

Jack Petchey Awards

During our April assemblies, we awarded some more well-deserved Jack Petchey Awards.

Geography nominated Shay in Yr 8 saying;

"Shay has been the quintessential team player since he arrived at this school, an excellent Form Rep and very mature in dealing with and solving matters between his peers. He has struggled in both lockdowns with family bereavement and his mental health, but has been trying hard to keep doing some work and has always hit the ground running as soon as he gets back into school".



Aidan 9JB with Head of Year Mr Sullivan



Shay 8MT with Head Teacher Mr Fisher



Mart 10MT with Head of Year Mr Creighton

In Yr 9, Aidan was nominated by Mrs Bruce who said;

"In every class I'm in with him, he tries his absolute best despite everything he has been through in the last year and any difficulties he may have. He is always fully committed to his school work both in school and whilst remote learning. He is a credit to Yr 9."

Mart in 10MT was nominated by French who said;

"The improvements made by Mart this year in French are impressive and a testimony of his engagement and his will to succeed in this subject. He has given a great example of what can be achieved through hard work and independent learning."

Mrs Brackstone
Learning Resource Centre Manager



St Columba's Catholic Boys' School

SUMMER 2021 XXXV



REFLECTION

A Christian community where everyone has the right to be happy, be safe and achieve.

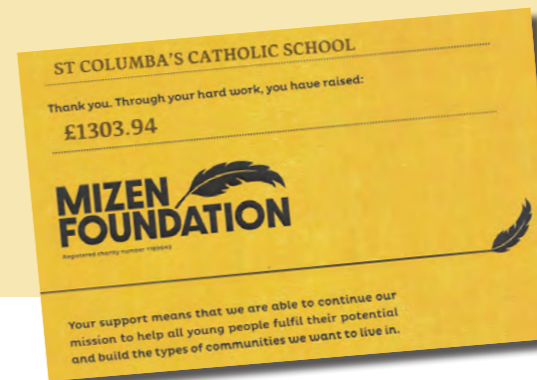
Jumpers for Jimmy!

In November, we had a Non-Uniform Day to collect funds for the Jimmy Mizen Foundation. In order to participate students and staff had to pay a minimum of £2 to wear 'Jumpers for Jimmy'.

In February we received this certificate and a nice letter to thank the St Columba's community for supporting the worthwhile cause. Because of your generosity, £1,303.94 was raised which was great, thank you all who participated!

It does leave me wondering who was 6p short of their £2 though

Fred Umney
School Chaplain



Message from the Head Teacher

You can see for yourself, in this Reflection, what we do at St Columba's. For me it's much more important to focus on what a school actually does rather than what it says it will do.

Our school Vision is a simple one that focuses on Gospel Values and the value of each individual member of our community.

You can see for yourself how our community cares for each other and for people beyond our immediate community. We are blessed with wonderful students and fantastic staff and governors. Admittedly some staff can be seen, in this Reflection, wearing fluorescent tops and interesting hats...but generally they are great!

The Pandemic is devastating and an ongoing challenge for all of us but it has also allowed peoples skills and generosity to shine.

If you're looking for the right school for your son, have a look at what we do, you will want your son to be part of our community.

Mr N Fisher
Head Teacher



A Very Special Thank You!



Joe pictured with the laptop he funded

In January we were thrilled and touched when St Columba's Alumni, Joe Pike, who was a student here between 1999 and 2004, got in touch with us.

Joe had read in the news about supporting schools with technology and resolved to contact his primary and secondary schools.

Joe offered to donate a sum of money sufficient to buy a laptop. He called in later that week and is pictured in the lobby with the laptop he funded.

The machine was formatted and prepared to join the other seventy plus laptops loaned out to families to help support their remote learning.

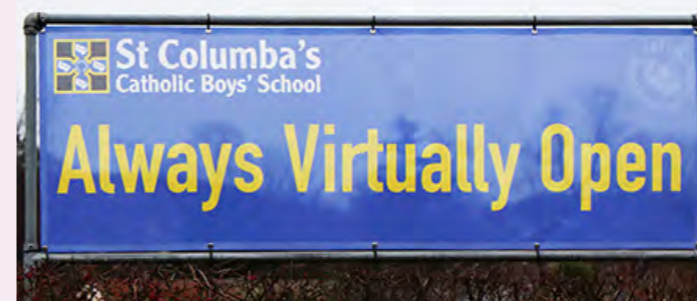
Joe had some interesting stories to tell of his time at St Columba's more than sixteen years ago and only recognised a few faces from the 'Meet the Staff' board in Reception.

Joe now works as a Fire Safety Auditor and a Special Constable and is a great example of 'Once a St Columba's boy, always a St Columba's boy!'

We are grateful for your generosity Joe, thank you.

Mr Stone
Academy Executive Secretary

Banner Headlines!



Throughout the past year of lockdowns and closures, St Columba's kept everyone's spirits up with messages flown from a series of banners flown from our Gravel Hill boundary.

Look out for them placed throughout this issue of Reflection!

OPEN DAY

Saturday 2 October

9:30am - 12:30pm

OPEN MORNINGS

Check website for details

www.st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk

Business2Schools

We are very fortunate to be a part of the Corpus Christi Partnership, a group of Catholic Schools, based in the London Borough of Bexley that work together for the benefit of all the pupils and students that attend.

In May, Mrs Doran-Hannon, Principal of St Thomas More Catholic Primary School introduced us to Business2Schools, a charitable initiative that recycles furniture and computers from companies that are upgrading their own facilities.

This means that schools can benefit from getting good quality equipment whilst major companies are able to contribute to education and also recycle at the same time.

We received a great deal of superb furniture which we distributed around the school.

We were also able to collect ninety-three computers from St Thomas More that had been donated by Aegis London. We are very grateful to both Business2Schools and Aegis London; your generosity has made a huge difference.

Mr Fisher
Head Teacher



Network Assistant Mr Tworek (left) and Network Manager Mr Dunne (right) unloading the computers



The JV Fit March Challenge!

In March, Jeevan 10L set a Fitness Challenge for the whole school on his YouTube channel!

The challenge was to measure our weight and fitness and take a picture at the start of March, then to eat clean, drink lots of water and exercise then measure again and send another picture at the start of April to see the difference!

Mr Barry
RE Teacher and Careers Lead



Spotlight on Students

In Weekly News throughout the year, we introduced a regular feature highlighting the interests and preferences of students - some are shown through this edition of Reflection. We start here with a profile on Liam in Yr 9.

Mr Stone
Academy Executive Secretary



QUESTION	ANSWER
What is your name?	Liam
What do you love about St Columba's?	The welcoming community
What is your favourite subject?	History
Do you have any hobbies?	Swimming, Judo and video games
Can you name a favourite book and why?	Murder on the Orient Express -very intersting and creative!
What is your favourite meal?	Pizza
Dizzee or Skepta?	Skepta
What are you reading at the moment?	An Inspector Calls and other plays by JB Priestly
Can you share one unexpected fact about yourself?	I can speak Russian

Student Leader Elections

In October, our Yr 11 Student Leaders voted in a secret ballot for the positions of Head and Deputy Head Boys.

Students were advised to vote for the boy who best epitomised the qualities of a St Columba's boy, such as being polite, kind and considerate to his peers and having a sense of community, hardworking, fair, helpful and aspirational.

After all the votes had been counted, the SLT took up their new posts. They were very keen to make their final term with us one to remember as well as one to be remembered by.

Mr McGonnell
Assistant Head Teacher/
KS4 Manager



Andrew voting for his preferred candidate



Head Boy Sean



Front row: Sean (DHB), Sean (HB) and Andrew (DHB)

My name is Sean and I am your Head Boy

What does being Head Boy mean?

It means that I am the leader of your Student Leadership Team and being a member of the student leadership board means being a listening ear and setting an example.

But who is behind the Head Boy?

I'm someone who: loves to play basketball, is passionate about French, appreciates a good time and is always ready for a conversation.

Our Deputy Head Boys had these thoughts to share on the theme of What Being Deputy Head Boy means to me:

Being elected as Deputy Head Boy this year was a huge gift! I was completely shocked and surprised about being elected to be in this position, however I wouldn't have changed it for the world as it filled me with complete joy and happiness.

Myself and everyone else in the Team worked to our absolute best to fulfil the role that the past Deputy Head Boys have done so well!

Sean

Being elected as Deputy Head Boy of St Columba's is a wonderful honour that fills me with great alacrity every single day!

Since joining the school in 2016, I have devoted myself to serving the school community in numerous ways and I am so grateful my peers trusted me to be their beacon and represent them in this prestigious position.

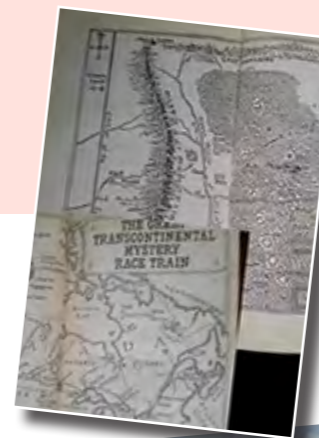
Andrew

Cartography Club

The St Columbas Cartography Club launched in April with the aim of focusing on sketching skills, and learning about the world's geographic features.

