



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and support in making this such a successful and positive term. None of us knew exactly what to expect but I am delighted to report that it has been a happy term, in which students and staff alike are pleased to be back at school and return to a sense of normality and routine.

Let me start by congratulating last year's Year 11 students on their incredible achievements; for the third year in a row, our leavers broke all previous records achieving outstanding results in every subject. I would also like to thank our parents/carers and staff for their outstanding support and dedication in helping our leavers achieve such amazing outcomes.

During the summer break major building work took place, including the installation of two new music rooms, two history rooms and the 'Romero Room', a large multi-use space that can fit around 100 students. The Romero Room is used for drama, choir and exams, and also as a bookable resource for other subjects. The 'old' music room is being converted into a school chapel and we are excited to have a 'sacred space' that will be ready in January. We also re-designed our school library, installing brand new furniture together with a wide selection of new books and magazines. A team of parents, staff and volunteers came in during the summer holiday and October half term, renovating the old caretaker's house, so that it can be used by our students, clearing the allotment and installing flower beds. We are blessed to have such caring and dedicated parents who support our school in so many ways. Finally, we have re-designed our gym into a Dance Studio and Strength and Conditioning Zone. My sincere thanks to our premises team and Mrs Neale, our School Business Manager, who worked tirelessly during the summer break to ensure all building projects were completed ready for the new school year.

I would like to welcome the following new staff to the school: Mrs Angioni (Senior Cover Supervisor), Ms Attwood (Office Administrator), Mrs Baker (LSA), Mr Biswell (Premises Team), Miss Boyle (Teacher of Science), Mr Farnham (Site and Facilities Manager), Mr House (Trainee teacher of RE), Ms Longman (Teacher of Art and Graphics), Mrs Lumsdon (Teacher of English), Miss Newman (LSA), Ms Norman (Subject Leader for English), Mr Noye (Assistant Headteacher and Head of Year 11), Mr Parker (Premises Team), Mr Price (Cover Supervisor), Miss Standing (Teacher of Dance), Mrs Strange (LSA) and Miss Ward (LSA).

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Headteacher update

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 Catholic School
 @StRomerosCS*



St Romero's Media

Our Year 7 students have made an amazing start and are growing in confidence each day; it is clear they are a talented and hard working group of young people and have embraced the Romero ethos of giving their best at all times. As always, our Year 11 students have stepped up as the leaders of the school and are proving excellent role models for the younger students.

Teaching and Learning has been strong in the classroom in all years and it has been wonderful to see the creative ways in which staff have worked to ensure enrichment can still continue. Our students have the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities including: Science Club, Art Club, Young Geographers, Gardening Club, Fingerprints, Duke of Edinburgh, Drama Club, Choir, Orchestra and a wide range of sports clubs including badminton, netball, climbing, rugby, dance and strength and conditioning training (full details are on our website). Please do encourage your son/daughter to get involved in an activity next term if they have not already done so. On a related note, we were delighted to launch the Pillars of Possibility, which encourages students to engage in twelve key areas of personal development. This is a great opportunity and I encourage all students to spend some time during their Christmas break planning how they can achieve their Bronze Award during the spring term.

Notable events this term include: John Muir trips to a variety of 'wild' places; Virtual Open Evening and Afternoon Tours; Flying Start Evening for Year 11; Online Supporting Success Evening for all years; Music Concerts; Remembrance Service; World Mental Health Day Activities; Anti-Bullying Week Activities; Year 11 Parents' evening and our Celebration of Advent and Christmas Service. Sadly, some of the normal highlights of the autumn term have not been possible, including our annual Prize Evening and Grandparents Day; please rest assured that these events will hopefully take place later in the year once we can do so safely.

One event stands out more than any other this term: the launch day of our new school name. The day began with a whole school Mass (see picture) which laid the foundations for our school's future success and mission. Julian Filochowski, Director of the Romero Trust, and a personal friend of St Oscar Romero, described it best when he spoke to the whole school at the end of Mass: "Romero totally loved God and totally loved the poor; for him the two were inseparable". This term, we have seen that same love that St Romero demonstrated, lived out by our own school community whether by donating food items for families in need; raising money and awareness for the mental health charity, MIND, or raising over £1000 and over 1000 food items to support the work of the homeless charity, Turning Tides, who will be providing Christmas dinner and a safe place to sleep for homeless men and women in our local community. Thank you to our parents and families who have supported these important causes.

Please can I draw your attention to the important information on school attendance in this newsletter. Our attendance has improved dramatically over the last three years, and for the first time ever, we achieved our whole school target of 96%. Although I appreciate there are times when absences are unavoidable, I would ask that you work with us to ensure that your child's attendance is at least 96%; anything below this will have an impact on their learning and likely GCSE outcomes.

As the term draws to a close, we say farewell to our Senior Cover Supervisor, Mrs Paterson, who leaves us after almost sixteen years of dedicated service. Mrs Paterson is an outstanding member of staff and models excellence and professionalism in everything she does, whether that's covering lessons, creating colourful and vibrant displays, running exams, or baking cakes for charity. I know I speak on behalf of the whole school community when I say that she will be missed and we wish her much happiness in her retirement.

As I have said many times, we are incredibly blessed at St Romero's for three main means: we have outstanding students; outstanding staff and outstanding parents/carers. I would like to say a particular thank you to our Friends of Romeros, a dedicated team of parents who tirelessly fundraise for our students and support school events throughout the year. Despite, not being able to have our Summer Fayre and Fire Works Display, they have already raised over £4000 since September; thank you for all you do to make our school the special community that it is.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the high standard of uniform and appearance of the vast majority of students this term. Our students look absolutely stunning in their new uniform and wear this with a sense of pride and confidence. I trust you will continue to support your child/children in all areas of school life. I look forward to seeing you next term. Please get in touch if you have any concerns related to your child, his/her progress or school life in general.

On behalf of the Governors, staff and students I would like to wish you and your families a very happy, peaceful and restful Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year. The **new term begins on Tuesday, 5th January 2021, when all students should return to school at 8.40am** looking smart, refreshed and ready to pursue the opportunities and challenges of the new term and New Year.

Yours sincerely, Mr P Byrne – Headteacher



Art

The Art, Textiles and Graphics department has made a fantastic start to the new academic year.

Year 7's and 8's in Art have been working on the unit 'Romero and Llorc crosses', to celebrate the name change of our school. The artist Fernando Llorc was great friends with Oscar Romero and his art style has become the national style of El Salvador. Llorc designed a huge cross for Suffolk Cathedral and our students will be designing and making their own crosses.

Year 7 Textiles have stunned with their creative skills for their 'Textile Rock pools', made for the DT rotation, which are coming alive with dyed starfish, embroidered anemone, stencilled sea creatures and embossed aluminium can fish.



Year 7 Textiles rock pool

Year 7 Graphics have been constructing 3D carousel souvenirs for the Circus project and have compiled their drawing studies, research and oil bar experiments inside their big top tent themed concertinas.



Year 7 Graphics Carousel Souvenirs and concertinas

Year 8 textiles are making Native American wall hangings where even more new techniques are being taught, for example; weaving, feather painting and making dream catchers.

Year 8 Graphics have been producing 'point of sale' boxes, to advertise the tourism of India and mounting work in a Taj Mahal themed concertina. Students have developed their skills using cutting knives, research, poly printing, drawing, and have experimented with Rangoli.



Year 8 Llorc title page



Graphics Point of Sale boxes & Taj Mahal concertinas

The DT rotation will greatly help the year 8 students to make informed decisions for their options.

We are happy to welcome Ms Longman, who has joined the Romero art department teaching Graphics GCSE and art at key stage 3. Ms Longman has written exciting new schemes of work for GCSE Graphics, which have been launched to year 9 students this term and focussed on Typography. They have created stunning A2 sheets on the history of type, before showcasing techniques on how to represent identity within Typography.



Year 9 Graphics History of Typography A2 work

Once again Year 9 Art students have been working on the German Expressionism unit in Art and have also painted a new mural to celebrate the school name change in the style of the artist Fernando Llorc, which will be displayed outside the hall.



Year 9 German Expressionist mono print

Year 10 Art have been working on the unit 'Still Life' as this is the principle genre in art history, students have now had their introduction to painting and will be working towards their final pieces. Next term, year 10 art students will be given the opportunity to take part in a Life Drawing day workshop taken by the Royal Academy Outreach programme, all work will go towards their GCSE final grade.



Year 10 Lockdown work 'Portrait'



Year 10 Graphics have been learning how to use photography to represent messages on identity. They have been using digital cameras in photoshoots and the brand new department iPads for experimenting and editing their images. The students have studied three different photographers and are moving onto developing and implementing their own ideas for their final pieces.



Year 10 Graphics, John Stezaker research

Year 11 Art have been working on their mock exam since September and are now in the final stages of preparation for their final pieces. Ms Langley is extremely pleased and proud of the work they have produced and is forecasting the best art results since she took over the department.

In the summer term Ms Langley designed and painted with a previous year 11 student, a huge cross in the style of Fernando Llort, which will hang from the ceiling of the new chapel. The design reflects the school, our new saint and our values.



The student of the term is Maddie Brant in year 11 Art for her incredible vision and work ethic.

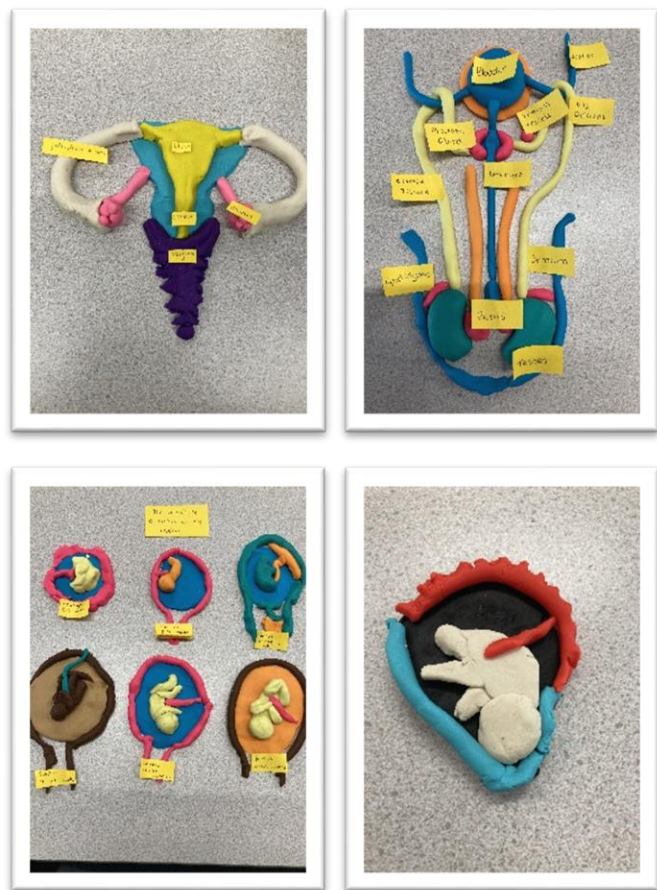
The art department is planning in-house workshops for all years over this academic year building on the success of the enrichment programme given last year!



Child Development

Firstly, can I say how wonderful it was to have all our students back at school. Being able to interact and teach them face to face, albeit at two metres distance, has been so satisfying. They have settled in so incredibly well to our 'new normal'.

In Child Development, everyone has come back so enthusiastically and shown great commitment and attitude to their work. Year 9 have been working on the exam element of the course and focusing on factors to consider when having a baby. This has ranged from pre-conception health, contraception, the reproductive system and conception. They particularly enjoyed getting the playdoh out, and constructing and labelling the male and female reproductive system, as well as the stages of the developing embryo/foetus.



Year 10 have been busy studying the content for their first portfolio of work. The portfolio is all about essential equipment needed for a nursery for babies from 0 – 1 year and from children from 1 – 5 years of age. The students have worked independently and showed great maturity in their approach to their work. They are also regularly revising the work covered in Year 9, as they have to refer to this area in their portfolios and all assessments are based on the exam element of the course too.

Year 11 have been working so hard on completing their portfolio 1 and the practical element, of making a bottle of formula baby milk. They have also sat their first set of mock exams and had very pleasing results. Keep up the good work!



Computing

"Computing is not about computers anymore. It is about living." - Nicolas Negroponte, founder of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab

Another good start to the year with the introduction of a new Computing curriculum for KS3. Students at this Key Stage will have an hour a week for Computer Science in their timetable and that gives the department the opportunity to revise and introduce a more focused curriculum for the subject.

Year 7 have settled very well into their new school environment and many students have already enrolled in extra-curricular activities. During this term, they have learnt how to stay safe online and they have been working on the Inputs, Outputs and Memory of computers.

Year 8 are working on a project based on Operating Systems and the impact of Technology in society.

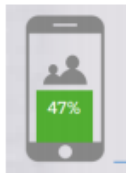
Year 9 and 10 Computing are studying the main theoretical concepts that will be assessed in the forthcoming Computing exams. They are also acquiring the necessary skills in Python, a computing language that will allow the students to develop and test a vast number of programmes.

Year 10 Creative iMedia are learning the numerous skills they are required to show in the three pieces of coursework they will have to complete by the end of the course. This term they are also completing one of those pieces of coursework.

Year 11 Computing students have recently sat their mocks and they are now preparing for next year's GCSE exams. After the Government announcement last week, we are awaiting the new changes to the exams that will be communicated with the students as soon as we receive them.

