



# THE TRINFORMER

NEXT WEEK IS WEEK

1

*Returning to Reality*

Edition No. 19: Friday 4th December 2020

## Heads-Up! A message from Darren Heimsath, Assistant Principal

*Dear Parents, Pupils & Families,*

One of my earliest and happiest memories is of my primary school teacher reading 'Fantastic Mr Fox' by Roald Dahl. I can still clearly bring to mind my sense of anticipation and delight as the eponymous Hero evades capture and certain death, by out-witting the farmers time and time again.

I do not remember that teacher's name, and I cannot even picture what she looked like, but I do know that I owe her a huge debt as she revealed to me the joys of fiction.

To me, reading a good story is like going on holiday, only cheaper, safer and without the bother of leaving your house. You can go places you have never been, experience new things through the imagination of others, and improve your ability to communicate. The best stories can give the reader

an overwhelming sense of the shared humanity that runs through time and across cultural divides. You can sympathise with characters, such as Pip from 'Great Expectations', and dislike like others, such as Malfoy from the 'Harry Potter' series. You can recognise emotions, strengths and weaknesses and gain insight into human nature.

As an antidote to being locked down, locked in or general boredom, I recommend settling down to read a good book. If you do not like the book you are currently reading do not be discouraged but make sure you choose your next one more carefully – there is no shortage of good literature.

Some of my favorites include: Frankenstein (Mary Shelley), The Great Gatsby (F. Scott Fitzgerald), The Life of Pi (Yann Martel), The Goldfinch (Donna Tartt) and of course Fantastic Mr Fox (Roald Dahl).

***"God working with us,  
and through us"***

*Hope, Compassion, Forgiveness*

**Verse for today:**

*"The word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a  
father's only son, full of grace and truth."*  
John 1.14

So here we are again approaching Christmas, can you believe it! Only two more weeks until the end of term. After all we have been through it seems pretty lame to focus on happiness, peacefulness and joy ...but nonetheless we do encourage you to turn your attention towards some well needed Hope.

Of course we do not detract from the pain, grief and loss, not only from the pandemic but also the loss of loved ones who left us, anyway, bereft, unable to grieve and in isolation. Nor the devastating 15 million people or 23% of our population who have been tipped into poverty, and the further 700,000 people, including 12,000 children who are relying on the temporary £20 upgrade to Universal Credit and fearful of their futures.

Remember we are just into Advent, the beginning of the church's year, and the green of growth for 'ordinary time' has given way to the purple of passion and repentance. Repentance means turning around and going the other way; and I am sure that many of us can't wait to do just that as we reach the end of 2020. Many of our Gospel readings will be from the first Gospel to be written, Mark, in the coming year.

It is speculated that Mark was the young man, who, when Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss in the garden of Gethsemane was so terrified of being caught with Jesus by the angry mob, that he slipped out of the linen tunic or loincloth that he was wearing and ran away naked! No other Gospel writer mentions it; but we think that as Mark's writing was so spare, detailed and exciting that it may well be a similar device to painters who paint tiny portraits of themselves in their paintings. Or a famous director who on producing a story of Christ, filmed his own hands banging the nails into Jesus's hands as a sign of his devotion.

Christianity is unique in that our Saviour, The Messiah, The Son of God came to us first as a tiny, vulnerable baby. Not something anybody was expecting at all...so from the start Jesus was born into the very definition of a hostile environment! Next week we will be considering the character of John the Baptist; the wild enigmatic figure who came to 'prepare the way' for Jesus. He appeared in the wilderness and cried out to people to confess their sins and repent. Again, he was not what people were expecting; but the ordinary people flocked to him, as they later would to Jesus. Be warned! It is not always the most 'holy' or authoritative who know what they are doing and make the best leaders!

