

A World Of Books

By Archana Sebastian



On Thursday 7th March it was World Book Day. World Book Day is a day that is dedicated to books and the love of books. It also gives every child an opportunity to get a book for free. As a school, we were doing a lot of things to celebrate it, from dressing up as our favourite book characters to inviting a published author in to visit.

On the day, some of the most memorable characters were: Queen of Hearts, Belle, Tom Gates, Gregory from Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Elphaba. However, the prize for best-dressed student went to Daniel Chilvers for his character Dorian Gray. Teachers even read their favourite book out in lessons.

We had an author in school called Becky Fleetwood. She wrote Imogen's Secrets and Imogen's Journey. As these books are based on adventure, people who like adventure and sci-fi should enjoy reading them. The school invited the author because they wanted an expert to offer guidance to aspiring young authors.

I asked Mrs. Cawsey, who was in charge of World Book Day, what was her most favourite book was and why. She told me that one of the books that she read at university (Jane Eyre) is her favourite because it's a classic and it's like a riches and rags story set at a time when females were not seen to be that strong. She said: "It's hard but so good."

Work Ex At Lex

By Abigail Yan

The day was packed full of helpful information about their business, such as daily responsibilities and how they achieve customer satisfaction.

We also met some of the most important people at Lex - they told us about their departments, what they specialise in and how they achieved their career goals.

Firstly, we visited the Accident Services department and were told about breakdowns and shown pictures of some collisions, with staff explaining how modern cars are designed to protect drivers in an accident. After that, we went

on to the Vehicle Management department and were given headsets to listen to live calls from customers about vehicle repairs they needed and people who have recently been involved in an accident.

I thought it was great and we were able to gain an insight into what different departments do and what life is like in an office. At the end of the visit, we found out about the perks of working at Lex and enjoyed a free hot drink!



We Heart Art

By Thomas Jackson

A new art project is in school. A circus poster! Now I don't know about anyone else, but the very idea got me buzzing! But what do other people think? I decided to ask some of my best friends this very question, to get a rough idea of the mood around the project:

"Sounds pretty good!" – Alfie Wright

"It was great! I've already done it!" – Rayyan Ahmad

So that's some of the feedback from some of my best friends! They all seem pretty happy about it. I asked some others and they think it is an opportunity for some really good fun. Great fun in fact! I myself find it to be a really fun opportunity and I have big plans for my entry.

The reason I love these projects is because they promote creativity. It's fun, innovative, and helps us understand just how far creativity can take you. The only limit is that it's a poster about a circus, and it's not just the projects, the class work too. With anything to do with art, the sky's the limit, that's why I love it!

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Talk Of The School

By Nathan Goldsby



On the 14th of February, at around two o'clock, the entire school went on to the MUGA to take a walk around the school and discuss mental health, a topic that we all need to touch upon more often. The event raised £683 to be exact, and charged £1 per student to dress in non-uniform. The event raised money for the Jamie Horrocks trust. One of our very own Teachers, Miss Foster, has become an ambassador of the trust and organised the whole event. At the end of the walk,

each student signed a pledge that related to the theme of body and mental positivity.

Miss Foster commented that: "The idea of the event was to get students to talk to each other in a casual and fun environment." She also added: "The Jamie Horrocks Trust is a very important charity that raises awareness of mental health issues."

Computing Conundrum

By Roxane Mole

The ICT girl's competition was a one-week event where any Year 8 girls who signed up with a team of four would be given questions that needed them to look through code, decipher text, and maybe even attempt a bit of programming themselves. In the end, the team who had completed the most questions would win a free trip to Scotland for a week.

While speaking to Mr. O'Neill about the competition, he said it exists because "it is aimed to drive younger women to join the computing science industry."

I also asked Mr. O'Neill why it was important to join this competition. "It's because we think that many girls in the school are smart enough and willing to try, which would give them a chance to learn more about programming."



A Rollercoaster Rally

By Nathan Goldsby

Recently, the rollercoaster club has restarted, a club devoted entirely to building rollercoasters. The club is headed by Mr Campbell, who has been managing it since its beginnings. The competition takes place between multiple schools and revolves around a K-nex rollercoaster kit chosen by the engineering company, Siemens, the organisers of the competition.

At Siemens, we were assigned mentors (to help us out whilst building), loosely planned what we were going to build and received the kit. I have had the pleasure of joining the club and have recently had my first session, in which we decided our theme would be time-travel throughout Siemens inventions. We had begun building the tower for our rollercoaster, which will feature an underground magnetic railway using trains.

Another meeting shall take place on 18th June to discuss the planned rollercoaster with our Siemens-mentors where we will receive more information about the competition. But until then, the rollercoaster club will continue to plan, fail and fix our amazing rollercoaster that will hopefully win the competition.



Loving Languages

By Abigail Yan



On the 13th February, Miss Hindley took a small group of Year 9s to Manchester Metropolitan University for a Languages taster day. While there, we got to experience Arabic dancing, learn the basics of speaking and writing in both Arabic and Chinese Mandarin and explore the tradition of Chinese New Year. The Arabic dancing was great; we learnt how to belly dance with scarves.

