



Shining Lights Newsletter

December 2020

Celebrating success

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School
Let your light shine

Despite all the challenges that 2020 has brought, each and every student and staff member at Browndge has spent the last term letting their light shine! Although restrictions meant we couldn't do everything we would have liked to as a school this term, it has still been one filled with countless examples of kindness, hope, courage, patience and justice...

Year 7 Welcome Liturgy



At the start of this academic year, we welcomed our new Year 7's into our Browndge family through our Welcome Liturgy. Our celebration included scripture readings, artworks, dramas, songs in sign language

and times of quiet reflection. As our new 7's led us in prayer, we spent our time together reflecting on the words of St Catherine of Siena: "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!" Year 7 students and staff gathered together in school for the celebration, with family and friends joining us virtually via our live-streaming.



Maths Challenge

This term four of our Year 10 students; Charlotte Duke, Thomas Peck, Caitlin Massie and Michael Firth have accepted the challenge and begun an online STEM course in partnership with Liverpool School of Mathematics. They will be looking at really extending their mathematical knowledge and thinking by covering the hardest parts of the GCSE specification and gone beyond them. It is going to be tough but we know they will be fantastic!



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL
MATHS SCHOOL



**Think Maths
Prove Yourself**



Equality and Diversity Group: Anti-Bullying Week.

Anti-bullying Week is a nationally celebrated week that raises awareness of the effects of bullying. Our weeklong celebration began with 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday 16th November. Students came to school in odd socks to recognise and celebrate the fact that we have all been created by God to be unique and special. The Equality and Diversity group prepared a virtual assembly for forms that focussed on the importance of treating everyone as equal and as children of God. As a result of the assembly all forms went on to write anti-bullying pledges for display. The Equality and Diversity Group also sold anti-bullying wristbands to raise awareness and money for anti-bullying charities in the UK. Well done to Alice in 7T for winning the anti-bullying week interhouse competition to design a desktop background for the school network.



Duke of Edinburgh

This term we have again seen the resilience of our Duke of Edinburgh participants who continue to work tirelessly to support their local communities alongside their work commitments in school. Pupils in Year 11 have been finishing off the final parts of their volunteering, skills and physical sections and will begin to prepare for their expedition early in the Spring term. Our year 10 pupils are embarking on their own DofE journey, identifying the activities they will be taking part in during their award, they too will begin their preparation for their expedition in the Spring term.

Face Masks

This term Mrs Hunter has been using her talents in knitting and sewing to give to those in need! During the first lockdown Mrs Hunter felt compelled to raise money for St Catherine's Hospice, an important local charity that like many others across the UK has been hit hard by COVID. She has raised funds by putting her hobby to good use and creating a range of face masks which were sold to friends, family and colleagues. With their fantastic support, Mrs Hunter has raised over £360!



All Saints' Day

On the 1st November the Church celebrated All Saints' Day, a time when we come together to celebrate the saints and all those who are in Heaven. On this day, we remembered the loved ones we have lost who are now with God.

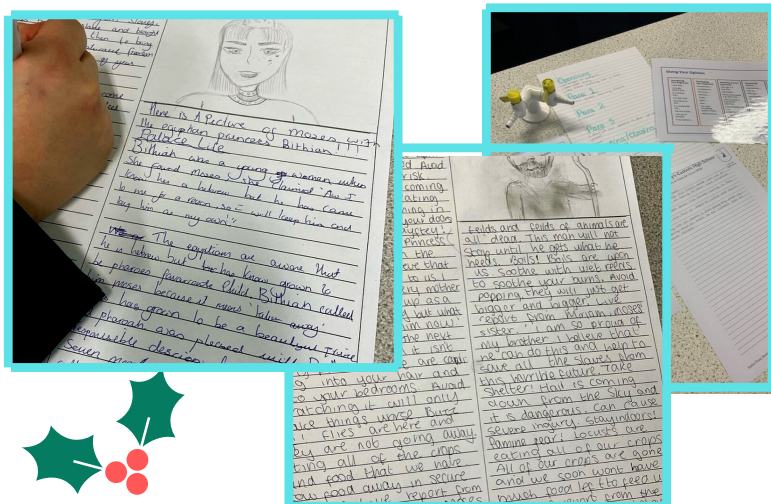
We celebrated the lives of these saints through our virtual All Saints Day Liturgy. Our Chaplaincy GIFT Team led us in a time of prayer and reflection. We were also joined virtually by Fr Mark, who delivered a message of encouragement reminding us that we are all called to be saints!