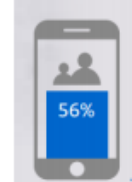
Year 11 Creative iMedia have just finished completing two pieces of coursework, which will be submitted for moderation next January. They are also revising for the forthcoming exam that they will sit on 11th January, good luck to all of them.

Homework is set in line with the School Homework timetable policy and all Homework tasks will appear in the Edulink app for students and parents. Homeworks consist of a variety of activities that will encourage all the students to reflect and review the main concepts learnt in lessons.



Screen time

what it means for parents and children



47% of parents say they are concerned about the amount of time their child spends online

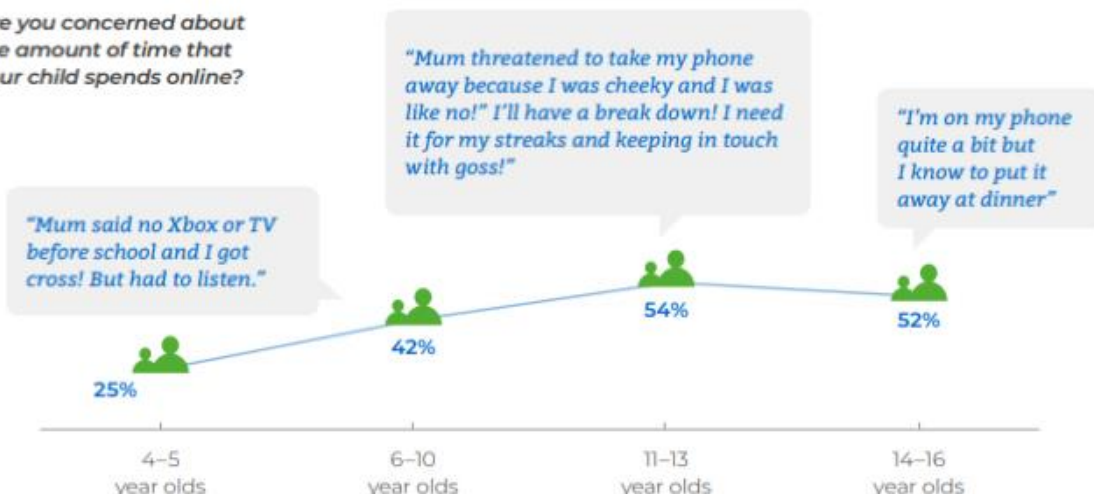
56% of parents feel their child asks to use devices more often than they would like.

Managing screen time can be a daily battle for parents It is no surprise that managing the amount of time children spend using devices is a battle for parents

Parents of children aged 11-13

As children get older, and are engaged in a wider range of online activities, parents become more concerned about other screen time activities, in particular **gaming on consoles and smartphones**. We also start to see **concerns about the creation of content to share** becoming more important with **1 in 4 parents expressing a level of concern**.

Are you concerned about the amount of time that your child spends online?



Parents of children aged 14-16

Throughout the age groups **watching videos** is the activity that parents are most worried about albeit the level of concern does decrease with age. For the eldest age group, parental concerns are significantly higher around children using **social media (50% compared with 37% of parents overall)**. Parents are particularly concerned about them **creating content**, whether **photos or videos**, to share online (27%).

Tips on how to manage your child's Screen Time:

<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/managing-your-childs-screen-time/>

<https://www.thetechedvocate.org/screen-time-management/>

<https://www.empoweringparents.com/article/4-steps-to-managing-your-childs-screen-time/>



Drama

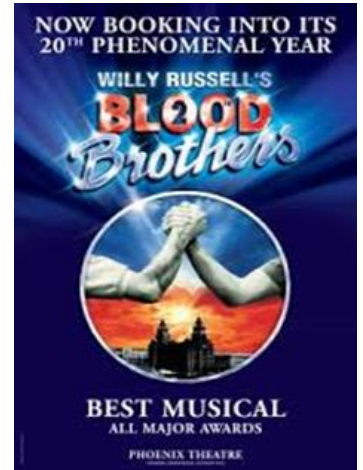
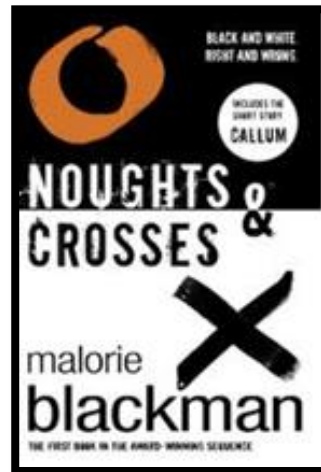
Year 7 - What a fantastic start our wonderful year 7s have made in drama. They have embarked on their story telling scheme of work focusing on the epic tale of 'Beowulf'. They have learnt about tableau, slow motion, sound effects and analysing text to incorporate suitable dialogue, all whilst developing their team skills and evaluating their own work and the work of others. They have improvised and built characters through skills such as 'role on the wall' and 'hot-seating'. They are thoroughly looking forward to learning about 'stage combat' and becoming characters such as Beowulf and Grendel. Well done to all our year 7s.



Year 8 - Drama in year 8 has started with some fun and laughter, as students have begun their comedy scheme of work, focusing on slapstick, status, clocking and the work of Laurel and Hardy. They have studied the history of comedy and learnt about Commedia Dell Arte and the stock characters, whilst considering the importance of mask work in drama. We have developed our evaluation skills in interesting ways; giving advice to our peers by placing the feedback directly on the body part that has been accurately performed or may need improvement. Students are really looking forward to making their own Commedia Dell Arte masks and performing in role as a stock character.



Year 9 and 10 - We are totally immersed in our script work, with year 9 studying Noughts and Crosses and year 10 their exam text, Blood Brothers. Students are covering a range of performance skills when devising and working directly from the script. They are also developing their design skills; set, costume, lighting and sound so that they are ready to make informed choices for their examined units. The students create a 'theatre company' feel in these year groups and their care and support for each other is wonderful to see. Well done to them all.



Year 11 - Students have recently completed their devising monologues, having worked incredibly hard on the development process during their absence from school with Mrs Gladman. It was an absolute joy to support all the year 11s on their filming day. The support they gave each other was outstanding. Well done year 11 and good luck as you embark upon your scripted exam.





Dance

'In our dance department, we believe that it is vital for our students to be motivated and engaged through the Arts. It is a key contributor of mental & health wellbeing, encouraging deeper understanding of the art form and working on a professional level'

Never has creativity been more important at St Oscar Romero Catholic School than now.



Year 10 Students, Jack Owen and Benjamin Wotton



Year 8 Student, Harvey Lloyd

Our Curriculum

Having started new KS3 units all students have lapped up the opportunities to get involved.

The year 7 groups have taken a journey to both the Desert & the City through contrasting actions and dynamics. Year 8 have been using the 'Political Summit' and conversational gestures to generate movement. Year 9 performed using a professional work 'Swansong' by Christopher Bruce who is on the current GCSE specification for Dance, this allows the students to have direct correlation with their qualification if they have chosen to do so.

We have now got to our second rotation of Dance with our all male sets, the first rotation being all female. All students study the same units until year 10 where the girls set start to look at spoken word poetic stimulus and the boys perform a piece by The Balletboyz called 'Young Men' choreographed by Ivan Mason. The year 11 students have chosen between Games & Aesthetic pathways. Those choosing the Aesthetic route will engage in Dance, Gymnastics, Cheerleading, Yoga & Pilates.

In October we started the GCSE Dance qualification, auditioning both year 9 & 10 students for the course. Already the students have learnt one of the set phrases 'Shift' and began to use 'A Linha Curva' to generate movement for assessment, this is one of the six professional anthology works the course encompasses.



Year 7 Dance Club

The Department

Firstly, I would like to say a massive Hello & Welcome to the Dance section of the Newsletter and allow me to introduce myself - I am Miss Phoebe Standing, I oversee all Dance and aesthetic pathways within the PE Department. Having been appointed to the role in September, the students have made my time here at St Oscar Romero a pleasure and a privilege. We really are giving our students the best deal and offering such a broad and balanced curriculum.



Extra-Curricular

We offer Dance club to all students at St Oscar Romero and the uptake we have had has been brilliant! The year 7's had been working on a contemporary piece 'Ocean Eyes' by Billie Eilish, they have performed and streamed to other year groups in their End of Term assembly. All years took part in our mental health and wellbeing week through dance performing a flash mob to Dua Lipa's 'Physical' song chosen by our Year 7 Dance club who felt the message of being physically strong and mentally strong would be a great way to raise awareness for this cause.

Rehearsals are well under way for our Christmas performance, we have had to adapt all live performances due to the government guidelines to keep all students, staff and community safe. This year, therefore, this year we will be pre-recording our dance performance to a piece of music from 'The Holiday' Christmas film.

This year also saw the launch of our new Instagram page [RomerodanceandPE](#)



Enterprise

In September, Year 9 students started a brand new course, which has never been taught before at our school. The course is BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise. You may be wondering what this is. Here is some information:

BTEC Tech Awards are new Key Stage 4 BTECs, designed specifically for 14-16 year olds in schools.

BTEC Tech Awards are designed to be taught alongside GCSEs, giving students a glimpse into a professional sector whilst teaching them transferable skills for life.

They:

- are specifically designed for 14-16 year olds in schools
- are graded across Level 1 and Level 2 to recognise the achievements of all students
- are assessed using assignments and practical tasks to suit vocational students
- count in the 'open group' of Progress 8

BTECs are graded using a Pass (P), Merit (M), Distinction (D) and Distinction* (D*) scale. Depending on the size of your course, you may receive one, two or three grades. BTECs are made up of a number of units, which are usually assessed through assignments that are both set and marked by your teacher or course tutor. However, some BTECs contain externally marked tests, which may be paper-based or taken on a computer.

Assignments can include tests, research, essays, projects, investigations, artwork, fieldwork, experiments and often link theory with practical exercises.

As you are assessed throughout your course, you can analyse and improve your performance in the same way as you would in a workplace.

BTECs can give you a variety of options, such as:

- qualifying you to pursue a particular job or work in a particular industry
- the opportunity to study a new qualification
- the opportunity to undertake an apprenticeship.

If you pass your BTEC and would like to continue studying, you could choose a qualification at the next level. For example, if you have completed a BTEC Level 2 First, you may consider a BTEC Level 3 National, AS/A levels, an NVQ, a BTEC Apprenticeship or a mixture of these qualifications.

So why have we decided to start offering this course? The idea for this course came about from conversations Mr Rosiello has previously had with students, where he asked them what job they wanted to do when they are older. The answer was often very similar:

- "I want to be my own boss"
- "I want to own my own restaurant"
- "I want to run my own hairdressing salon"
- "I want to take over my dad's garage"

Because Mr Rosiello's university degree is in European Business Studies and he worked in a multinational organisation for 15 years before deciding to become a teacher 5 years ago, he felt that we needed to teach students the skills for them to one day become their own boss and run their own business or company. Therefore, why not start now and teach students these skills so that one day, they will be well equipped and have the basic skills and knowledge to do so. You never know, we may have our very own Lord Alan Sugar on our hands!

So – what have Year 9 students been doing since September? We have been learning our first module, which is called Component 1 – Exploring Enterprises.

We have been learning about:

- all the different types of enterprises
- how you work out the size of an enterprise
- What does SME mean and what are the characteristics of SMEs
- what makes entrepreneurs successful
- why enterprises fail (and looked at real life examples)

- how entrepreneurs and SMEs focus on what their customers need and how they meet these needs

Next term we will be developing our skills in market research and learn how competitors compare each other's businesses to make decisions for their future. Finally, we will look at the factors that affect an enterprise from the inside and outside. This will include how enterprises make decisions, are affected by a decision and how this can help or prevent them from being successful.

Students are really enjoying their new course and Mr Rosiello is enjoying the diversity of teaching a new course – but he still says Hola and Muy Bien – you can take the boy out of MFL....but you can't take MFL out of the boy!



English

"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."

Toni Morrison

Welcome from Mrs Norman, Subject Leader for English

I would like to introduce myself as the new Subject Leader for English at St Romero's. I am delighted to be part of such a happy and successful school. We also welcome Mrs Lumsdon to the department, who is a year 7 tutor and teaches across both key stages.

Here in English, we are a vibrant, busy department. We have certainly had a lively but enjoyable autumn term. Our students have consistently impressed us with their positive attitude towards the rigours of our subject, as well as their creativity and engagement with a wide range of texts.

Reading is the key to whole school success and to help your child achieve such success they have access to our stunning new library. All of our students can regularly visit our newly refurbished LRC and we would like to thank Mrs Shanley for her incredible efforts in establishing an inspiring space for reading. The shelves are really filling up now with amazing new reads and we enjoy weekly sessions with our KS3 classes, where students access the collection and are introduced to the latest books. We recommend that students read every day, for pleasure and challenge; please ask your child's teacher for recommended books if you need support with reading at home.

Miss Gayler is our lead teacher in Lexonik, which focuses on developing vocabulary knowledge and reading skills. Students learn to make links between unknown words using common prefix, root word and suffix definitions.

