



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and support. Having all of the students back in school and being able to come together as a community has been an absolute joy!

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

It was wonderful to celebrate their achievements, as well as our current students' achievements, at our annual Prize Evening, which was held at the Pavilion Theatre in Worthing in November. We were delighted to welcome Dr. Julian Filowchowski, a personal friend of St Oscar Romero, to be our guest speaker for the evening, who delivered an inspiring message about 'Aspiring to be more, rather than have more.' We also had the privilege of welcoming Sir Peter Bottomley MP, who presented prizes to our winners.

It has been an extremely busy term with learning moving on at a pace and a wide range of activities organised for students to develop their passions and interests, or simply try something new. There have been many clubs on offer including: Creative Writing, Cookery, STEM, Climbing, Debating, Art, Young Geographers, Gardening Club, Fingerprints, Duke of Edinburgh, Drama Club, Choir, Orchestra, not to mention the large number of sporting clubs and fixtures that run every week. Please do encourage your son/daughter to get involved in an activity next term if they have not already done so.

Highlights of the term include: Year 7 Residential to Little Canada; various theatre visits and trips including weekly John Muir trips to 'wild' places; Open Evening and Morning Tours; Flying Start Evening for Year 11; Online Supporting Success Evening for all years; a number of Music Concerts including our very first Romero Sings Live with two of our Catholic feeder schools; Dance Showcase; Grandparents' Day; Remembrance Service; World Mental Health Day and Anti-Bullying Week Activities; Year 11 Parents' Evening and our Celebration of Advent and Christmas Service.

Three community events that deserve a special mention are the Autumn Fair, Fireworks Evening and Christmas Fair, which were organised by our incredible Friends of Romero, a dedicated team of parents and volunteers. In these three events alone, our Friends of Romero have raised nearly £22,000!, all of which will be spent on our students. Thank you for supporting these events and a massive thank you to our Friends of Romero.

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Head of House Report
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St Romero's Media

Another highlight of the term was discovering that three of our students, Luke Bartram, William Clarke and Dominic Winton, had won a national science competition organised by the Institute of Acoustics. It was wonderful to attend their Awards Evening in Westminster Palace, where Sir Peter Bottomley met us and gave us a tour of parliament. My thanks to Mr Clarke who supported these students.

We have seen consistent sporting success in football, netball, basketball and rugby, with the U14 Rugby Team winning all of their matches including beating a leading private school. The Saints' Netball Academy continues to thrive and our girls are looking forward to when the area netball tournament begins. Huge congratulations to the Year 9 Football team, who won the Championship League Title, a first in the school's 60 year history!

During the summer break we were delighted to run our first ever summer school and welcomed over 150 of our new Year 7 students to Romero's for the first time. This included taster lessons in most subjects, opportunities to get to know their form tutor, and we even managed a trip to Goring Gap for an ice cream.

The summer was also spent building our outdoor amphitheatre and I am incredibly grateful to our site team, volunteer parents, students and staff, all of whom played their part to create an amazing outdoor learning space for our students. Other building work included the creation of a sixth science lab, various painting and decorating and school improvements.

I would like to welcome the following new staff to the school: Miss J Barton (Learning Support Assistant – LSA), Miss V Carter (LSA), Mr I Cutler (Head of Year 10), Miss E Lord (Teacher of History), Mr K Malandain (LSA), Miss R Owen (Subject Leader for Science), Mrs N Parsons (SEN Admin), Mrs S Pattinson (DT & Art Technician), Mrs B Price (LSA), Mrs L Rys-Kent (Head of Year 8), Miss E Silver (LSA), Miss S Squires (LSA), Mrs N Taylor (Teacher of RE), Mr J Verkade (Teacher of RE), Mrs D Walters (Teacher of MFL).

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

Teaching and Learning continues to be our core focus as a school and it has been wonderful to see the dedication and focus of our students, both in and out of lessons.

It seems quite extraordinary that this is only our second year as St Oscar Romero, but it is clear that we have found our true identity as 'Romero's, something that is reflected in the love and example we try to live out, each and every day. This has included: donating food items for families in need; raising money and awareness for the mental health charity, MIND, collecting over 1000 food items to support the work of the homeless charity, Turning Tides, who will be providing Christmas dinner and a safe place to sleep for homeless men and women in our local community, and supporting St Michael's SVP to build over 100 food hampers for families in need. Thank you to our parents and families who have supported these important causes.

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

As I have said many times, we are incredibly blessed at St Romero's for three main reasons: we have outstanding students; outstanding staff and outstanding parents/carers. Our staff have worked extremely hard this term and I have encouraged all of them to turn their emails off so that they can recharge their batteries and spend some quality time with their families. If you do need to contact the school in an emergency, please email me (pbyrne@stromeros.co.uk) and I will reply as soon as I can.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the high standard of uniform and appearance of the vast majority of students this term. However, we have seen a small minority of students pushing these boundaries, and arriving at school with inappropriate haircuts or clothing/shoes that break our uniform policy. Please can I ask for your full support in ensuring that this does not happen and that we do not have to start the spring term in a disrupted and negative manner by addressing these concerns. If you are unsure about this, please refer to our uniform policy which is on the school website or get in touch if you have any concerns related to your child's progress or school life in general.

On behalf of the Governors, staff and students I would like to wish you and your families a very happy, peaceful and restful Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year. **The new term begins on Wednesday, 5th January 2022**, when all students should return to school at 8.40am looking smart, refreshed and ready to pursue the opportunities and challenges of the new term and New Year.