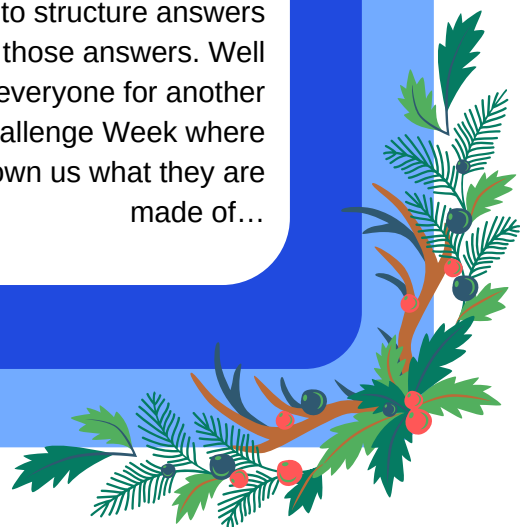
Challenge Week

The focus of Challenge Week for this term was to work on extended answers in every subject. ALL teachers are teachers of literacy and ALL subjects require extended responses in one way or another. This may mean showing working out in maths, comparison writing in English, letter writing in science, analysing the impact of COVID on Hospitality and Catering or giving a justified opinion about the role of graffiti in art. Throughout the week pupils have shown, and been rewarded for resilience, determination, perseverance and using mistakes as learning tools.

The motto for the week is 'show us what you are made of...' and the pupils have certainly done that! Senior Leaders have visited classes across all subjects and year groups and have seen some excellent pieces of work. Check out our Social Media to see some fabulous examples of the pupils work. Pupils have really risen to the challenge and shown their Growth Mindset throughout. Pupils have been rewarded with our Litcoin positives, 'I love challenge' pencils and badges and sweet treats.

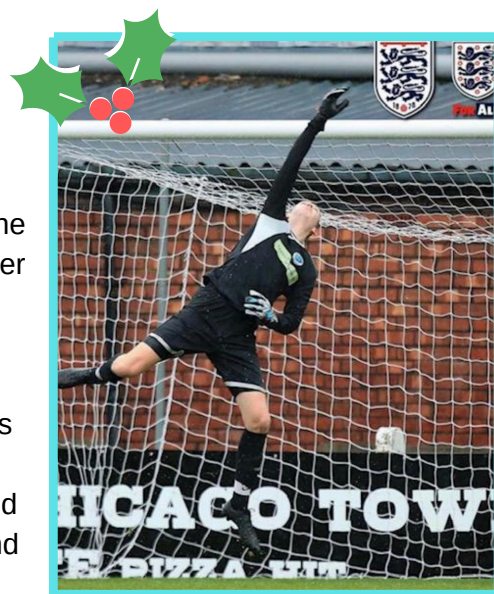


Activities included BUG'ing questions (identifying and discussing the demands of the question), planning responses, talking for writing, using taught strategies to structure answers and then writing those answers. Well done to everyone for another successful Challenge Week where everyone has shown us what they are made of...



Brownedge School Sports

Due to the ongoing impact of COVID it has been a tough year for school sport across South Ribble. This has resulted in all interschool fixtures being postponed until the New Year at the earliest. We have however, had a number of individual pupil success stories this term. Rueben Woodward, a Year 10 GCSE pupil, was released from Burnley in October 2019 as a goalkeeper but has continued to work hard and has been rewarded as he has recently signed an 18-month contract with Everton FC playing for the academy team as a goalkeeper at U15 and U16 level. Reuben has demonstrated his commitment and desire by training up to four times per week on top of representing their academy sides for games. He has played four games this season and has kept two clean sheets winning all four games in the process. Well done Reuben, keep up the hard work and the success will come.