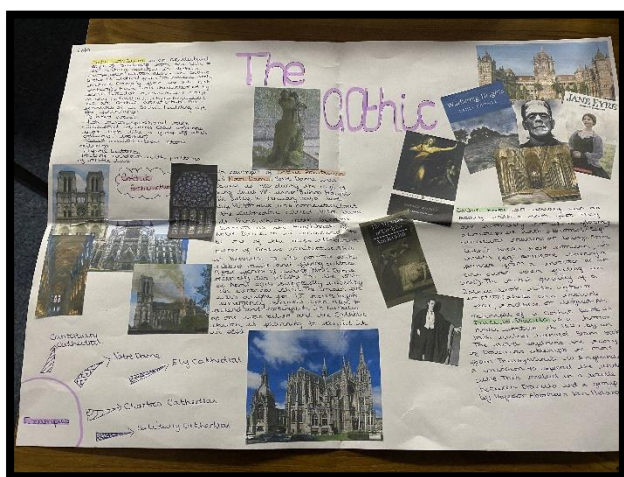
Varied, fast-paced activities also help develop speed and accuracy in reading and spelling. All students will have the opportunity to take part in this exciting, innovative programme and we have different levels of the course in school, to support and challenge all abilities. Miss Gayler and Mrs Stewart are so proud of the year 8 and year 10 students who have participated in Lexonik this term – they have gained an average of 31 months in their reading ages over just six weeks!

The English department are very pleased to welcome our Year 7 cohort and we are impressed by the positive start they have made. We have been studying a range of characters from Charles Dickens and our students have certainly responded to the level of challenge in reading nineteenth century texts. In our pursuit of excellence, we have focused on key writing skills this term through our autobiographical introductory topic. Students were introduced to the idea of redrafting to further improve at each stage of their writing and to correct obvious grammatical errors. Please might we ask you, as parents and carers, to support literacy by helping your child with homework spellings and sentence crafting? Why not ask your child to write out all of the family Christmas cards to promote clear handwriting skills too!

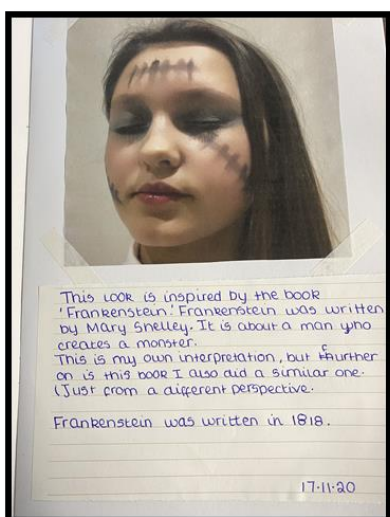
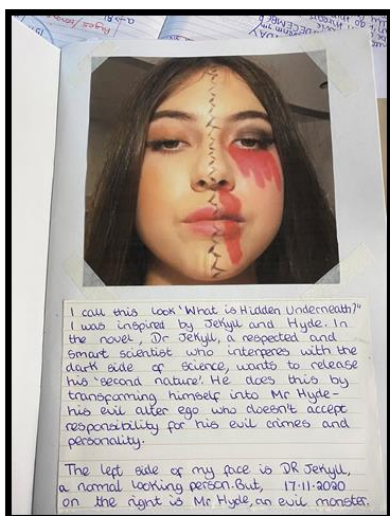
This term, we gave some of our year 8 students the option of undertaking an extended homework project on the theme of the Gothic. This project enables students to aim higher by delving deeper into the genre of our current text: The Woman in Black, by Susan Hill.

Students have chosen from a range of research topics: from Gothic architecture to wider reading. Needless to say, some of the year 8s now know what flying buttresses are and can describe them in incredible detail!





Two students with an interest in theatre make-up have decided to get creative, making up their faces as key Gothic characters including Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde, and Frankenstein; these images are accompanied by original written pieces on the respective texts. Quite a few have decided to opt for writing extended Gothic fiction using a variety of ambitious vocabulary and focusing on structure and genre conventions. Excerpts from these will be read out in the lessons in the final week of this term. Projects such as these help students to refine their skills of academic organisation, research, and independent work which will culminate in a speaking and listening task.



Our year 9 students were busy at the start of the term exploring war poetry from a range of contexts. All of their teachers were highly impressed by their maturity in analysing these challenging texts, as well as the range of creative responses.



In Miss Louise's class, students compiled quote and theme cards to summarise the core poems, which they then shared with the class. Ms Norman's class wrote powerful poems on the theme of war and conflict in response to our Remembrance Day service. This is an important opportunity for our students to reflect on the long lasting effects of conflict and it also prepares them for their GCSE studies.

Our Year 10 and Year 11 students are regularly given challenging homework tasks, which incorporate a revision task (tested by a quiz), as well as exam practice. Please support them with using a range of techniques to learn their quotes and knowledge, including spaced practice, flashcards, mind mapping and quick quizzes. Use the following link for advice about how to revise and create your own flashcards: www.learningscientists.org

Well done to our Year 11 students, who are working so hard towards their final exams! We are so proud to see all your efforts and the high attendance at our various revision sessions. After the Christmas holidays, we will be screening productions of the two drama texts we study for GCSE English Literature: 'An Inspector Calls' and 'Macbeth'. These will be after school events and will be free for all Y11 students to attend – there will be an email home in the spring term to notify you of dates and times.

Finally, we would like to thank all parents and carers for their steadfast, ongoing support. Please contact your child's English teacher or myself, bnorman@stromeros.co.uk if you have any queries about activities in the English department.

Best wishes for a happy holiday and New Year!



Library

"There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book." – Frank Serafini

The library has been an extremely busy place since September. The students have been amazed by the dramatic transformation of the library and the addition of some new, fabulous books. There are lovely seating areas that create the perfect atmosphere to enjoy the latest thriller or graphic novel. Students are able to come and borrow two books if they are in Year 7, 8 or 9, while Year 10 and 11 may borrow three.



Year 7 and 8 students have participated in Library Lessons where we discuss books and the skills that we need to access great reading sources. During these lessons, I also introduce some exciting books which have now become the highest borrowed books. One book even has a waiting list of 16! Our students certainly love reading!

Each year group has its own day to come and visit the library and we are able to offer after school clubs too, which consist of Board Games, Colouring for Wellbeing and Creative Writing. We have also started to introduce a rotation of the Tutor groups in upper year groups, where they have their DEAR time (Drop Everything And

Read) in the library. This has really contributed to the students finding a relevant book for them to borrow.



The students have begun to enjoy the new books that we were able to add to the library. However, my list of additional titles which will continue to encourage the students to read is long! I am incredibly passionate about "getting the right book into the hands of the right student". Barrington Stoke specialise in printing books in a "readable" style for students who are dyslexic. This is an area which I want to expand upon. We have also asked families that are able to, to contribute what they can via WisePay, so that I can purchase some of the best engaging and relevant books for your children.

The Reading Agency together with KO Knights Of, have launched a Winter Mini Challenge, we are also supporting this. All the students need to do is read 3 books from 1st December to 15th January. They get to either record it on a Reading Record and bring it into me where I will present them with a prize and/or on www.wintermini.org.uk to gain virtual badges and take part in the fun activities on there.



I wish you and your families an especially happy and safe Christmas, don't forget to read and discuss what you are reading with each other. My children think that "Books are my most important thing" and they are not far wrong (after my dog!)

As always, Happy Reading! - Mrs Shanley



Geography

The focus at the start of year 7 has been to develop geographical skills on a local scale. Students have taken part in an enquiry of their local area using an OS map to apply their understanding of map skills in their local community. The second half term has been building up their locational knowledge on a more global scale with the focus on geographical issues in the 7 different continents.

Ms Saksena's group took part in a 'surprise me' homework based on Asia, with some amazing results as seen in the photographs.



Year 7 student Ciaran Barnes completing his 'surprise me' homework

Year 8 students kicked off with population challenges and opportunities. Student feedback has been very positive and they have been developing geographical skills linked to the development and economic world units at GCSE. One of the fertile questions posed to the students was: How is the UK's population changing? What are the impacts of this changing population? The second half-term focus has been an enquiry into the geography of crime, looking at crime statistics in their locality and how this can lead to better crime prevention strategies.

Year 9 Geography students start their GCSE course with Natural Hazards. Geography is really popular at GCSE and this year has been no exception. Geography club for year 9 has been really vibrant as students especially enjoyed watching and critically reviewing the recent David Attenborough documentary on climate change. Finally they helped to create a display in the department

focused on developing geographical learning strategies that can support all students in the classroom.



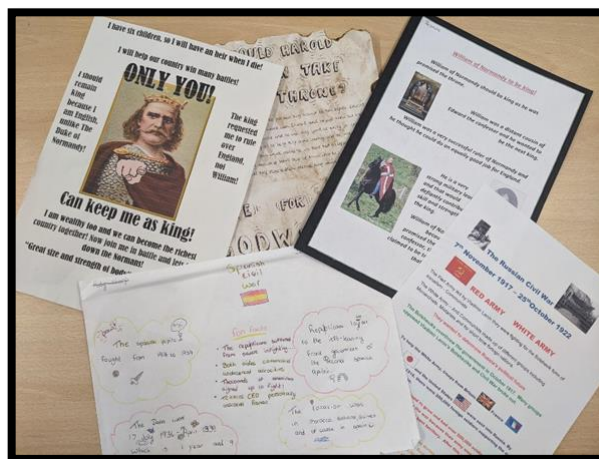
Year 10 Students have been developing their understanding of resource management this half term, looking more specifically at food, energy and water in the UK and then with a greater focus on global food insecurity. The aim has been to develop high level evaluation skills focused on different management strategies to increase food supply and make food more sustainable.

Year 11 are on their final unit which is about developing an understanding of the economic world. This unit is the most challenging but also one of the most engaging. Students have been reflecting over their work and developing, reviewing and improving their geographical written structures and strategies to achieve excellence in their levelled responses.



History

Year 7 has started the year by looking at the similarities and differences of ancient cultures, before studying the changes that took place after the Battle of Hastings in 1066, including the trials and punishments introduced for criminals by William the Conqueror, how important religion was for medieval peasants and what The Crusades did for us.



A selection of Year 7 & 8 homework

Year 8 students have been looking at how life has changed since the English Civil War. Students have

The image displays a collection of hand-drawn posters and signs on a wooden surface, protesting slavery and advocating for freedom. The posters include:

- UNCUFF THEM**: A poster with the text "abolish slavery" and "UNCUFF THEM" in large, bold letters. It features a drawing of handcuffs and the text "Free all the slaves and slaves who are still in chains".
- FREEDOM**: A poster with the word "FREEDOM" in large, bold letters. It features a drawing of a globe and two hands reaching up.
- SLAVERY IS...**: A poster with the text "SLAVERY IS..." in large, bold letters. It features a drawing of a person in chains and the text "CRUEL, HUMANE, BEASTLY, ENDEMICOUS, CHAOS, BACKSLIDING, ABUSE, RACIST AND SHOULD BE ABOLISHED!".
- abolish slavery**: A poster with the text "abolish slavery" in large, bold letters. It features a drawing of a person in chains and the text "Free all the slaves and slaves who are still in chains".
- ABOLISHED!**: A poster with the text "ABOLISHED!" in large, bold letters. It features a drawing of a person in chains and the text "JOIN US NOW AND WE STOP SLAVERY TOGETHER".
- BROTHER?**: A poster with the text "BROTHER?" in large, bold letters. It features a drawing of a person in chains and the text "Join us now and we stop slavery together".

Students across years 9 and 10 have been looking into how Germany went from an authoritarian empire, to democracy, to dictatorship in the early 20th Century. This module of the GCSE focuses on interpretations. Consequently the students have been investigating why people's different political, social and worldviews can lead to them having differing opinions on world events. After Christmas, students will be looking at how the world went from World War to Cold War, which will build upon the knowledge they have developed this term.

The students' exam board, AQA, has announced that this year 25%, of the content will be removed from the final exam. Consequently, this means that they will only be examined on three units rather than four. This also means that rather than sitting two two-hour exams, they will sit three one-hour exams with each unit being assessed separately. The units they will be examined on in the summer are:

Mathematics

Hegarty Maths

So far this term students have:

- Been set a total of **681** tasks across the school
- Have answered **187519** questions!
- Have completed **4597** hours of extra learning
- The average is **234** questions answered, and **5.7** hours of learning per student.

Our **Hegarty Maths Stars** this term are as follows:

Year 7 Emily Clarke
Year 8 Amy Nicholls & Alfie Bye
Year 9 Jamie Shinkfield & Keira Butcher-Le
Year 10 Matthew Nicholls & Zack Muyeres
Year 11 Harrison Thomas & Molly England

Year 7 Sky Lyons & Eleanor Stepney
Year 8 Alfie Bye
Year 9 Arianna Peci & Natasha Perry
Year 10 William Armitage & Ciaran Lacey
Year 11 Harrison Thomas & Thomas Bell

Year 7 Mario Martin de Lucia & Jasmine Judge
Year 8 Ewan Prinn & Alfie Armet
Year 9 Harmony Cummins & Alexander Junor
Year 10 Evelyn King & Ben Wotton
Year 11 Rhiannon Weston – Smith & Tamzin McCondach

Numeracy Ninjas

The launch of Numeracy Ninjas during tutor time back in September 2018 has been, and continues to be, very successful. Our standout Ninjas for this term are as follows;



Year 7 Amelia Roberts & Freddie Barnes
Year 8 Romany Ghibaldan & Noah Stepney
Year 9 Hubert Zinkiewicz & Heather Moyo
Year 10 Jessica Trace & Bill Robinson

Students have five minutes to complete as many questions as they can and then their scores are logged. The aim is to try each week to improve your 'Ninja Belt' you are awarded, an eventually become a Grand Master. The points you are awarded are also transferred into House Points, adding to the competitive edge!

Looking Forward...

Usually at this time of year we would be planning our Maths Week visits, but in the current climate we will have to opt for activities in school for Maths Week 2021. However, be assured, we will make sure that it is still a week to remember! We are also sad that we will not be able to take groups of students to the Maths Feast and other events that occur throughout the year. However, a lot of these will be run as online events and we are currently organising which events we will be involved with in 2021.