God bless, Mr P Byrne – Headteacher



Art

Year 7 Art have started their unit 'Fantastic Birds and Beasts', the students have drawn a bird specimen from the Booth museum in Hove where they concentrated on; simplifying shapes, proportion and tonal variation. First hand drawing of a 3D object is much harder but it is really important for students to draw something real and not be working from a 2D image. The student drawing outcomes have been fantastic and the department is looking forward to displaying the most impressive drawings in our annual Art exhibition in mid-July.



Year 7 students also made large scale poppies for Remembrance day which they were able to take home.

Year 7 Textiles have been 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 with Ms Langley, the textiles specialist. Students have really enjoyed dying cotton and seeing real cotton plants and learning about the science behind the technique of dying natural fibres.



Year 7 Graphics have been constructing 3D carousel souvenirs for the Circus themed project using technical drawing, precision cutting and paper manipulation. Students have experimented with oil bar, oil pastel, printing ink and mixed media drawing.



Year 8 Art are working on their 'Day of the Dead' unit, looking at Mexican culture and other contextual influences like Day of the Dead festival make up, the Disney film 'Coco' and the artist Ben Brown. Students will be making 3D painted masks from their choice of inspiration.



Year 8 Textiles have been working on the 'Native Americans' unit looking at Native American culture including; totem poles, animal symbols, feathers and eagles. In class the students are making Native American wall hangings using the techniques; weaving, feather painting and making dream catchers, with Ms Langley.



Year 8 Graphics have been producing 'Point of Sale' display boxes, to advertise the tourism of India and presenting their research, experiments and designs in a Taj Mahal shaped concertina. Pupils have developed their skill and knowledge in colour theory, frottage, block printing and drawing.



Year 9 Art students are working on the unit German Expressionism and have just started working towards making their final monochrome one or two point perspective relief compositions. Students have learnt about 'Art Movements' and how some artists and art movements make art linked to world events and personal experience like the German Expressionists who made art to make sense of and express their feelings after World War one.



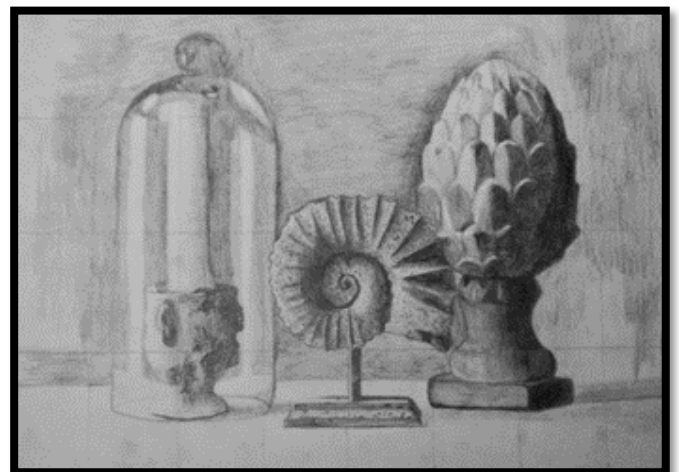
This year, year 9 have not already taken their GCSE's and have more time to try all the DT rotations therefore informing their GCSE option choice. Year 9 in Textiles are working on the unit 'Kimono' looking at ancient Japanese culture, cultural figures for example Geisha and Samurai. Student will be trying more complex textile techniques and using the new computerised sewing machines to produce a Japanese wall hanging.



Students in Year 9 Graphics have been designing and creating their individual search engine logos, and presenting these as 3D models. It has been exciting for students to use a range of techniques and media, such as painting, tetra pak etching with the new print press, lino printing, textiles and collage.



Year 10 Art students have finished their Still Life unit and their final pieces to great accomplishment. Students have now moved onto Portrait which is the second genre in art historically. Students have started historically looking at the portraits of Leonardo da Vinci and asking themselves 'What is the purpose of a portrait?'



Year 10 Graphics have been learning how to use photography to represent messages on identity. They have been using Procreate on the departmental iPads to edit and change their own photographs. Having studied three different photographers, pupils will soon move onto developing and implementing their own ideas for their final pieces.



Year 11 Art are working on their mock exam individual project which they will work on until Easter as there is no art exam this year in line with the Department for Education and the exam board AQA. Students will therefore have more time to make coursework portfolio improvements to get the best grades. The work is fantastic and Ms Langley is extremely proud of the students.



In Year 11 Graphics, students have been creating individual and bespoke responses to their chosen mock exam questions. Students are using a range of media, techniques and working in various mediums including, illustration, photography, stop motion, design, signage and mixed media collage. They have been studying a plethora of artists, graphics designers and craftspeople to influence their ideas and outcomes.

The annual art exhibition and private view took place last summer term to great acclaim, a gallery like experience was created to display the GCSE work of years 9-11 in art and graphics as well as the best of year 7 and 8 Art, textiles and graphics. The private view was attended by local artists, students, parents and carers

as well as the school governor's. All students in KS3 were given the opportunity to visit the exhibition and were in awe at the incredible work.



The art department put on two A level workshops for the year 11 leavers, Ms Langley offered 'life drawing with model' where the students looked at body proportions and draw large scale charcoal figures on the new easels. Miss Longman put on 'trompe l'oeil' Renaissance painting techniques where students did studies of various woods, marble and architecture with the new specialist equipment. The workshops were well received by our year 11 artists. The art department results now put St Oscar Romero's art department in the top 5% in the country.