Emile May has been creating waves in the local golfing community with a string of successes both at club level and across the county. Having only recently started playing golf Emile's handicap has been shooting down. Over the summer months she has had great success at Lancashire level, placing 3rd overall in a mixed junior boys and girls U18's open at Preston Golf Club, with a fantastic 39 points 87 gross. While playing at her local golf club Pleasington, Emile won the U18's mixed championship. A fantastic achievement. Keep up the hard Emile - Rory McIlroy might have to watch his back!

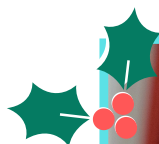


Shoebox Appeal

Our pupils had an amazing response, as always, to the Christmas Appeal for the Samaritan's Purse. This year we have been able to make up 67 shoeboxes filled with gifts, toys and toiletries which will be sent to children across the globe who may otherwise not receive presents at Christmas. Thank you to everyone involved.

Year 7 Transition

At the start of term we welcomed our wonderful new Year 7's into our Browndedge family. Our induction and transition programmes merged this year, with a clear focus on the wellbeing and health of our pupils. It was a great success with all pupils participating in an action-packed couple of days. They were involved in a variety of activities from a treasure hunt around the school, to making friends and team building and not to forget an induction into Growth Mindset at Browndedge. They were just fantastic and have continued to settle very well into secondary school. Well done Year 7 on completing a challenging first term with style and determination!



CAFOD Fast Day

Our school CAFOD group worked very hard during October to raise money and awareness for the CAFOD Fast Day. This year group chose to focus particularly on the needs of those in the world's most impoverished countries who have been hit the hardest by the outbreak of COVID. In order to raise awareness

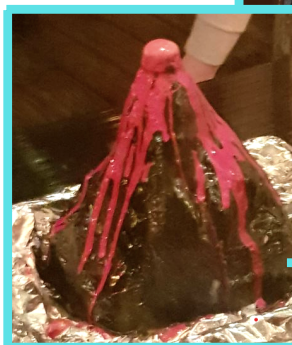
of this cause, our CAFOD group created a video to share online and in school, highlighting the struggles of those living in poverty overseas.

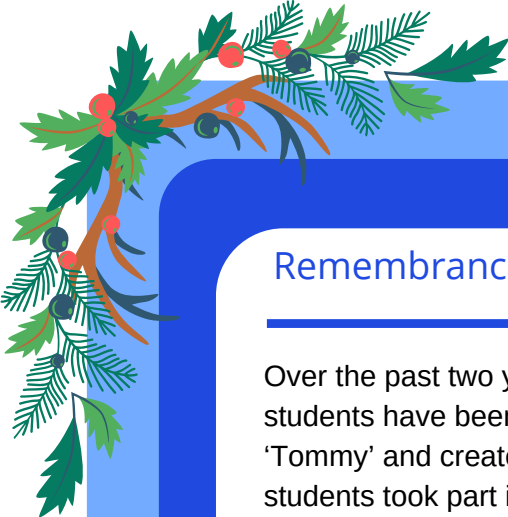
Alongside this the group also delivered a 'CAFOD No Cake Day', where students were encouraged to donate the money they would usually spend on a cake at lunch.



Geography

In geography we have continued to engage and connect students learning to the wider world this term, with a variety of activities including in Year 8 making an exploding volcanic model, which this year students made and exploded at home, then posted the photos on Teams. In Year 7 our geography students made some models of waterfalls which stimulated the students' creativity and inspired some to build their waterfalls on Minecraft.





Remembrance Day

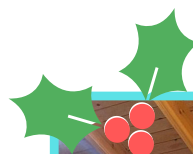
Over the past two years Brownedge St. Mary's students have been raising money to buy our own 'Tommy' and create a memorial garden. Our students took part in film mornings watching War Horse and Dunkirk. This year we purchased our Tommy and were able to create our very own memorial garden to remember all the fallen soldiers from wars, past and present. Our memorial garden was shared by all pupils and even members of the local community, as a place to come together and commemorate those who risked their lives in war. This year many memorial services were cancelled due to COVID, so it was extremely special to be able to come together to show our respects. On Remembrance Day, 11th November 2020 our Year 11 senior prefects led our memorial service and minute silence (even battling the wind!)



