



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families are well.

As we come to the end of the Spring term, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and support during this time. In many ways it has been a term of two halves, with our first half term taking place during a national lockdown before being able to welcome our students back. I know I speak for our whole school community in saying it has been an absolute pleasure to have our students back where they belong.

Please can I start by thanking everyone who has made this such a successful term; our students, for their inspiring example; for the hard work and dedication of our staff team and governors; and finally, for our parents/carers who give our school outstanding support. I would like to say a particular thank you to Mrs Courant and the lateral flow testing team, which included volunteers, for their professionalism and the calm manner in which they embraced this task as we prepared for all students to return to school at the start of March. Please remember that home testing continues throughout the Easter break and that test results should be recorded on the NHS website (www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result). Please can I also ask that if your child does record a positive result that you contact me (pbyrne@stromeros.co.uk) in case we need to track and trace possible contacts. As always, thank you for your support with this.

Since returning, students have settled into their studies, engaged positively with our updated covid routines, and continue to be kind and supportive of each other. It has been wonderful to restart our extra-curricular programme, including a wide range of sporting clubs, as well as D of E Expedition preparation. Please keep encouraging your child to participate in an extra-curricular club or enrichment opportunity so that they develop their talents and contribute to their portfolio of evidence for sixth form colleges, future employers and apprenticeships. Additionally, activities beyond the classroom support a strong sense of well-being and good mental health.

My thanks to Mr Noye and all parents/carers who engaged in our curriculum consultation regarding the length of our key stage three curriculum. Key Stage 3 will

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Headteacher update

Newsround from departments;
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Science
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Extended Learning;

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Finger Prints

The DofE Award

Head of House Report

Head of Year Reports

Student Ambassadors

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St Romero's Media

now extend into Year 9, with students choosing their options during Year 9 rather than at the end of Year 8, as they have done in previous years. This will ensure that our curriculum has sufficient breadth and will enable our students to make their option decisions with greater knowledge and awareness of each subject.

Highlights of the Spring term included UK Maths Challenge, Pi Day (which I am trying not to remember!), National Careers and Apprenticeship Week, Holocaust Memorial Day, Duke of Edinburgh and John Muir activities, parents' evenings, and World Book Day. World Book Day was, once again, a joyful day of celebration and fun, with lots of students and staff dressing up as characters from books. My thanks to Mrs Shanley, and the English Department, who continue to inspire our students and embed a reading culture across our school. A huge thank you to all parents/carers who sponsored a book for our new library. Every penny of the £1,500 and more has been spent on books and our library continues to be a place of inspiration.

Perhaps the highpoint of the term was our school Feast Day on 24th March, in which our day began with a whole school Mass with Bishop Richard, before breaking out into team activities and sports on the field. In the afternoon, the Soul Band performed and the students enjoyed being able to spend time with their friends, not to mention eating one of the 900 cupcakes that Mrs Bowden made. In preparation for our Feast Day, Year 7 and 8 attended a talk by Julian Filochowski, a personal friend of St Oscar Romero, while the older years watched the film Romero. We know the students enjoyed these activities and we continue to learn what it means to have St Oscar Romero as our Patron.

During the Spring term major building work took place, including converting the 'old' music room to our school chapel, as well as creating a new physiotherapy and hygiene room. We are also delighted to open our new strength and conditioning and boxing area. My thanks to the site team who have been working flat out, updating classrooms and replacing existing lighting with new energy efficient LEDs.

I would like to welcome the following new member of staff, Learning Support Assistant, Lucy Paine.

As the term draws to a close, we say farewell to Miss Phillips, a member of the MFL team. Miss Phillips joined our school three years ago as a student teacher and started as an NQT in 2019. Miss Phillips teaches French, Spanish and German and we wish her luck as she takes up her new position in Hove.

We look forward to the Summer term with a sense of optimism that things continue to return to normal, enabling us to be able to celebrate some of the high points in the school year. These include our Summer Fayre, our Music Concert and the finals of the STRUT Cup Talent Show. Despite the restrictions of covid, the Friends of Romero have continued to fundraise and are already planning for the Summer Fayre. Further details will follow, but please save the date of Saturday, 10th July, as our Summer Fayre is always a wonderful community celebration, as well as their biggest fundraising event. My thanks to Mrs Baker, and the entire Friends of Romero team, who do so much for our students.

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 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, their progress or school life in general.

The new term begins on Monday, 19th April 2021, when all students should return to school at 8.35am looking smart, refreshed and ready to pursue the opportunities and challenges of the new term.

Finally, on behalf of the whole school community, I would like to wish you and your family all the blessings of Easter.

God Bless,
Mr P Byrne – Headteacher



Art

The Art, Textiles and Graphics department are happy to welcome students back into the art studios to do practical work.

Year 7's and 8's working at home for art have been doing 'observational drawing', all teachers have been so impressed with the skill in their drawing and really enjoyed seeing their work on Google classroom. Now the students are back, they are developing and refining their Romero and Llort cross designs and preparing to paint the real wooden crosses, which they will be able to keep. The giant school cross inspired by Fernando Llort, designed by Ms Langley and painted by previous student, Isabella Harrison-Horn, is to be put up outside the chapel for all the school to enjoy.

final cross design

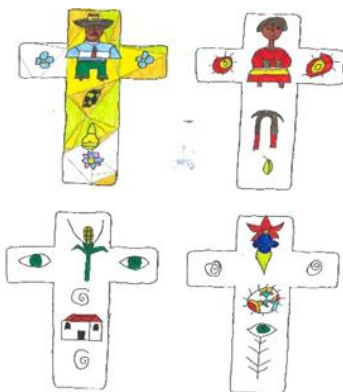


I have improved my designs by...

*adding colour,
making the symbols more complex, adding new symbols
changing the composition.*

My symbols mean...

*All seeing eye - God, Dove - holy spirit, book - bible,
house - community, sea - my love of swimming,
tree - my love of the countryside*

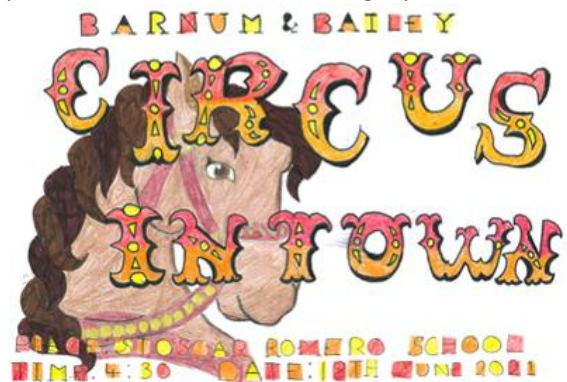


Llort/Romero cross designs

Year 7 Textiles working at home have been making wonderful posters with drawings and information for; endangered sea creatures, using various textiles like cotton and wool. Now they are back in the art studios they will start making their 'Textile Rock pools' out of real fabric, for the DT rotation. The rock pools will come alive with; dyed starfish, embroidered anemone, stencilled sea creatures and embossed aluminium can fish.



Year 7 Graphics working from home have been drawing a variety of Circus themed illustrations, including the 'Madame' style font and tarot cards, before moving onto creating fantastic advertisement posters. The students, working with Miss Longman, have developed their understanding of the effects of a visual image and the compositional elements of creating a poster.



Year 8 Textiles working at home have been drawing and researching Native American culture including; totem poles, animal symbols, feathers and eagles. In class the students are making Native American wall hangings where even more new techniques are being taught, for example; weaving, feather painting and making dream catchers, with Ms Langley.



Year 8 Graphics working from home have excelled in their drawing skills, studying Indian style references such as Rangoli, Mehndi and Mandala patterns. In addition, they also researched religions in India and drew a study of a Deity. In school students learnt to create a double layered Taj Mahal illustration and experimented with poly tile printing with Miss Longman.



Year 9 Art students have been doing observational drawing at home and have now mounted all the work for their GCSE portfolios. Students have returned to their German Expressionism unit and are developing their ideas for their collage one and two point perspective compositions. A crack squad of students will be putting up the new mural to celebrate the school name change in the style of the artist Fernando Lloret which will be displayed outside the hall.



Year 9 Graphics students have continued with the ongoing typography project, working from home. Students have been researching a brand of their choice, such as Chanel, Netflix, Nike etc., and have been redesigning the logotype belonging to this brand. Students have been refining their ideas, and have come back into school ready to present their work before completing a final piece.



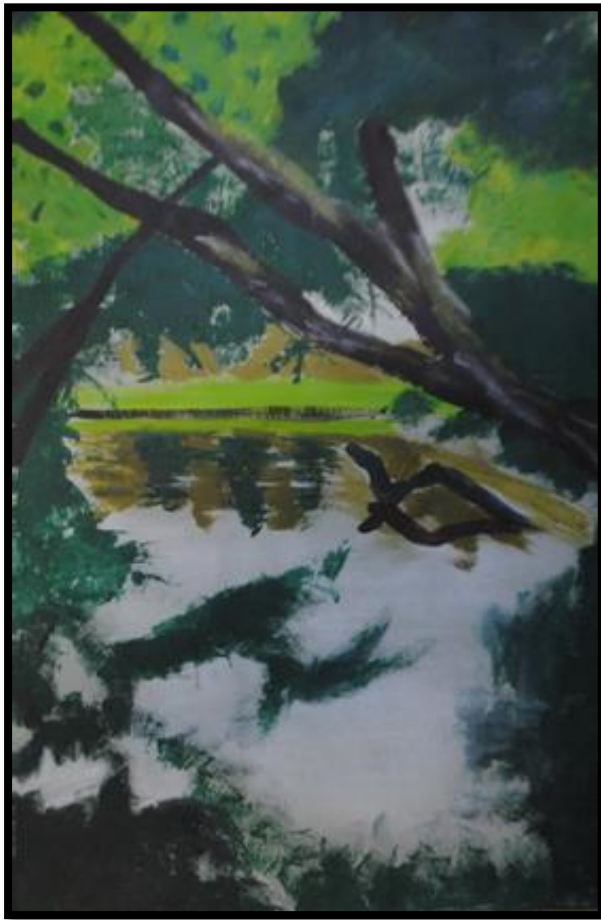
Year 10 Art students at home have been making studies of other Still Life artists throughout history to contemporary times, the work has been mounted and annotated and is now part of their Still Life GCSE unit. Still Life is the principle genre in art history and now the students are back they are developing their ideas and will be working towards their final pieces.



Year 10 Graphics students have been continuing with their photography based 'Identity' unit from home. The initial and developed ideas which students have been designing are outstanding! Students have been drawing upon the ideas and styles of three different photographers; John Stezaker, Sean Williams and Marcelo Monreal, to create their own digitally manipulated portrait. Students are now ready to start their final pieces.



Year 11 Art have been working on their mock exam since September, even during lockdown 3, and are now in the finishing stages of their final pieces. Ms Langley is extremely pleased and proud of the work they have produced and is forecasting the best results since she took over the department three years ago.