**Rev Ali Healy.**



## Some shout outs...

**Geography:**

Huge congratulations to Israel Ibitoye our top scorer in completing activities on the Geography PiXL App who is currently on 1492 points and Claudia Scrutton, Ryan Le, Jessica Akrafi, George Murphy, Femi Yeku, Katie Lewis and Loubell Perkins.



## The Calendar

**6th Form: Monday 7th**

December is a stop day for all 6th Form students apart from those sitting the Media Studies and Business Studies PPE's.

All pupils isolating must check classcharts where work set for lessons will be set following your timetable.

## World Children's Day

Thank you to everyone who took part in the different event which took place World Children's Day on 20th November and to all of those who entered our quiz competition - we had over 500 entries!

The winners of the reusable cups for each category are:

Pupil: Jessica Ashley-Ahearne 8R

Parent: Miss Rainey; parent of Jorgia Black 8Y

Staff: Miss Patten

Your prizes will be making their way to you very soon.

Mrs Siney

## Wellbeing

### Choose happiness!!

Sometimes, something happens or someone says something to upset you and it ruins your whole day.

Think about this....

If you had £86,400 in the bank and someone stole £60, would you be so dismayed that you would throw the remaining £86,340 away, just to get back at them?

Of course not.

You have 86,400 seconds in your day. Why let 60 seconds of negativity take away the remaining 86,340 seconds? It is your choice to make them positive.

Don't let other people's negativity pull you down.

**LET GO - MOVE ON.**



## Over to... English and MFL

What a whirlwind it has been this term! As we approach the festive holidays, and start to wind down in English, we are looking back on all that we have achieved. Students across all year groups have shown a good deal of resilience with the changes that have been implemented as part of the constantly evolving guidelines. Examinations across Key Stages four and five have been able to take place, with all students showing maturity and dedication as they experience the extensive requirements of achieving qualifications in English. In Key Stage 3 however, pupils have immersed themselves in the wonderful world of literature; year seven have dived into the history of English, exploring medieval texts and the first poem ever written. Whereas year nine have studied Shakespeare's anti-Semitic portrayal of Shylock in 'The Merchant of Venice', and the juxtaposition of this, with his incredibly powerful 'Hath not a Jew Eyes' speech, which has also allowed for study of the anti-racism campaigns of the summer and the works of a range of BAME authors. Finally, year eight have been delving into the stoic Victorian era and meeting the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future as they read Dickens' classic, 'A Christmas Carol'.

As we move into the period of advent, it is worth considering the ideas of reflection and change that Dickens explores - particularly as we end the year of tumultuous and uncharted territories that 2020 has thrown our way. Perhaps we should be more generous, be more kind and give the gift of our warmth within. From the staff here in the English department, we would like to thank all of our students and families for your continuous faith and good spirits, and we wish you a restful and relaxing holiday.

Mrs Marsters

Now that we are into December, many of us will be getting into the Christmas spirit this weekend (if you haven't already) by putting up your Christmas tree and perhaps you have an advent calendar or wreath on your door. Did you know that all of these traditions originate from Germany? Another German tradition is the Christmas markets. This time last year a group of 30 students had just enjoyed a day at the Hamburg Christmas markets, soaking up the atmosphere and tasting some traditional German specialities. Similarly a group of 40 students were looking forward to experiencing a French Christmas market in Lille a year ago today. I am really looking forward to next year when we should be able to visit the Christmas markets in France and Germany once again, but perhaps those of you who enjoy baking and want to experiment and try something new, could try bringing a bit of Germany or France to your homes this year instead. Why not have a go at making some of the delicious German Christmas specialities such as Lebkuchen (a type of gingerbread) or Stollen (a type of fruit cake) for your families one weekend or during the Christmas holidays. The French Christmas specialities that you could have a go at, are the Bûche de Noël (chocolate yule log cake) or the Galette des Rois (a pastry "king" cake), which is used to celebrate the Epiphany and will allow one lucky member of your family to become king (or queen) for the day! Recipes for all of these specialities can be easily found online, so have fun and enjoy! Or if you are not into baking, but don't want to miss out on the taste testing, then get yourself to Lidl!