We also had some beautiful displays in school to commemorate Remembrance Day and make it a focal point for our students. The History Leaders were also able to create an informative and respectful virtual assembly for pupils to watch during form. A special thank you to the History Leaders and all involved!

Advent Liturgy

Our students and staff have been working hard this term to prepare this year's Advent Liturgy. Due to local restrictions, we are unable to gather at St Mary's Brownedge Church for this year's liturgy. However, this will not stop us from bringing the light of Jesus into our hearts and homes this Advent season! Students, staff and many members of our Brownedge community have been preparing song, dance, drama, prayers and reflections to celebrate our liturgy virtually. You can take part in the festivities by watching our liturgy video via our school social media pages.



Senior House Council

Being a House Captain at Brownedge St Mary's is an important job. House Captains represent all the pupils in their house and meet each term with their Head of House to discuss important topics and up and coming events in school. It is a chance for pupils to have the opportunity to share their opinions and views, something that we believe is vital as part of the Brownedge family. Last year we decided that we needed to give pupils that chance to meet the senior leaders in school so we formed a pupil elected Senior House Council. It is a great opportunity for pupils to learn about the democratic process and put themselves forward to take on a significant leadership role in school. It takes great courage to stand up in front of your peers and talk about why you should be a senior House Captain, yet we had 37 amazing pupils who applied for the position and created their own mini-election campaign. We wanted to say a huge well done to all 37 for letting their Light Shine!

Bosco	Rhyannah Dugdale 7, Abi Prescott 7, Charlie Wilkinson 7, Iris Singleton 8, Taiya Burns 8, Amy Pearson 9, Reece Helm 9, Remi Jonik 9, Charlotte Duke 10 and Tiya Sherliker 11
Drexel	Lexie Benson 7, Katie Evans 7, Sophie Horrocks 7, Gracie Jowett 7, Emilyrose McDougall 7, Emelia Williams 7, Jasmine Counsell-Thomas 8, Ayriya Dadpour 9, James Houghton 9, Louis Wall 9 and Robert Manley 10
Kolbe	Kieran Rowlings 8, Gabriella Michalakakos 9 and Charlie Willis 10
Romero	Kieran Chambers 7, Holly Haworth 7, Lacey Taylor 7, Harry Plaskowski 8, Demi Rowe 8, Matthew Ramsden 9, Joe Bibby 9 and Amelia Barnes 11
Teresa	Tabitha Bradey 7, Demi-Leigh Mellor 8, Jayden Grice 8, TJ Grech 8 and Amber Titterington 11

A huge well done to our 2020 pupil elected Senior House Captains! They will attend their first meeting with the Senior Leadership Team in the New Year where they will discuss some important agenda items whilst always ensuring that our Gospel Values are at the heart of all the decisions they make.

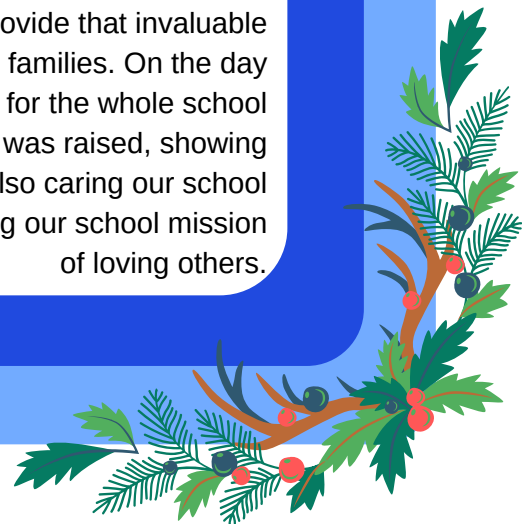
Young Artists

We have some outstanding artists in Year 7. Here are two shining talents, Kitty Bridges and Isabella Smallwood, both from 7T. These two young ladies have spent much time in Lockdown drawing together and practicing their skills. They frequently show off their work to Mrs Oddie, who is blown away by their attitude and the way they work and bounce off each other. Great work girls - keep drawing!