Year 11 Mock Exam

The student of the term is Keira Arnold in year 11 Art, for her incredible vision and work ethic. Keira is now a published illustrator for the book 'Queenie Corona and the Ten Little Prints' by Tara Aryan. The Art department is planning to have the end of year Art exhibition of KS3 and GCSE; Art, Graphics and Textiles work. If we are able, we will have the usual private view with; music, performance and refreshments.

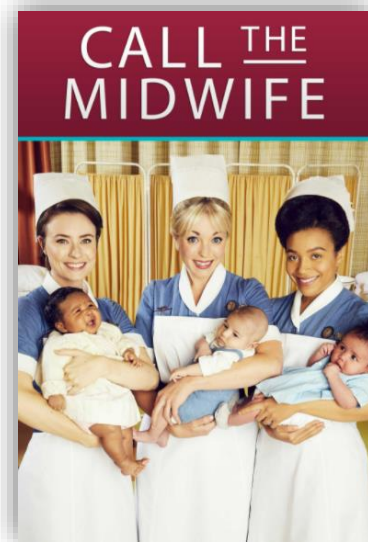


Child Development

In such strange and troubling times I am so proud to say my Child Development students continue to work hard, with passion and enthusiasm. This term year 9's have been continuing to study for the exam element of the course and learning all about postnatal care, such as immunisation schedules, common childhood illnesses and how to recognise their signs and symptoms. They have also enjoyed watching a couple of episodes of Call the Midwife to observe how midwifery and post-natal care has changed over time.

Age at which to immunise	Diseases protected against	Vaccines offered
2 months old	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib) Pneumococcal disease Rotavirus	DTaP/IPV/Hib PCV Rotavirus
3 months old	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Hib Meningococcal group C disease (MenC) Rotavirus	DTaP/IPV/Hib MenC Rotavirus
4 months old	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Hib Pneumococcal disease	DTaP/IPV/Hib PCV
12–13 months old	Hib/MenC Pneumococcal disease Measles, mumps, rubella	Hib/MenC PCV MMR
2–3 years old (gradually to include all 2–16 year olds by 2015)	Influenza (given prior to the flu season in Sept/Oct)	Flu nasal spray (annual)
3 years and 4 months old	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio Measles, mumps, rubella	dTaP/IPV or DTaP/IPV MMR
12–13 years old (girls)	Cervical cancer caused by human papillomavirus types 16 and 18 (and genital warts caused by types 6 and 11)	HPV
Around 14 years old	Tetanus, diphtheria, polio MenC	Td/IPV MenC
Young adult catch-up to start 2014 (probably for five years)	MenC (before starting higher or further education)	MenC
65 years old	Pneumococcal disease	PPV
≥65 years old	Influenza (given prior to the flu season in Sept/Oct)	Flu injection (annual)
70 years old	Shingles	Shingles
From 28 weeks of pregnancy	Pertussis	dTaP/IPV

Source: Adapted from Public Health England⁷



Year 10's also continue working very hard indeed on the first of two portfolios they need to complete for their final qualification. 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. To ensure they retain knowledge of what they learnt in year 9, homework and assessments have been aimed at revising the exam element of the course.

Given the period of uncertainty for Year 11's regarding final exams and grades, I have to give so much credit to the commitment and hard work they have put into their portfolio and not losing focus. They have worked incredibly hard to finish and polish their portfolio and alongside that, continued to revise and complete practice exam papers in preparation for final assessments after Easter.

Well done to you all!



Mr Gonzalez
Head of Computing



Dance



Dancing through Lockdown 3.0 and beyond!

We believe in our Dance department that it is vital for our students to motivate and engage through the arts as a key contributor of mental and health wellbeing, encouraging deeper understanding of the art form and working on a professional level.

As previously stated in the newsletter, we still continue with that ethos at our core.

This term the dancers really have been non-stop! From Feast day to Easter they have been in high demand.

Lockdown meant adapting our dance lessons online and at school for keyworker students. The students at school explored a range of aesthetic pathways including influence from the Rocky/Creed franchise as a stimulus to create movement.



Whilst those at home used restricted space to alter movement, this happened via Zoom to Lewis Capaldi's 'Rush'. Taking full advantage of this time, and showing everyone how resilient they are, the students filmed themselves at home and contributed to our 'Zoom Dance Trailer'.

Now we are back to school the students and the Dance department started off with a bang! The department launched the Dance Leaders from Year 9 and Year 10, they will head the Dance student faculty, making decisions to benefit the department and develop their leadership skills with the younger years dance club.

Curriculum

After the GCSE Dancers completed their second professional piece of work, in the 8 weeks of remote learning, we have begun our third professional work 'Artificial Things' by Lucy Bennett (a local Worthing choreographer/Dancer). Students continue to show dedication and commitment to their course and true Romero resilience.

Back in the studio the students have started learning choreography, being able to choreograph freely through motif development and fragmentation of taught phrases. The students researched their given stimulus and will perform in a 'mock choreography day' in order to prepare for their exam year, booking their own rehearsal slots and sessions with Miss Standing for assistance. We could not be prouder of them all.

Extra-Curricular

The end of last term saw the end of 'Ocean Eyes' by Billie Eilish and saw the launch of a new Dance club favourite 'Bad Guy' by the same artist!

The students have been working with more advanced choreography and adapting contemporary styles with some tap influence!

Rehearsal are well under way for our Easter performance, we have had to adapt all live performances due to the government guidelines to keep all students, staff and community safe, therefore this year we will be performing outside showing a representation of Jesus carrying the cross, knocked down by soldiers and helped to his feet by Mary. Our GCSE Dancers & Dance Leaders will be performing in this piece and have all helped choreograph the cavalcade.

Dance photoshoot for our Dance Instagram page @romerodanceandPE.





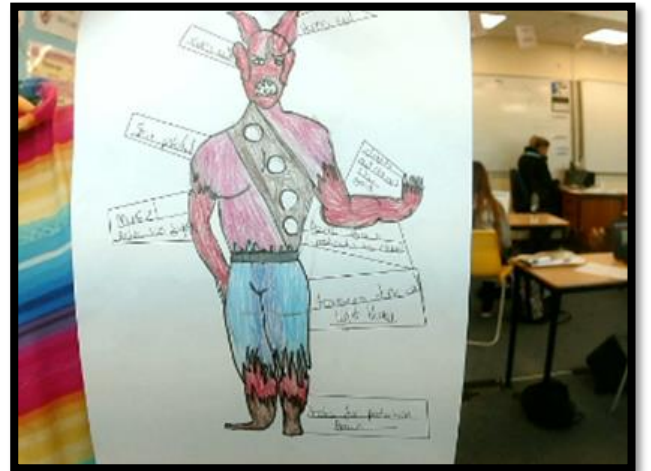
Drama

We are so proud of our students and how they have turned their hand once again to a wide range of design and production tasks during their remote learning in drama.

Lower school began with a range of projects in response to 'Grimm Tales Hansel and Gretel' with set designs and costume designs a plenty using their secure knowledge of how the stage works. We had flats, cycloramas, trap doors and use of the pit and wings to name a few of the key aspects considered when designing.



Year 7 then moved onto their Beowulf and Grendel fight scenes and chose from story boards, animated movies or costume designs, whilst year 8 had the opportunity to make Commedia masks or design costumes in keeping with the style and period of time.



Year 9 continued on their script journey by analysing characters from 'I love you Mum I promise I won't die' a hard hitting but a vital part of their learning in the education of drugs.

Our GCSE students were able to tackle written components linked to their GCSE exam and fully prepare for their practical exams on return to school. A huge well done to all our GCSE students who are now delighted to be able to put all that hard work into their practical study.

Our year 9 GCSE students have been hard at work on a new play in which they have created their own theatre company with the hope to have the first 'bubble' school production in the Summer term. Watch this space and keep an eye open for information as we head into the new term.

We are delighted to have our students back in the drama studio and being practical again.

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to the Summer term!



Enterprise



From January until 8th March, we were back to online learning and the Year 9 group who have started this course with Mr Rosiello have done amazingly well learning from home. The BTEC Enterprise course is a very interactive one, whereby students get the opportunity to do lots of research. Working from home, students carried out various tasks revising the content started from September. Students also did lots of work on BBC Bitesize. This is a great resource as it has lots of content with real life business examples – students then quiz themselves at the end.

We also had lots of fun on Zoom with various quizzes on Kahoot and Quizlet which students very much enjoy – as they love competing against one another.



Now that we are back in school, students are undergoing their first assignment which is part of their coursework. Students are required to put all their theoretical knowledge of the content they have learnt so far into practice – by researching 2 very different local small or medium enterprises. Some students have already really impressed Mr Rosiello by going above and beyond what is expected of them and sent questionnaires and surveys to their chosen businesses which is a great idea as due to social distancing and Covid-19, a lot of these enterprises are currently closed. That doesn't stop some of our students getting the information they need though, so well done to those who are showing lots of enthusiasm for their subject and are being very proactive.



As soon as school trips are given the green light, Mr Rosiello is very keen to take the BTEC Enterprise students on an unforgettable trip, possibly to New York! New York is of course one of the business capitals of the world. Watch this space for hopefully this to happen in Year 10 for our current BTEC Enterprise students.

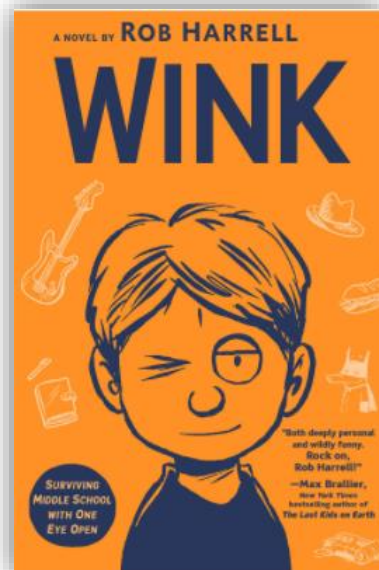


English

“A book is a dream you hold in your hands.” – Neil Gaiman

We have had a very different type of Spring term this year, but as ever the English department has been busy and we continue to be very proud of our students. Remote learning was a challenging time; we are so impressed with our students for their consistency in Zoom lessons and developing their independent learning skills.

Our Year 7 students continue to impress us with their enthusiasm in English lessons and their curiosity in reading new books. This term we have studied the theme of the outsider in a range of texts and read the class novel 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell. Our Year 7 students have practised analysing texts and also compared how outsider characters are presented across a range of writers, from Charles Dickens to J. K. Rowling. Wider reading for this topic includes 'Wink' by Rob Harrell and 'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio. Students should use Accessit to browse the library for book titles and can reserve books in advance.