The student of the term is Maisy Banks in year 11 Art, for her incredible dedication to her work and her determination to get the grade she wants.



"Art is not what you see,
but what you make others see."
Edgar Degas



Child Development

What a busy and exciting start to the new academic year. This term has flown by and our students in Child Development have been working very hard on portfolio work and exam content as well.

Year 10's have been 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.

Alongside this, we have managed to have fun revising the exam content too. Recently the students had been learning all about common childhood diseases, which culminated in a game of 'Childhood Illnesses Monopoly'. The students had so much fun trying to win the game but were also able to consolidate their knowledge at the same time. I think the prize of chocolate for the winners helped too!

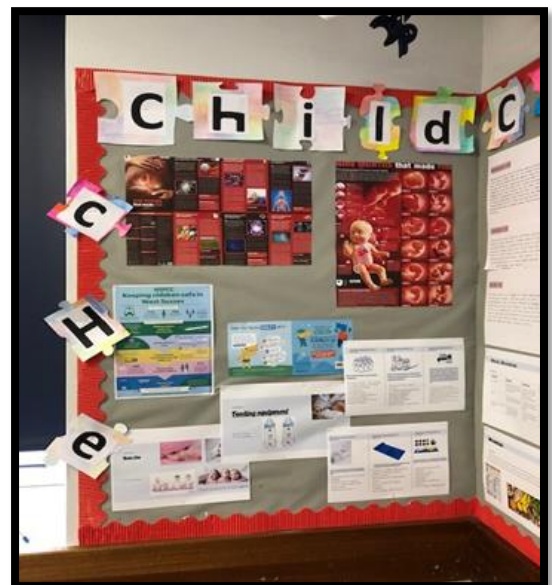


In year 11 students have completed their first portfolio in readiness for final marking and moderation and have begun their 'child study' unit. They are looking forward to sharing their planned activities with their little ones and evaluating their success. They have worked hard to consider how children play under key headings of development such as; physical, intellectual and social. They have deepened their knowledge of types of play to inform their choices and taken part themselves in several activities such as puzzles, board games and role play to remind themselves of all the benefits from 'playing'. This initiated many classroom discussions such as the Finnish schools 'learning through play' until the age of 7!

We have focused our lessons mostly on examination recall and demonstrated our knowledge by consistently linking this to 'learning through play'. Students solidified their 'menstrual cycle' knowledge by making bracelets to ensure they know what is happening in the female cycle. Pictures of this success can be seen below. We were also very lucky to have Fiona Churchill visit us this half term who has 10 years' experience as a hospital midwife. The students were so engaged and able to consolidate their knowledge of the stages of labour, pain relief and methods of delivery as well as ask several questions and dispel many myths about childcare. Students have made several flashcards this year and enjoy Mrs Gray's 'fun relay races' for chocolate treats based on quick recall.



We are also delighted that we have been able to create our student work classroom board to support the learners.





Computing

'The real danger is not that computers will begin to think like men, but that men will begin to think like computers' - Sydney J. Harris

Key Stage 4 Computing - Computer Science

Pupils continue to demonstrate an excellent attitude towards their learning and are continuing to develop their programming skills. Year 10 pupils have just finished the topic of Algorithms and they will be starting Boolean logic soon. Year 11 pupils have just finished their first set of mocks and we will start looking at each of the different topics for the exams in much more detail.

Creative iMedia - Year 11 pupils are continuing to work on their coursework units and preparing for the mandatory exam unit that they will be taken in January. They have learned the mini key topics for the exam and now they are practising their exam techniques in preparation for the assessment.

Key Stage 3 Computing

Year 7 - E-Safety Unit: Pupils have been learning how to keep themselves safe online. They have been taught how to create strong passwords and they understand the dangers of online grooming, cyberbullying, internet scams, oversharing of information and Internet Trolls.

Year 7 - Input, output and memory of computers: students are now looking at how computers work, including hardware and software, input and output devices, and memory. They will also look at how computers process information and instructions.

Year 8 - Website Creation: Pupils have been acquiring different skills to design their own website around the topic of Footprint. In the process, they have also learnt how to create different questionnaires using Google forms and how to analyse the data they gathered. They have been brilliant at creating their own logos and have demonstrated a good work ethic.

Year 9 - Boolean Logic: During this term, students looked at Boolean Logic and Processing. They constructed truth tables for logic gates, looked further into the fetch-decode-execute cycle, and explored how computers are able to translate high-level code (Python) into machine code (binary).

Cryptography: Students are now studying Cryptography - the art of ciphers and encryption in global communication. In it, they are going to be introduced to

some common ciphers (Caesar and Vignere) alongside looking at the wider impact of Cryptography, and whether it protects privacy, or allows people too much freedom without oversight.



E-Safety Tip: WhatsApp

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service with around 2 billion users exchanging messages, photos, videos and documents.

The app offers end-to-end encryption, meaning messages can only be read by the sender and receiver

Advice for Parents and Carers:

Leave a Group

If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable, show them how to use the group's settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can let them back in, once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

Report Potential Scams

Advise your child not to engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report that number as spam. They can also report a contact or group as spam by tapping on the contact or group name to open their profile and scrolling down to "report spam".

Create a Safe Profile

Set the profile settings to "my contacts" or "nobody" to restrict who can see their photo and status.