Cancer Awareness Morning

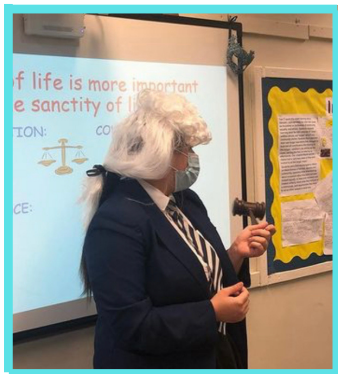
In support of those dear to us currently undergoing cancer treatment or those who have benefitted from fantastic support from various cancer organisations, we spent Friday 28th September raising money for a Cancer Awareness day, supporting charities that provide that invaluable support for sufferers and their families. On the day we hosted a coffee morning for the whole school to participate in. In total £112 was raised, showing how generous but also caring our school community is – truly embracing our school mission of loving others.



RE

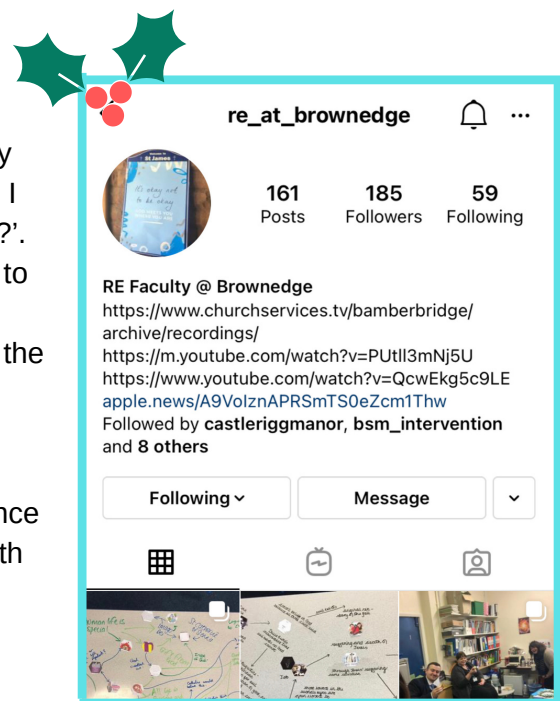
It has been another busy term for the RE faculty. Year 7 have made a great start, enthusiastically and thoughtfully exploring questions such as 'What is religion?' 'How can I belong?' 'What is truth?' and 'What do we mean by God?'. They have been 'God Detectives' and formulated a plan to find God, they have searched for truth while solving a murder mystery, and written to Boris Johnson to explain the importance of Christmas!

Year 8 have been exploring the big story of salvation, starting with the creation stories, discussing the importance of stewardship, and finding out about God's covenant with his people; so far we have investigated the fall, Noah, Abraham and Moses...an epic adventure, and the story continues!

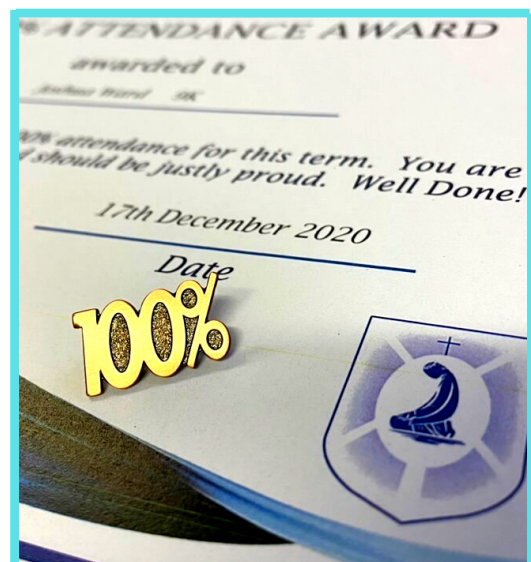


Awesome Attendance

A huge congratulations to the resilience and focus of our pupils during this difficult term. Attendance has been maintained even with the challenge of this pandemic, with 212 pupils achieving 100% attendance (excluding COVID related absence) since September, which is phenomenal! All these pupils have become esteemed Bronze members of our Brownedge 100 club, with an upgrade to Silver and Gold by the end of the year. Pupils with high attendance were entered into form prize draws with the winners receiving vouchers for a store of their choice. In total there were twenty-five winners of a £20 voucher each and fifty winners of a £5 voucher each. Well done, well deserved and happy spending.