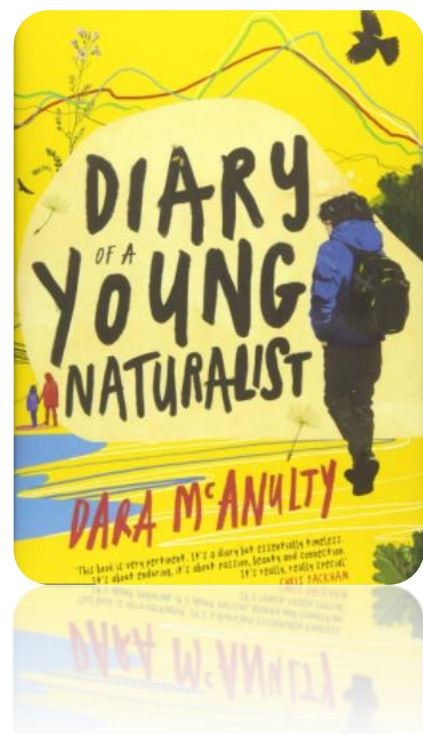
Reading is a key focus for us as a whole school and we would like to remind all students to use Accessit to browse our collection. All of our students can regularly visit our well stocked library and we would like to thank Mrs Shanley for her incredible efforts in maintaining such an inspiring space for reading. 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. Please also ask your child to show you Accessit and its amazing search features. You may even find a title for yourself! There is a Loom video on the Accessit homepage for further guidance, together with the provider's own video about how to get the most out of the app.

Our love of reading recently inspired us to celebrate our very own World Book Day, so that students could engage with events once they were back in school. This culminated in a fabulous day of staff and students dressing up as their favourite literary characters. Check out our Facebook page for some amazing photos, which will give you a taste of the great reading culture in our school.



Miss Gayler, our lead teacher of Lexonik, has started new groups working with our Year 7 students to develop vocabulary knowledge and reading skills. Students have been learning about prefixes, root words and suffix definitions. As you may know, 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. Last term our students gained an average of 31 months in their reading ages over just six weeks! If you are interested in finding out more about this programme, why not check out lexonik.co.uk, where there is a Vimeo to watch demonstrating how teachers engage students in the fast paced lessons.

Nature has been the theme for our year 8 Students this term; we have read texts exploring the power, beauty and importance of the natural world. This unit has embedded non-fiction reading skills in our lessons and students have experienced texts from the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries. First person diaries and memoirs have been a central focus and we encourage students to read the recent smash hit by teenager Dara McNulty 'Diary of a Young Naturalist', which won the 2020 Wainwright Prize. To further develop reading skills and knowledge, please also encourage your child to explore the RSPB website and join their Wild Challenge (<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/families/family-wild-challenge/>). There is also a lovely new collection of nature books in the library which have been recommended by our wonderful Geography teachers, to further inspire your child's love of English and the world around them.



Year 9 are also very busy as they become GCSE ready with an introduction to a study of 'An Inspector Calls'. Thank you to those parents who have already purchased the Heinemann Edition of this GCSE Set Text by J.B. Priestley which we advise all students to own. If you are a pupil premium student, a copy of the text will be given to you free of charge. Whilst Remote Learning has been challenging at times, it has also enabled us all to develop our online teaching and learning skills. For many students, it has been an opportunity to develop independence and prove that their organisational skills are first class. Thank you all for your reading challenge and poetry challenge entries-there were so many which proved difficult when being asked to select a winner. Thank you also for your fantastic effort during our recent Creative Writing Dropdown day activities as part of your Pillars of Possibility challenges.

What a busy term it has been for year 10! At the start of Lockdown, year 10 were ploughing through their paper 2 language paper preparation and learning how to become proficient at the art of arguing! Who would have thought that teenagers would be lacking in such a skill? We are of course referring here to the art of rhetoric and ask that all parents keep this art alive by engaging with their son or daughter in worthwhile debates. Newspapers and documentaries offer a great way into opening up discussions and would help year 10 enormously as they prepare for their speaking and listening recorded presentations, scheduled for late April to early May 2021. All students have their speaking and listening preparation booklet, which they should be steadily working through between now and to the end of April. Year 10 have also begun their study of AQA Power and Conflict poetry as part of their GCSE Literature Assessment. Why not dip into the anthology to gain an insight into the range of poems students need to have a secure knowledge of? Some are classics, whilst others may well be by poets you are not so familiar with but are sure to find thought provoking.

Next term, we are also hoping to offer movie nights to years 9 and 10 to screen both 'Macbeth' and 'An Inspector Calls' as it is vital to see these plays as pieces of theatre. Thank you to all who supported our live streaming of 'A Christmas Carol' which we very much look forward to re-launching in the near future. Why not get ahead by beginning your study of Macbeth over the summer, ready for the academic year ahead?

We are very proud of our Year 11 students, who have come back into school with a real determination to work hard and do their best in the summer. P7 revision has resumed and our focus is currently on English Language Paper 2. Students are given challenging homework tasks which incorporate exam practice and key content revision. Please support them with using a range of techniques to learn their quotes and knowledge of 'An Inspector Calls', 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

Finally, we would like to thank all parents and carers for their amazing 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 lovely Easter holiday!



Library

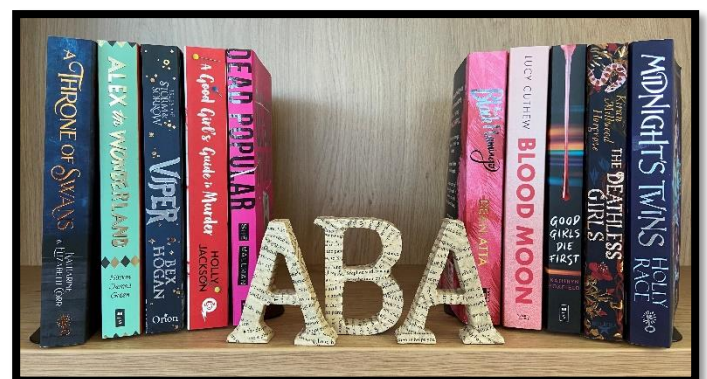
"Books are good company, in sad times and happy times, for books are people – people who have managed to stay alive by hiding between the covers of a book."

E.B White Author of Charlotte's Web

The library has been in full swing all term. Throughout lockdown, students have been given the opportunity to borrow books via our click and collect service using the Accessit icon on our school homepage. Just one click will enable you to browse all the amazing books on Accessit and order from our superb collection of both fiction and non-fiction. Students can search by a key word or author then they just email me at vshanley@stromeros to borrow it and the book will be waiting for them in the library to collect.

Why not follow the school on Twitter and Facebook as I regularly post news and brand new books being added to the library stock. You will be amazed at the choice of books on offer from the very best teenage authors, manga, graphic novels and well known classics!

The ABA's (Amazing Book Awards) was launched this term. This book reading extravaganza involves a selection of Year 9 and 10 students forming a "book club" to read, discuss and ultimately vote for our favourite. The reading project concludes with an Awards Evening with all the other participating schools within West Sussex which will be virtual this year but hosted in our library which makes sense as our library is incredible! There are some absolutely stunning stories this year, it was a challenge for school librarians to select titles from the exciting long list, but here are the contenders.



What can you do to help your son/daughter read?

Send them to me! Support them at home by enabling them to find time and space where they will be able to have an uninterrupted place to read. Lockdown has made students (and us) receive information very fast, whether that be via a computer, television or mobile. Reading is naturally slower, it sometimes requires

patience but ALWAYS gives rewards. This is why it is so relaxing and good for reducing our stress levels. Why not turn off the television or mobile and read for a set amount of time each day so that readers build their stamina? I am here with Accessit to help them find a book which they can and will want to read.

World Book Day

This year, instead of having a remote World Book Day we decided to move it to when the students were back in school. This has meant that the staff have had the chance to brush off those costumes and find their wigs! We all dressed up as either a “recognisable book character” or a character you would expect to find in a genre.



We also had a Potato character competition, a book title poster competition and a Harry Potter Competition. There was also the chance to vote and choose a book for a staff member to read. The students have really enjoyed this opportunity and it has helped to encourage them to keep reading. I wonder what Mr Byrne and the rest of the staff will have to say about the book which students chose for them.



History

Year 7 have been studying Tudor Monarchs this half term and the religious changes that came along with them. From Henry VII winning the Wars of the Roses through to Elizabeth I and her Religious Settlement, students have seen how the connection between Church and State has changed and how different people have been persecuted as a result. The effort that year 7 students put in throughout lockdown was extremely high, and their commitment to their studies has been exceptional.

Year 8 students have started the New Year by looking at how Europe has changed between 1919 and 1939. A study into life in Weimar and Nazi Germany, which will prepare them for their GCSE unit which looks into this in more detail. Since returning from lockdown, students have started to look at the different events of the Second World War and their impact on the people of Britain.

Students across **years 9 and 10** have been looking into how world powers went from alliances in 1945, to enemies at the start of the Cold War. The GCSE unit focuses on source analysis so students have been looking at political cartoons from the 1940s and making inferences from them. This is the second part of their 'Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World' and is building on their knowledge of Germany and Europe in the first part of the 20th Century.

Year 11 have been brilliant in dealing with the upheaval and changes to their summer exams, which is a massive credit to them. We have been revising our unit on Elizabethan England and working on exam skills. The students will be sitting assessments on each of the three units that they have been revising this year and this will go towards helping to provide evidence for their final grade. Everything that is currently being looked at will be useful in some way for this process.



Geography

Year 7: The focus at the start of 2021 has been on developing an understanding of natural hazards. Lockdown lessons were made more engaging with the emphasis on the cause, impacts and responses to natural hazards such as earthquakes and volcanoes. This culminated in an assessment where the students had to compare to major earthquakes and the effects on countries with varying levels of development.



Year 8 students focused on the topic of climate change, the emphasis was on the cause, impacts and response to tackling climate change and how humans can adapt to a warmer world. The students actively listened to stories about young climate change activists and their impact and importance in the world. They then had to write a letter of appeal from the perspective of the Maldivian president on the best way to protect and mitigate against the rising sea levels and the devastating future impacts on their country.

Year 9: By 2050 it is predicted that nearly 70% of the world will live in urban areas. Students have been learning more about urban challenges and opportunities. They have been exploring the world through studying interactive story maps.



Year 10: Students have been developing their understanding of coastal environments this half term. The focus has been on understanding coastal process, landforms and management. The aim has been to develop high-level evaluation and analytical skills related to different coastal environments around the UK.

Year 11: The emphasis for year 11 has been on understanding development and exploring the reasons why we have increasing global inequality. What is the fundamental cause of poverty: historical, physical or economic? This was an idea explored through independent study. Students completed an activity using the gapminder website "dollar street". Students had to identify an everyday item or object and explore how this changed, depending on the development of the country and reflect upon these changes.