Students were set puzzles and tasks to work on map skills and learned about sports and leisure activities using maps such as orienteering and geocaching.

Students also learned to design and draw their own maps, both on paper and on computer programs.



Many of the best stories come with fictional maps, or maps of real places showing where events happened



All the best computer games start with a map which becomes a world for you to explore. Some people get jobs creating these!

School Council

School Council resumed in October and was very well represented from all Form groups, it was lovely to see students eager to take part in the meetings which were held in their Yr group bubbles. During the meetings, students voted on this term's charity which will be the 'Jimmy Mizen Foundation'.

The Foundation is working tirelessly to build the better, safer communities that we all want and deserve to live in. Students spoke about how they felt returning to school and they all commented that the school is doing the best we can to keep them safe and well.



Yr 8 School Council Reps



SAS School Council Reps in discussion with Ms Holbrook and Miss McKean

As we support the work of The Jimmy Mizen Foundation, we are reminded of the words in prayer of the former Chaplain to the US Senate, the late Peter Marshall, who so well encapsulated our mission and ethos: "Small deeds done, are better than great deeds planned."

Ms Holbrook
Safeguarding and Pastoral Manager



Yr 9 School Council Reps



Yr 11 School Council Reps

Literacy Corner

Throughout the year, *Weekly News* saw a new regular page arrive and develop called *Literacy Corner*.

Literacy Corner contains 3 Top Tips each week on subjects such as Proofreading, Punctuation, Widening your Reading Habits, Using Plain and Clear English and many many more useful tools to improve reading and writing!

As well as news and information on English resources available to students within the school and online, *Literacy Corner* features our ongoing schoolwide campaign *Right to Read* where a profiled teacher or student chooses a book which means a lot to them and explains why. A few of these are featured throughout this copy of *Reflection*.

Mr D Dennis
Literacy Coordinator and Teacher of English



English

In April Yr 7, worked on the topic 'Nature Poetry', looking predominately at the Romantic and Renaissance era.

Their assessment was based on 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud' by William Wordsworth. So, taking advantage of the warm weather, I wanted 7B to be at one with nature (or as much as they could be on Gravel Hill!) and create their own poems based on their surroundings.

As expected, the students did really well and enjoyed being outside rather than in the classroom.

Miss Cox
2i/c English



Future Prospects!

Since the start of September, our eldest year group have been having Careers guidance from our Prospects representative Mrs Zammit.

Students have been having interviews in groups of two to discuss their future career ideas and educational aspirations.

Mrs Zammit provides secure independent guidance on a full range of education and training options.

The boys have really found the interviews useful and interesting as they are provided with a whole range of ideas of what they could possibly pursue after St Columba's.

Mrs Zammit is happy to speak with parents too and can be contacted at Dee.Zammit@Prospects.co.uk

Mr McGonnell
Assistant Head Teacher and KS4 Manager



Mrs Zammit meeting with David and Davis

LEAN Careers Award 2020

In December, St Columba's was recognised at the *London Enterprise Advisor Network Celebrations 2020* as one of the best schools in London for the high quality careers education we offer our students.

Careers Education at St Columba's aims to help students build confidence, develop high aspirations and consider a broad range of careers which will allow them to reach their full potential.

We are able to achieve this because so many people are willing to contribute from in school and from the wider community.

Mr Barry
Careers Lead

Are you achin', for some Bacon?

As we all know, it's important to keep the troops happy and well fed. In January, Ms Holbrook, Mrs Egan and Mrs Todd made Egg and Bacon sandwiches for those staff who were brave enough to take on the challenge of trying to keep their clothes clean whilst eating a delicious sandwich. (Not all of them succeeded! – Ed.)

Sandwiches were made and staff contributed as much as they were able to and we raised £73 for local charity, St Lawrence's Charitable Fund, based at the Catholic Church in Sidcup.

This charity has recently helped out a family within our community so it was lovely to be able to give back.

Thank you to all that contributed.

Ms Jane Holbrook
Safeguarding and Pastoral Manager



Progress Stars

In October, I had the pleasure of presenting a large number of Yr 7 students with the Progress Stars they earned through gaining an excellent set of Attitude to Learning (A2L) Grades.

I have presented Yellow Stars, which were earned by any student who did not earn any 3s or 4s and who earned at least 6 grade 1s, including English or Maths.

I have also presented Red Stars, earned by any student who has gained a Grade 1 in every subject, as you can see, they are harder to achieve. I am very pleased with the attitude shown by the boys and look forward to their continued success.

The Red Star recipients were:

- Becket:** William
- Campion:** Jamie, Kim, Prevraj
- Fisher:** Emmanuel, Jeshan, Yuvraj
- Loyola:** Braeden
- Xavier:** Bolaji

Mr Challis
Head of Year 7



Red Star Winner from 7B with Head of Year, Mr Challis



Red Star Winner from 7L Braeden with Mr Jackson, Head of Geography



Red Star Winners in 7C Kim, Jamie and Preslav with Form Tutor, Mr Olowofoyeku

The Yellow Star recipients were:

- Becket:** Aaron, Abdurrazzaq, Aleksandr, Anthony, Henry, Oliver, Rian, Rory, Stephen, Tonino, Warren
- Campion:** Alvaro, Brian, Eddie, Jayden, Joel, Mark, Ovie, Tiago, Ugochukwu, Yuze
- Fisher:** Charlie, Hamza, Joshua, Kachi, Kobe, Laraib Yunus, Lucas, Michael, Varshan
- Loyola:** Amar, Arjhan, John, Judah, Kinus, Omojola, Rajveer, Senuka, Timi, Xinye, Zubeyir
- More:** Adrian, Alvin, Isaiah, Josh, Noah, Teddy
- Xavier:** Abdul, Abdulhailm, Charlie-James, David, Dominik, Femi, Freddie, Harry, Jesse, Joseph, Patryk, Paulson, Peter, Victor



Yellow Star Winners from 7F



Yellow Star Winners from 7X



Yellow Star Winners from 7M

Spotlight on Students

Head Boy Sean is pictured in the newly carpeted Sports Hall after his Maths mock exam in November!



QUESTION	ANSWER
What is your name?	Sean
What do you love about St Columba's?	The sense of community
What is your favourite subject?	French
Do you have any hobbies?	i like to play basketball
Can you name a favourite book and why?	The Recruit (Cherub) by Robert Muchamore - jam packed with action!
What is your favourite meal?	Pizza
Dizze or Skepta?	Never heard of them!
I'm a Celebrity or Strictly?	I'm a Celebrity
Can you name a favourite film and why?	Evan Almighty - interesting and funny!

Yr 7 Maths

We never quite know when the snow is coming or going, so we made the most of it during one of 7B's Maths lessons in March and had some 'away from the screen' time.

The task they were given was to create a snowflake using real snowflake properties such as a hexagonal structure and being symmetrical.

Students were awarded house points for their design and for the creativity of the materials they use to make it. Below are some of the great designs the boys came up with.

I decided to make mine out of baked beans... in the snow! (see right). I thought it would be quite easy but hadn't encountered slipping and dropping the beans and then beans sticking to my fingers and not dropping into exact position, but I enjoyed being away from the screen all the same!



Mrs Fish-Halvorsen



Rory 7B



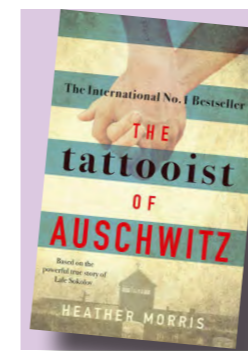
Oliver 7B



Corey 7B



Henry 7B



right2read

Mr Olowofoyeku shares one of his favourite books: 'The Tattooist of Auschwitz' by Heather Morris.

I love it because it is an insider's story of one of the greatest atrocities in modern history.

It is told passionately by someone who was a prisoner, the Jewish assigned tattooist and one who tells many personal stories of individuals he grew to know and love in the camp. A must read!

Work Experience

After producing an inspirational video message to Yr 10 students, Andrew, our Deputy Head Boy 2020/21 was offered a week of 'Work Experience' here at St Columba's and he jumped at the opportunity! Not because it would look good on his CV and future applications but because it was an opportunity to give back to the community that has given him so much.

Over a week in July, Andrew threw himself into everything that was asked of him.



Student Leadership Interviews

Andrew was part of a panel who interviewed thirty prospective student leaders from Yr 10. His question to them was to find out how would they continue the positive legacy of student leadership at the school.

Mentoring

Andrew then worked in the SAS (St Ambrose Suite), mentoring students in Yr 8 and Yr 10. He used the GROW model of coaching which he researched in advance. He asked students what their Goals were, the Reality now, Opportunities, and what they Will do differently moving forward.