Whilst in the Arabic speaking and writing session, we learnt how to greet people and how to say I am a student. Miss Hindley said: "I enjoyed the Arabic dancing; we had lots of fun and an overall great time."

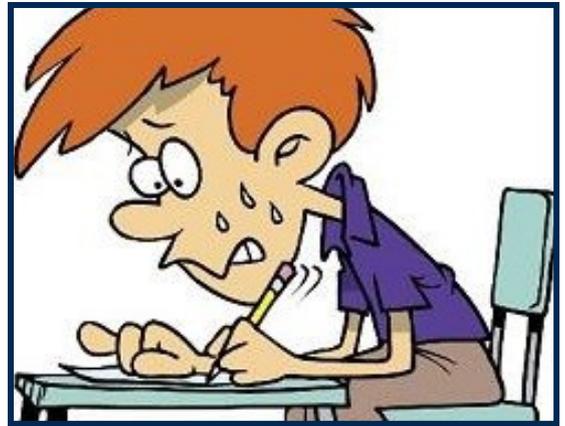
After the dancing, we went on to learn the basics of Arabic speaking and writing. Later on in the day we had a taste of Mandarin; I found this exciting because this has opened up the opportunity to communicate with more people. Miss Hindley also added that studying a language at university is important because "it gives you an insight into different cultures. You can also speak and understand people in the world and develops your communication skills and confidence."

Exam Survival Guide

By Thomas Jackson

Believe it or not, the end of year exams are creeping upon us. Ready to attack! Before you know it, you're completely unprepared for the coming storm of exams! Fully vulnerable to the possible dangers; hard questions, impossible PEE paragraphs! But there is a way out, a way to get through your exams - these are five steps to survive the exams:

- **Revise.** This may seem like an obvious one but it's really important! But you must know how to do it right. Take frequent ten-minute breaks to keep your mind fresh, revise in the library, and revise at home. Even give yourself mini tests to check your progress. All of this is key.
- **Listen to your teacher.** Your teachers really want you to get through your exams with good scores, and spend many lessons helping you and your class. Be sure to listen to every crinkle, every sentence could be your key to survival.
- **Take the exams seriously.** These exams are preparing you for your GCSEs, and they unlock your future. The importance of these are beyond belief!
- **Be an optimist.** I know what I just said about how serious they are, but you mustn't be scared. The more scared you are, the harder you will find it. Always assume you are going to get good grades, be optimistic! Be calm, and if you've been following these steps, then chances are you'll get good grades!
- **The exams.** Ok! We're in the endgame now! Months of preparing have led to this moment! So remember, keep your cool, take it with a pinch of salt, but remember how important this is! Try to answer every question to the best of your ability, remember your training, if not from me then from your teacher, and keep your fingers crossed. Repeat everything I've told you to do! Good luck!



Dance With A Message

By Archana Sebastian

Three street dancers came into school and they did a dance routine on the theme of mental health and drug abuse. Students from Year 8 did a workshop with them in which we adapted and changed a dance they had created. We were split into groups; everyone in the group contributed ideas while they came around and helped.

Dance taught us more about drug abuse and what Dance can do to help improve mental health. The street dance teachers performed at the end of the day. From my experience, the workshop was amazing and I loved it. I asked Mandy, another Year 8 student, what she thought about the experience and she said: "It was great and enjoyable. Overall I loved it."



EGGarty Maths

By Thomas Jackson

A new Hegarty Maths challenge is here and just in time for Easter! If you haven't been living under a rock you'll know Hegarty Maths; the perfect platform for school! Allowing you to explore throughout hundreds of maths videos and quizzes, expanding your knowledge! Every maths homework is on Hegarty Maths, every Maths assembly Hegarty Maths is promoted and the posters are up all around school.

I decided to ask my Maths teacher, Mr Crouch, why the school promotes Hegarty Maths so much. "Because Hegarty Maths is a great resource that uses videos and quizzes that are much more interactive for students," he explained. This is very true as I have learnt a lot from Hegarty Maths since September.



It's a school wide challenge and any year can enter it. The prizes; top twenty in each year receive chocolate Easter eggs and top twenty in the entire school receive Easter eggs too.

So how do you enter? Well, the entire school has already entered! You only need to do more Hegarty Maths. So how do you win, leave Hegarty Maths on overnight? My peers have thought the same thing only it doesn't work! You must be doing the quizzes and challenges galore! It all ends when Easter does! So be quick!

It's Nice To Be Nice

By Thomas Jackson

On Thursday 28th of March, Miss Bowden held an assembly for Year 8 on the importance of kindness, saying how it can majorly impact a person's life even if it's something small, like giving up a seat to someone or leaving flowers at a bus stop for an unknown person to find.



During the assembly, she showcased random acts of kindness that students had performed, one of which was a student cooking his mum and dad a meal after a long day of work (I'm proud of you, Lewis!)

At the end of the assembly, Miss Bowden challenged us to perform 50 random acts of kindness before the Easter holidays, some of which included giving a randomly selected someone flowers, cooking diner, helping parents and being kind to a stranger. She stated that it would be a great send off for her, as she is leaving on Friday 5th of April, the same day we are finishing school for the holidays.

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