Mathematics

Well, what a term it has been for our mathematicians! We are incredibly proud of our students who have coped with an academic year that has involved face to face learning, followed by another period of lockdown. We are delighted to report that the engagement of students with their Maths lessons during the lockdown averaged at around 95% of all lessons being completed by the school, this was a combination of attending zoom lessons and engaging with remote learning tasks. What fantastic students we have!

It is great to now be back in the classroom and the students have settled back into the lessons with ease. Can we please ask that you check that all students have the correct mathematical equipment for their lessons. Calculators and other equipment can be purchased via Wisepay.

Our trainee teachers from Brighton University will be leaving us at the end of the Spring term to move on to their second placement. We thank Miss Palser and Mr Kenny for all their hard work within the department and wish them all the best for their final placements. Mr Ozeren, our PGCE student from Sussex University, will remain with us until the end of his course in June. We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Kundishora, a PGCE student from Chichester University and Ms Purcell and Ms Toth-Pallos from Brighton University. We are very fortunate to have built strong links with our local universities and are very proud to play a part in training future maths teachers.

We are also delighted to have appointed two of our PGCE students to the maths team, Miss Palser and Mr Ozeren: they will begin their posts in September.

Hegarty Maths

We are now in our third year of Hegarty Maths being our homework platform, and we have seen a huge increase in independent learning from our students. It has also been an essential tool during remote learning, helping students get the best possible deal they could from a difficult situation.

Our Lockdown Learning stats are as follows:

- Been set a total of **13362** tasks across the school
- Have answered **143201** questions!
- Have answered **115926** questions correctly first time!
- Have completed **4085** hours of learning!

Our Hegarty Maths Lockdown Learning Stars are as follows:

Most Questions Answered	Year 7	Emily Clarke
	Year 8	Alfie Armet
	Year 9	Jamie Shinkfield
	Year 10	James Winton
	Year 11	Zoe White
Most Hours Spent Learning	Year 7	Emily Clarke
	Year 8	Alfie Armet
	Year 9	Jamie Shinkfield
	Year 10	Keona Colbran
	Year 11	Mia Tofield
Most Reattempts	Year 7	Darcey Stride
	Year 8	Alfie Armet
	Year 9	Alexander Junor
	Year 10	Benjamin Leech
	Year 11	Molly England

UKMT

This year's UKMT competition went ahead for Year 9 & 10 students and took place in class over two lessons. The students worked really hard and certificates were awarded to the following students:

Year 9 Bronze Certificates:

Heather	Moyo
Lily-Rose	Cooke
Bianca	Toribio
Lois	Keane
Luca	Marc
Innis	Jeffries
Leon	Sanchez
Erin	Trotter
Chiara	Ballard
Bae	Calvert
Carl	Gonzales

Year 9 Gold Certificate:

Caitlin	Lupton
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Year 10 Bronze Certificates:

Bella	Saunders
Zack	Muyeres
Izzie	Rose
Kaie	Peapell
Joseph	Finch

Year 10 Silver Certificates:

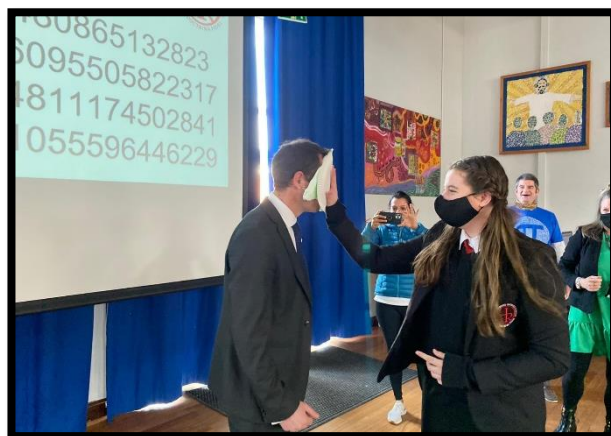
Amelia	Kaszewska
Evelyn	Starbuck

Pi Day 2021

We were so pleased to be back in school to be able to celebrate Pi Day which falls on the 14th March each year. We hold an annual competition for the students to memorise as many digits of Pi as they can. The current school record is held by Kathryn Rimmer, who memorised 200 digits of Pi!

This year's finalists were Joe Van Nes, Marshall Cocks, Lewis Wells, Amelia Van Vliet, Chloe Weller, Mark Rowe, Sandra Zurowska, Ashley Coleman, Daisy-Jayne Hannaford-Murphy and Charlie Rose Connor.

The overall winner was Charlie Rose of Year 7 who memorised 112 digits of Pi! Well done Charlie Rose! Here she is performing her prize: 'Pie-ing' Mr Byrne in the face!!



Mr Noye was also a great sport and let the winner of Year 11, Joe Van Nes, 'pie' him in the face too!



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 us proud as always with their efforts in maths, going above and beyond in many cases. We are delighted that they are such a credit to the community!



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

It has been a strange start to 2021 in the department with another lockdown and schools closed. That did not stop lots of language learning going on! Here are some pictures of amazing lockdown work from our students. We saw some very creative work, which has been rewarded with points on Edulink. Well done to all our students.



Students are still loving the Duolingo assignments we regularly set them – this has been turned into a House Competition so look out for the results of winners!



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.

Please note new Linguascope login details!!!
Username = stromeros / Password = excellence



Year 7 lockdown learning was a real challenge learning how to play keyboard without classroom equipment. However, we found some interactive online keyboard platforms, and did our best but we sure are enjoying being back at school with real music equipment!



Year 7 have recently been exploring classical music in class with help from BBC Ten Pieces. Our study of orchestral music so far has included:

- In the Hall of the mountain king (Grieg), strings
- Mars from the Planets (Holst), brass
- Symphony no 5 (Beethoven), woodwind
- A short ride in a Fast Machine, percussion

We are currently having our first attempts at creating our own masterpieces using Garageband or Logic, and there are currently a real mixture of results, from simple to complex that please the ear, and that don't quite yet....

Year 8 played and wrote Blues songs in January lockdown, including the outstanding 'Lockdown Blues' from Tadiwa. We are currently exploring songwriting including lyrics, melodies, chords, and backing tracks. Song topics include party songs, love songs, rejection songs and rebel songs. There's even a song about how much 5 boys love chicken! Coming soon to a year 8 assembly near you...

Year 9 have returned to school to FINALLY mix their band songs that were recorded in October. We have started to go through the production steps including choosing takes, noise gating, compression, adding EQ, reverb and other effects. This topic never fails to deliver amusing noises coming both from computers and students.

Year 9 GCSE Music have been playing and creating film music, being inspired by films such as James Bond, Batman, Titanic, Harry Potter, and Mission Impossible. Their latest work includes Blues and Jazz performances and creations, including riffs, swing rhythms, syncopation and improvisation.

Year 10 Music have been working their way through the Classical Music Eras, and submitting performance videos in lockdown. Since being back at school we have been applying our knowledge of musical elements to create original and inspiring compositions in a variety of moods and genres.

Year 11's main focus this term has been completing their respective courses. Giorgio is always happy as long as there's some syncopation. The highlights continue, even in these last 4 weeks of returning to school, including:

- GCSE performance of Eine Kleine Nachtmusik Minuet and Trio (Mozart)
- Ellie's emotionally charged vocals
- Jack's incredible bass grooves
- Elyza's 80s guitar riffs
- Jenson's improvisations on our class medley favourite, 'Next To Me'
- Louis' drumming to Arctic Monkey tracks (which usually get a very favourable review from Mr Garratt's classes too)

Our final request is that Jacob play 'Blues for Beth' to make our time in Music complete.

Current Covid restrictions advise that we sing outside, so 7 Oxford and 7 Cambridge choirs have been we have been sharing our singing of rounds with the English Department, outside Mr Byrne's office, to mixed reviews. O re mi ja ka jo **ELLO!**

O re mi je ka
Jo, ello ello, (clap clap)
O re mi je ka
Jo. (clap, clap, clap, clap)

O re mi je ka
Jo, ello ello, (clap clap)
O re mi je ka
Jo. (clap, clap, clap, clap)

Baba mi, ayami
 (clap, clap, clap)
Baba mi, ayami
 (clap, clap, clap)

O re mi je ka
Jo, ello ello, (clap clap)
O re mi je ka
Jo. (clap, clap, clap, clap)

Chamber choir continues to draw keen singers who sang beautifully at both our Saints Day and Easter Liturgy. They combined with our Year 7 choirs to record audio and video for an amazing project that Mr Garratt led during lockdown. The final production is going to be outstanding!



West Sussex music are currently undergoing a company restructure, but we are pleased to say that all our existing instrumental teachers will continue to teach at St Romeros. All teachers have spaces available for both new and experienced students.



Please contact the music department for information about lessons in violin, flute, clarinet, saxophone, voice, keyboard, piano, ukulele and guitar, and drum kit.





Physical Education

Virtual School Games

Once we moved into Lockdown 3, Active Sussex moved quickly and provided children across the country with another round of the Virtual School Games – Winter Sport Edition! Our students did us proud, consistently finishing within the top eight secondary schools in Sussex for engagement. Thank you to all those students/families who supported us with this competition. Our most active students were Alfie Bye, Angelina Gjoka, Darcey Stride, Deion Williams, Dora Halasz, Elena Simmonds, Elliott Thurlow, Ffion Powell, Jenny Reese, Jessie Chao, Leland Backhouse, Oliver Hudson, Olivia Thornley, Rafferty Howcroft, Ronald Reese, Shay Wheeler and Tallulah Taylor.



Sussex Schools Virtual Cross Country

The Sussex Athletics Association ran a Virtual Cross Country event for students across the county. Between the 20th and 24th of March, students were asked to run a 4000m off road and record using GPS. We have had some

amazing entries so far including, Ella Peapell (Year 7) with 20:06, Henry Chandler (Year 8) with 16:50 and Joe Van Nes (Year 11) with 16:01. We are awaiting final results and will announce these in our next newsletter.



Lockdown Activity

Despite the lockdown, it was fantastic to see our students being creative and remaining physically active. We received HUNDREDS of photos via the PE tracker during the first half term, and below are some of the best:



Spring Curriculum & Extra Curricular

Our returning Spring curriculum has included a diverse range of activities and provided students with a safe, broad and balanced PE curriculum. This has included fitness, netball, football, dance, rugby, short tennis and boccia. Once we return from Easter we will move onto athletics, rounders, cricket and gymnastics.





PSHE through Lockdown 3.0

When we went into our lockdown after Christmas we continued our PSHE programme via Zoom tutor calls. On a Monday and Friday tutors met up with their groups and checked in with them and also delivered PSHE and RSE sessions as well as the Pillars of Possibility Programme on. For tutors it was really important to see their tutees and check in with them as we did not want our Students to feel out of touch with the normal school routine.