Cyber Security

Following a school visit to Sage at the Shard when he was in Yr 9, Andrew aspires to go into Cyber Security as a career. As part of his Work Experience week he has spent time with Mr Dunne, our IT Network Manager, learning how the school keeps their IT systems safe and secure.

Yr 10 Sports Day

Later on in the week, Andrew spent a day as a member of the PE department helping out organising and running the Yr 10 sports day.



"A St Columba's boy..."

Throughout the week, Andrew spent each afternoon visiting all students in Year 7, 8 and 9. He talked to them about what it is to be a St Columba's boy. He asked the students for their opinion by completing a slip of paper and finish the sentence "A St Columba's boy..."

Andrew then collected over 500 slips of paper, collated them and presented them in an Executive Summary Report which he then shared with Mr Fisher in a meeting.

Andrew's Message to Students

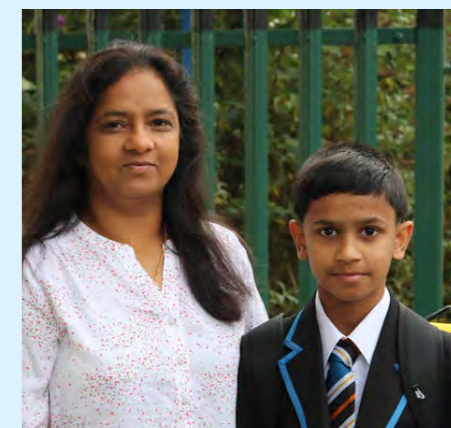
- You are in a good school where boys make better progress than they do in other schools in this area.
- The school's good name is important - take good care of it! The way you conduct yourself outside school will effect you in the future when you are applying to 6th Forms and Colleges.
- Time at school goes fast! Use it wisely. Over the summer reflect on the way you have been this year and if you are not proud of it - change it! A positive attitude to learning is imperative for success.
- When you get your GCSE Results in Year 11 they will be your results and you will be accountable for grades ...to yourself and to your family.

I would like to thank Andrew for what he achieved during his week of Work Experience. It was a privilege to listen to his message to students and also watch the way the students responded to him. I would like Andrew to keep in touch and return again to share with us how he is getting on and to remember...

"Once a St Columba's Boy.....always a St Columba's boy!"

Mr Barry
RE Teacher and Careers Lead

Welcome to Year 7!



Year 8 Drama: Performing Scripted Plays

Drama students worked extremely hard during October exploring the West End smash hit, 'Blood Brothers'. Students studied the play including the social-historical factors and themes (social-class), before taking an excerpt from 'page to stage'.

Students fully engaged with the play and met our high expectations during the end-of-topic assessments.



25 Years Super Service!

Our hearty congratulations went to Mr Joy, our Premises Manager, for reaching 25 years' service here at St Columba's just before half-term last year on 25 October.

As a token of our appreciation, Mr Joy was presented with a personalised glass plaque and a new digital level - to help him keep a LEVEL head during these exceptional times!

Thank you, Mr Joy, for all you do for St Columba's. You are a joyous colleague and your dedication has helped to make our school the exceptional place it is.

Mrs Goddard
School Business Manager



Jack Petchey Awards

We continued the Jack Petchey awards during the last academic year and we were thrilled to be able to award three hard-working students.

Ben 11A1

Throughout his time at St Columba's, Ben has consistently worked hard in French, and even if his results did not always fully reflect his commitment to the subject, he has never given up.

Now, finally, he is starting to see the fruits of his efforts, and he deserves full praise for his determination.



Ben 11A being presented with his award by Mr McGonnell (nominated by the French Department)

Calum SAS1

Calum has excelled in PE during the return to school since Covid. The new structure of PE due to the pandemic meant things were markedly different in its delivery.

Calum has dealt with the changes amazingly and his exemplary behaviour and persistent effort in every lesson means he is well worthy of recognition and reward.



Calum SAS1 with SENDCo Mrs Loveday-Jones (nominated by the PE Department)

Henry 7B

Since the start of the year, Henry has shown a fantastic interest in French, as demonstrated by his outstanding work in class and at home.

He is always trying to further improve, and his results reflect his efforts.



Henry from 7B with Head of French Mr Andreoli (nominated by the French Department)

Mrs Brackstone
Learning Resource Centre Manager



Mason SAS2

In September, Miss Davis nominated Mason from SAS2 as throughout COVID he worked extremely hard. This was particularly challenging for Mason because his medical needs required him to shield for four months.

Miss Davis said; "Mason has completed every piece of work I set and made great attempts at his mainstream lessons too. I have had the pleasure of teaching him over Microsoft Teams and the effort and enthusiasm he has shown has blown me away! I am so proud of how well he has done despite very challenging personal barriers."



Mrs Kallend is pictured presenting Mason with his Jack Petchey Certificate

Jack Petchey Foundation Leader Award

This Award recognises the incredible commitment of adults who work with schools and youth organisations and are dedicated to supporting young people. The award gives young people the chance to say 'thank you' to these incredible adults!

This is the original nomination from Ms Cox and the English Department;

"I would like to nominate Mrs Day for the Jack Petchey Leader award. Mrs Day is an indispensable part of the English team, and has been working within the Department for many years.

Since then she has led intervention for our students, covered numerous lessons, whole-heartedly and unreservedly supported her colleagues, both with teaching and on a personal and emotional level (she has never missed anyone's birthday!) and has by far exceeded her job role as English Departmental HLTA. To call her a life-saver is not, I think, taking it too far. She is there for you no matter how you feel, but always finds ways to bring you back to the surface. There is no drowning with Mrs Day there!

Mrs Day does tend to address colleagues by the term 'angel' - but in truth it is she who is the angel. A patient, forgiving guardian angel who spreads her benevolent and calming wings over us. To say that we are lucky to have her is, at best, an absolute understatement."



Mrs Day presented with her Jack Petchey Award by Mr Fisher

Yr 8 Champions!

HUGE congratulations to Form 8C (Campion) for winning the first Yr 8 House Point competition last academic year.

A fantastic first half term saw Campion achieving 100 points.

As you can see, Form 8C, and their Art Teacher, Mrs Archer, received the news and the competition shield with suitable sombre sobriety. Well done boys!

Mr Eldridge
Head of Year 8



Sprinting to a Personal Best!



In May, Ty, then in 9AU ran in his first competition for over a year due to Covid. He did really well, gaining a Personal Best of 13.00 seconds in the 100m.

The following week we received the news that he had beaten this time and his Personal Best now stands at 12.55 seconds!

Ty's success on the track at 100m continued with him representing Bexley in the Kent Schools Championships.

It's a great achievement in normal times, but when training had been severely compromised, it's an even more remarkable achievement. Well done Ty!

Mr Virgo
Head of Physical Education

Poppy Collection

Our poppy collection this year raised £64 towards the poppy appeal. Well done to all the students and staff for their support.

Fred
School Chaplain

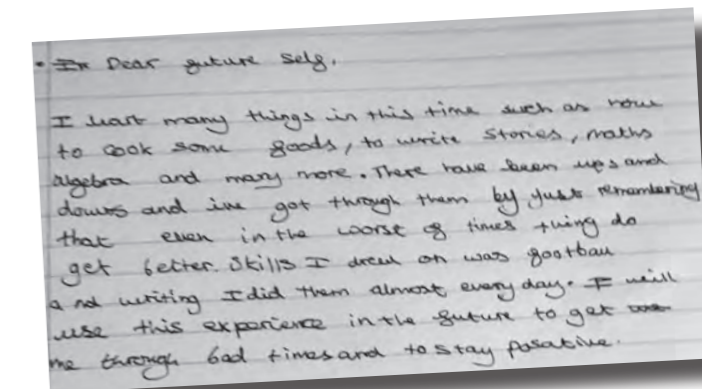


PSHE News

In March, we asked the boys to reflect on 'self-efficacy'. In preparation for their return to school we asked them to reflect on what they have learnt about their strengths during lockdown.

They had the task to write a letter to their future self about what they have learnt; How they got through the ups and downs; What skills and strengths they drew on and how they will use this experience in the future.

Ms Myles
RE Teacher and PHSE Lead



Ms Jandu shares her favourite book: 'The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy' by Douglas Adams.



It's a quirky, bizarre read and it promises to give you the answer to the meaning of life so naturally, I took it upon myself to investigate - who wouldn't?

It's hilarious and I was sad when the story finished - a reliable way to know you love a book!

DT in SAS Complex Needs

In May, as part of DT within the SAS, we were exploring and creating traditional dishes from around Europe. The boys worked really hard to research counties and the ingredients needed to prepare and cook a variety of dishes.

Working together to develop key life skills along with an appreciation of different cultures and foods has been invaluable.

Everyone enjoyed tasting the different foods that they may not have otherwise tried and it really helped in developing language skills and being able to follow instructions.