Explain about Blocking

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them.

Use Location Features Sparingly

If your child needs to use 'live location' to show you or their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to.

Delete Accidental Messages

If your child has posted a message in the wrong chat or sent a message they immediately regret, they can delete it.

Fact-Check Messages

You can now fact-check messages that have been forwarded at least five times in WhatsApp by double tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your children can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was accurate or not. It's a good way to encourage young people to question things they see online. WhatsApp is

the world's most popular messaging service with around 2 billion users exchanging messages, photos, videos and documents.

Useful course websites/books include:

KS4 - Computer Science

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z34k7ty>

KS3 - Computing -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zvc9q6f>

Book KS3

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/New-Computing-Complete-Revision-Practice/dp/178908279X>



Dance

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 & health wellbeing, encouraging deeper understanding of the art form and working on a professional level.

“Dance is an indispensable part of the great adventure of the human mind.”

And what an adventure we have been on this term! This quote fits seamlessly into our vision of Dance at St Romeros and one we highlighted when we featured in the Herald newspaper for raising the dance provision within education.



The Romero Dance Company

After each term I like to reflect on what has been happening in the Dance department and this term has been amazing as ever. September saw us finally being able to perform our amazing Dance Showcase to friends and families which included our new year 7s- all 35 of them!! They learnt and performed the choreography within two weeks of joining the school, created over a lunch time and their afterschool club time they performed with professionalism and maturity.



Year 11 student Jack Elliott performing his choreography ‘Life of Pinocchio’

Following on from our triumphant show the dancers performed again on our beautiful new Amphitheatre at the Autumn Fair, showcasing the Romero Dance Company and the Year 7 dance club and some very talented soloists who compete around the country.



Year 9 student Scarlett Cass, Year 8 student Jenny Reene performing on the Amphitheatre at the Autumn Fair

Within our dance curriculum students take ownership of key leadership rules – ensuring safe practice and leading warm ups. It is something we have worked on this term to enhance our confidence. Isla Parker gained a place at Laban conservatoire for the CAT scheme in London (Yr 8) we are very proud of her as she gained a place after a very successful audition process.

With this new emphasis on leadership Jack Elliott Dance leader (yr11) helped lead a creative task within our Company Masterclass at Open Evening. It was such a lovely inclusive session with an outside performance of 'Storm' by The Romero Dance Company on the Amphitheatre.



Showing great resilience through everything this term were our amazing GCSE Dance cohort who, with grit and Determination, performed their practical assessment part of their GCSE. With 2 set phrases and the Trios completed this leaves us with the theoretical exam in June and their own choreographies. This will be performed in our spring showcase highlighting just how fantastic they are as budding choreographers. Using our professional works within the dance GCSE the students created intimate duets using string to distort and displace classical ballet positions like choreographer Wayne McGregor ('INFRA'). They have also used influence from James Cousins and created duets in the Site-sensitive environment (outside) using Dance for Camera to accentuate key moments of contact and motif development. Concentrating on the themes and emotional connection behind the choreographic intent of 'Within Her Eyes.' This has direct correlation to the scheme of work taught in KS4 core PE where the Year 10's study 'Young Men' by Ivan Perez and perform their assessment outside using Perez's dance film as initial stimuli for duet work.



In line with the NHS Mental health and well-being week, the dancers and I (Miss Standing) performed in flash mobs all over the school to promote how being active and physical can look after and better your mental well-being. We had so much fun and created quite a crowd!



Rehearsals are well underway for Dance Live- a regional competition happening in Portsmouth. We are performing in the heats in February. Everyone is dedicated to rehearsals and concentrating on making a brilliant piece. Jack Elliott (Year 11) has been assisting with choreography for Dance Live.





Drama

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



Year 8 - Drama in year 8 has started with a laugh as students have begun their comedy scheme of work, focusing on slapstick, status, clocking and the work of Laurel and Hardy. They have studied the history of comedy and learnt about Commedia Dell Arte and the stock characters whilst considering the importance of mask work in Drama. Students have all taken part in mask workshops and thoroughly enjoyed exaggerating gestures and body language to suit the character's facial expression. Students are really looking forward to making their own Commedia Dell Arte masks and performing in role as a stock character.



Year 9 - Year 9 have astounded us with their maturity and sensitivity as we have embarked upon two cross curricular play scripts supporting their PSHE learning at St Romero. Mark Wheller's plays; Too much Punch for Judy, and I Love you Mum I promise I won't die, have been at the heart of the learning as they have explored key issues and tackled deep discussions raising awareness of drugs or drink driving. Students have studied both texts practically and theoretically and enjoyed directing their peers and learning new theatrical techniques inspired by the work of 'Frantic Assembly'; an innovative movement based company bringing all plays into the 21st century.



Year 10 - Year 10 have begun their set text for the AQA GCSE exam this term and thoroughly enjoyed unravelling the context of Blood Brothers as well as the social, historical and cultural context of this superb piece of musical theatre. They have undertaken key revision technique and prepared fully for the layout and demands of the drama written paper which also includes design elements such as; set, costume, lighting and sound effects. They had the most wonderful experience of some much awaited live theatre earlier in the term with 'The long Song' in Chichester, not only as audience members but on stage too!