Joyeux Noël and Frohe Weihnachten!

Miss Curtis



## THE LIBRARY

Reading is known to have many benefits. We are all aware that to do well in our studies, we need to read, because it helps us to improve our vocabulary, use of grammar, sentence structure and imagination and understanding of subjects and people and knowledge of the world. But did you know it is good to read for your mental health too?

### 8 Reasons Why Reading is Good for Mental Health

1. Reading is pleasurable
2. Reading can reduce stress by up to 68%
3. Reading provides an escape from the 'real world'
4. Reading helps you develop empathy for others
5. Reading helps teenagers develop insights into being an adult
6. Reading can make you smarter
7. Reading groups help to treat mental health issues
8. Reading works your brain and prevents memory loss

It also shows that you are not alone...

"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read." James Baldwin

Don't forget to sign up for the Library quiz on Monday 14th Dec (yr8) and Tuesday 15th December (yr7). There will also be Christmas card making next week. Come and join the fun.

### Library Advent Calendar

Revealed so far this week:



Available to  
borrow,  
or reserve  
now!

## Time to REFLECT



Rights  
Respecting  
School:  
Bronze  
Committed

Article 23:  
Children with  
a disability



## International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Date: 3rd December

What is it: The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is a day to celebrate and acknowledge the experience and capabilities of people with disabilities, and also a chance for people and organisations all over the world to focus on measures to support greater integration and equality for people with disabilities.

## Virtual Awards Roll Call: Pupils achieving 6 or more positive points and no negatives 19th November to 2nd December.

**Year 7:** Precious Balogun, Seynabou Bathily, Lucy Brooks, Lucy Brown, Yasmin Bryant, Maddison Burley, Sasha D'Souza, Christian Dantas, Zowie Dillaway, Christina Forson-Nketsia, Hari Gill, Tilly Harris, Ethan Lenney, Medha Malviya, Matheus Martini Romano De Souza, Riley Murray, Olivia Prince, Gabriel Rojas Ortega, Armaan Sanghera, Miley-Louise Scotland, Viktorija Sickute, Tommy Smith, Ewan Snee, Lois Szczypka, Isabelle White, Karen Yenon.

**Year 8:** Seun Adelowo, Damola Alao, Emily Allen, Kesler Awozele, Grace Beazley-Long,

Ruby Botten, Lily Bradbury, Alfie Butterworth, Hallie Clayton-Broome, Luke Coombes, Jahnia Cover, Andrei Dudau, Christine Faji, Libby Hayward, Blake Hodges, Divine Ifede, Thella Jobarteh, Tegan Johnson, Ruby Ann Kingman, Eleonora Kuzmane, Holly Mitchell, Grace Moscrop, Jake O'Connor, Faith Olamide, Julia Patyk, Maisie Pearce, Rebecca Pearce, Shaun Powell, Ieva Roga, Maya Saggi, Agamjot Sekhon, Gurdip Singh, Gustas Sirvys, Angel-Marie Smith, Heidi Stockdale-Barnes, Imogen Stocker, Samuel Virissimo Carty.

**Year 9:** Esther Adebambo, Deborah

Akrasi, Penny Dewar, Efe Ehikhamhen, Molly Fitzgibbon, Lani Gaspard, Halle Henry, Safa Hor, Ashley Hubbard, Oluwaferanmi Johnson, Roberta Lamagna Wells, Keisha Lincoln, Georgia Louka, Kamalraj Mathiyalakan, Cerys Matthews, Skyla McKay, Olivia Mc Kerrell, Ella Nalubwama, Grace Ogunje, Tiffany Shoroye, Henry Snee.

**Year 10:** Ryan Le, Toby Waller.

**Year 11:** Aliyah Adekunle, Joel Iyangbe-Idiaghe, Kyra Idel Lima, Oluwatimileyin Otubanjo.