In Term 3 Students celebrated World Religion Day and Safer Internet Week remotely – I will be talking a bit more about Safer Internet Week below. So far Students have also had a session raising awareness for Eating Disorder Awareness Week and will be engaging in some activities for International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the 21st of March.

To give you a brief overview of what our Students have engaged with over lockdown and in this term please see the table below:

	Term 3 (after Christmas)	Term 4 (from 22.02.2021)
Year 7	Families	Healthy Living
Year 8	My school and options	Human Rights and Discrimination
Year 9	Money	Mental Wellbeing
Year 10	Respectful Relationships	Crime and Criminality
Year 11	Human and Civil Rights	Being Safe

Safer Internet Week



Rugby Club

Romero's have begun an exciting journey, seeking to develop rugby as an established sport among male and female students. The values the game represents such as Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship, align strongly with our ethos as a faith school and we are very pleased to have secured the services of Del Cole of Saracens RFC, as well as establishing a strong partnership with Worthing RFC, who will be supporting us with our rugby development next term, leading to a festival of rugby at the end of May.

Additionally, last week, we launched our ambitions plans to run a 2022 or 2023 sports and cultural tour to South Africa, where the focus sports will be rugby and netball and we have had over 100 responses thus far. If you are interested in your child being a part of this amazing experience, please make contact with Mr Noye (rnoye@stromeros.co.uk)

Rugby is a fully inclusive game and open to all students, from complete novice to club player. We look forward to many of our students enjoying the challenge and camaraderie of playing rugby for many years to follow.



This year's Safer Internet Week also had to take place remotely but was still a success in raising awareness about how to stay safe online and how parents can keep an eye on their children's online activities. Students had a discussion with their tutors on the Monday morning about how to detect whether content online can be trusted, on the Wednesday the Heads of Year delivered an assembly addressing the digital footprint students leave behind online and parents received an email update by myself every day of the week with tips, conversation starters and family activities around online safety. Please contact Miss F Brunner for further questions via fbrunner@stromeros.co.uk.

What's happening next term?

After Easter all year groups will be moving on to the units listed below.

	Term 5 (after Easter)
Year 7	Money
Year 8	British Society and Values
Year 9	Physical Health, Fitness and Self-Image
Year 10	Careers
Year 11	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention



Religious Education

For the Spring term newsletter the RE department have each offered their reflections of learning over lockdown.

Mr Ramasami

Lockdown three was an interesting time for all of us. As a classroom teacher I was amazed at how well the groups reconnected to the 'new' way of working. I felt very proud of my groups that were willing to spend the time engaging so well with the online learning material. As teachers we worked hard at trying to balance the sessions between personal interaction, pre-recorded instruction and quiet, independent working time. I think lots of us were ready to return after so much screen time, but it was certainly a significant experience. Personally I like having the opportunity to see faces in good old fashioned 3 dimensions.

Mrs Martin

I was in school 3 days a week and working from home the other two days. Lockdown was much quieter this time, more students were in school and it was so good to see them. During the evenings and weekends I spent time reading and completing some jigsaws, I love extra difficult ones!



Mr House

It was an incredibly odd experience to be a trainee RE teacher during lockdown - learning to teach through Zoom! It has made being back in the classroom an even more wonderful experience. Throughout this time I was planning the Year 9 module on Islam for the department. It explores the roots of Islam in Mecca and how it's expanded, physically and intellectually, to today - a challenging module that Y9 took in their stride!

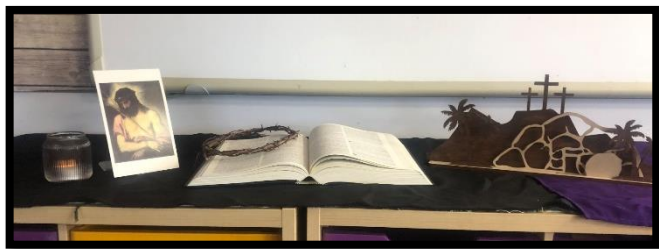
Miss Eaves

In lock down I primarily planned the Year 8 unit of work, which was on Judaism. The students really enjoyed learning about this religion, we explored Jewish beliefs, features of a synagogue, Sabbath, Passover and more.

Mr Watts – Head of RE

Entering into another time of distance learning seemed unreal at the time, a slight disbelief that it was really happening again. However due to the way the department pulled together last year, and the way the students responded to a new way of learning, I was confident that all would be well. My experience of teaching this time round was similar in the sense that despite the distance, that way of learning actually bought with it an opportunity to have a lot of good interactions with students, to see all of the work students were producing and offer a lot of direct feedback. We saw students persevere through technical difficulties, worries about being camera shy, completing the work that was needed of them; strangely in many ways that way of learning allowed us to see what students can really do. That being said, being back in school for the last four weeks have honestly been some of the best weeks I've had in teaching for some time. I have been amazed at how so many students have just got on with it. The RE department have worked hard to make what we study in RE as robust, challenging, enjoyable, meaningful and inclusive as possible. The curriculum is often being adapted and improved, with for example students in year 8 and 9 beginning newly introduced topics of 'Philosophy', inviting them to consider ideas that are mainly taught at A-Level, including Plato, Aristotle and Descartes!

The look of the RE department changes with the various seasons and festivals in world religions. At the moment we mark Lent and Easter.

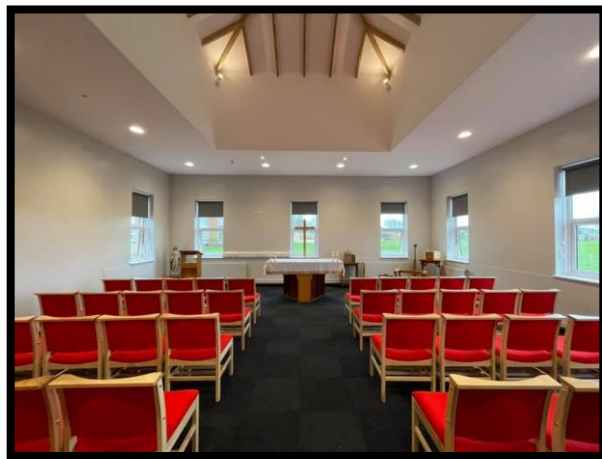


Chaplaincy

"We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest."

These words, commonly attributed to St Oscar Romero, have encouraged me since we went into Lockdown One last year. How often do we find ourselves in the trap of trying to complete a never-ending list of jobs, of ticking boxes, and finding our value in how busy we are? The truth is we accomplish so much more when we unite to work together. We realise then that we don't need to do everything, we just need to do our part. St Paul uses the great image of us as the Body of Christ, and with some humour points out that 'the eye cannot say to the hand "I don't need you", nor can the head say to the feet "I don't need you"'. We need each other, whether that is in facing challenges or celebrating success, we are not alone, and we can achieve so much together.

One of the most exciting things we have achieved since last Easter, has been the creation of our new school chapel.



One of the greatest joys of this project has come from seeing the involvement of people throughout our school community and beyond coming together to make it a reality. We have had support from our technicians in providing technical expertise, our site team have been ever on hand to resolve issues, our wonderful Art department are even now working with students to continue to bring beauty to this place as they design stain-glassed windows, and these are just a few examples in our school community.

Across the Diocese we have also been supported, with generous donations of chapel furnishings, the most wonderful of all coming in the form of a tabernacle from the Parish of St Stephen's in Horsted Keynes. This has enabled us, with great joy, to have Jesus really present with us at the heart of our school. I want to therefore finish by sharing with you a poem written by one of members of staff, Mrs Berthiaume:

***I see you in our chapel Lord
I know you're always there
To talk to me and comfort me
In times of great despair.***

***You never tire of listening
When I go on and on,
But listen very patiently
Until my moans are done.***

***Your presence is so welcoming
When passing through the door,
To sit in contemplation why
Who could ask for more?***

***So I welcome our school chapel
It's the best room on the site,
To know you are always with me
Yes, each day and every night.***



Science

"Everything is theoretically impossible, until it is done." Robert A. Heinlein.

It's been fantastic to have all year groups back into school where teaching and learning now is face to face (or mask to mask) rather than on zoom. Students have come back full of energy and eager to get learning and carrying out practicals.

For most of this term we have been in 'lockdown 3' but we have managed to get students back to practical based science and have visited our primary feeder schools as part of British Science Week.

British Science Week:

All teachers in the Science department were involved in making sure our fourth year taking part in BSW was as successful as it could be while slowly emerging from a national lockdown. Unfortunately we were unable to get all year 5 classes from our primaries into St Oscar Romero, so instead we took our event to them.

Both students and staff were encouraged to get into the spirit of British science week by entering a drawing competition and quizzes during tutor time and online quizzes entered from home.

Our new look Harry Potter event. Meet the Science team:



Mrs Byrne came up with the idea of introducing our Harry Potter event for British Science week as a zoom.

Mr Byrne of course being the wicked Voldemort. While Mr Kirby was Harry, Ms Murray-Byrne starring as Hermione, Mr Smith as Ron, Mr Bell as Draco, Miss Boyle as Professor Trelawney, Mr Clarke as Dumbledore and Mrs Byrne as Professor McGonagall.

The students really enjoyed the activities which included 'Wind and Flame', 'Potions', 'Magical Fizz' and 'Density of Mythical Objects'. Here are some pictures from one of our primary visits.



Messages from our Primary Schools

St Wilfrid's:

The children absolutely loved the experience, the activities including the video input were all engaging and the children loved them especially the fire. The quiz was a really nice addition at the end and brought all of the children back together. Thank you for such a great morning!

St Catherines:

The students were fully engaged and had lots of fun doing practical experiments on a rotation.

Ferring:

The whole experience for the students was fantastic - thank you! They loved the challenge set through watching the zoom meeting video and seeing the staff in role. The experiments were fun, engaging and a challenge encouraging team work and a variety of science, maths and other skills. They really enjoyed the quiz too getting to test out their Harry spotter knowledge as well as linking to the Year 5 Science objectives. Mr Byrne and Mr Gatenby were brilliant with the students and made the morning a memorable experience for the class. Thank you!

My class want to say thank you so much for giving up your time to do this!

St Marys

Went really well, children liked the range of activities and it was well supported.

Arundel

It was incredible. We loved how it was themed around Harry Potter and the experiments were awesome - especially the wind and flame one! The effort that had gone into the prep was amazing - even the Zoom video between the characters was excellent. Truly amazing.

BSW quizziz

A massive thank you for those students who entered the BSW QUIZZIZ. **Winners are: Raúl Blackburn-Montañés, Zack Muyeres, Daniel Blackburn-Montañés, Joseph Finch and Elisha Smith.** These winners will receive a chocolate coated prize.

The **winning tutor group** scoring 11370 point were **9T1** which is Mr Watts tutor group. They will also get a chocolate coated prize.

Year 11 Revision

The science team welcome back our year 11 for Science revision every Thursday until the start of their Teacher Assessments. Students are aware of the groups they are in and where they should go. Sessions start at 3.00pm until 4.00pm.