Year 11 - Having completed their first exam in July, students have been busy analysing and evaluating their devising performances and designs in the form of theoretical study which also counts towards the final grade. Students were delighted to be back on practical exam work very recently and have all chosen their script excerpts in readiness for the February 2022 final practical exam. Plays such as; *The Early Bird*, *The Lying Kind* and *4:48 Psychosis* have been chosen to showcase our students talents and exceptional abilities and we can't wait to see the outcomes.



Year 11 were also the first to get back to live theatre this year and watched *'Blood Brothers'* in Southampton as an amazing way to recall characterisation for the GCSE written mock paper.



They have been working hard this term to prepare for their mock exams and we have focused on fun revision techniques to support them.

School Production, Dance Live and Theatre trips

The school production, *'Bugsy Malone'*, is well underway with rehearsals taking place every Tuesday after school. Students are thoroughly enjoying working through the music and blocking the scenes. After Christmas we will begin to recruit a production team to support with lighting, set, costumes and make up.

We are also very busy choreographing our piece for *'Dance Live'* 2022. Students are busy dancing, creating drama, building puppets and working through the technical elements for the LED screen. It will be full speed ahead in January to prepare for the performance in February.

Two wonderful drama pieces of drama were performed in our new amphitheatre and the students, as always did us proud. Two year 10 students performed a duologue from last year's school production of *'Blue Remembered Hills'* at our Summer Fair and a small group of year 11 students performed their exam piece on open evening.



It has been a delight this term to re-visit the theatre and many of our students have had some wonderful opportunities to see some fantastic performances. Year 10 including *'The Long Song'* in Chichester, in which they took part in a workshop on stage with the actors. Finally a selection of our year 9 students watched *'Chicago'* at Christ's hospital school in Horsham.



What's to come?

In January we take a group of year 9 students to see *'Curious Incident of the Dog'* in the night-time and we are thoroughly looking forward to arranging trips for both year 7 and 8 next year. More information about tickets for *'Bugsy Malone'* will be communicated in the New Year.





Enterprise

It has been a very busy start to the year in the Enterprise Department. Most importantly, the decision was made to change the course from BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise to OCR Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing Level 1/2. The courses are very similar in terms of content but we felt that the OCR course is more flexible in terms of the coursework element, whereas the BTEC course was a little more rigid. The OCR Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing gives students the practical skills and applied knowledge they will need in business. Practical elements build on theoretical knowledge so that students can put their learning into practice while also developing valuable transferable skills. There are three mandatory units

Unit R064: Enterprise and marketing concepts

Students explore the techniques businesses use to understand their market and develop products, investigate what makes a product viable and understand how businesses attract and retain customers.

Unit R065: Design a business proposal

Students are presented with a business challenge from which they create a researched and costed business proposal. They will carry out market research, present data, and use idea generation tools, seek and act on feedback, and cost their proposals. In their work on this unit they will develop their self-assessment, collaborative working, creativity, numeracy, research and evaluative skills.

Unit R066: Market and pitch a business proposal

Students prepare for and pitch the business proposal that they developed in the previous unit. They develop a brand identity and investigate how best to promote their product and then plan, practise and finally deliver their pitch. Afterwards they review both their performance and their business proposal. This will help develop their analysis and self-evaluative skills as well as those relating to self-presentation.

Last year's learning will certainly not have been lost as all previous taught content will form the basis of students' assessment which took place on 1st December.

Cambridge National Level 1/2

ENTERPRISE
AND MARKETING



The current Year 10 cohort who are studying this course have taken this change completely in their stride and are well on their way - already progressing through their first controlled assignment which is all around designing and putting their market research theoretical knowledge into practice to eventually launch their own product, which needs to be a hat. Mr Rosiello is excited to see what the students will bring to the table and has already been very impressed by what has been produced so far. We are still very keen on taking students on a trip to a business setting so that they can really see all their learning come to life. This is not proving to be an easy task as many companies are either not responding or are being understandably very cautious due to Covid. If there is any parent/carer who has their own business or knows someone who does or who works in an organisation where 29 students can visit for the day to see how things run, Mr Rosiello would be very happy to be contacted on frosiello@stromeros.co.uk



English

The Autumn Term has been busy in English and we would like to congratulate our students for all their hard work and enthusiasm. We welcomed our new Year 7 students into the department and have been very impressed with their attitude to English lessons and interest in reading.

Our Year 7 and 8 book club, run by Miss Louise, have recently read a dystopian novel (*The Giver*) and were given a private screening of the movie (with snacks) and compared the text to film. Miss Louise was delighted that so many students preferred the original text!

This term the book club will be reading the play *Black Harvest* and they often have impromptu performances by the fantastic book club committee. Members are developing to be voracious readers and regularly share their passion to discuss literary styles and plot analysis. Please join us next term for creative poetry and *My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece*, every Thursday 3-3:30pm in English Room 3.



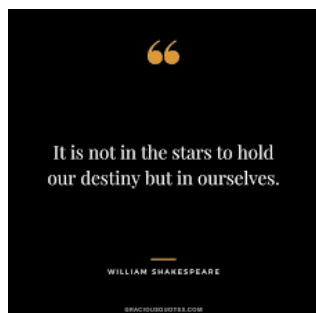
Our Year 11 students worked hard to prepare for their mock exams and have also attended P7 sessions after school. This term we have focused on preparations for mocks, specifically on skills for English Language Paper 1 (Creative Reading and Writing).