Our GCSE students continue to develop the skills they need for success such as analysis and evaluation, turning the classroom into a courtroom with students volunteering to don the Barristers wig and call order with the gavel! As in previous years we marked Interfaith Week, albeit in a slightly different way with no outside speakers this year. Year 7 investigated Sikhism, Year 8 Islam and year 9 spent time reflecting on what unites us as humans, inviting others to 'walk a mile in my shoes'. Lots of exciting, interesting discussion and thoughtful written work.



Santa Dash

Our pupils continue to demonstrate our gospel value of kindness and in true Brownedge style our pupils have once again risen to the challenge of raising money for a very worthwhile cause, St Catherine's Hospice. Over the course of the week pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 have taken part in an interhouse sports competition dressed in santa hats. The boys have taken part in an interhouse football competition and the girls an interhouse bench ball competition. As always, our pupils showed their competitive edge and will to win for their house and put in some amazing performances. Overall results are listed below. Well done to everyone involved, you are truly an inspiration.

1st Place and 5 Points - Kolbe, 2nd Place and 4 Points - Teresa,
3rd Place and 3 Points - Drexel, 4th Place and 2 Points - Romero
5th Place and 1 Point - Bosco

On Wednesday 16th December, all pupils again continued to raise further money for St Catherine's Hospice by taking part in the annual Christmas Jumper Day. This involved pupils again donating to wear or make a Christmas Jumper for the day. We had some amazing designs which are shown in these photos. Well done again to all involved. The grand total of £300 was raised for St Catherine's Hospice!



Headteacher's Award

Wow! What an exceptional group of pupils we have here at Brownedge. We would like to pass on our congratulations to six pupils for their outstanding attitude to learning over this last term. Callie Atkinson, Charlotte Duke and Tom Peck (all Year 10) achieved grade 2 across all subjects in their recent Progress Review. Ayriya Dadpour, Juilia Magloire-Nettey and Gabriella Michalakakos (all Year 9) also achieved all grade 2s for their attitude to learning, and in addition gained no negatives and had 100% attendance.

Congratulations to all six pupils. They have shown true determination and resilience in their learning and that must be celebrated and rewarded; in this term especially, where we have faced so many changes and challenges. They are truly amazing. In recognition of and as a thank you for their hard work, they received gift e-vouchers. Who will win in the next Assessment Challenge next term?





Writers' Group

Writers' group is a group that allows pupils to unleash creativity in the form of writing. They meet every week and focus on a creative writing task. These could be to write a poem, write a short story, use different tenses, or describe something you've never seen before. The group also discuss books, like books they've recently read and their favourite books. The group share their works at the end and discuss what has been shared. Writers' group has a friendly atmosphere and is a place where you can share ideas and write about things that inspire and empower us, or about anything you want! That's the beauty of our imagination, and what writing is all about.



Youth SVP Christmas Challenge

Brownedge Youth SVP has continued despite the new COVID restrictions in school. The group have found new ways of meeting and planning for our Christmas Challenge. This year we have worked closely with Brownedge St Mary's Parish SVP conference. Due to the closure of the church during two lockdowns their fundraising has been affected. Brownedge Youth SVP decided to help the Brownedge St Mary's Conference with their need to make 68 Christmas Hampers for the elderly and sick of the parish. The challenge was to collect as many items for the hampers as possible. Pupils were also asked to donate tins for a food bank and these items will be given to the Salvation Army. The members of the Youth SVP distributed posters and empty boxes to various forms in school and prepared a video together with our Lay Chaplain, Rachael. Rachael posted our video on social media and we received a very encouraging response from SVP England and Wales which said:

"Thank you so much for your support @bsm_chaplaincy and for reminding older people in your community that they are not alone this Christmas!"