Year 11 Science intervention

This is now restarting from the 29th March. Year 11 parents have been emailed if their child is part of science intervention.

STEM Science Club

Science club running every Tuesday for year 7 students. This year in fell on World Book Day so some students were dressed a character from a book.



Special mention:

During lockdown Year 7 students were given the task to create a model solar system. This fantastic model was designed by Dan Blackburn-Montanes in Miss Boyle's 7C2 class. Well done Dan!



Model by day



Model by night



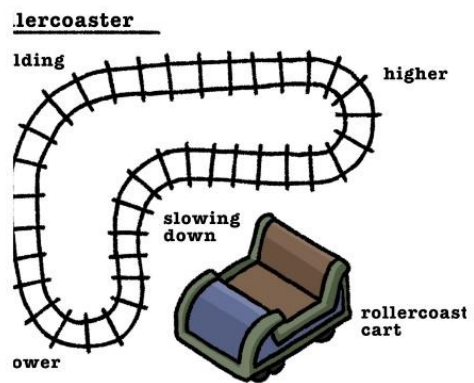
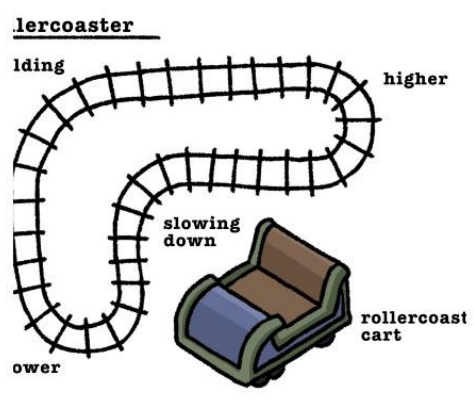
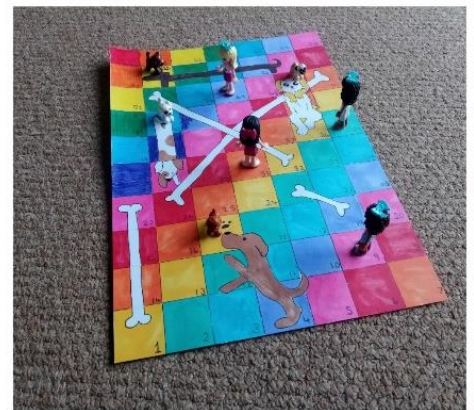
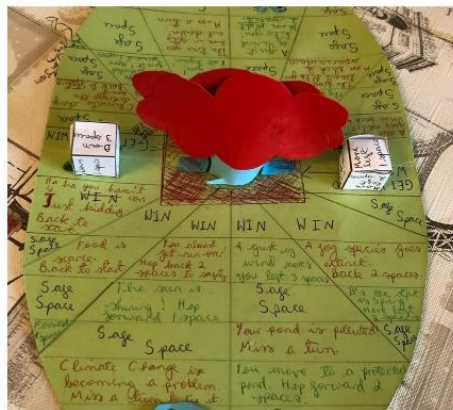
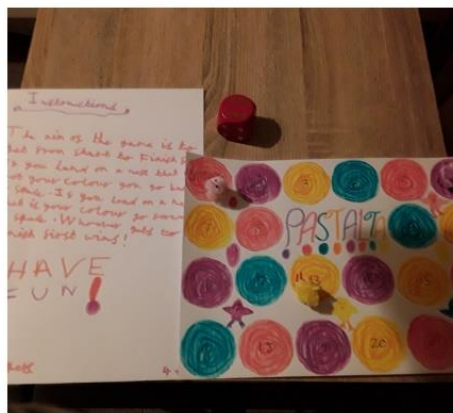


Design Technology

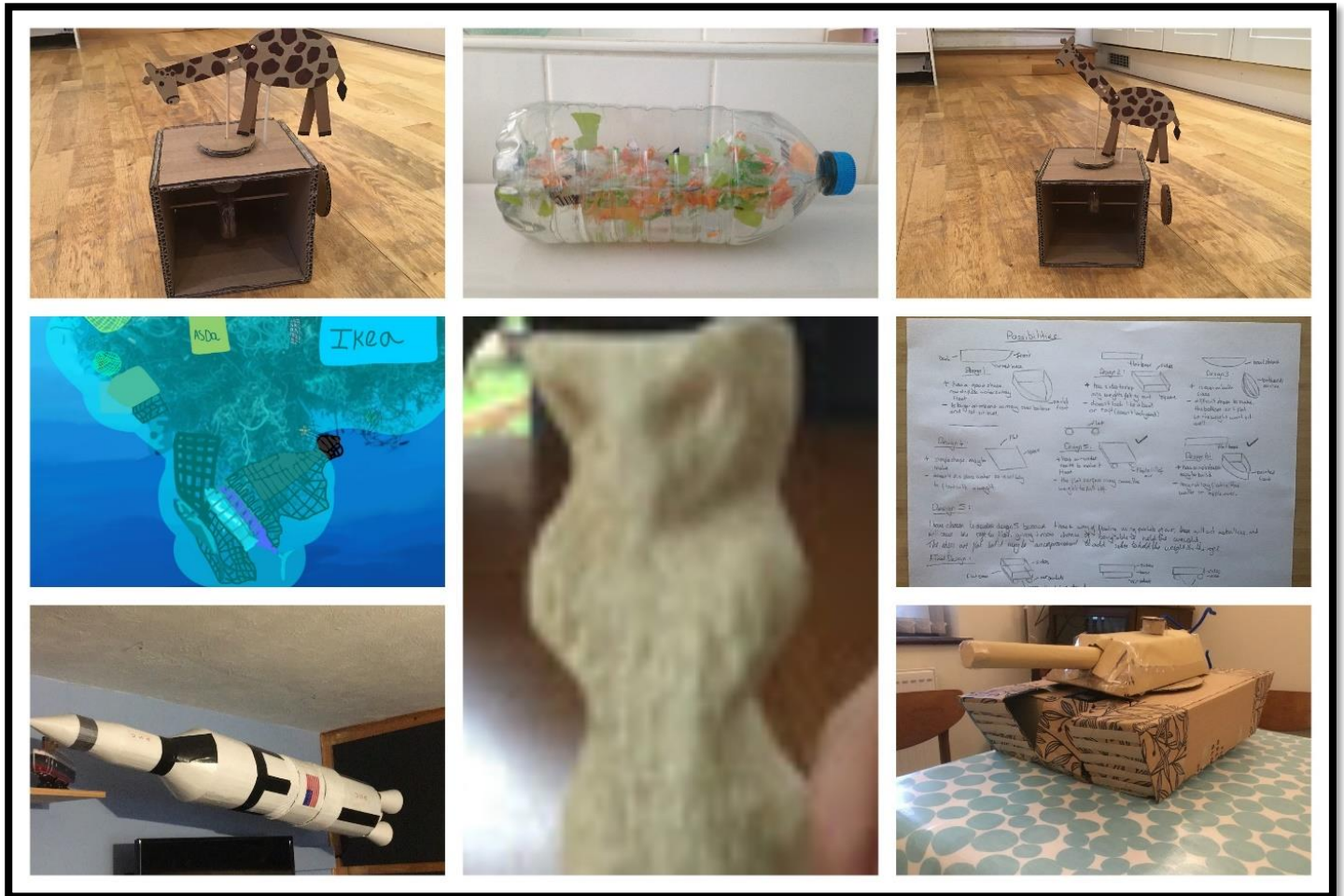
The Spring term has been busy in the D & T department with all year groups producing work of high quality. The creative and innovative work produced by students has been a delight to see, especially during the remote learning period.

Year 7 have designed their own board game from scratch and then spent an enjoyable lesson testing them out! The second project found the year group considering the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and its impact on the environment. There were many fine pieces of work produced to help bring awareness to this plight and students presented many great ideas for how it could be cleaned up.

Year 8 have spent the main part of their time producing an idea for a Theme park. This has involved a broad range of activities from designing rides using a range of different software, to producing a menu, and even writing and performing a theme song for the park. There were many wonderful ideas and the year group proved to be a bunch of budding young designers.



At GCSE both Year 9 and 10 were set a range of challenging activities, from designing a multifunctional clock, to modelling a cardboard boat that floats while holding a 1kg load and finally developing an idea for a child's toy. Students have adapted well over the last term and have proved that they can work both creatively and independently.



Food & Nutrition

At the end of last year all years were busy with their Christmas baking. Year 10 made Christmas Yule Logs from scratch, Mr Byrne was invited to judge the entries.



1st place was shared with Alana Schaapveld and Luke Stripp, for their wintery village scene

2nd place was Honey Burke, with her Terry's chocolate orange cake.

3rd place went to Ant Hagger, for his melting snowman by the burning log.

Judging was very difficult as there were so many great entries.

Since we have returned to school years 7 and 8 have been busy making popcorn and pizza. Year 10 students have been practicing a high skill in preparation for next year's NEA by deboning chickens.



Year 11 have worked so hard this year and will be doing their practical assessments at the end of this term. The brief this year was to produce two dishes with accompaniments in two hours, for Brunch. The dishes range from Eggs Benedict, Chocolate soufflé with coffee ice cream, individual quiches with onion and tomato chutney and breakfast sliders with homemade onion rings. Good luck to all Food and Nutrition students.



Extended Learning

The John Muir Discovery Award through Lockdown

Another group of Year 8 students from St Oscar Romero's Catholic School have been taking part in the John Muir Discovery Award through Lockdown. Their task was to complete a number of visits to 'Wild' places in their family groups or sometimes with another as exercise. The Award is set out in three levels with the Discovery aspect leading to the Exploration level and then the Conservation Award, each level requiring more hours spent in the 'Wild' outdoors. The students have been documenting their endeavours with many getting involved in beach cleans and conservation projects.

'I am so proud of this Lockdown group as they would have normally been out in the minibus visiting the Downs, Beach, Rivers and woodland and instead their families have been supporting their learning and understanding. John Muir the explorer would have been very proud of the students for showing such great resilience and bounce back'. Phil Dean - Extended Learning Leader

The Award is completed when the students all have a day off timetable to complete various workshops about conservation and nature which is happening in June 2021 thanks to the Ouse and Adur Rivers trust at Epic Sompting.



PIC-COLLAGE



The FingerPrints organisation comprises students, staff and community members with the aim and ambition to help us all live more sustainable lives.

‘It is all really **BASIC** when you think about changing the way we live to be more sustainable. **B** - Be the change, don't just talk about it, do something! **A** - Ask the right questions, get the correct information and not the fake news. **S** - Say the right things, get the message across to people, social media and the press. Help people understand the issues. **I** - Implement the Actions 4 Change, make a difference in 4 easy steps. **C** - Collaborate, do things together and share your experiences. It is really BASIC and not at all complicated. Elliot Meakins (Year 8)

The students are the driving force of the organisation and they work in teams to create and implement the Actions 4 Change. They are:

- Electric power reduction
- Gas usage reduction
- Waste reduction
- Carbon neutral families including travel to and from school

The team are working closely with Tim Laughton's EYE project across West Sussex and are part of the Worthing Climate Change Alliance.