This term period 7 will focus on Power and Conflict poetry and how to explore and compare unseen modern poetry. We will continue with English Language Paper 2 next term in preparation for the February mocks. Period 7 interventions have been fantastically attended with our year 11 students showing their dedication to GCSE success. Next term, new groups will be created based on mock performance and gaps. We are very proud of our Year 11 students!

This past term has seen an enthusiastic uptake in the Touch Typing Club, which Dr Webb-Blofeld offers each Friday from 3-4pm. The club has attracted regular attendees across year 7s to 10s, keen to learn how to type professionally using the home keys, and definitely without looking! Please come along if you would like to become a better typist.

The English department has also provided a Wednesday lunchtime Performance Poetry/Poetry Slam club for those who are interested in making their words bounce and in honing their performance skills. However, this will soon be replaced with writing of a different kind – that of sports reporting.

Following a string of impressive wins against a range of schools within and beyond West Sussex, the football, rugby, basketball, and netball teams have had a lot to shout about this term, and our mission will be to get this news out far and wide! The first meeting of the sports reporting team will discuss titles for a new monthly or bi-monthly 'Romero Sports Report', which will definitely still be applauding its many successes – past, present, and future. Romero's sports team members will also be encouraged to take part, whether it's providing their view or analysis of a particular game, or in interviewing various sports figures. Those who are more used to spectating the home and away games will be encouraged to take on various roles – including sports photographers, sports reporters, and creators of other sports-related content. We will be looking for reporters from Years 7-10, so watch this space!

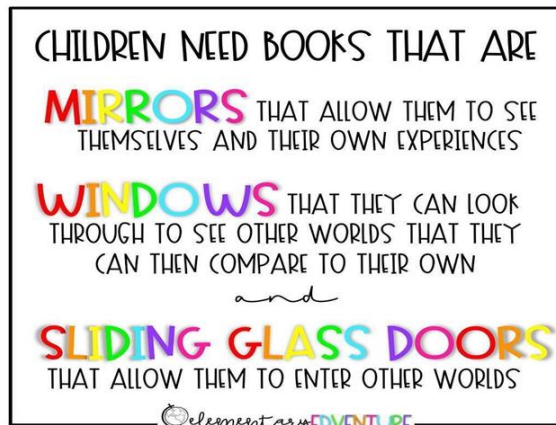


Thank you to all our students for their work this term and have a lovely Christmas break!

Mrs B Norman – Subject Leader for English



Library



We have had a wonderful first term, welcoming our new Year 7's who are very enthusiastic readers. Our top borrowed books are, Crater Lake followed by A Kind of Spark.

The library has an array of clubs available for students to enjoy. Mondays is Manga club where we have enjoyed watching My Neighbour Toyoto, playing a fun quiz and then drawing characters.

Lego Club has recently started on Mondays after school, where students of all abilities can come and enjoy creating.



The Chess Club is continuing to see new faces as well as our regulars. We had a match between two of the most experienced players, Connor and Again, players of all abilities are welcome.



In September we had the absolute pleasure in welcoming Jennifer Killick, author of 'Crater Lake' to our school. She spoke to the students about her books and how she creates her characters and develops her ideas.

Year 8 - The focus this term has been on developing literacy and statistical skills through studying population. Students have been investigating world population growth. Key topics covered have been the changing UK population structure and how this relates to the Demographic Transition Model. We have started to introduce population data and statistics leading onto data analysis and interpretation. Other interesting topics we have covered is the Chinese one child policy, students developed short essay writing skills "to what extent has the policy been successful" With the focus on justification and writing a well-balanced answer looking at different perspectives.

Year 9

We have started year 9 with a transition in preparation for GCSE. Our first topic of study is ecosystems and in particular focusing on cold environments. Key areas of focus have been on studying the characteristics and climate of polar and tundra environments. Students are developing their understanding and skills in a cold environment context in order to build on this procedural knowledge at a later date when we study hot deserts at GCSE in year 10.

Year 10

The focus for this autumn term has been on managing resources, with particular focus on food, energy and water. This ties in with a lot of recent local and global events such as Brexit and the impact on food resources in the UK and the recent energy crisis in the UK, where the price of energy has sky rocketed. This has allowed us to give our students a real world focus when discussing key themes and topics and investigate the cause and impacts and looking more specifically at management strategies to manage local and global resources.

Year 11

"Is Brighton thriving" was our human fieldwork question of investigation. Students worked in small groups collecting primary data through land use mapping, retail diversity calculations and questionnaires and surveys.



Wishing you all a very peaceful Christmas and don't forget to enjoy sharing a good story with your family, the benefits are brilliant!



Geography

Year 7 - Students have been developing and utilising all of their map skills to investigate their local area through using an OS Map. They were excited to add their spots to the amazing local area map we have near Lucy's garden. They were able to identify where they live and start to think about spatial patterns relating to where our students come from and the sphere of influence our school has in the local area.

We focused on three main areas in Brighton, this allowed us to make a comparison with other shopping centers in the UK, whilst also looking at historical data from Brighton. It was great to see so many students engaged in their learning and developing their conceptual understanding in a real life context.



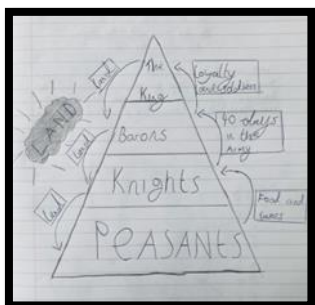
Students had the opportunity to ask questions to local businesses in the three different areas of Brighton in order to investigate the impact of the pandemic on their business and the future business prospects. This understanding gained of fieldwork skills will be integral to their success when tackling paper 3.