Twitter

You can follow us on twitter @romeromaths to keep up to date with all the news from the maths team!

Finally, the Maths Team would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support through what has been the most challenging year. The students have done as proud as always with their efforts in maths, going above and beyond in many cases. We are very proud of our students!

Can You Solve This?

$$6 \div 2(1+2) =$$



MFL

Bienvenue /Bienvenidos /Willkommen to the Modern Languages Department! (MFL)

During the week of 26th September we celebrated the European Day of Languages; we had lots of activities going on in lessons as well as a multi-lingual prayer for a staff meeting.



All tutor groups also took part in a languages quiz. Students in tutor groups competed against one another in the same quiz and only 1 tutor group answered ALL questions correctly! Well done to Señor Sloggett's tutor Group: 11A1!

Due to government restrictions we were not able to have our usual Open Evening this year but there was a virtual Open Evening and we are hoping to see lots of new faces next year.

In French, German and Spanish we set weekly homework for all students on a four weekly cycle. One homework is based on Duolingo, one will be a vocabulary learning homework, one will be a written piece of homework, usually a translation, and the last piece will be based on Linguascope.



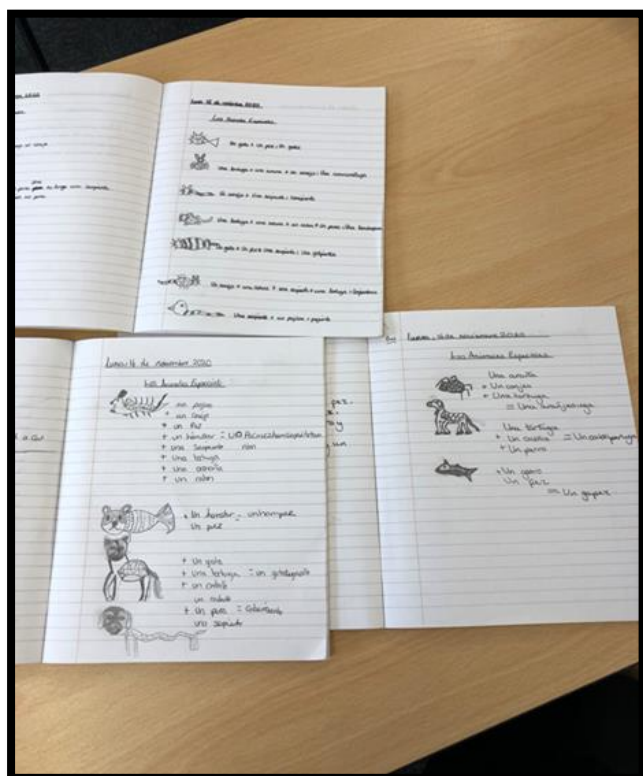
If students require help with any of the homework tasks or would like to do revision, staff are available most days after school. Students are also welcome to attend Spanish revision on Friday afternoons from 2.50pm to 3.50pm with Mrs Rodriguez-Garcia in room 51, Mr Rosiello in room 50 and Miss Phillips in room 49.



Year 9 students currently have the opportunity to experience a broader curriculum and therefore once a week have a class of “MFL” where students are taught Italian language and culture by Mr Rosiello and Miss Phillips. Students are enjoying Italian as it is very similar to Spanish. As well as the language, we are teaching students hand gestures, Italian culture and hopefully next term we can venture in the Food Tech room and cook some tasty Italian dishes!

We are also hoping to start having lunchtime language clubs in the New Year.

We have had a very busy term in the department. Year 7 students have been learning lots of new topics and have had great fun learning how to say different animals in Spanish and creating some of their own ‘Animales Especiales’.



Year 8 German have been making use of the new Chromebooks to revise vocabulary through playing Kahoot and Quizlet.



Year 7 students are currently on their first “taster” language where every term they rotate to learn French, German and Spanish. The MFL department has been absolutely blown away by our Year 7 students – their enthusiasm and willingness to learn a new language is so thrilling to see and they are all a pleasure to teach – long may it continue!



We love being able to offer trips abroad for our MFL students. Sadly, due to the current restrictions, this is on hold and no trips abroad are currently in the pipeline. However, as soon as we get the green light again, we look forward to being able to offer our usual very popular Year 8 Barcelona trip and Year 7 Ypres trip. Maybe for our German students, a trip to Germany or Austria/Switzerland so students can practise their German! Let's all hope for a prosperous New Year where we can revert to doing everything we used to do to make language learning an unforgettable experience for our wonderful students!

MFL Wall of Fame

Every term, each teacher in the MFL Department nominates 1 student from all their classes that they teach who they feel have done excellent work in and out of MFL lessons.

Nominated students receive a certificate, a letter home, and 5 stickers in their planners and on Edulink, and of course a place on our Wall of Fame! Congratulations to all of this term's winners – keep up the good work, we are so proud of you all!





10 Popular Spanish Words

gracias (thanks)
 ser (to be)
 a (to)
 ir (to go)
 estar (to be)
 bueno (good)
 de (of, from)
 su (your, her, his, their)
 hacer (to do, to make)
 amigo (friend)

¡Bueno!



Music



WE HAVE MOVED! As our department now consists of two music teachers, we have expanded and relocated to two new classrooms. Each classroom is complete with student computers, keyboards, drumkits, percussion and audio recording equipment. Our plans include installing a recording studio to extend the opportunities and provisions for students both at KS3 and KS4.

The Music Department began the year with singers and players for the Launch Day of St Oscar Romero Catholic School. Our singers and players were an integral part of the day and are to be congratulated on leading us in our celebrations.

Launch Day singers and players: Louie Burke, Kaitlin Dalglish, Louie Deluca, Jack Houston-Garcia, Ella Hobbs, Grace Kyte, Sophie Langrish, Caitlin Lupton, Jess Lupton, Elliot Meakins, Amy Nicholls, Mia Nobes, Lucy Scott, Maria Sieniawska, Emmeline Turner, Amelia Van Vliet, Sophie Weller, James Winton.



Year 7 this term have been playing and singing in class, groups and as soloists, both in class and as Oxford and Cambridge choirs. What a keen bunch of players and singers they are! Our year culminated in both Cambridge and Oxford Choirs being filmed as part of our school **Celebration of Advent and Christmas**, which will be shared online Thursday, 17th December at 7pm.



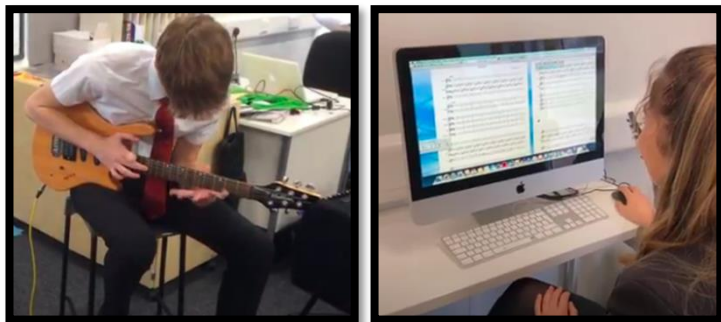
Year 8 have been learning to play ukulele, keyboard, and sing as a class together. All our practice and hard work culminated in our annual Year 8 performance assembly to the whole year group on Friday 4th December. Away in a Manger, Mary's Boy Child, O Come All Ye Faithful, We Three Kings, We Wish You a Merry Christmas, Silent Night, and Jingle Bells were performed as never before! This is a valuable life skill opportunity; learning to perform under pressure and deliver. Soloists included Isabella Nichols (voice), Emma Scott (guitar), Venise Jocson (voice), Noah Stepney (guitar), Tamsin Parfitt (drum kit) and Romeo Rubia (keyboard). Congratulations on a job well done to all our performers!

All of **Year 9** now have "extra" music on their timetable. They have formed rock bands in groups of 6, and then recorded their song, using industry standard equipment generously funded by Friends of Romeros. We were about to edit their recordings when more than half of the year group were required to self-isolate! We therefore embarked on a research topic looking at the importance of creative skills and the positive effect that listening to and studying music has on our brains. There have been opportunities to research current music genres, performers, and the importance of supporting roles, and technology.

Year 9 & 10 GCSE Music continue to rehearse, perform and create music across many genres and are currently preparing in class Christmas performances.

Year 11 RSL & GCSE Music are working on coursework for their final year of music. This has included developing creative original compositions from Jacob Leak (piano and harp), Jessica Lupton (It's a String thing, for String

quartet), Rhiannon Weston-Smith (Film music), Sam Ledger (Big Band Jazz) and Giorgio Sansone (Rock Vibes).



Year 8 chamber choir has been working hard since the beginning of the term. They recorded and released a special performance of "Lovely" as part of our school Open Evening video presentation that can be seen in its entirety on the school YouTube channel.

Performers included:

- **Chamber choir:** Elliot Meakins, Hanna Slusarczyk, Louie Burke, Kaitlin Dalglish, Grace Kyte, Sophie Langrish, Elliot Meakins, Isabella Nicholls, Tamzin Parfitt, Lucy Scott, Mia Nobes, Maria Sieniawska, Aimee Tessier, Emmeline Turner, Sophie Weller.
- **Strings:** Jess Lupton, Bella Saunders, Caitlin Lupton



Year 10 Harmony Choir

Every Wednesday during tutor time, our year 10 singers Louis Clark, Ella Hobbs, Triston Naftel, Ethan Pullen, Tallulah Taylor, Heidi Taylor, Jessie Titmarsh, Amelia Van Vliet, Chloe Weller, James Winton, have gathered to develop their part singing. We have been learning "Ordinary World" as arranged by the music team of Gareth Malone's Great Big Home Chorus. We have come so far in a very short time! We now have a piece in three part harmony that we are hoping to record and release early in the new year.

On Wednesday, 11th November Sam Ledger, year 11, played the last post to the school as we joined people from around the world in Remembrance Day.



Our Music concert, held on Thursday, 26th November, saw a number of last minute changes due to national lockdown. We had originally intended to include performers from all year groups, and to invite friends and family, but in the end we simply performed to KS4 Music GCSE/RSL students from years 9, 10 and 11. Students and staff were so impressed and proud of all our performers:

Year 10: Amelia Van-Vliet, voice, Kian Bayley, guitar, Luca Clarkson, drum kit, Heidi Taylor, voice, Tallulah Taylor voice, Ethan Pullen, piano, Jack Elliot, voice, Owen Dutton, drumkit, James Winton, voice

Year 11: Elyza Lague-Halligan, guitar (supported by a four piece band of family members including Mum, Dad, aunt and grandad), Ellie Harman, voice, Jack Houston-Garcia, bass, Louis Eddleston on drum kit, and Jessica Lupton, playing a last minute entry on her new violin!



Many of our students learn an instrument/voice from our in school instrumental tutors. All teachers have spaces available for both new and experienced students, although due to COVID some teachers are still self-isolating. West Sussex Music tutors offer lessons in voice, keyboard, ukulele, guitar, piano, trumpet, violin, saxophone and flute. Sign up at [westsussexmusic.co.uk](https://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk).

We are hoping that our private drum teacher, Mr Nash will be able to return to school soon after the New Year. Sign up information is available from your class music teacher.

Sussex Academy of Music (SAM) have switched to online Zoom lessons. They offer a number of instruments including guitar, keyboard, voice and drum kit. Visit www.sussexmusic.com for more information.



Physical Education

The importance of PE

Ali Oliver, chief executive of the Youth Sport Trust, said: *"What we have feared most is becoming a reality; children's lives have been disrupted by the pandemic and now their usual play and activity habits continued to be inhibited. As they return to school, we are seeing all sorts of issues present themselves from anxiety and depression to low physical fitness and self-confidence."*



Never has Physical Education been more important for children – and we are doing everything possible at St Romero's to look after our student's physical, social and emotional well-being.

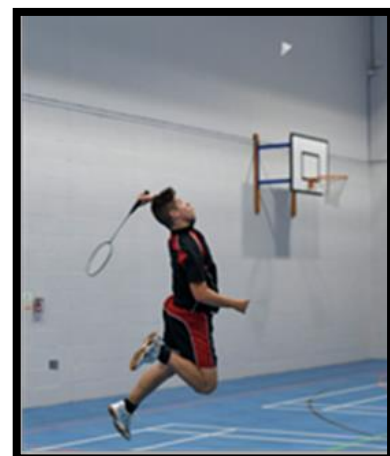
Safety in PE

The autumn term has been unlike any other, but our students have been incredible and deserve huge credit for the way they have coped within PE. The curriculum has been adapted in line with national governing body COVID guidelines / recommendations and systems have been put in place within our department to keep everyone safe (e.g. bibs washed and surfaces / equipment sterilised immediately after use, zoned areas within changing rooms etc.).



Autumn Curriculum

Our first term has included a diverse range of activities and provided students with a broad and balanced PE curriculum. Fitness, dance, football, badminton and orienteering are currently being delivered with high levels of engagement and progress.



Dance

We are incredibly fortunate to have appointed Miss Standing as subject leader for Dance in the summer, and it is clear that she is already having a significant impact. Miss Standing will oversee and deliver all aesthetic components of the PE curriculum. Please see the Dance section of the newsletter for more information.



Extra-curricular

Government guidelines mean that we have not been able to run inter-school fixtures since March. School fixtures are at the heart of an outstanding PE department and we look forward to the day that these can recommence.

The first half of the autumn term saw extra-curricular PE clubs return and it was fantastic to see students attending in large numbers for football, netball, badminton, dance, climbing, table tennis and dodgeball.