‘We haven't even scratched the surface of what we as a society have to do to protect our Planet. We have placed far too many of our footprints into nature's soil and our collective damage to our environment is immense. Our children are the future decision makers and we as adults need to learn from them now for the situation to get better. Worthing will be carbon neutral by 2030 and we have all got a lot to do’. Phil Dean - Extended Learning Leader



The Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Awards at St Romero's continues with great gusto to help and encourage students to expand and develop their horizons.

In Year 11 there are a team of dedicated Silver level participants who are working towards completing their Award with an expedition to the New Forest during July. In Year 10 the participants who have managed to stick with the program through all of lockdown are forging ahead with their expeditions in April and May, The Year 9 applicants look forward to completing their volunteering, skills, and physical sections over the next few months with their expeditions happening in September and October 2021.

Here are some Year 9 quotes about the reasons they would like to be involved in the Award

‘It will help me build my confidence in trying new things’
Natasha Perry (Year 9)

‘I want to do the Award because I want to build my skills for future jobs’ Poppy Barnes (Year 9)

‘I want to help build my skills for the future and have some fun too!’ Connor Baker (Year 9)



I feel so privileged to coordinate the DofE program for the students. Admittedly it has been a very challenging time for all young people but the Award program has helped to build resilience and grit. It is great that so many Year 9 students are eager to take part.’ Phil Dean - Extended Learning Leader



Head of House

I know we said this in the last newsletter, but it really is so lovely to welcome back our amazingly resilient students into the actual classroom rather than the virtual one. It makes such a difference! We are all so incredibly proud of how the students continue to adapt and cope with anything and everything that is thrown their way. House competitions have been run in abundance this term and we are thrilled so many students have taken part and gained valuable house points for their respective houses. Who will take the overall house trophy this year?

House Staff News

This term we have assigned all staff to a house so that everyone at St Oscar Romero's can get involved with the competitions. Google Classrooms have been set up for each house and this is where all the competitions are now posted for easy access to every student and staff member. If you haven't managed to join your google classroom yet, then please email your Head of House who will help you.

Attenborough House - lbenson@stromeros.co.uk

Google Classroom code: 72jc4wb

Kolbe House - asaksena@stromeros.co.uk

Google Classroom code: nttofae

Malala House - frosiello@stromeros.co.uk

Google Classroom code: vphpnjs

Teresa House - ehughes@stromeros.co.uk

Google Classroom code: yycbcuh

The Great Romero Run

The Great Romero Run was a month-long competition ending on the 18th December, just before the Christmas holiday break. The challenge was to run the furthest distance during this time. There were some outstanding results from students in the school including Joe Van Nes (Year 11 Malala) who ran a total of 145.69km and Amalie Lloyd (Year 8 Teresa) who ran a total of 46.86km. The winning house for this competition was Attenborough, gaining 5 points.

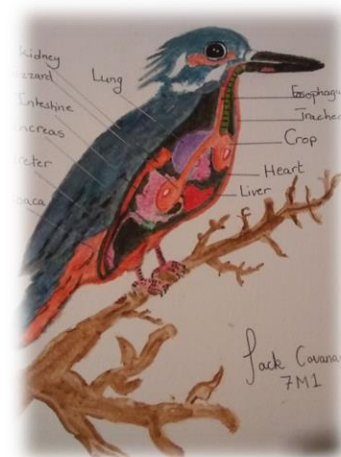
Romero Cross Fit Games

During PE in the last week before the Christmas holidays the Romero CrossFit Games was held in PE lessons. This gave students the chance to compete in high intensity exercise for a certain amount of reps in different exercises. (Sledge drives, wall ball throws, ball slams and

burpees. The challenge was to complete these exercises in the quickest time. The winners in Year 7 went to Teresa house, overall year 8 scores went to Teresa house, Year 9 winners went to Kolbe House and Year 10 winners were Attenborough house! Well done and you all deserve your Christmas break after that challenge!

Animal Anatomy Drawing

We do have some talented artists at St Romero and what a great way to show off their talent than through the Animal Anatomy Drawing competition run. We had some really impressive entries and all of those students who entered will automatically win points for their houses. However the overall winner of the competition was Jack Cavanagh in year 7 with this amazing drawing of a Kingfisher. He has won a lovely set of sketching pencils and 5 house points for his house, Malala.



The Gratitude Project

The Gratitude Project was launched this term to encourage students to find a way of saying thank you for what they were grateful for during this past difficult year of lockdowns. This competition has been extended to the start of the Spring term as some students have had to change their fundraising events to be in line with government guidance with regards to lockdown rules. We look forward to letting you know the results of this next term and wish all those who have organised events the best of luck!

Duolingo

Throughout lockdown, an ongoing Duolingo House Competition started. Students love learning languages through Duolingo, it is a great tool and so accessible through a mobile phone or tablet. The Competition is still going and the winning House will be revealed before the Easter break so if you have not started yet, if you have always wanted to learn another language but don't know where to start or if you want to improve Spanish, French or German - what are you waiting for?!?! Go to your House Google Classrooms for the Duolingo codes to get started.

Tutor Quizzes

We are now in our 5th week of Mr Rosiello's weekly House Tutor Quiz! Students are loving these quizzes which the tutors conduct during tutor time. Questions are a mixture of lots of different subjects and there is a picture round of a celebrity, a place, and a flag as well. Every week they will be getting trickier to keep students on their toes. Mr Durr's tutor group has won for 2 weeks consecutively.....

Watch this space for final results to be revealed before Easter break.



Pi Day

Pi Day is celebrated across the world on 14th March each year. The maths department holds a Pi Day competition each year, with all entrants awarded house points for taking part. The goal is to memorise as many digits of Pi as possible and be able to recite them to a member of the maths department.

This year's winner was Charlie Rose Connor from Year 7 and Attenborough House, who memorised a fantastic 112 digits of Pi! Well done Charlie Rose! (see Mathematics report)

Race across the World

This term the Race across the World competition was launched. It is a 40 day event where each year group + staff and houses compete to travel the furthest distance around the world. So far each week we have seen some Hadley Davis (Year 7 Teresa) who has cycled a massive 496.97km, Mr Sloggett (Attenborough) who has run a total of 58.9km, April Frogley (Year 11 Teresa) who has cycled, ran, walked and horse ridden over 50km and Ms Langley (Malala) who has cycled and hiked over 80km. So far the whole school has travelled over 3000km, the equivalent of travelling from school to Russia. Currently Year 7 are top of the group leader board having travelled over 1000km and Teresa house is on top for the houses who have travelled over 1250km! The competition ends on Friday 2nd April. Good luck to those final entries.

Upcoming Competitions

Keep an eye on your Google Classrooms for information about up and coming competitions! Next up this term is the 'Spring Watch Photography Competition.'

The Tale of Julien Todd - James Winton

This is just an urban myth really, an ancient one in fact, but dare to know the story, is something scary entirely. To pull the thread that must not be pulled, is to tell the tale of something so cruel. To speak the words of a man of insanity, will put the teller on a collision course with destiny.

This is the story of Julien Todd, the immortal man. Nobody knows who he is, or where he comes from, but we do know only one thing: he is the monster that is part of our neighbourhood. There are many interpretations of these stories, some fiction, some not; but when telling about Todd, the immortal man, the story about the cursed corpse is clear as day, for there is only one version, and one alone. He would faintly be seen, stood rigid outside his green, overgrown abode, eying on children, on the bikes that they rode. Children that are naughty, children that are nice, children that hold chalk and draw frames of some mice. And those children, who fall victim to Todd, the immortal man, they are nothing more than just white outlines in the road, frozen but faded in time.

No one has really seen the figure, the one who has been a part of our history for centuries, for it's origins have always been a mystery, but people who lived to tell the tale, describe him as tall, ragged, and pale. Described him as a puppet on two feet, walking limply and lazily; feet in decay with eight, even, green toes in total; a body with nothing but skin and bone, his birdcage partly exposed, sticking out like thorns.

No hair was present on his shell of a head, any of what is left is just silver string, invisible and thin; arms, arms of a creature, an inhuman hybrid, arms that are...different. One arm is smaller than the other, normal, but rotting. The other arm, an anvil on a stick, and indescribable weapon, but it has the outline of a pickaxe, fused to his limb.

A weapon.

The idea of Todd's legacy, his eternal reign, is that he spreads in our stories, our gossip, and our history books. We want to read them all, but there are some places where you would never wish to look, that you should've never read the writing on the wall.

People who know the story, know his existence, work against him, are never seen again. People who undercover his writings, his property, are cursed with his hunger, his craving, for your youth, your skin, for his own disturbing gain.

His story is his soul, his item, his writings, his history. His history is a mystery, his catastrophe, and it should be mythology.

Now you know who Todd is, the immortal man, and just for me telling you, he could come for both of us, in the dead of night or live of day. Steal our sunlight skin, but a corpse he will stay.

If you wish to spread his legacy, if you don't believe this story, see the terror you will unleash, see if he will come. Tell it to your comrades; tell it to your siblings; tell it to your parents and guardians; tell it to strangers, old and young, big and small, smart and naive.

Year 7 students were transported back to Lockdown again after such an exciting Autumn term, although this time I was told many times that the level of work that they received was excellent. During lockdown many students achieved amazing things, especially during the drop down days. The first was the 10 Rocks of Romero Wellbeing day. Here is a picture of Annabelle Shirley locking her mobile phone away for the day.



Tom Golbey and Harry Buirds in 7T1, Mr Larkam's tutor group, won the Best Video for their tutor group. This is a snippet of their wonderful creation, showing Peter Close making Quesadillas.



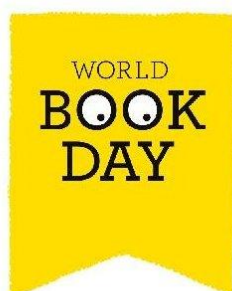
Coming back after lockdown was surprisingly seamless and the students soon got back into routine. They started the first day back after assembly, playing Inter House rounders which 7M2, Miss Louise's tutor group won. They receive £50 and can choose to use the money how they please.

Two students have managed to get their Platinum reward during lockdown, which is commendable. A huge congratulations to **Isla Parker** and **Megan Worsfold Gwyn**. Megan has also achieved her Diamond reward too - a mammoth achievement!

We celebrated World book day Thursday 18th March in which Marcelina Smith best costume and Ray Gill won the Harry Potter prize.

School is nearly back to normal, let us all pray for a wonderfully, safe and successful Summer term.