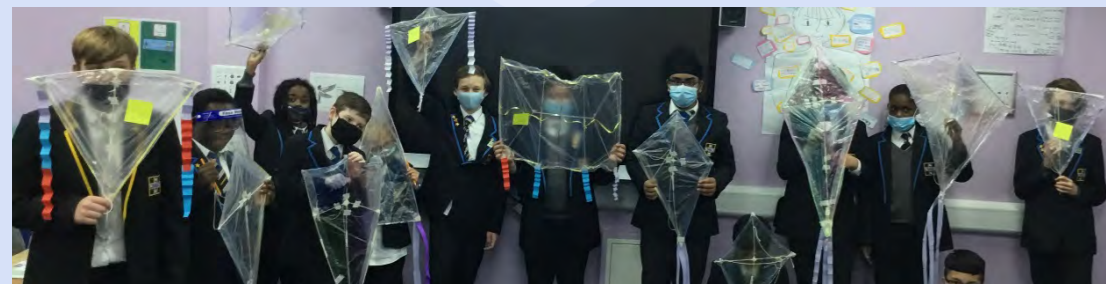
Miss S Davis
Special Needs Teacher



Flying Tonight!

In October, SAS 1 and 2 were designing and creating their own kites in DT. While doing this they looked at the history of kites, how they have changed over time and in different countries.

The boys enjoyed investigating shapes and materials while designing and then improving on their designs to create kites of their very own.



Miss S Davis and Miss R Davies
SAS Complex Needs Teachers

Halloween

Halloween was very different last year for many of our boys, so we decided to give them the opportunity to carve their very own pumpkins.

Whilst carving and shaping, it allowed time for great social and communication opportunities where the boys were sharing ideas and supporting each other with wonderful words of encouragement.



Lockdown Laptops

During Lockdown, many parents and carers were under pressure having to work from home and having children who needed to access school work set online at the same time. Other families had several children trying to use one computer simultaneously which caused tensions so St Columba's helped out the best that we could.

The school lent out its stock of laptops, which was forty-five laptops and delivered them to families across south-east London and Kent.

We were very happy to support our families and help our students continue their learning during challenging times.

We were touched to receive many messages of gratitude from families and a few of them are shown opposite:

We are pleased to say they were all returned and they are now deployed in the school helping students to continue with their learning.

Mrs Goddard
Business Manager



"My son and I appreciate the educational support given during the past hard months. My son was able weather the storm with the use of the laptop, thank you to all involved."

"Thank you so much for all your help with the Laptop, we really appreciate your effort and support."

"Thanks for your kind support with the laptop when it was most needed."



Year 8 Drama: Beasts and Beauties!

During their first half term in Drama, Yr 7 students explored a variety of acting and performance skills which were then put to good use in performances of "Toby and the Wolf" by Carol Ann Duffy. These performances showed real talent, imagination, and ability from the whole year group.

There were some excellent and creative interpretations of the play, with some truly stand-out performances. Clearly, we have a talented Yr group!



QUESTION	ANSWER
What is your name?	Mr Eldridge
What do you do in school?	I am a PE Teacher and Head of Year
How long have you done it?	This is my 20th year at St Columba's!
Favourite book?	'The Green Mile' by Steven King
Favourite film?	Star Wars and the Marvel Films
Favourite meal?	I love a good Chili Con Carne!
Katy Perry or Taylor Swift?	At a push I would say Taylor Swift
Dr Who or Bake-Off?	Bake-Off, favourite Doc -Sylvester McCoy
I'm A Celebrity or Strictly?	Celebrity!
Favourite holiday destination?	The Greek Islands
Can you share one unexpected fact about yourself?	I had the honour of representing St Columba's meeting HM the Queen
What hobbies or interests do you have?	I love sport! Playing and watching it... I play golf with a few other staff members. I am also in a Tenpin bowling team. At 16 I played for England and had the opportunity to play at the Commonwealth Games, but wasn't allowed to go as I was doing my A Levels!



Mr Dennis shares his favourite book: 'The Hobbit' by JRR Tolkien.



I read this when I was a teenager and have re-read it countless times since.

It introduced me to 'proper, grown up writing', the fantasy genre and 'epics' that have depleted my bank balance and spare time ever since!



The Challenge helped me to create goals and aspirations, helped to improve my mindset and made me feel more positive about the future.

When I set myself new challenges, be it a new hobby or learning something new, it helped me build self-confidence and it gave me something to focus on over the 30 Days.

Michael N 8AL

30-Day Wellbeing Challenge

In April, students and staff took part in a 30-day wellbeing challenge. In partnership with the Schools Advisory Service, Jamie Peacock, a former Rugby League Champion player has devised a 30-day wellbeing programme.

The programme focused on four main areas Positive Mindset, Sleeping Well, Physical Activity and Eating Well.

Form 8AL completed the most surveys and Students from the Form were invited to become members of a 'Student Wellbeing Team'. They were given the opportunity to reflect on the Challenge and discuss ways to support wellbeing for students across the school.

Well done to everyone who took part and completed the challenge!

Each week, simple, proven and effective techniques were shared with students and staff to build new wellbeing habits.

When the challenge finished, it was assessed by students by completing a Reflection Survey.

The habits you have created in the last 30 days will strengthen even more if you continue to commit daily to the wellbeing actions you have started.

Mrs Natali
Assistant Head Teacher



The Student Wellbeing Team
L to R: Ahmed, Michael, Mark, Neo

The challenge benefitted me in a number of different ways. I felt stronger after eating healthier food and I felt calmer after doing exercise. My mind was much fresher after doing any form of physical activity, which made doing my homework much easier.

I would really recommend this challenge because once you get used to it you can see many benefits that come with hard work and dedication. At first, you might think that physical activity is very difficult every day but even a short walk is good for the brain!

Mark 8MT

Food Banked!

In March we repeated the Sarnies4Staff initiative but instead of collecting cash donations, we asked for items for the Slade Green Food Bank.

Given that we had a limited number of staff in each day, and some members of staff preferred not to have a bacon sandwich first thing in the morning, it was quite an impressive collection.

Thank you to all staff that contributed!

Ms Holbrook
Safeguarding and Pastoral Manager



Sports Day

As we found over the past year everything has changed, Sports Day was markedly different this summer because of Covid.

To ensure that students remained in their 'bubbles', the PE department decided to have an individual Sports Day for each year group this year.

Field events of Discus, Shot Putt, Javelin and High Jump took place in the morning sessions; track events which included 60m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m plus relays took place in the afternoon session.

A special mention must go out to Israel (Yr 8 More) and Daniel (Yr 10 Champion) who were both very close to breaking school records in the High Jump.



Daniel Yr 10 Champion

The boys all competed with a tremendous attitude and in an excellent sporting manner throughout.

Thanks go to all of the PE department for their hard work organising and to all supporting staff who helped make our sports days run so smoothly.

Mr Virgo
Head of Physical Education



Kadeen-More, Victor-Fisher, Kahya-Loyola

Remembrance



In November, Remembrance Day was marked, as always, in school, but in a new fashion. Our Chaplain, Fred, recorded a video that was played to students in Forms and then at the end of their break, Year Groups lined up for a minute's silence before going back into lessons.

Needless to say, it was impeccably observed and an occasion that made me proud to be Head Teacher of St Columba's.

Mr Fisher
Head Teacher

RE Students of the Month

Winners and Runners Up from May 2021

WINNERS		RUNNERS UP	
Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 7	Yr 8
Chukwuemeka 7F	Michael 8GL	Abdulhalim 7X	Ethan 8JB
Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 9	Yr 10
Toby 9AL	Ryan 10JB	Emeka 9OR	Tyler 10GL

Art

Congratulations to the artists who created all this wonderful artwork during the period of sustained disruption we have just endured. So many students have transcended the difficult conditions to create fully realised and original pieces of work.

I hope you enjoy this diverse mix of family portraits, landscapes and wildlife images, demonstrating how determined and skilful our young artists are even in the face of the most trying circumstances.