Virtual School Games

We are incredibly proud to have had our commitment and engagement in the 2020 Virtual School Games recognised by our School Games Organiser, Mr Jenner. Thank you to all of those families who supported the school and took part / logged scores every week.

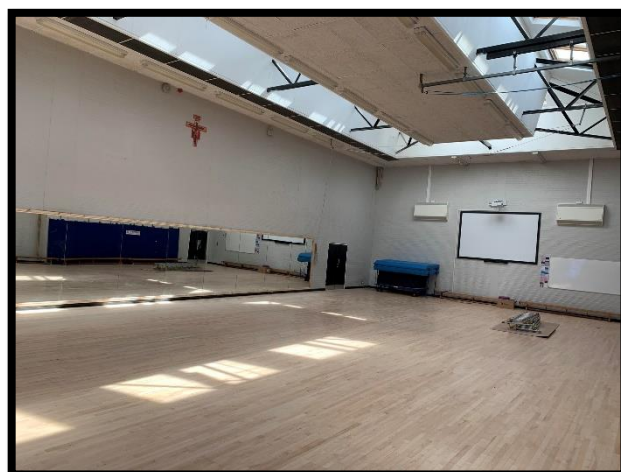


New Facilities

We are incredibly fortunate to have a new strength and conditioning zone within the PE department. Equipment includes dumbbells, barbells, kettlebells, plyometric boxes, punch bag, chin up / dip machine and medicine balls. We will introduce this equipment for Years 9 to 11 during lessons and after school clubs. Students will only be able to take part if they've completed a consent form. These can be located in the PE office and Edulink noticeboard.



The old 'gymnasium' has also undergone significant change, having been converted into a modern dance studio that we are extremely proud of. A mirrored wall and large projector will help further increase the quality of dance provision at St Romero's.



Pride of Romero's

A huge congratulations to Florence Rosser (Year 9) and Miller Cole (Year 10) for making it into their respective South East England Regional Development Academies for Handball. Both students attended trials during the summer holidays and have been selected to be part of their age group squads.



A huge congratulations also goes to Luke Awde (Year 7) who has accepted a place on the Sussex Cricket Pathway 2020-2021. This is a reflection of Luke's outstanding effort and performance at the training sessions.



PSHE

The programme for Year 7 to 11 in Term 1 and 2:

This academic year we have continued to carefully map out a programme that is tailored to the school's needs and the new Ofsted guidelines, including the new PSHE and RSE statutory framework. The PSHE planning team has also taken into account how students have been socially and mentally affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The PSHE tutor programme has continued this year, giving the different year groups opportunities such as assemblies or whole school approaches, where students have taken part in this year's Anti-Bullying week, as well as a drop down day where students had the opportunity to partake in sessions on "Grief and Loss" and "Anxiety and CBT".

The year groups have covered the following units of work across Term 1 and 2:

- Year 7** My New School
Changing Adolescent Body
- Year 8** Drugs and Alcohol
Respectful Relationships and Friendships
- Year 9** E-safety and Digital Citizenship
Intimate and Sexual Relationships
- Year 10** Social Media and the Digital Age
Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
- Year 11** Careers



Anti-Bullying Week 16th to 20th November 2020

This year's Anti-Bullying week took place under the motto "United against bullying". We offered students a broad programme across the week to raise awareness for bullying processes in school environments. Students took part in a whole school assembly via Zoom, Odd-Sock Day on Monday 16th November; to show everyone is allowed to be different and our dedicated Anti-Bullying Ambassadors shared video messages with our students. The students were also reminded of the procedure of reporting bullying incidents by either emailing stopnow@chathigh.co.uk or posting a slip in the Anti-Bullying Box that is placed at reception, which is passed on to the Anti-Bullying Coordinator Miss Brunner. One of the highlights of the week was that Year 7s planted bulbs outside of the school gates and that students took part in a session delivered by subject teachers about who is involved in bullying processes in school settings and how these individuals can change their actions within the system to overcome bullying.

What's happening next term?

After Christmas all year groups will be moving on to the units listed below. Within the next term students will also be celebrating World Religion Day and a programme for "Safer Internet Week" is currently being planned.

- Year 7** Families
- Year 8** My school and options
- Year 9** Money
- Year 10** Respectful Relationships
- Year 11** Consumer Rights and the Law



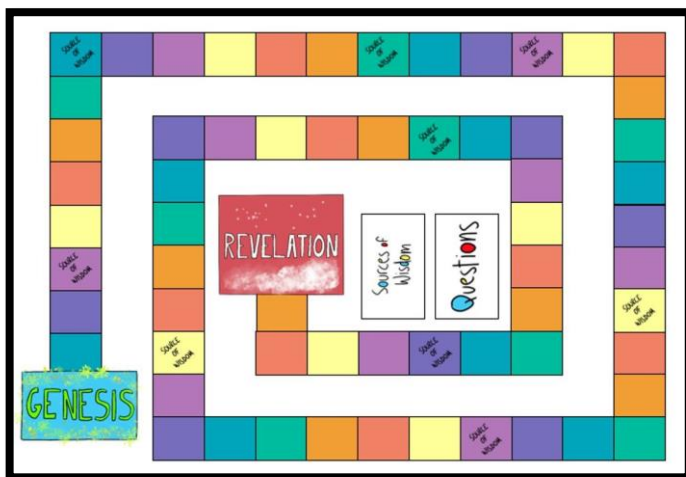


Religious Education

Mr Watts – Head of RE

Despite the obvious change to teaching and learning in the last academic year, I have been continuously impressed with the attitude of our students, both with their effort in class and in their homework. Year 11 have been carrying on with the GCSE course that they began in year 10, and continued through the period of home learning in March - July. In September we began study of Islam, an area of study that makes up their second GCSE paper. We have included many opportunities to reflect on units covered last year, this has taken place through their mocks and insights, and also through homework activities and DO IT NOW tasks in lesson. We are on course to finish the content of the GCSE by February half term, which will leave ample time for revision before their GCSE examinations.

This year the RE department started a **Friday lunch time revision club** for year 11's. This has been consistently run every week since September, aimed at giving students a deeper insight into the GCSE course, including revision of course content, and practice of skills needed for assessment questions. These sessions are open to all year 11 students, and it has been excellent to see how many students have regularly attended and made the most of this extra support.



A number of resources have been created by the RE department specifically for these revision sessions, including this board game in which students had to teach each other keywords.

My hope for all students is that they find in their RE lessons, an environment in which their opinions are listened to, and one in which they are challenged, both academically and in their opinions and beliefs.

Mr Ramasami - Year 9 & 10

It is important to remember that everyone is on their own faith journey and that assumptions held by the founders of St Oscar Romero Catholic High School might not be the same for all of our students. Therefore it is a pleasure to take our year 10 GCSE students through one of the first units that deals directly with the thorny question of God's existence. We spent some time reflecting on the difference between guessing the answers and revelation from God Himself. Perhaps the highlight of the course (for me at least) is when we get to look at how the Lord Jesus Christ is the culmination of God's self-disclosure. I love that there is no better doorway into grasping who God is. He is described in Holy Scripture as "the image of the invisible God". It is such a privilege to look at him in our lessons.

This term has been an interesting experience for our year 9 students as we have walked through the 'foundations of the faith' unit. This is a journey through some of the less-well known aspects of the early Christian church. Starting with Jesus' bold words to his disciples after the resurrection (the Great Commission) through to the dramatic arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, this course of work continues on to St Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus. Although this is the first time I have taught about the Desert Fathers, it was interesting to ask whether these reclusive figures had understood something that we in the ultra-socially-connected West have lost. Is it better to step away from busyness and to embrace solitude?

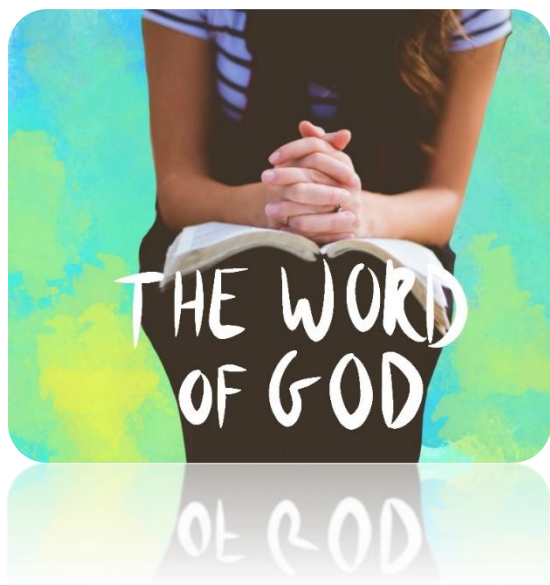
Mr Watts – Year 8

This term year 8 have been working their way through the 'Jesus of Nazareth' unit. This unit looks at the person of Jesus, who he was, what was believed about him, and even what the historical evidence for Jesus is. Students have been challenged to look beyond the surface level stories of the Gospels, and try to examine who Jesus really was. This unit of work has been complemented by students taking part in the Alpha course, being run in year 8 by our chaplain, Niall. Niall runs this course with each group in year 8, one lesson a week. The course takes students out of their comfort zones, encouraging them to reflect on the bigger questions of faith, truth and meaning.



Miss Eaves – Year 7

In year 7 this term we have covered the first unit, 'The Church and Me', which starts to introduce religion to year 7. In these lessons we have covered topics such as the liturgical year (church year), roles within the church, features of a church, the seven sacraments and prayers. The year 7's have really enjoyed that unit of the course so far, which will hopefully inspire them to learn about different religions. This is my first year working in the RE department here at St. Romero's and so far it has been such a delight. Everyone here is so friendly and helpful, but for me getting to work with and inspire the students every day is what stands out.



In the RE department we are lucky to have many creative minds, putting their own stamp on each lesson, lessons that are taught consistently across each year. Here is an image created and used recently in our newly started unit 'Creation and Covenant'.



Chaplaincy

Christmas comes at a time in the year when the darkness of winter seems to surround us, I travel to school in darkness, and I leave school in darkness. For many this year, we may have experienced a greater darkness, not just outside, but within us. Perhaps this helps us to reflect deeper on the purpose of Advent, the time of the Church's year, presented to us as a time of preparation for Christmas.

When speaking with a friend this week, I asked him, "How is your Advent going?" His response being, "Advent?! This whole year has been Advent! We've spent months travelling through times of darkness, and awaiting a saviour in the form of vaccine."

Thankfully, the rest of our chat wasn't quite as pessimistic. He reminded me that Advent is not all about the darkness, but about the Light that we are waiting for, which we get glimpses of as we journey.

There have been so many occasions in the course of this term that I have seen glimpses of this light, moments of hope, experiences of great joy. September seems so long ago now, but the joy of having students and staff back in school brought with it a new lease of life. We also saw back in October the beginnings of work on our school Chapel. A place where the presence of God with us will be experienced at the heart of our school, and a hub from which we can put our faith into action, in finding new ways to go out to those around us, sharing with them hope and bringing joy.

Once more this year we have been able to support families in our local community as they face particular hardships, and we have been able to do this with the support also of the St Vincent de Paul Society at St Michael's Parish. Through their generosity and hard work, they provided us with over thirty hampers of essential goods. This has been bolstered by our own collections supported by students this week, all of which will make a real impact on the lives of people in our local community.



In these examples, and so many more, we can see the light of Jesus present in our school. He is the God who steps into the world as a vulnerable child, whom kings and shepherds, people of all walks of life are able to draw close to.

We pray that our community may always be a place where all are welcomed, where they may enter and share in our joy and hope. We pray too that we may draw closer to Jesus, and find in Him the source of all hope, so that we may be sustained as we look to the future with expectant hope.

I wish you and your families a Very Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year – Mr Farrell



Science

"We should always pray for help, but we should always listen for inspiration and impression to proceed in ways different from those we may have thought of."

John H. Groberg

We welcome this term Ms Hannah Boyle as the newest member of the science team.

It has been a particular different and somewhat difficult term as for many other departments at St Oscar Romero's. The students have coped with these changes really well considering. I wish to thank the amazing science staff for continuing with the day to day teaching and learning, giving your child the best opportunity we can. While many schools decided not to carry out any practical based lessons, we have used the guidance from the government to enable practical lessons to still be part of the science curriculum.

Launch Day



St Oscar Romero Catholic School Launch day was an exceptional day for all students and staff. In science the activity was based around "Codebreakers". Saint Oscar Romero worked tirelessly to be a voice for the voiceless. He understood that he could fight injustice through the simple act of sharing knowledge, passing on information and speaking the truth. And he realised the most powerful tool he had to do that with was radio.

To model this, we used the Binary Number system for students to unlock a secret code. In digital electronics, a binary number is a number expressed in the base-2 numeral system or binary numeral system, which uses only two symbols: typically "0" (zero) and "1" (one).

The answer:

"The one who has a voice must speak for those who are voiceless"

STEM Club

STEM club got off to a flying start this year in St Oscar Romero's. Each week we do an activity focusing on an

aspect of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and our STEM club students have been extremely enthusiastic about all things microscopes, rockets and bunsen burners!

As well as being extremely fun (if I do say so myself), STEM club gives you an opportunity to do some Science that we don't do in the classroom and meet other STEM-loving students from across Year 7.

Join us in the New Year for more fantastic projects and practicals!