During the course of the challenge we faced various obstacles with pupils self isolating and staff who would normally support us being absent. Despite this, many staff and pupils have gone above and beyond in various ways to support the challenge, for which we are very grateful. Brownedge St Mary's SVP conference came to school on Wednesday 9th December to put together the Christmas hampers which will be distributed in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Interhouse Competitions

English - Poetry

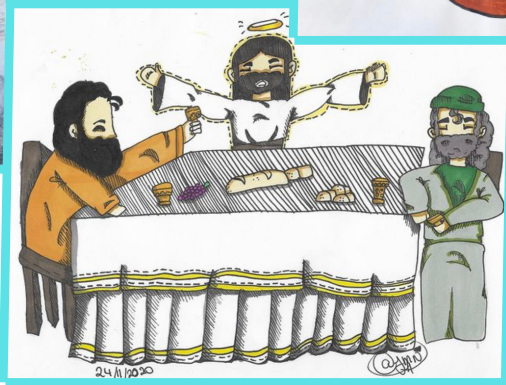
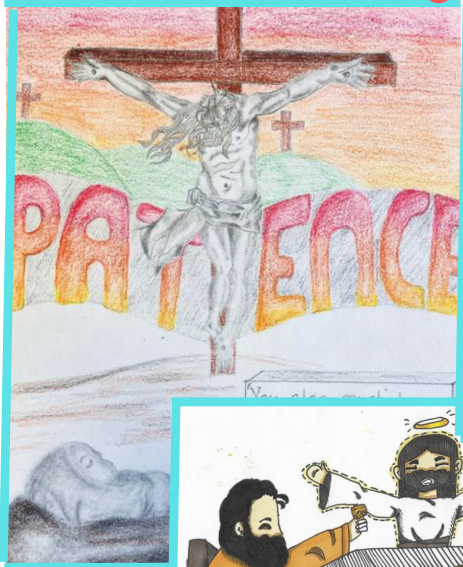


In addition to the the SVP Christmas Appeal and Anti-Bullying Week challenge mentioned above, this term there has been many Interhouse Competitions that students have taken part in to let their light shine!

In October the English Faculty launched its interhouse Poetry competition. The theme this year was VISION. Pupils were asked to create either independent or form entries about the things pupils can see all around them, the things pupils see in their imagination, or about visionaries – inventors, artists, musicians and famous people past and present. Pupils could decide if their poems were to be rhyming or not rhyming, serious, funny or sad. There was a great response to this competition from all forms with 27 entries in total – a super number! The winning poem was written by Poppy Parkinson from 7B. There were also highly commended prizes for Sadie Halton and 9B Form.

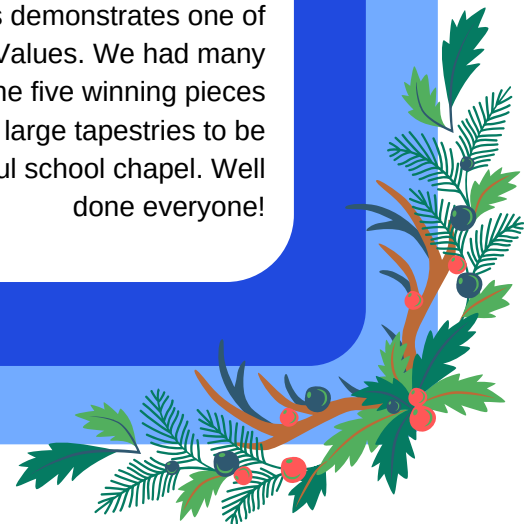
My Imagination by Poppy – 7B

My imagination can take me anywhere,
Anywhere at all,
Maybe a sunny beach during the summer,
Or a cold autumn morning where all the leaves fall,
I love to sit down and read a good book,
The best ones are fantasy,
Like when Peter Pan fights Captain Hook,
I mean it's way better than what's going on in reality,
I love to laze around and watch an interesting movie,
Whether it's funny or spooky,
Or a musical or a comedy,
My imagination can take me anywhere,
Anywhere at all,
Maybe a snowy winters day,
Or in spring when a new born lamb's laying in the hay,
I love it when we write stories in English,
When I can write whatever I want,
I love it when I can use my imagination,
To write about the monster under my bed,
Or alien nation,
My imagination can take me anywhere,
Anywhere at all.