Mrs Archer
Head of Art



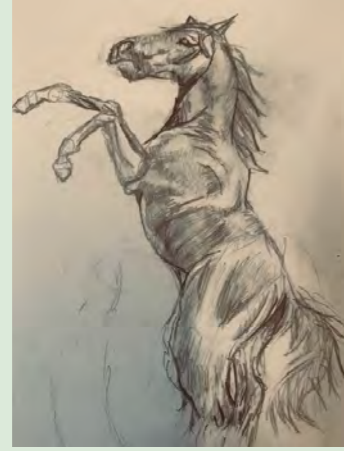
Jefferey 11JB



Bobby 8C



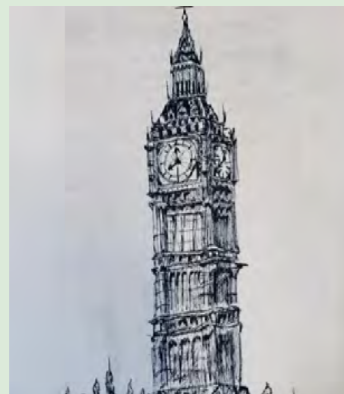
Finn 10X



Chris 11AL



Chris 11AL



Chris 11AL



Jordan 8M



Bobby 8C



Finn 10X



Bobby 8C



Georgio 8F



Oscar 11GL



Jordan 8M



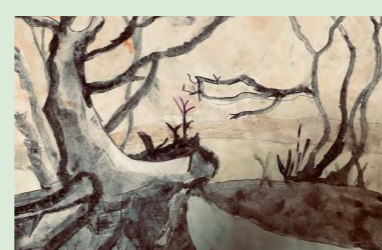
Louis 11MT



Antonio 11AL



Finn 10X



Finn 10X



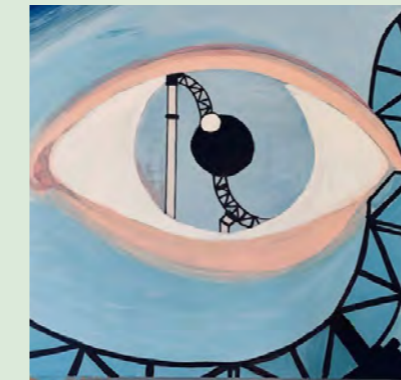
Chris 11AL



Thomas 10M



Chris 11AL



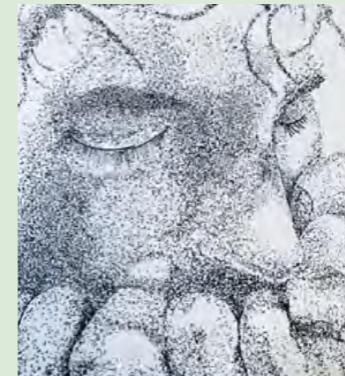
Toby 11GL



Charles 8C



Chris 11AL



Chris 11AL



Antonio 11AL



Chris 11AL



Chris 11AL



Benedict 11MT



Finn 10X



Benedict 11MT



Finn 10X



Perfect 10C



Chris 11AL



Chris 11AL

Design Technology News

Welcome to our wall of fame! In February, Yr 8 Design Technology students began their Food Technology rotation. To ensure our students continue to develop their culinary skills they lent a helping hand with the preparation of family meals. The results were AMAZING!

The following students have established themselves as the shining stars of Design Technology.

Ms Sinden
Head of DT



Harvey V 9GL



Mark O 8AL



Jai D 8JB

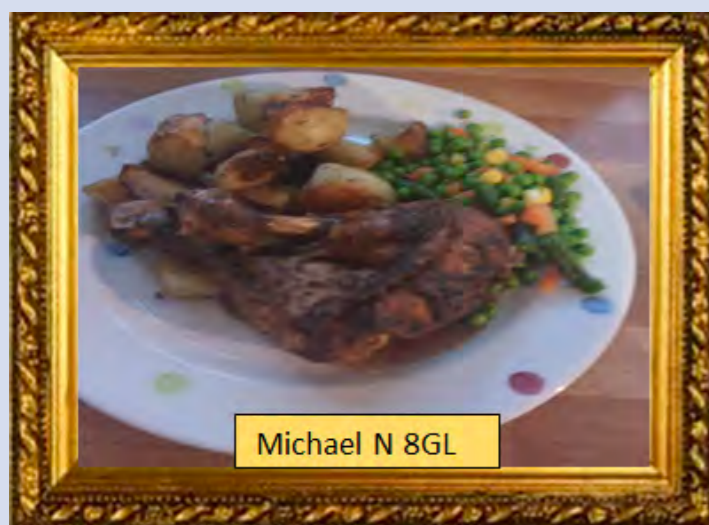


FRIED EGG

Brian W 10C



Jireh O 8GL



Michael N 8GL



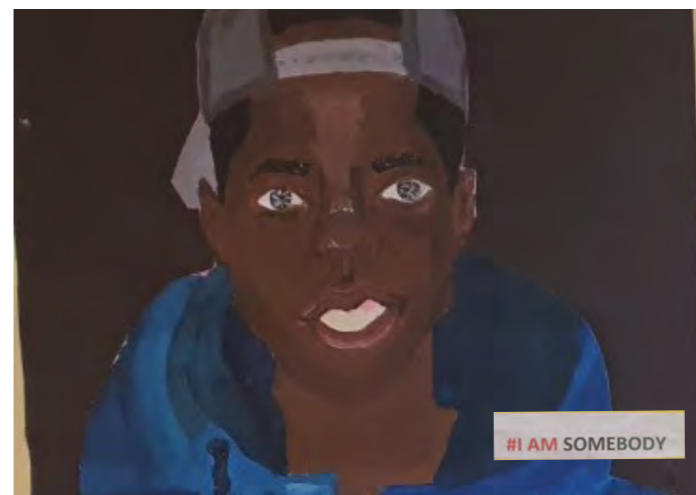
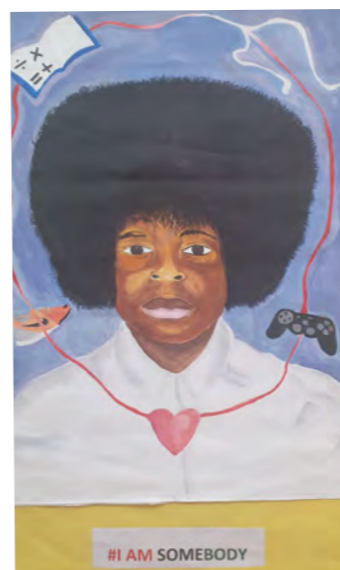
Jordan L 8OR

Black History Month

October was Black History Month and to commemorate this, we celebrated virtually. With contributions from Mrs Ransome, Mr Bhana, Mr Watson, Mr Virgo, Miss Loveday-Jones and Miss Archer, this year's theme was entitled "Shape the Future".

The theme was aimed at the students gaining an understanding of the history of Black culture in the UK through self-identity (I Am Somebody) and having knowledge on the vast contributions and diversity in the UK, especially over the past seventy years. Topics covered were the Windrush generation, black scientists and their achievements and racism in football.

There were also debates and activities on diversity and the major events that have occurred in the past year, especially those in the United States.



right2read

Mr Watson shares one of his favourite books: 'Think Big' by Ben Carson.

This is a favourite of mine - it has really inspired me to reach for the stars and to dream big!

Black History Month in Science

During October, the Science department celebrated the success of all Black scientists globally. Teachers have delivered lessons on a weekly basis focussing on four different scientists; George Carver, Katherine Johnson, Alice Ball and Otis Boykin. Students were asked to select a scientist of their choice as part of a homework task.

I am pleased to say that the challenges and activities were widely accepted by both staff and students! Showcased here is some of the fantastic work submitted by our students.

St Columba's is a diverse school and celebrating Black History month recognises the success of Black people in our society which at times can be overlooked. This recognition means we can explain to our students the different forms of challenges Black people have had to endure while pursuing their dreams.

Mr N Bhana
Head of Science

MARIE MAYNARD DALY

Marie M. Daly was born in 1913 in Cora, New York. Her parents inspired her passion for science; her mother fostered her love of books and her father passed on his love of chemistry. Before Marie was born, her father had enrolled at Cornell University to study chemistry, but ultimately had to leave due to a lack of money.

Marie's parents were strong believers in education at a time as impossible to many African Americans. Her school, after graduating high school, Marie stayed living at home to save money and enrolled in Queens College, New York, where she majored in chemistry.

After completing her PhD, Marie went onto work with Alfred E. Mirsky, a pioneer in molecular biology, at the Rockefeller Institute in New York after receiving a grant from the American Cancer Society. Marie then returned to Columbia in 1955, working closely with Dr. Quentin D. Deming to investigate the causes of heart attacks. Their work eventually transferred to Albert Einstein College, where they planned the discovery of the relationship between high cholesterol and clogged arteries. Marie continued to teach and carry out pioneering research at Albert Einstein College, including the study into the effects of cigarette smoking on the lungs, until she retired in 1988. She also supported efforts to enrol minority students in medical schools and graduate science programs and in 1988, started a scholarship for minority students who want to study science at Queens College.

Born: 18 April 1913, Cora, New York, United States
Died: 28 October 2003, New York, New York, United States

George Washington Carver
(American scientist)

Born: 1864
Died: 1943

George Washington Carver was an agricultural scientist and inventor, he developed hundreds of different ways to use peanuts, sweet potatoes and soybeans.

Washington Carver was born an African American slave a year before slavery was outlawed.

When Carver was a child, him, his mother and his sister were kidnapped.

At a young age, Carver took an interest in plants and experimented with natural pesticides, fungicides and soil conditioners. He became known as the "plant doctor"

Ben 10F

Ben 10F

Toby 11B



Move over Joe Wickes MBE, step up Mr Martin!