Student testimonials

"Stem club is amazing and an extremely fun club to go to. If I had to describe STEM club I would describe it as a fun, entertaining, exciting, and a joyful place. You get to do so many different experiments and we also watched a man show us into the deep sea, which was very interesting to watch. I would encourage everyone to join this fantastic club with me and everyone else. Everyone's really kind and so is the teacher" - *Jasmine*

"I think that STEM Club is a fun and educational club that teaches you a lot about science. I have enjoyed all of the practicals we have done and they have taught me a lot. I especially enjoyed the 'turning flames different colours' experiment" - *Harry Ford*

"I hope you are well, I just want say STEM club is amazing, it's like an extra science lesson, we also have lots of fun and cover lots of topics on top of that we get to choose what we do next! It's also a lot of fun as we get to learn stuff and mix with our friends. I have enjoyed everything but especially changing the Bunsen burners colour" - *Samuel*



Cameras into Space

While we await more favourable weather in the Spring/Summer for the launch of our next 'cameras into space' event, there was further good news this term.

Having won the Engineering section of the national Big Bang Competition, the ChatHigh In The Sky project was also shortlisted as a finalist in the 'Best Use of Technology' category of the TES Schools Awards 2020. Although we were not the eventual winners on the occasion, this still represented the second time that we have received national recognition for the success of the project. Local MP Sir Peter Bottomley expressed his congratulations to the school for this achievement.

We hope to update you in the Spring, with news of the second launch!

Science competitions

In previous years we have been able to take part in the regional heats of the Top Of The Bench competition, organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Teams of four students (two Y9s, one Y10 and one Y11 student) compete by carrying out chemistry experiments and answering questions on a variety of chemistry topics.

This year, to reduce the risks of coronavirus transmission, schools will compete separately rather than in one location, and to avoid bubble-mixing, the activities for each year group can take place on different days. We will therefore be running the competition at various times in January, with scores then being sent off to the RSC.

We also hope to enter all Y9/10 students into the Biology Challenge in the Summer term. In previous years we have seen large numbers of students achieve Bronze and Silver certificates in this competition. There will also be the Chemistry Challenge for Y10, and the Physics Olympiad for a small number of Y11 students. Further details to follow!

Learn your equations

I would like to encourage all Y10 and Y11 students to use the free "23 Equations" app to help them to learn and rearrange the equations they will need to memorise for their Physics exams in Y11. Being able to recall these equations will guarantee marks in the exams! It is available from: 23equations.com



Year 7 Space project:

As part of the year 7 science curriculum students were asked to create a model of the solar system.

Mrs Bagshaw's science class were tasked with creating a solar system in the form of a drawing, animation or model. All completed the task successfully and here are the results.





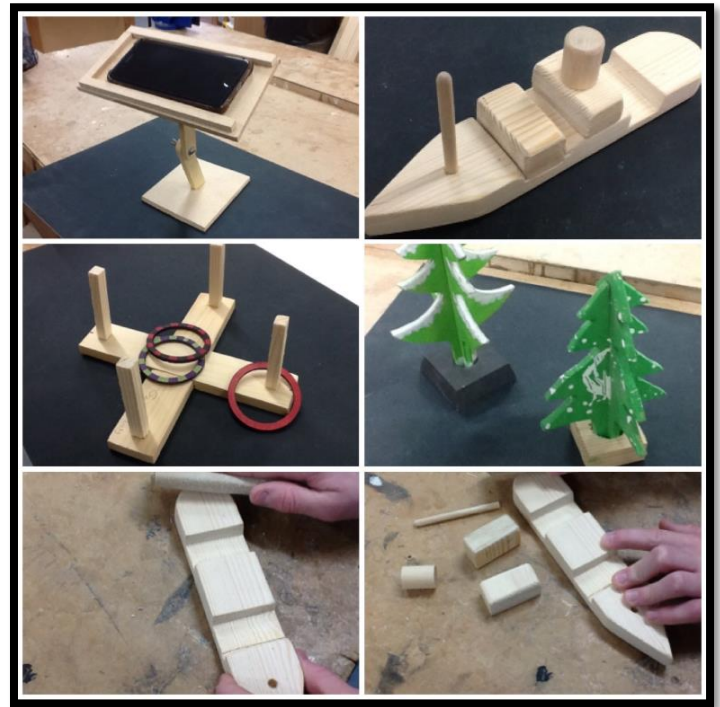
Design Technology

Technology

In these unusual times students in D & T have still been busy designing and making a range of products. Year 7 have started by designing and making a wooden tangram puzzle based on an ancient Chinese design before moving onto a spinning top. The spinning top was tested in many ways, including finding the centre of gravity and length of time it could spin. The current record for the longest spin is just over 2 minutes.

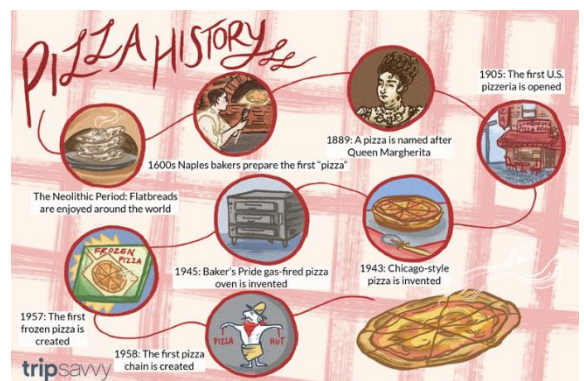
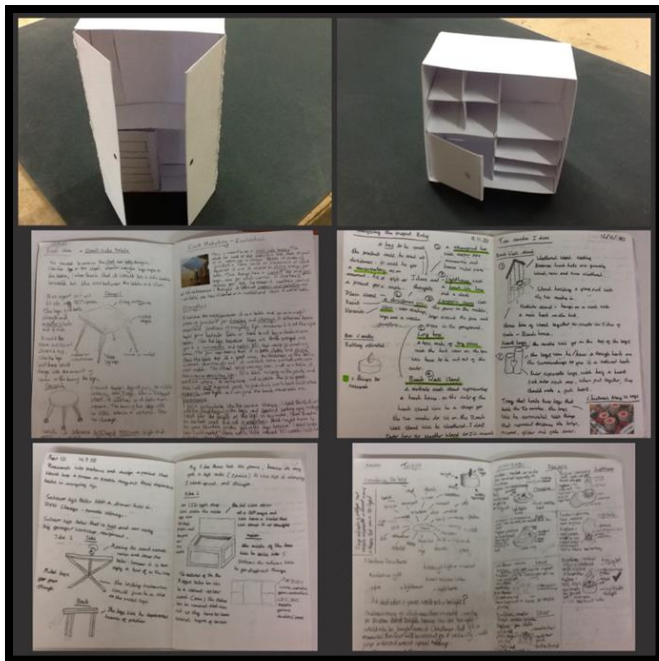
Year 8 were asked to design and make a stand or device to hold a mobile phone or tablet. This was an open brief intended to test students ability to design, plan and make a design from scratch. Finally, Year 8 had the opportunity to make the classic cargo boat, always a popular project, producing a boat that is made within a fine tolerance including both high quality and accuracy.

GCSE students have been challenged with designing and modelling different ideas to match a given brief. The brief is often open ended and allows students plenty of freedom to be both creative and innovative with their ideas. The level of detail and range of depth in the students ideas have been a delight to see.



Food & Nutrition

Year 7 have been working hard to improve their knife skills. They have also demonstrated the ability to use the oven, hob and grill by making a Frittata and Mediterranean tart.





Year 8 loved making sausage rolls and bacon turnovers which were a great hit, followed by Pasta Bake



GCSE Food

This has been a very busy time with year 11 having their NEA question being released this term. The students have been busy trialling their dishes and practising their food styling. They will be completing their final dishes in March.



Paul Hollywood's mince pies



For the pastry

375g/13oz plain flour
250g/9oz butter, softened
125g/4oz caster sugar, plus extra for sprinkling
1 medium free-range egg

For the filling

1 x 400g/14oz jar mincemeat
2 tangerines, zest grated and flesh chopped
1 apple, finely diced

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. To make the sweet pastry, rub the flour, butter, sugar and egg together with a splash of cold water until it just comes together as a dough. Do not over work the dough. Wrap the pastry in cling film and set aside to chill in the fridge while you make the filling.
2. To make the filling, turn the mincemeat out into a bowl, grate the zest of the tangerines into the mincemeat, then peel and chop the fruit. Throw the tangerine and apple pieces into the bowl and blend by hand.
3. Roll out the pastry to a 3mm/1/8in thickness. With a round pastry cutter, cut out 6 x 9cm/3 1/2in discs of pastry. Press the pastry into the muffin cups and fill each one with a good helping of the mincemeat mixture, so that it reaches three-quarters of the way up the side of the pastry-lined cup.
4. With a fluted pastry cutter, cut out 6 x 8cm/3 1/4 in pastry circles for the lids (slightly bigger than the top of the muffin cups). Place a lid on top of each pie and gently push down. Sprinkle with caster sugar.
5. Bake for 20 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool. Dust with icing sugar and serve warm with fresh cream.

yum!



Extended Learning

**JOHN
MUIR
AWARD**

wild places:
DISCOVER
EXPLORE
CONSERVE
SHARE

Year 8 students have been enjoying lessons in the wild throughout this autumn term. Every student in the year

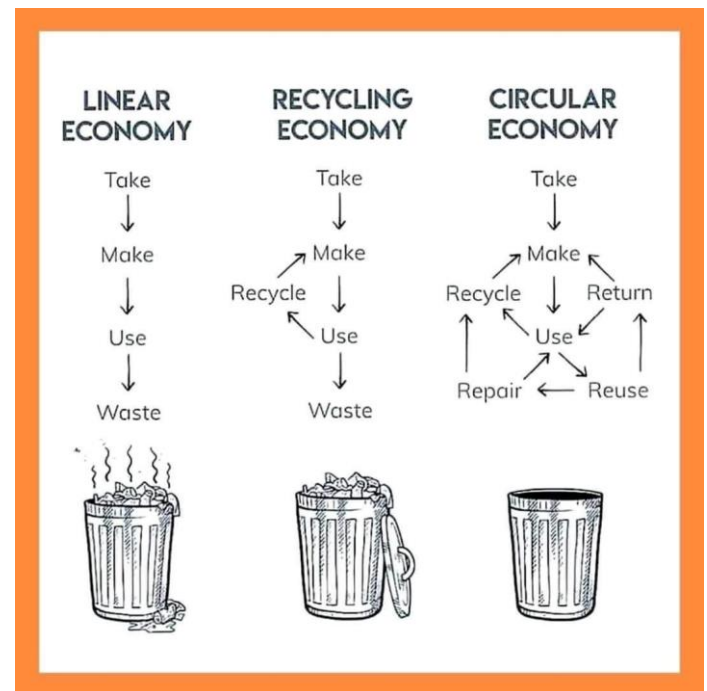
group has the opportunity to complete the John Muir Discovery Award and gets to visit and investigate the beach, Downs, rivers, woodland and sites of interest over an 8 week period. One of the venues that the students have been visiting is a project called Epic Sompting, a river rewilding project coordinated by the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust. This all leads on to a day of conservation later in the year.



'Seeing the students' eyes light up in the outdoor environment is really thrilling to watch, it is like a spark and a burst of energy. Having the chance to investigate and discover these places and projects is brilliant on lots of levels. Health and wellbeing, research skills, concentration and group/leadership development are core skills. The more time people spend in the wild places the more motivated they become to help conserve them.' Mr Dean



The Finger Prints (not foot prints) student Ambassadors have been working on their 'Actions 4 Change'. Each student gets involved in helping to make the way we live our lives more sustainable. Each action can make a difference however small. The organisation is going from strength to strength and has branched out to include an electric car club which involves students revamping old mobility scooters into race tuned speed machines! The Future Promise Wellbeing Project is also a part of the Finger Prints organisation.



'The amount the students gain from being an Ambassador is immense, any age group can apply and there are regular Year Group meetings every other week'. Mr Dean

'Future Promise'

The newly formed Wellbeing project called the Future Promise is developing well and currently has a team of students, parents and partners involved. The aim of the Future Promise is to create Well Being areas in the old caretaker's House and the allotments. The plans are well underway and fundraising and grant applications are happening.



'The team in charge of the project are working hard to create this project and are dealing with day to day planning problems well. It is a great opportunity to experience this level of organisation and the way they have to lean on each other and external partners for support. The students are building their support network and will have the dark winter months to prepare for when the sun shines again'. Mr Dean

Pillars of possibility

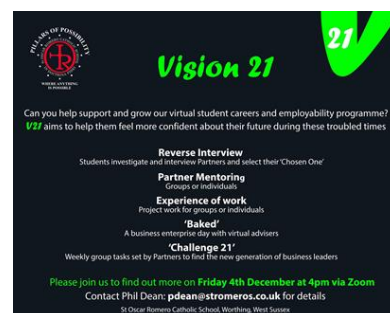


The Pillars of Possibility is a Personal Development initiative that has been launched this term. Students sign up through the Google classroom and find all the details they need to get started. There are 12 Pillars they can work towards including: Being an Entrepreneur, Writer, Navigator, Life Saver, Cook and Volunteer whilst also being able to Bounce back, Present/Perform and get Passionate about something.

Being Organised, Proactive and Inspired, the students can really look at their own development and build their own Life Long Learning. The Pillars program is also being completed by self-isolating students, enabling them to shape a home learning curriculum that they can work on independently.



'To have a measurable personal development program is fantastic. Students are being very creative in their approach to the Pillars and they are evidencing some brilliant personal development activities'. Mr Dean



Vision21 is a new initiative that helps to Inspire and motivate the students' view of their future. The whole initiative is planned as a virtual platform that is ably supported by our

dedicated partners from business, industry, Further and Higher education. The V21 includes all the aspects shown here and hopes to make the World Learning and preparation really effective and engaging.