Mrs J House – Head of Year 7



It was a feeling of Deja vous this term as we had a delayed return back from the third lockdown. The resilience of year 8 shone through after having spent from January to middle of February working with fortitude and enthusiasm from home on Zoom and Google classroom lessons. During this time they have produced amazing work, especially on the drop down Well-Being Day.



They have come back to school, have settled in and followed the rules and done all that has been asked of them, from Covid testing to wearing masks in classes. We know that when we talk to our year group in our assemblies as a community and family, that is what they are. Yes, there are some issues but they are quickly resolved and recognition of a wrong is quickly righted by those involved. They are a year group who have impressed us by their fellowship, ability to share ideas and adapt to changing situations.

Celebrations: We have celebrated successes in achievements and in our **Bronze and Silver awards**, with a large number achieving their Bronze and Silver, plus Gold reward to Ben Mwariwangu, T2. Congratulations to all of these students! We have also celebrated weekly nominations from teachers of students who have worked hard or excelled at subjects. Each week 6 or 7 students receive a **£5 Amazon voucher** and an email home. This term we have sent out 63 vouchers (£315 Amazon has received from us!!), a brilliant success story for year 8. We will continue to do this for next term as well.

Award Winners: Normally the school hold an Awards evening at the Pavilion in Worthing, however this was not possible this year so we held this for year 8 in an assembly. **Congratulations to the following students:**

Art, Resistant materials, French
Art
Resistant materials, drama, choir
English
English & Music
Geography
Graphics
History
Computing
Maths & Textiles
Maths, Spanish, Science
French
German
Music
PE & History
RE
Science
Head of Year Award

Romany Ghibaldan
Alfie Bye
Elliott Meakins
Luisa Sansone
Romeo Rubia
Rebecca Roberts & Ryleigh Standing
Zuzanna Sieniewska & Kareem Allinson
Thomas Hooper
Lexie Smith & Niall Bickell
Emily Scott
Ashton Billett
Jude Hawkins
Elliana Milledge & Jacob Whatley
Emmaline Turner
Olivia Wells
Grace Kyte & Jack Cox
Elisha Smith
Mia Nobes & Joshua Eames



We are proud of our year 8 students and all that they achieve. Have a lovely Easter.
Simi Bagshaw & Teresa Williams – Joint Head of Year 8



Head of Year 9

Although much of the second term of the school year has been spent in Zooms and Google classrooms I am very pleased to be ending it with the students back in school and getting on with business as usual.

We had a great day on our Feast Day with a great sense of camaraderie and support among the students as they took on the assault course, the problem solving and the Ultimate Frisbee challenges.



In our last assembly of the term we celebrated the achievements of students from last year, as the awards evenings had to be cancelled. This was a lovely start to the day and end to the term and further reminded me what an amazing group of young people we have in our year group. Well done to all of those who received an award.



Awards went to the following students:

Art	Arianna Peci and Carl Gonzalez
D&T – Food	Poppy Barnes and Kian Toner
Resistant Materials	Keira Butcher Le and Tommy Harrison-Horn
Drama	Chloe Peskett and Freddy Lyons
English	Evie Elms and Raivo Cimermanis
Geography	Poppy White and Andrew Gardner
Graphics	Althea Senolay and Aiden Howie
History	Chiara Ballard and Alex Junor
Computing	Grace Ridley and Andrew Gardner
Maths	Arianna Peci and Andrew Gardner
French	Cameron Cox and Becky Smith
Spanish	Arianna Peci and Miles Flexen
Music	Florence Rosser and Joseph Lee
PE	Adriana Spink and Leon Sanchez
RE	Evie Elms and Jo Clevett
Science	Innis Jefferies and Andrew Gardner
Textiles	Arianna Peci and Tommy Harrison-Horn
Growth Mindset	Madison McCondach and Lucas Collins
Head of Year Award	Chloe Peskett and Jamie Shinkfield



As we draw the curtain on another term, it is important to spend some time reflecting on the superb work and achievement that has taken place during this busy time of the year. What with COVID and another Lockdown, the testament of our students certainly has prevailed. The way they engage and further their own studies (inside and outside the classroom) is not only inspiring, but motivating to others around them. They truly are amazing individuals and I could not be prouder of how they conducted themselves over the past couple of months.

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.

What's been going on in Year 10?

Heidi Taylor

I have got the role of dance leader and I have become more confident in. During PE (over lockdown) I completed 18,242 sit ups!

Tallulah Taylor

In lockdown I have taken it upon myself to learn guitar and throughout this period I have written 2 songs which link on to the other 8 songs I wrote in the 1st lockdown. I am very proud of the songs I have produced!



Sebastian, Ben, Connor, Sophie and Reagan

During the past few months we have been working on developing an electric go kart club. This club has been created to design and develop various go karts with a view to racing these later on down the line. Our aim is to raise money for Haviland House, Chestnut tree House and aid for the Homeless. Any donations would be greatly received.

<https://uk.gofundme.com/f/st-oscar-romero-race-team?qid=7b5b7e75ab5fc59876e30061d4ecaceb>

William Armitage

William enjoys drawing and apart from his own, he was asked by a neighbour to do some illustrations for her booklet, titled "Corona Blues". It tells the story of an 85 year old widow and how she coped living alone through the pandemic. This booklet is now in the possession of the county records office for posterity.

Congratulations Will and well done for giving back to the local community.

Final word from me

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

Happy Easter

Mr Steve Davies - Head of Year 10

The Year 11 students returned to school as a whole community with excitement and enthusiasm on the 8th of March and immediately set about the business of studying hard for all of their courses. Their commitment and maturity towards their studies, despite continued disruption continues to be an inspiration to us all. The school has now finalised the plans for the Summer Assessments, which support the generation of evidence for their grades and plans are also developing advanced plans for a compelling and engaging Transition Programme, involving A Level taster sessions, College/Sixth Form preparations, university planning and wider careers and aspiration focus.

As the Head of Year for Year 11, the thing that makes me the most proud is the example they set for the younger students. This was never more evident than on our Feast Day, when they impeccably took part in Mass and engaged with great spirit and gusto in the events taking place on the day. The photos which accompany this item hopefully convey the great sense of friendship, fun and hard work that embodies our wonderful Year 11 cohort.

As the students head into their Easter break, we of course want them to take the time to rest and reflect, but we know that they will also be working hard preparing and revising for their Summer Assessments which commence on the 4 May. We look forward to welcoming many of them back into school during the 2nd week of the break to continue their academic preparations in many of their core and options subjects. Indeed once this process is over, they will head into a well-deserved break before we mark the end of their journey at St. Romero's with their Prom on the 2nd of July, which is sure to be an occasion of great joy and celebration.

Mr Noye - Head of Year 11



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A FOUNDATION GOVERNOR?

Are you looking for a way to live out your faith and serve your local community at the same time?

Foundation Governors are practising Catholics, appointed by the local Bishop specifically to preserve and develop the Catholic ethos of the school and represent the Bishop's education policy (e.g. worship and religious education) to the governing body.

Because not all governing bodies need the same skills, to be successful, it is vital that individuals from all backgrounds volunteer to be a Foundation Governor. A reference from your Parish Priest will be taken up as part of the application process.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Foundation Governor, please email Gill Sajnog – Lead Officer Governance, Arundel and Brighton Diocese; gill.sajnog@abdiocese.org.uk



We come to the end of another term, and it has been wonderful to welcome back all our students, and for us to come back together as a whole community.

We have continued to celebrate attendance during tutor time and as a year group in assemblies. We thank both students and parents/carers for their continued support during this challenging time.

Congratulations to an amazing **272** students who have maintained **100%** attendance this academic year. Below is the breakdown by year group.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
80	55	47	44	46

We are currently celebrating this within school on the 100% attendance board located on the top corridor.

This is a superb accomplishment. **Well done and keep up the fantastic work!**

We end the term celebrating our overall attendance and due to the exceptional circumstances beyond our control is a wonderful achievement.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
97.70%	96.59%	94.79%	97.07%	94.80%	96.34%

We will 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.

Please remember to contact the school office on a daily basis to inform us of your son/daughters absence. You can either phone 01903 241368, choosing option 1 and leave a message on the absence line or send an email via edulink.

We hope that your families stay well, healthy and safe, and have an enjoyable Easter break.





Friends of Romero's

The Spring term has proved to be a challenging one for the whole school community, and the Friends of Romero's (FOR) team are no exception. Fundraising this last year has been difficult but has continued nonetheless.

2021 began with a very successful quiz night. More than 50 families took part via zoom. The quiz was extremely entertaining and a great night was had by all. Mr Rosiello was the perfect quizmaster and a huge thank you to him for helping us raise over £300 on the night.

The FOR tuck shop will start again on the last day of term and will be a permanent fixture on a Friday after school next term. We have been given a space to work from and we are currently preparing the area ready for the new term. In the summer months the tuck shop will be mobile and taken outside and students can buy tuck, drinks and ice creams. We are looking for volunteers to help us set this up and then open on a rota basis. Please email if you can help.

Recently, Friends of Romero were asked to support the St Oscar Romero Feast day, a day of celebration involving the whole school. Then followed, two weeks preparation including 12 volunteers doing 15 separate shopping trips, to buy 500 hotdogs, 850 drinks, 30 boxes of sweets, 10 trays of doughnuts and much more. That same group of volunteers then came together on the day to help raise over £850 for the school. The students and staff had a wonderful day as did the Friends of Romeros team.

Our focus now turns to the Summer term and the hugely popular **Summer Fayre on July 10th**. This year more than ever we want to bring our school community together, and make it a wonderful day to remember. We will be having a mufti day prior to the Fayre when students will be invited to bring tombola donations, please look out for more details next term.

In preparation for this wonderful day, we are looking for stallholders, entertainers, raffle prizes, sponsors and volunteers for the week before and the day so please email us if you can help in any way, for@stromeros.co.uk



We will be sending raffle tickets home at the start of June so that you and your family and friends can enter the grand raffle. There will be some amazing prizes. Most of all we are looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible on the day. Let's make this year the best one yet!!

Fundraising in school is so important. Money raised helps to buy vital equipment for our students that school itself may not have the budget for. Our library support continues, together with purchases in other departments including PE, Art, RE, Drama, Maths, Humanities and Music. We want to continue to help, and by doing so, we are enhancing your child's education at SOR. So please:-

Do you have time to spare?

Could you join us for one meeting every half term?

Do you have fundraising ideas to share?

Do you enjoy being part of a team?

Could you help us at events?

Do you work for a company that does match funding?

Can you help with raffle prizes or donations?

If you can help with any of the above no matter how small please email us for @stromeros.co.uk

Our next meeting is **28th April 2021 at 6pm**

On behalf of the FOR team, we thank you all for your support and look forward to all coming together next term.

Happy Easter

Kindest regards,

Sarah Baker (Chair) and Leanne Kyte (Secretary)