During Lockdown, the PE department have been delivering live PE lessons directly into the homes of all students. Mr Martin put Joe Wickes to shame with his innovative workouts which went out to students daily.

In February we were teaching our students how to be creative whilst at home with weights.

A few items thrown into a school bag intensified the HIIT workout and helped the boys understand how they did not need expensive exercise equipment and can use whatever they had at home during lockdown to good effect.

There were lots of House Points awarded and students who sent in picture collages received a raffle ticket which was entered into the JD voucher draw!

Mr Virgo
Head of Physical Education



Harry 7L

Physics is so COOL!

What an amazing and fascinating subject Physics is! To limit screen time and introduce practical lessons that can be completed at home using simple apparatus, in February I challenged my Yr 10 students to complete a task at home.

The object was for them to balance a small volume of water from a table using three toothpicks and string. Impossible you may say but it can be done. Any explanations as to how this is possible, will be most welcomed.

I must say the work received was amazing and I was so pleased with the number of responses received.

Mr Bhana
Head of Science

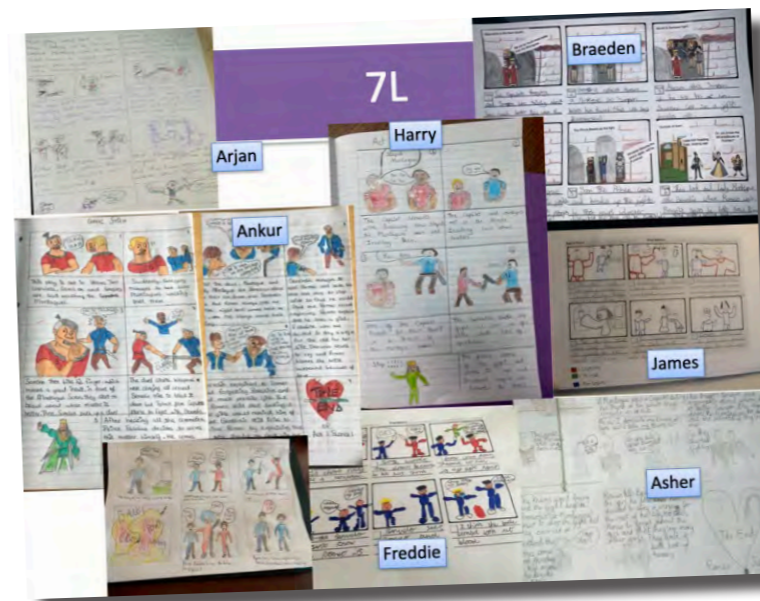


Yr 7 English

In the Autumn term Yr 7 were reading, learning and analysing *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare's best-known romantic play. The older form of English used by Shakespeare and the fact that the learning was done remotely, made this a challenging topic. However, the students all worked extremely hard and put their all into every lesson.

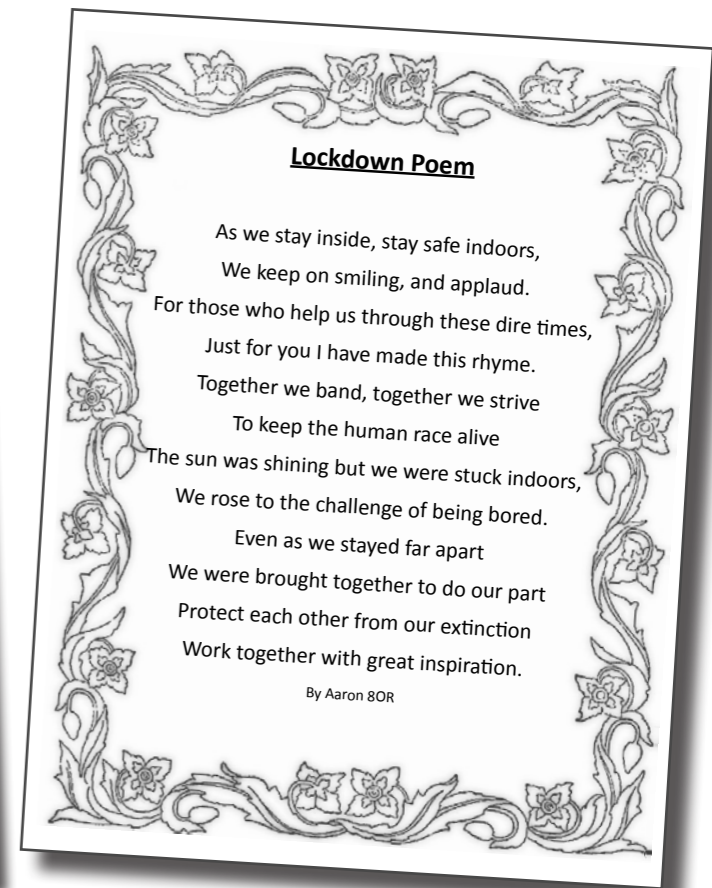
Their task in one project was to create a comic strip of Act 1 Scene 1. I was amazed with the hard work and dedication they all put into creating their comic strips.

Miss Cox
2i/c English and Head of Key Stage 3



Poetry Please

Working with Yr 8 and Yr 9 students in the Library in February, Mrs Fish-Halvorsen saw this poem by Aaron in Form 8OR and thought it deserved sharing!



Spotlight on Staff!

With students working from home during Lockdown, the *Weekly News* Spotlight feature turned on to our Staff who were at school at least one day a week.

Our first Star was Mrs Moore who has an unsuspected glorious past! Some of the staff who featured in *Weekly News* appear through this issue of Reflection.

Mr Stone
Academy Executive Secretary



QUESTION	ANSWER
What is your name?	Mrs Moore
What do you do in school?	Wellbeing and Learning Co-ordinator
How long have you done it for?	Twelve years!
Have you had any other careers?	Yes, international and private banking with millionaire clients!
Can you name a favourite book?	'Papillon' by Henri Charrière
Can you name a favourite meal?	Easy! steak and chips with peppercorn sauce
Katy Perry or Taylor Swift?	Can I say both?
Dr Who or Bake-Off?	Bake-Off
I'm A Celebrity or Strictly?	Again, can I say both?
Favourite Holiday destination?	UK - New Forest. Abroad - Greek Islands
Can you share one unexpected fact about yourself?	I was a gymnast, my greatest achievement was being a member of the GB Team!



Ms Sheridan shares her favourite book: 'The Dark Tower' series by Stephen King.

I enjoy Stephen King books. My Dad recommended this series to me and I was hooked! Reading a good book is like binge watching TV. Once you start, you cannot put it down. It's definitely worth a look if you are interested in suspense and plot twists!

Year 8

Yr 8 Students approached the Easter break by producing some great pieces of work!

Mr Eldridge
Head of Year 8

A Blessed Easter

Easter comes with spring
Which exhibits gorgeous rebirth
All the creature of God's Creation
Wandering this great earth

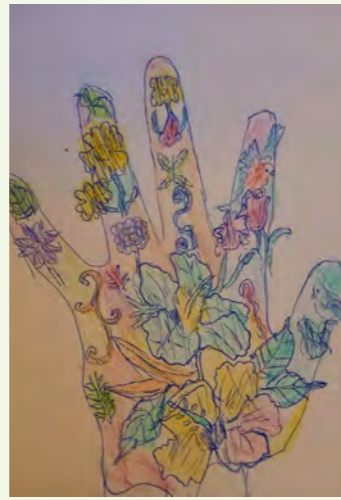
Come alive upon this earth
But the greatest wonder
To present and love dear
Is living with the knowledge
That the lord shall appear

He was slaughtered for all of us
So don't let this poem be in vain
For we should think about him constantly
And let our life run smooth like a train.

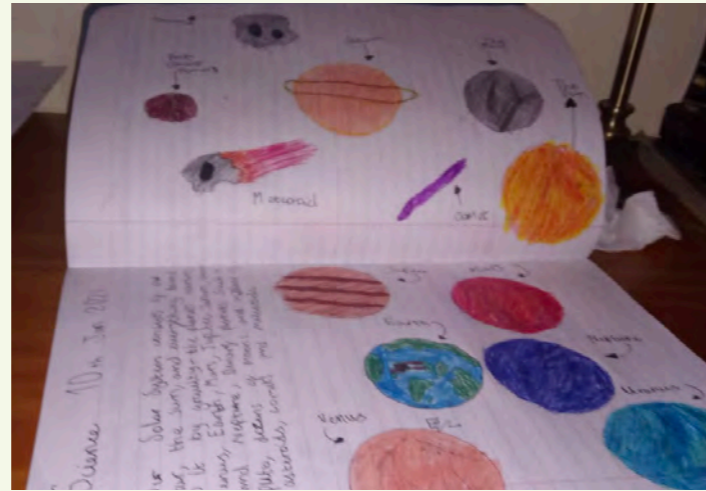


A reflective Easter Poem by Myles

Ben's artwork focused on the work of designer William Morris



Jayson's (left) and Ikenna's (right) amazing artwork



Laurence's Science work on the Solar System

Yr 8 Question of the Week

In the Autumn term, Yr 8 were posed a question every week to discuss - there were some interesting answers! Here are some answers to the question posed one week in December.