'We met the business, industry and education partners last Friday in a Zoom and it was really well attended. Over 40 people were involved across lots of sectors. A V21 presentation was shown, ably helped by Tom Hudson (HSBC), Claire Ellis (JJ&H accounting), Matthew Cheung (Ipushpull), Viv Cannons (NHS) and Kate Gunner (HMRC).

We feel really privileged that there are so many (very busy) people that can help and support our students'. Mr Dean

Partner mentoring

Local business partners are mentoring our students in Year 11. This helps the students get to grips with the real World and to help them transition to the 'World of Work' and beyond. Kathy Crane, the Finance Director of Prosperon Networks, helps the students using her vast amount of knowledge and experience but also by helping the students to connect to other partners.

'The support our Partners are able to provide is excellent. Each Partner comes with a unique set of skills that can help the students to become more confident and supported.' Mr Dean



The Duke of Edinburgh Award

The resilience that the current group of participants have shown through lockdown and into this term is immense. They have forged forward by changing all their planned sessions from before Covid to during Covid with some changing again post lockdown! Expedition planning, to no expedition, to planned 2021 expedition has been a challenge but we are sure that the participants have all got so much out of the experience. There have been a number that have deferred (waiting until after Covid) which makes those that have stuck with it even more admirable. The DofE continues on with adapted areas and rules and will be available for the current Year 9 from January 2021.

'There are dates set for the expedition in the New Year and I wish the participants the very best of luck in completing their Award'. Mr Dean

Challenge 21

The Challenge 21 is part of the V21 initiative that launches in the New Year and pitches teams and individuals against each other in a challenge like no other. Weekly entrepreneurial tasks will be set by our Partners for the students to complete. Each week there will be winners and each week there will be losers. Each week gets harder and more complex. There will be no age group limit with teams operating in their Year group bubbles.

'There is a real buzz from our Partners about some of the activities that they are planning to put to the teams. It is called 'Challenge' for a reason and each student will get that chance to be part of a Dream Team Winners' task or forging forward as an entrepreneur against other budding business minds. Following the current trend towards rebuilding the economy, the students will be looking for new and innovative ideas to make their

businesses flourish in sometimes tricky situations. This year the Tenner Challenge (Young Enterprise) goes global and teams or individuals will be able to set up profitable and sustainable businesses using the £10 investment through the Challenge 21 event.

Special Mentions



Many congratulations to Year 7 student Emily, who has been awarded THREE Blue Peter badges! For the Blue Badge - she wrote a poem about the war. The Green badge is for environment, conservation or nature inspired projects. The Music badge is a special badge, designed by superstar Ed Sheeran. It's awarded to those who show off their passion for music by learning a new instrument or being part of a musical performance. Emily wrote and told them about how she had taught herself to play a song on the piano over lockdown.



During lockdown, student Keira Arnold was asked if she would like to illustrate a children's story about the coronavirus. It is called 'Queenie Corona and the Ten Little Prints'. The story is about "ten little comic 'superhero' fingerprints who make it their mission to destroy 'Queenie Corona' by educating children on how to avoid the spread of germs in a simple and fun way"

Needless to say, Keira jumped at the chance and the resulting book is now available to buy on Amazon, Waterstones and various other platforms. It has been self-published by the author, Tara Aryan (pictured with Keira).



Head of House

First of all, can we say how wonderful it has been to see our students back in school after the long period of lockdown. We missed them dearly. We have all had to adjust to the 'new normal' and the students have embraced everything in their stride. We are so proud of them. During this term there were a number of different house competitions run for all students across all years, albeit in their bubbles and within different subject areas. This included cross country, a crossword quiz, badminton, wellbeing quiz and a languages quiz. Not only did we run competitions but we also organised events to help support the house system, like our Year 7 movie night.

House Cross Country

During PE in the first term back all students were challenged to run in a cross country event. Students in Year 7 + 8 were asked to run 2 laps and students in Years 9, 10 and 11 were asked to run 3 laps of the whole field. The top 2 boys and 2 girls in each house achieved 5 house points.

Cross Country- Year 7 Results

Rank	House & Av. Score	Points
1st Boy 7c	Attenborough Elliot Birchall	5
1st Boy 7O	Kolbe Raffali Howcraft	5
1st Girl 7C	Attenborough Chloe Payne	5
1st Girl 7o	Attenborough Ella Peapell	5

Cross Country- Year 8 Results

Rank	House & Av. Score	Points
1st Boy 8c	Attenborough Noah Slepney	5
1st Boy 8O	Kolbe Henry Chandler	5
1st Girl 8C	Teresa Amalie Lloyd	5
1st Girl 8o	Attenborough Rebecca Roberts	5

Cross Country- Year 9 Results

Rank	House & Av. Score	Points
1st Boy 9c	Kolbe Andrew Martin	5
1st Boy 9O	Malala Joe Cleveff	5
1st Girl 9C	Teresa Ella Barwick	5
1st Girl 9o	Malala Becky Smith	5

Cross Country- Year 10 Results

Rank	House & Av. Score	Points
1st Boy 10c	Teresa Jack Owen	5
1st Boy 10O	Malala Loveday Mwatsuku	5
1st Girl 10C	Teresa Tallulah Taylor	5
1st Girl 10o	Teresa Amelia Afterbury	5

House Crossword Quiz

During tutor time this year each group was given a crossword to complete. The crossword focused on key Science topics. Points were awarded to the most students in each tutor group who got the most crosswords correct:

Tutors

8T1
8A1
8T2
9K2
10K1
10T2
11K1
11A1

House Sports Competitions - Badminton, Football and Netball

This term also gave opportunity to enter and take part in either a house badminton, football or netball competition. Students turned up to competitions with great numbers and a fierce competitive nature to win! Results are below:

Netball

Results

Rank	House & Av. Score	Points
1st	Teresa	5
2nd	Malala	4
3rd	Attenborough	3
3rd	Kolbe	3

Football

Results

Rank	House & Av. Score	Points
1st	Malala	5
2nd	Attenborough	4
3rd	Teresa	3
4th	Kolbe	2

Badminton

Male Results		
Rank	House & Av. Score	Points
1 st	Teresa Ashley Coleman	5
2 nd	Attenborough Joseph B	4
3 rd	Malala Shay W	3

Wellbeing Quiz

During this term staff and students both took part in a well-being week which involved taking part in different activities to help improve mental and physical well-being. Monday focused on 'connecting' with others and involved music at break and lunch times. Tuesday was 'Be Active' and students had the opportunity at lunch time to walk a course of the field. Wednesday was 'Take Notice', students were asked to write in a bubble I tutor, what they would like to improve as part of their own wellbeing. Thursday, was 'keep learning' where students could take time out to plan and focus their own learning. Finally, Friday was the wellbeing Kahoot quiz students performed this in tutor.



Languages Quiz

On 26th September it was European Day of Languages. In order to mark this occasion, all tutor groups took part in a languages quiz. Students in tutor groups competed against one another in the same quiz and only 1 tutor group answered ALL questions correctly! Well done to Señor Sloggett's tutor Group 11A1!

Rank	House & Av. Score	Points
1 st	Attenborough (Mr Sloggett – 11A1)	5



Year 7 movie night

On Friday 9th October, we invited Year 7 to come to the gym after school, bring their onesies and comfy clothes, snuggle up with blankets and eat chocolate and treats and watch a retro movie of their choice. The choice was between Back to the Future, ET, The Karate Kid, Home Alone and The Goonies. Students voted for Home Alone - what students want, students get! Students paid £2 which will enable us to buy something for the school. It was a great success and we will possibly repeat this with another year group!

Attendance Figures

Attendance is an integral part of ensuring a child reaches their full potential and as Houses we want to do all we can to support and encourage excellent attendance throughout the year. To help with this we, along with the Heads of Year celebrate and award House points to those students and tutor groups with 100% attendance.

Results		
Rank	House	Points
1 st	Kolbe 96.80%	5
2 nd	Teresa 96%	4
3 rd	Attenborough 95.16%	4
4 th	Malala 94.40%	3

Reward points

Reward points are given to students for a number of reasons, such as good attendance, competitions, but also for how they behave and work within the classroom. Although we always have high expectations regarding academic achievement, students who show consistent effort, regardless of ability are also rewarded. Part of what makes St Oscar Romero an amazing school is how kind and caring our students are. Reward stickers are given to those who may show support or kindness to another student or any other member of our community. All these reward points are collated and go towards the final end of year tally and decide who wins the House Cup.

Results		
Rank	House	Points
1 st	Attenborough	5
2 nd	Kolbe	4
3 rd	Malala	3
4 th	Teresa	2

Year 7 have 7 tutor groups and they have all made a great start to the year. Attendance has been key and year 7 have been leading the attendance league with many tutor groups achieving 100% each week. Mr Larkam's tutor group 7T1 were 3rd in the attendance league at half term and Miss Benson's tutor group 7A1 were 1st out of the whole school.



Rewards are handed out each week in assembly and 60 students in Year 7 have received their Bronze certificate. Megan Worsfold-Gwyn and Tomas Pawlowski were the first students in year 7, and in fact, the first in the whole school to receive their Silver Certificates.

West Sussex |  **mind**
for better mental health

Certificate of donation

This certificate is presented to:

*All Staff + Students at St. Oscar
Romero Catholic School*

For contributing the amount of:

£771.15 (mufty Day)...

To West Sussex Mind

Thank you for your donation

Signed *[Signature]*

Date: 27/11/20

We do a lot of fund raising at school and during Mental Health Week we raised a whopping £771.51 for MIND!

We have also had some students do their own fundraising....

Lara Parker in 7K2 donated 17 inches of her own hair and officially raised £440 which is the cost to make a wig which helps The Little Princess Trust. When a child loses their hair to cancer or another condition, real hair wigs help restore their confidence and identity.



William Nevell also showed his commitment to the school by fundraising for us. He wanted to raise funds to help towards students' wellbeing and he raised £550 by cycling as part of the Albion Challenge 2020.

We have a few key sporting successes in year 7.

- Ciaran Barnes has been selected for Worthing Rugby Squad. Out of 90 people taking part in trials, he was chosen to represent Worthing RFC. Well done Ciaran, exciting times ahead.
- Charlie Wood received three golf medals in October having won three competitions at Manor Golf Academy (Easter Cup 2020, Ham Manor Steven Stein Trophy 2020 and Ham Manor Len Wynn Trophy 2020). Charlie has been playing properly for approximately two years. He started at Handicap 35 and dropped through 2019 to a 25 Handicap. He is playing off the Tournament Tees (White) and after winning these 3 competitions he has dropped from Handicap 25 to 17. This is thrilling news, well done Charlie. We will be following your success with interest.
- Luke Awde has been offered a place on the Sussex Cricket Pathway 2020-2021. This is a reflection of Luke's effort and performance at the training session.

At the end of half term CARPE award vouchers were given to the following students for their Commitment, Aspiration, Reflection, Prayer and Excellence towards school...

A1 - Miss Benson – Abbie Platt
A2 – Miss Longman – Eleanor Stepney
K1 – Mr Garratt – Jessie Chao
K2 – Miss Louise – Finley Reynolds
M1 – Miss Boyle – Jayden Cherryman
M2 – Mrs Gray/Mrs Lumsdon – Denver Premathilaka
T1 – Mr Larkam - Kitty Chacksfield

Mrs J House – Head of Year 7





Head of Year 8

Returning this autumn was always going to be a challenge for year 8. Not having completed a full academic year as a year 7 cohort, they returned to a school having to follow Covid-19 procedures and rules. Despite this, Year 8 settled in and followed the rules and did all that was asked of them. They just go from strength to strength. As a year group we have been impressed by their fellowship, ability to share ideas and views, and the support they give each other.

Celebrations: It's been a positive term, especially with our attendance which has hit an all-time high of 98% - fantastic!

We have celebrated successes in achievements and in our Bronze and Silver award, with a large number achieving their bronze and one, Ben Mwariwangu achieving his Silver. So congratulations to all of these students.

Students in Year 8 have also engaged well in the drop down sessions focused around PSHE. We have had two extremely important sessions; one on loss and bereavement and the other on mental health. It was wonderful to see how our Year 8s supported each other and were respectful of each individual's experience.

We have also witnessed all of year 8 singing in their year choir, which they all came together to do on Friday, 4th December. They have also produced some great scientific projects and undertaken some exciting drama pieces. All of this can be seen in the photos included!

Struggles: Homework has been a subject that some have found difficult to organise and deal with. We have supported many students who have struggled here, not only in setting up a '4 o'clock club' held 3 days a week but also in encouraging students to attend the homework club. We also undertook an assembly on homework, where we gave advice and modelled good practice. Please encourage your child to complete homework as they receive it so that any issues can be tackled well in advance of the due date.

Assessments: Year 8 have also just completed their first terms subject assessments. This time all were taken under exam conditions so that they become used to how exams will be in their GCSE year. The students behaved brilliantly and soon got used to the concept of walking and sitting in silence in preparation for the assessment. They are a year group to be proud of.

Mrs S Bagshaw & Mrs T Williams - Head of Year 8



It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of the first term of this academic year. For year 9 students it has had its challenges but true to form they rose to the challenges and now deserve a well-earned break.

Three weeks ago students sat their first assessments of the year and for those who were in isolation these started on their first day back in school for two weeks. I am so proud of the way the students conducted themselves in the exams and would like to pass on a message I received from the exam admin team, *'Just to let you know that your year group should be commended for their behaviour during the assessments... Mrs Bray in the new building says she's sorry to see them go!'* While they were lining up to go into the exams I carried out a uniform check and was delighted that all students were in correct uniform; looking smart and professional.



