hidden like rats, ridded from all people,  
Our minds took a toll like a fractured hull.  
Do we indulge the hope that reappears?  
Plentifully, yes. Until darkness nears.  
The slender hands of the puppeteers  
Control us and cackle, their mouths in sneers.

## Message from the Wellbeing Team

April is Stress Awareness month. It has been a stressful year for us all and we may have missed a few opportunities. It has at times been frustrating to not be able to see friends or family or go out as they are normally some of the things we do to help relieve stress. As Stress Awareness month begins whilst we are on an Easter break, here are six ways you can relieve stress and help with your wellbeing.

- 1) Outdoor picnic with a few friends.
- 2) Walk for 20 minutes each day.
- 3) Hold a virtual quiz/games night with friends.
- 4) Video catch up with friends to talk about your day.
- 5) Have a movie night with family (why not create an indoor cinema!)
- 6) Spend a day doing nothing tedious - just relax.

*Please remember to ensure you adhere to any COVID restrictions in place at the time.*

## SJF Showdown

The second SJF Showdown (that took place whilst students were learning from home) was a success! A range of creative and exciting entries from both KS3 and KS4 were submitted including: poetry, paintings, digital art, sculptures, music and drawings. The winner, as voted by the staff at SJF is... year 7 student Isabella Dolbear-Zaleska. Her detailed digital art piece creatively depicts the theme of unity.



A huge well done to all the students who took part, and a special mention to the runners up: Austin Goodfellow (year 9) for his mixed media wing sculpture and Ainah Hashmi for her digital artwork.



The third and final SJF Showdown will be launched in the summer term, keep an eye out for information after the Easter holidays.

*Mrs Lester*

## Insight Discover

Congratulations to our students who have successfully completed the Insight Discover programme which is partnered with Cambridge University. The students listed below received their certificates and badges last week:

Year 8	Year 9
Daanish Sameem	Andre Danelle Acquaye
Charlie Henson	Elana Puga
Alicia Barnes	Gustas Serapinas
Riana Ardeleanu	Hourieh Ahmadi
Eben Snelling	Ihtishaam Amar
Reeya Kumar	Isaac Heppell
Jaciara Correia	Jasmin Lewis
Ogaga Ehwerhemuepha	Julia Sarnecka
Zohal Haydari	Nathanael Downton-Crowder
Shiphrah Muriuki	Pedro Depassos
Leila Myszka	Sonny Gascoigne

Well done for all your hard work.

*Mrs Moore*

## Literacy Corner

The word of the week (WOW) for the first week back after the Easter holidays is 'mercy'. This word has been chosen as it links closely to Divine Mercy Sunday, which is celebrated on the 11 April this year. Students are encouraged to use the word in the correct context during lessons and when speaking to teachers around school. There will be merits awarded for using the word correctly! Extra merits if you can explain how it links to our weekly thoughts and why we have chosen it (see image on the right).



## Week 1 – Word of the Week

Why is **Mercy** our word of the week?

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16)

**Divine Mercy Sunday** is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, which concludes the Octave of Easter. The feast day is observed by Roman Catholics as well as some Anglicans. It is originally based on the Catholic devotion to the **Divine Mercy** that Fraustina Kowalska reported in her diaries as part of her encounter with Jesus. In her diary she wrote "Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy." Diary 300 These were words from a conversation she had with Jesus.

## WOW

**Mercy**

noun: **mercy**; plural noun: **mercies**

1. compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm
  - "the boy was screaming and begging for mercy"

Similar: leniency, lenience, clemency, compassion, grace, pity, charity

2. an event to be grateful for, because it prevents something unpleasant or provides relief from suffering.
  - "his death was in a way a mercy"

Similar: blessing, godsend, favour, boon