History

Year 7

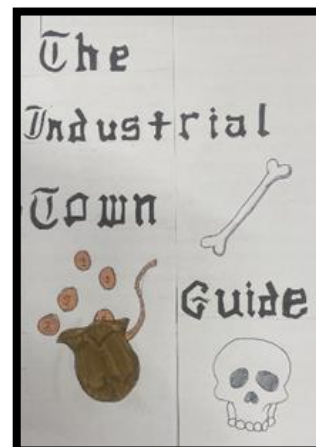
Year 7 have taken a rapid journey through history, from Roman times to Medieval England. Students have been highly engaged with William's of Normandy's conquest of England, and this has come across in a vast array of vibrant classwork and exceptional engagement with the assessment on why William won the Battle of Hastings. We've just started our journey onto the Crusades and will be moving onto King John and the Magna Carta, the Black Death and the Peasants' Revolt, towards the end of term. The engagement of isolating students has been exceptional, which really displays their dedication to the subject.



Year 8

Year 8 students began the term full of excitement and this reflected in the thought-provoking discussions throughout the history classrooms. They have looked at challenging established historical norms, considering the legacy of the British Empire, the Industrial Revolution, and the sensationalising of the Jack the Ripper victims.

Year 8 students managed to impress us with their receptivity to the topics, but also in their retention of information and historical skills. Some students are already considering taking history for GCSE, and their evident historical skills were evident in their first assessment on the British Empire.



Year 9

This has been an interesting year for the current year 9 students. With the move to a two-year GCSE, students have been given more time to engage with topics outside of the GCSE history curriculum, while still building on essential skills that will aid them should they take the subject for GCSE. The year began with a look at parallel histories, focusing specifically on the conflict between Israel and Palestine. This attempt to diversify the history curriculum was met with thought-provoking responses and some extremely sophisticated debates. Students are currently enjoying the crime and punishment unit, if their excited responses have been anything to go by.

Year 10

This is the first time we have run the 'Power and the People' GCSE course, which Year 10 have been studying since their return in September. This thematic study looks at challenges to authority over time, which seems to have resonated with many students. We began in the Middle Ages, looking at the Magna Carta and the Peasants' Revolt, and have journeyed through the English Civil War and Henry VIII's religious policies. We have just started on challenges to authority in the 1800s, beginning with the Great Reform Act. Students have shown no slacking in their commitment to the GCSE subject.

Year 11

Year 11 have had a tumultuous time, completing much of their GCSEs during lockdown, but their engagement and tenacity has been noted. Particularly in those students that have regularly attended intervention programmes aimed at supporting them to fully access their history GCSEs with all the skills needed. We have been recapping 'Medicine through Time' in preparation for students' mock exams, which they sat recently. We hope that their hard work and dedication pays off in their results



Mathematics

Lessons & Curriculum

Our students have had a very busy time in their maths lessons this Autumn, having covered a wide variety of mathematical topics in their first term. They have worked very hard.

Year 7

Our newest cohort began their term looking at working with data. This was an opportunity for them to put their maths skills to use in other subjects, using their knowledge of graphs and tables. They have since studied units on place value and geometry.



Year 8

Year 8 have studied two fundamental areas of mathematics this term, beginning with number properties and then moving on to the geometry of 2D and 3D shapes.

Year 9

Topics covered by Year 9 this term include Arithmetic, Algebraic Manipulation, and their latest unit, Coordinates and Graphs.

Year 10

Students in the Higher GCSE stream have studied a fundamental part of the Maths GCSE curriculum, learning different methods of solving quadratic equations, before beginning units on circle geometry. Students in the Foundation stream have studied ratio and proportion, another key part of the Maths curriculum, before going onto units on perimeter, area and volume.

Year 11

Our year 11 students have been tackling some of the most challenging topics on the GCSE curriculum, including solving equations, functions and advanced trigonometry. They have also been working hard in their

period 7 maths lessons on a Wednesday, with two classes working towards an additional GCSE in Further Maths.

All years are about to complete their first round of assessments – our hats go off to them for their hard work and dedication.

Hegarty Maths

Our students continue to use Hegarty maths to complete their homework, and for revision. In total, they have completed a massive **4619** hours of learning this term! The school currently sit in the top **5%** for hours spent learning, and **8%** for questions answered, on average per student.

Most Questions Answered	Year 7	Oscar Kearnon-Caister
	Year 8	Emily Clarke
	Year 9	Sophie Weller
	Year 10	Dominic Winton
	Year 11	Connor Leggatt
Most Hours Spent Learning	Year 7	Angeline Gogoua
	Year 8	Emily Clarke
	Year 9	Ryleigh Standing
	Year 10	Bethany Meredith
	Year 11	Sophie Holway
Most Reattempts	Year 7	Oscar Kearnon-Caister
	Year 8	Thomas Stepney
	Year 9	Kyle Pash
	Year 10	Alexander Junior
	Year 11	Mia Palmer

Sparx Maths

The school have been offered a tremendous opportunity to get involved in the pilot study of Sparx Maths, an online homework platform, which is being prepped and readied to replace Hegarty in the next few years. Sparx and Hegarty have teamed up to provide a sort of 'Hegarty 2.0', combining the best pieces of each of their research driven and student / teacher centred platforms. Our year 7 & 8 students will be getting the chance to see first-hand what might be to come for the future of maths here at school. Over the next few weeks, the maths team will be working hard to get students logged on and navigated around the site, so that they can 'have a go' and get to grips with expectations over the break for Christmas.