Earlier this term it was my pleasure to present the first Carpe awards of the year to:

Adriana Spink, Katerina Gfouka, Vinzi Salazar, Sam Simon, Althea Senolay and Luke Bishendon.

I look forward to presenting many more awards this year.

I would like to leave you with a photo from September when the sky was still blue. This was my first experience of a whole school mass at St Oscar Romero's and I was so proud to be there with year 9 students who were so well behaved and respectful.

Ms J Hedger - Head of Year 9





Head of Year 10

As the term draws to a close I would like to spend some time with you reflecting on the superb work and achievement that has taken place during this busy time of the year. As always, our students have worked incredibly hard engaging well in lessons and taking advantage of the various opportunities that continue to present themselves on a daily basis. In this latest edition I will summarise the talents and successes of the year group, what they have been up to and what is also waiting in the new academic year for them.

Year 10 Tech Team – The Dream Team



At this school we have a number of unsung heroes. Students who lay the foundation for the teachers to work and operate. During this half term I would like to provide special recognition to the St Oscar Romero Tech Dream Team. Every morning this crew is in earlier, supporting and assisting with assemblies, presentations and meetings. Their efforts and expertise never goes unnoticed and on the behalf of St Oscar Romero community I would like to thank them sincerely. Liam O'Reilly-Bevis, Noah Allan and Sebastian Wattam...We salute you!

This term Kaie Peapell and Liam O'Reilly-Bevis have created a python programme that simulates 100 games of snakes and ladders with 6 second intervals between each dice throw to work out how long it will take 2 people to finish a game. The programme

displays the average number of moves, the maximum number of moves and the time taken to complete the game. Fantastic work from two budding game designers. Well done.

CARPE Awards: Epitomising our CARPE mantra of 'Community, Aspiration, Resilience, Prayer and Excellence' Kian Bayley, Ella Hobbs, Evelyn Starbuck, Heidi Taylor and Amelia Van Vliet were recognised for outstanding effort and application this term. A true credit to themselves, their family and the school community. Congratulations.

Attendance Recognition: To close, I would like to personally recognise the effort and attitude of the following students. Through pure determination and a true desire to attend school they managed to maintain a 100% attendance record so far this academic year and can be very proud of their efforts.

Year 10 Computer Programmers



ALLAN, Noah	BILOTTI, Franco	FROGLEY, Bryoni	KRELLE, George	PEAPELL, Kaie	TAYLOR, Tallulah
ALVAREZ AGUIAR, Rodrigo	BLACKMOORE-SPARKS, Alfie	FROST, Jack	LEECH, Benjamin	PORTER, Joshua	TESSIER, Chloe
AMBROS-CARRILERO, Lluç	BROWN, Phoebe	GALLACHER, Joshua	LOMANDAS, Angel Mae	PULLEN, Ethan	TRACE, Jessica
ARMITAGE, William	CLARKSON, Luca	GOOD, Henry	MALANDAIN, Corin	ROWE, Mark	TUGBA, Geinmarie
BAILEY-CRICHTON, Mary-Kate	COLBRAN, Keona	HOBBS, Ella	MARSHALL-BATCHELOR, Courtney	SANCHEZ, Aien	WATTAM, Sebastian
BAKER, Bradley	COLE, Miller	HOPKINS, Ethan	MCINTYRE, Harrison	SEARLE, Isabelle	WILLIAMS, Theodore
BARLEY, Christopher	DAY, Emma	HUDSON, William	MWATSUKU, Loveday	STARBUCK, Evelyn	WINTON, James
BAYLEY, Kian	EICHENHOFER-JONES, Logan	JARMAN, Ryan	NICHOLLS, Matthew	STOBART, Callaghan	WOTTON, Benjamin
BELL, Chloe	FINCH, Joseph	JOCSON, River	OMOKARO, Daniel	TAYLOR, Heidi	YAADAR, Floran

Lastly from me, I would like to thank the students who I believe have been remarkable this term. Despite the unprecedented times we find ourselves in their focus, attitude and attention to detail has been extraordinary. They are a credit to you, themselves and the school. Please stay safe and keep the faith.

Have a great Christmas - Mr Steve Davies (Head of Year 10)

Year 11s - Off to a Flying Start

Year 11 students returned to St. Romero's in September, perhaps feeling more anxious than most about the year ahead, with many of them not attending school since late March, due to the Coronavirus pandemic. But not a bit of it! They have had the most remarkable term, working tirelessly in class, setting a great example in the school and wider community and showing inspirational resilience and determination every day. We are so proud of them.

A key part of our work with Year 11s has been to look after the emotional climate and we have based this on encouraging our students to consider all the work they completed over lockdown and our emerging mantra, **"We're not behind. We're ahead"**. During lockdown they worked incredibly hard, were well taught and got excellent feedback throughout, and we consider that they will have gained ground on students who were not fortunate enough to get such a great deal.

Having just completed their mock exams, the focus is now sharpened for our students, as they head into the Christmas break for a well-earned rest. However, knowing them like we do, we are in no doubt they will want to continue studying during the festive period and will be encouraged to do so whilst enjoying time with their loved ones and getting some down time. To support this, we are adopting the **VESPA GCSE Mindset** based on research from Steve Oakes and Martin Griffin that focuses on: **Vision, Effort, Systems, Practice, Attitude**. We know how hard our students work, but we also want them to work smart, so have drilled down this term on the most effective ways to revise in each subject, so that their efforts are maximised. This will be followed up next term with our revision masterclasses led by Michelle Millar, which is always very well received.

It has been an outstanding term and the Year 11s have set the bar extremely high for the other year groups to follow.



St Oscar Romero Launch day

"The term has gone really quickly. It's been tough, but rewarding, as we had our mocks during the first week after half term. It was a good experience, which we are now learning from as we review and improve our mocks, ready to do better in our March exams" - Brendan Salazar, Principal Ambassador

"This first term back at school has been great. Being able to have the face to face interactions with teachers whilst learning in a safe environment. Taking a virtual approach to school events such as assemblies and parents evenings are all working well and still provide opportunities for us to come together as a school community" - Rhiannon Weston-Smith, Principal Ambassador.



Student Ambassadors

We have an amazing group of Ambassadors who are all outstanding in what they do to support the school. They rise to the challenge at all of our events are involved in organising teams to support areas such as rewards, house events, student mentoring, food bank, charities and student engagement.

Throughout all the events our Ambassadors show fortitude, ability and resilience. They really do showcase what St Oscar Romero Catholic School is all about – dedication, aspiration, and commitment. We are very proud of them.



Our **AMBASSADOR LEADERSHIP TEAM** are:

PRINCIPAL AMBASSADORS

Rhiannon Weston-Smith & Brendan Salazar

VICE PRINCIPAL AMBASSADORS

Molly England, Patrick King, Ellena Meakins, Adam Powell

ASSISTANT LEADERS

Victoria Azeke & Elliott Clark

YEAR 11 AMBASSADORS:

Martin Ballard, Lauren Brockwell, Ziyi Cai, Lydia Cox, Oliver Crook, Dan Horne, William Hudson, Jess Howells, Thube Moyo, Jamie Neal, Oliver Pickett, Ruby Rosser, Sene Sampeth, Emma Sparrow, Tom Scott, Joe Van Nes, Zoe White, Max Wood

YEAR 10 AMBASSADORS:

Noah Allen, Kian Bayley, Florence Churchill, Grace Handley, Sophie Holway, Ella Hobbs, Maggie Horne, William Hudson, River Jocson, Kamil Krowicki, Amy Redden, Esme Rich, Aien Sanchez, Izzie Searle, Evelyn Starbuck, Tallulah Taylor, Heidi Taylor, Jessica Trace, Amelia Van Vliet, Floran Yaardar



Attendance

We come to the end of another busy term, which has been very different due to the current pandemic.

Our students have displayed adaptability and resilience throughout this difficult time, and this is reflected in the high levels of attendance. This tells us that the processes that we have put in place have made our students feel safe and supported when they are in school.

We have continued to celebrate attendance, and thank both students and parents/carers for their support during this challenging time. We will be sending out positive postcards to students who have really worked on their attendance and made an improvement. Look out for them in the post. In the meantime, congratulations to 7T1 (Mr Larkam's Tutor Group) who are the winners of this term's attendance league and the £100 prize!



Congratulations to an amazing **320** students who have maintained **100%** attendance this term. Below is the breakdown by year group. *Keep up the fantastic work!*

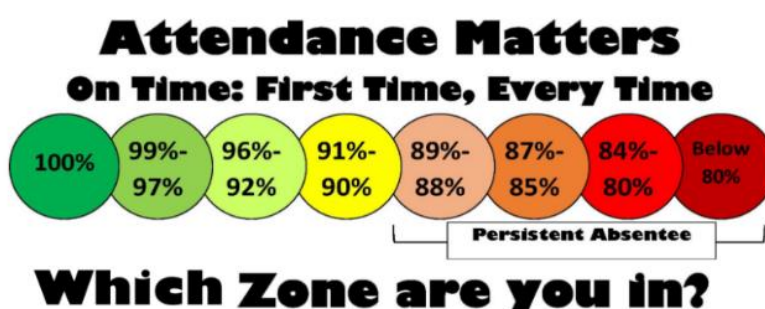
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
93	69	54	49	55

We end the year by celebrating our overall attendance and due to the current climate is a wonderful achievement. *Well done to all year groups.*

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
97.90%	96.48%	95.15	96.80%	94.91%	96.40%

We continue to work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure that your son/daughter attends school every day and on time. If you have any issues or concerns regarding your son/daughter's attendance, please contact their Form Tutor, Head of Year or Mrs Wilby, Attendance Officer.

I hope that your families stay well, healthy and safe and have an enjoyable festive break.





We would like to start off with a very big thank you for all of your contributions and incredible support in such a challenging year. This year we have seen the money raised so far go towards refurbishing and restocking the library. It has been wonderful to see the students enjoying the new area and books.

Upon cancelling our summer fair and fireworks evening we had to put our thinking caps on to create other fundraising initiatives, hence the tuck shop was born! It has been a welcome treat for students at the end of the week and we look forward to building the momentum in 2021. We are still on the lookout for a log cabin to turn this area into a more permanent feature so you can help in any way we would be delighted to hear from you for@stromeros.co.uk.



The online 'Family Quiz Night' was great success, with almost 60 families taking part. Combined with the mufti day we were able to raise £1,000 in one day! Congratulations to the Scott family, who won the £50 prize and a beautiful hamper. Based on your feedback we will be hosting more family quiz nights in 2021.

To end the year we have gone all out and created our largest raffle to date. We have received some amazing donations for prizes and look forward to sharing some festive cheer with the winners.



Alongside all these great initiatives we continue to try and find ways to raise more money for our school. We would not be able to achieve what we do without our dedicated volunteers.

FOR meet a couple of times per term and are always looking for new people to join us. Even if you can't make the meetings but can spare time to help at events it would be greatly appreciated. We also wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the Match Funding Scheme offered by many employers in our area including banks, supermarkets and corporate businesses. A small amount of your time could double the funds raised by the FOC, just by making a simple enquiry in your workplace. Smaller businesses/families may wish to sponsor equipment and events or donate fundraising supplies. If you think you can help in any way, with this year's cause or in any other way please contact us for@stromeros.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you all for your continuing support. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Key Dates

KEY DATES REMAINING FOR THE SPRING AND SUMMER TERMS 2021 (TBC)

5 th January	Tuesday	8.35am	Start of Spring Term - ALL students return to school
12 th January	Tuesday	6.30pm	Friends of Romeros
13 th January	Wednesday		Year 7 to 9 School Reports go home
14 th January	Tuesday	6pm	Year 11 Revision Day and Evening session for parents
19 th January	Tuesday	6pm	Parent Focus Group
20 th January	Wednesday	9am	Parent Focus Group
21 st January	Thursday	4pm to 7pm	Year 10 Parent Meetings
28 th January	Thursday	4pm to 7pm	Year 9 Parent Meetings
11 th February	Thursday	4pm to 7pm	Year 8 Parent Meetings
15 th to 19 th February	Half Term Break		
23 rd February	Tuesday	6pm	Meet the SENCO
24 th February	Wednesday	9am	Meet the SENCO
25 th February	Thursday	4pm to 7pm	Year 7 Parent Meetings
2 nd March	Tuesday	6.30pm	Friends of Romeros
9 th March	Tuesday	6pm	Parent Focus Group
10 th March	Wednesday	9am	Parent Focus Group
1 st April	Last Day of Spring Term		
19 th April	Monday	8.35am	Start of Summer Term
22 nd April	Thursday	4pm to 7pm	Year 11 Parent Meetings
27 th April	Tuesday	6.30pm	Friends of Romeros Meeting
4 th May	Tuesday	6pm	Parent Focus Group
5 th May	Wednesday	9am	Parent Focus Group
31 st May to 4 th June	Half Term Break		
8 th June	Tuesday	6pm	Meet the SENCO
9 th June	Wednesday	9am	Meet the SENCO
15 th June	Tuesday	6pm	Parent Focus Group
16 th June	Wednesday	9am	Parent Focus Group Meeting
22 nd June	Tuesday	6.30pm	Friends of Romeros
28 th June	INSET DAY		
29 th June	INSEY DAY		
8 th July	Thursday	4pm to 7pm	Year 10 Parent Meetings
19 th July	Monday	6.30pm	Sports Presentation Evening
20 th July	Tuesday	Last Day of Summer Term	