What is more important - English or Maths?

"I believe that you can't really pinpoint the subject that is more important between Maths and English. Maths is all about numbers equations and rules whereas English is language, writing and reading. Depending on the job you decided to venture into, Maths or English will both be key but in some jobs you may not need one subject as much as another.

Take an accountant for example, all they work with is numbers: managing money and just working with money as a whole. But an Author works with language: words and phrases to interest a reader. Both are as important."

Paul 8F

"In my opinion, I would say that they are both helpful. I say this because they will both help in life such as speaking English and even using it in job interviews.

Maths is also important as if you are buying things you would need to know how much change you would expect. If you would want to work in a shop or cashier you would need to know how much change is given to them. Also, profit being made is important as you need to know how much profit it being made by buying it for a cheap price and then selling it at a higher price."

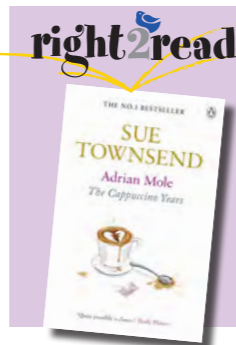
Jarysh 8M

"I personally think they are equal subjects.

We all need them in everyday life for example the time; imagine you are going for a job application but you have no access to the internet but a clock you will need to read it to get the time, also have you ever asked for the time and the person says quarter to 2 you will need to know maths to know what quarter to two is.

Another example, but for English grammar - if you do not have good grammar there is a big chance you will not get a job."

Neo 8M



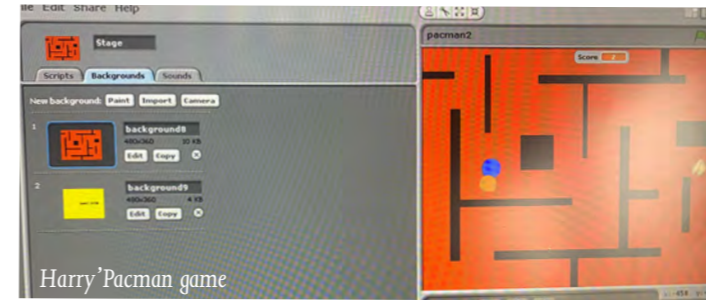
Mr Martin shares one of his favourite books: 'Adrian Mole - The Cappuccino Years' by Sue Townsend.

It is not often you read a book where the lumps on the back of your head hurt so much from laughing so hard!

KS3 Computer Science

Year 7

In January, students were developing their programming skills in Scratch and have completed several challenges to consolidate their theory understanding. Harry 7L was Yr 7 Student of the Month for his application and excellent projects.



Year 8

Students created Piskel images with Mr Kelly and producing some fantastic work. Miles 8AL made these fabulous characters which he went on to use in his project.



Year 9

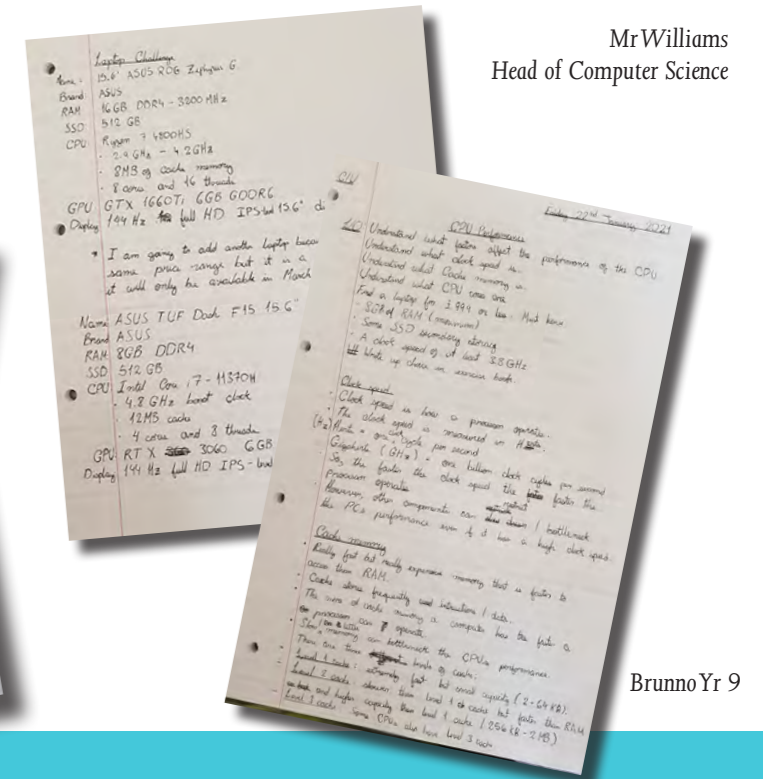
Students continued to develop their Computer Science theory understanding with a focus on Memory, Storage and the CPU.

Work from all students has been astonishing and a real appetite for the content has shone through in their work.

Brunno 9OR was the Yr 9 Student of the month for his detailed work this term. If anyone is in the hunt for a new laptop, Brunno is your man!

A massive well done to all the students for completing their work to such high standards during these trying times.

Mr Williams
Head of Computer Science



Brunno Yr 9

Highlighting Staff

In July, Mrs Todd rose to the challenge. Wearing a fluorescent top to work one day, it was pointed out that her outfit was an exact match for a highlighter pen.

Never one to back down, Mrs Todd went on to wear a whole week's worth of highlighter tops! We also learnt of her love of homemade curry and twirling batons!



QUESTION	ANSWER
What is your name?	Mrs Todd
What do you do in school?	Inclusion and Safety Administrator
How long have you done it for?	Two and a half years
Have you had any other careers?	Yes, I worked for Peacocks and Little Chef then in schools for the last 20 years!
Do you have any hobbies?	I have five grandchildren, they keep me busy!
Can you name a favourite meal?	Indian food (made from scratch by my husband!)
Katy Perry or Taylor Swift?	Neither, not my kind of music
Dr Who or Bake-Off?	Bake-Off, I like food
I'm A Celebrity or Strictly?	Both! I record one while watching the other
Favourite Holiday destination?	Egypt
Can you share one unexpected fact about yourself?	I am a trainee Majorette!

Slade Green Advent Food Bank Collection

What an outstanding achievement this year's collection on behalf of the Slade Green Food Bank was; in just two weeks the students have gone above and beyond the call of duty in support of those in need at Christmas.

Thank you to all those families who have supported this worthwhile charity event. In these difficult and trying times it fills me with hope that there are still so many charitable people still giving to those who have nothing.



Fred
School Chaplain



Yr 7 loading some of the food collection into the minibus

You Need Christmas Hands

As part of the Gospel reading from Matthew 25, a rich landowner was going away so he called his servants and gave them different amounts of gold according to their abilities.

Year 7 students were asked to identify their five strongest talents and write them on each finger of a hand (a paper hand, not their own hand! - Ed.) We did this as part of the Form time reflection to get them to identify their talents and see if they use them.

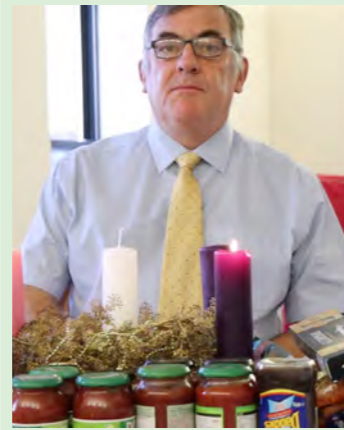
To have a gift and not use it is like having a present and never opening it. It seemed appropriate given the time of year, to use the hands to help add some festive cheer to the Yr 7 Bubble. One thing we did learn was that Yr 7 were not shy in showing off their talents!

Fred
School Chaplain



Christmas Liturgy

Last year, because of Covid 19, our Christmas Liturgy was delivered and celebrated remotely. Here are a few pictures of Fred and participants.