Chaplaincy, Art and RE

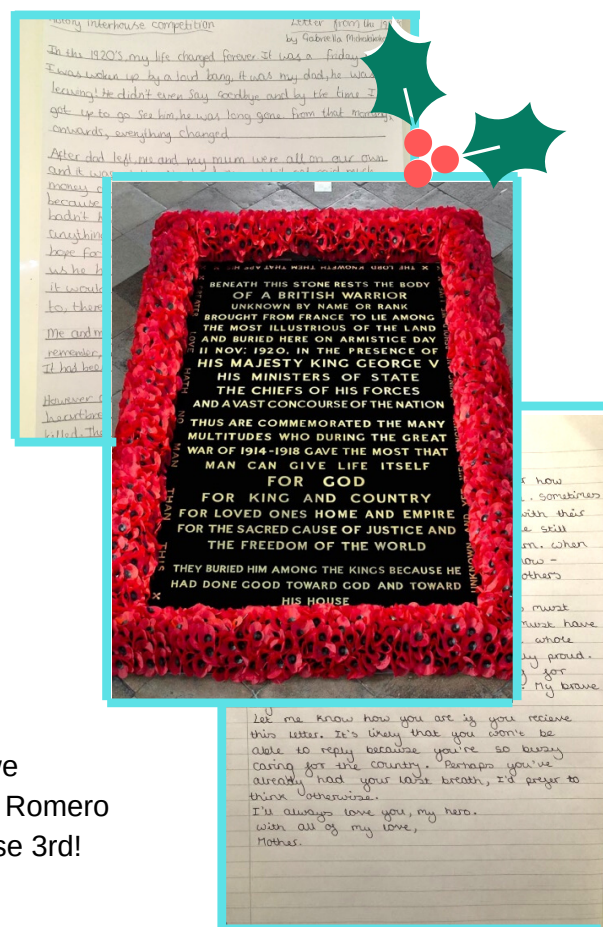
This term Chaplaincy, Art and RE joined together to deliver an Interhouse Competition. Students were challenged to create an artwork based on a piece of scripture where Jesus demonstrates one of our schools Gospel Values. We had many wonderful entries! The five winning pieces will be printed onto large tapestries to be hung in our beautiful school chapel. Well done everyone!





History - Remembrance

This year's History Remembrance interhouse competition was based on the Unknown Warrior. 2020 would mark the centenary of the Unknown Soldier being brought to Westminster Abbey from Northern France. When the First World War ended in 1918, 800,000 British and colonial troops had died and another 200,000 were 'missing'. The men and women who were buried aboard had no known grave for their families in Britain to visit. After the war, the King and the Prime Minister decided to bring an unknown soldier back to Britain and to be buried in Westminster Abbey. All houses had entries for the interhouse competition. Pupils had to write a letter to the Unknown Soldier, writing from themselves or from a young person living in 1920. Our pupils rose to the challenge and we received some poignant and emotive letters. Overall Romero House came 1st, Bosco House 2nd and Drexel House 3rd! Well done to everyone who was involved.



The Computing faculty interhouse competition this term was a Riddler themed cryptography challenge. Students had to collate 26 symbols that corresponded to a letter of the alphabet. They then needed to use this to decipher the message that was left behind by the Riddler and that riddle should have led them to Mrs Watson who then gave them a password. Students across all year groups engaged really well. They searched high and low around the school to gather all of the symbols and Mrs Watson was inundated with students asking for passwords. The activity will have given students a good knowledge of encryption!

SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2021



Browned St Mary's



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MERRY
christmas