Chaplain Fred



Michael 8L



Head Boy Sean 11OR



Zachary 9MT



Tomisin 10X



Ronald 10M



Kosa 9JB

Spotlight on Students

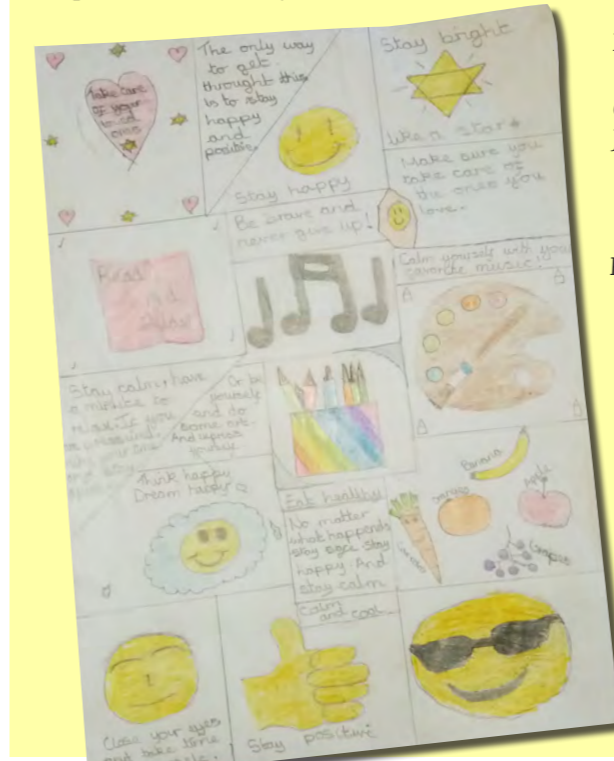
In December, we featured Jireh from Yr 8 pictured next to the Christmas Tree in Reception with his festive javelin and Drama masks nestling safely in the tree!

QUESTION	ANSWER
What is your name?	Jireh
What form are you in?	8C
What do you love about St Columba's?	Meeting my friends and being involved in school activities
What is your favourite subject?	Drama
Do you have any hobbies?	I love sport and acting
Can you name a favourite book and why?	Dairy of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney because it has lots of jokes
What is your favourite meal?	Pepperoni Pizza
Dizzee or Skepta?	Neither - I like BTS
I'm a Celebrity or Strictly?	I'm a Celebrity
Can you share one unexpected fact about yourself?	My role model is Cristiano Ronaldo



PSHE News

To celebrate 'Time to Change Week' in March we ran a competition for boys to design a poster under the theme of 'Top Tips to support your friends during Covid.'



Here is the winning entry from Jireh 8GL!

Ms Myles
PHSE Lead

Volcanoes!

In December, Yr 9 Geography students were studying volcanoes. As part of a half term project, they were tasked with building a model of a volcano.

Unfortunately, because of Covid restrictions, students were unable to bring their models into school. However, here are some of the stunning examples they produced.

Mr Egan
Teacher of Geography



Cole 9JB



Kayha 9AU



Victor 9MT



Keelan 9JB

History in the Making

I think I speak for every one of my colleagues when I say how good it is to have the students back into school to work with us. With the return of all our students in March, safety was our first priority and we took every opportunity to make our school as safe as it could possibly be for all our students, their families and our staff.

Years 11 and 10 were first through the doors, with Years 7 and 8 and 9 following on having Lateral Flow Device Tests, all socially distanced of course!



Yr 11 students lined up waiting to be called into the Hall



Students lined up for their LFD tests



Mrs Elsey Registering students for their test



Mr Stone helping a student take his test

Testing! Testing!



Mrs Dungate helping a student take his test



Mrs Carrano - Testing



Mrs Egan - Handing out Home-test kits

The pictures show them patiently waiting their turn, their behaviour was exceptional.

A special mention has to be given to our staff (most of whom are also pictured) who retrained and adapted at short notice to help us all, but especially the students, return safely!

Mrs Goddard
School Business Manager

Processing...



Mrs Gangatharan processing the tests



Mrs Reddington processing tests

Waiting...



Students awaiting their LFD results under the watchful eye of Mr Shoebridge

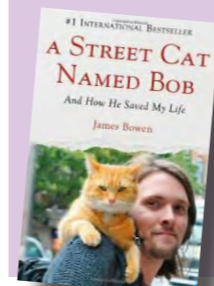
Café Columba's Community Star!

We often talk of how wonderful our staff are and here is some proof! Mrs Sherry is Sous Chef in Café Columba and is well known and much loved in the school and now the Mayor of Bexley shares our opinion. During Lockdown, and in truth, for much longer before, Mrs Sherry has been helping to care for her elderly neighbours.

Shopping, cooking and providing support and human contact for lonely old people has been part of her life for some years. It's lovely that her support in the community has been recognised. Well done Mrs Sherry!

Mrs Egan
Assistant Business Manager

right2read Tyler in 7L shares his favourite book:
'A Street Cat Named Bob'
by James Bowen.

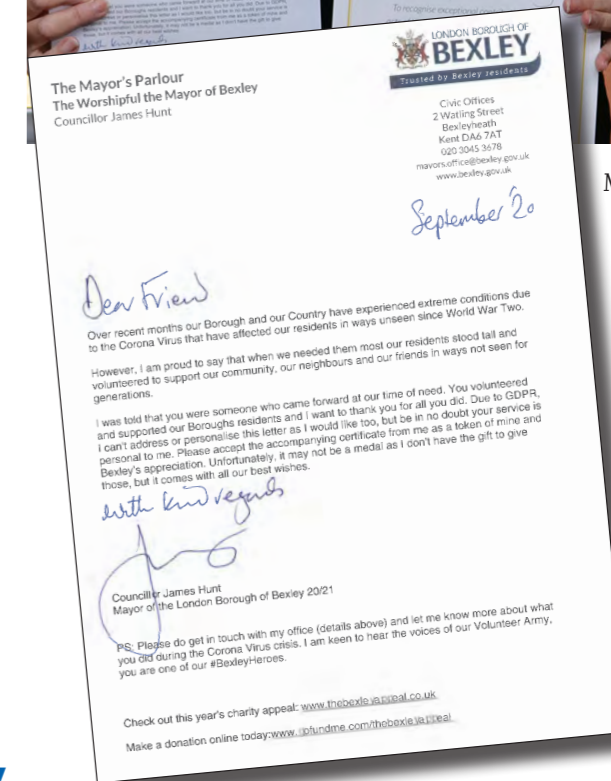


It is about a recovering drug addict who becomes a London street musician. He had fallen on hard times until he met Bob.

I would recommend this book to any cat lover or anyone who likes heart warming stories, in these trying times stories like this with light comedy is all people need.



Mrs Sherry



WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Remote Teaching

During Lockdown, with the exception of Key Workers and NHS staff, virtually everyone was working from home. For many of us, the novelty factor of digital meetings has long since disappeared and Teachers and Teaching Assistants are no different.

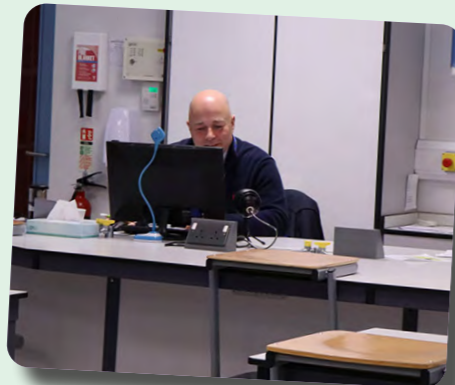
As far as possible, they maintained their normal teaching load but were delivering lessons from home, from empty classrooms or their offices.

I have taken some photos of Teachers and TAs teaching and interacting with our students, mostly to an audience of empty chairs.

They performed brilliantly in strange circumstances!



Miss Davies - SAS



Mr Barry - RE



Ms Sinden - DT



Miss Solly - Geography



Miss Williamson - Special Needs



Mr Andreoli - French



Miss Cox - English



Mr Creighton - Geography



Mr Dennis - English



Mr Eldridge - PE



Mrs Natali - Biology



Mr Kelly - Computer Science



Mr Watson - Music



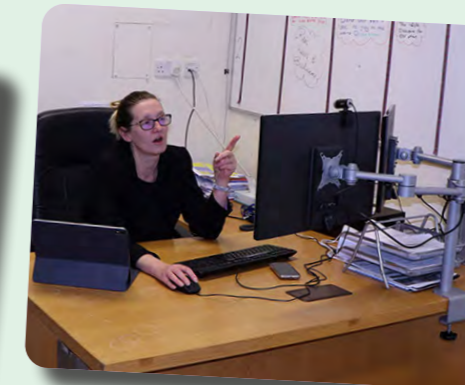
Mrs Archer - Art



Mrs Duckworth-Essifie - Maths



Mrs Fish-Halvorsen - Maths



Mrs Turner - Maths



Mr Martin - PE



Ms Sheridan - Maths



Ms Schwodler - Special Needs



Ms Jandu - English



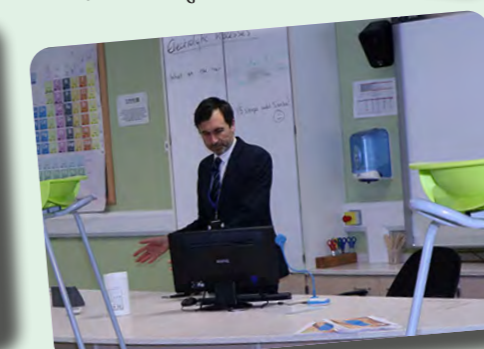
Mr Evans - Maths



Mr Stone
Academy Executive Secretary



Mrs Hurcombe - Special Needs



Mr McGonnell - Chemistry



Mr Virgo - PE

Mr Logue - History