Up Next...

After Christmas, students will take part in Maths week, which brings with it a multitude of opportunities; enriching activities, trips and visits, challenges and competitions. As part of this week, some year 9 and 10 classes have been entered into the UKMT Intermediate Challenge to compete against some of the sharpest minds in the nation.

We are also working hard as a department to give our primary feeder schools a taste of the expertise we have in the Maths department at St Romero. Mr Sloggett will be working very closely with some students over at English Martyrs, and Ms Roskams will be offering some drop in sessions to deliver some enriching activities to local primary schools.

Please keep on the lookout for more exciting upcoming events, as they seem to be on the up once more!



The Maths Team at St Romero's

The Maths department has continued to welcome the mathematics teachers of the future, with Mr Dyas, Miss Nutbrown and Mr Aitchison joining Mr Hibbert, Mr Larkam, Mr Sloggett, Ms Roskams, Mrs House, Mr Ozeren, Miss Palser, Miss Benson and Mr Noye for the Autumn term.

This term Mr Hibbert finally finished his Masters Degree in Education, alongside Miss Palser completing her PhD in Mathematics after four years of work, now giving her the title of Dr Palser!

the Parthenon and the winning entry which was a decorative wall piece on France!



On November 2nd, in Mexico and many Spanish-speaking countries, they celebrated Día De Los Muertos (Day of The Dead) and students were taught lots of things about this celebration and we finished off by decorating lots of skulls with facts underneath. There is an amazing display of these in Mr Rosiello's classroom. A busy term with lots of learning, engaging lessons, some assessments but most importantly, happy students!



MFL

We welcomed two new members to the MFL Department in September. Mrs Walters and Mrs Rys-Kent have joined us - but we still have Mrs Rodriguez-García, Mrs Vallom and Mr Rosiello so we are getting bigger and better!

Year 7 have settled in nicely with Languages. We have tried a new approach with Year 7 this year, whereby students will have the same teacher all year, but every half term we switch between French and Spanish – in order to give students a flavour of both languages for the year. They are certainly very enthusiastic!

On September 20th – we had MFL week whereby we had a week in the school full of fun activities for students in order to celebrate European Day of Languages. We had tutor quizzes run by Mrs Walters, Mrs Vallom gave yummy croissants to all students who were the reward points winners in all MFL lessons, and Mrs Rodriguez-García ran a joke competition. Mr Rosiello also ran a House Competition whereby students were invited to make anything related to a European country. We had lots of entries, here are our Top 3. A Colosseum model,





Music

What an amazing team we have in the Music Department at our school! This term, Mr Garratt and Mrs Walden's dream team has worked their way through 14 performances, gathering students across all year groups. This is in addition to the everyday brilliance that occurs in lessons across all year groups.

Year 7 have been playing and singing in class, in groups and as soloists, both in class and as Oxford and Cambridge choirs. What a keen bunch of players and singers they are! Many sang as part of our combined choir in the Romero Sings Live Choir, singing with around 250 voices; "You gotta sing your own special song"

Year 8 have been preparing for our annual Year 8 performance assembly on 9th December. Each class has prepared a different carol, to perform to our audience of all of year 8 and over 80 relatives and friends. Songs include Away in a Manger, O Come all ye Faithful, We Three Kings, We Wish you a Merry Christmas, Silent Night, Mary's Boy Child and Jingle Bells. This is a valuable life skill opportunity; learning to perform under pressure and deliver! Soloists included Ciaran Barnes (guitar solo), Caleb Booth (Drumkit), Orla Keane (Keyboard solo), Elliot Reed (ukulele solo), Sophie Fifield (piano), Jenny Reene (Voice), Emily Clarke (electric piano), Eloise Evans (flute), Mia Murray (voice), Emily Russell (voice), William Cavanagh (electric guitar), Lara Parker (clarinet), Isla Parker (voice), Caitlin Thomas (voice), Ronnie Wood (chimes), Jasmine Constance (keyboard), Maisie King (keyboard), Mikulas Nezhoda (keyboard), Samuel Smith (keyboard), Leo Gilbert (voice) and Pacey Hull (voice)

Congratulations on a job well done to all our performers!

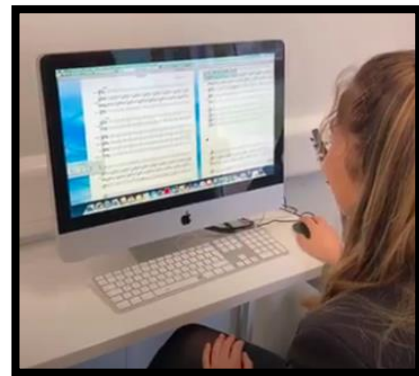


In addition to their weekly class music lesson, all of Year 8 have been given a cornet, free to use for the whole year! It is theirs to look after, take home to practice, and bring to lesson each week and enjoy the challenge of learning an instrument. Mr Garratt is our brass specialist and inspires us every lesson.

All of Year 9 formed rock bands in groups of 6 at the start of the year, and then recorded their song, using industry standard equipment generously funded by Friends of Romeros. We are now editing our music in LogicPro to produce a finished product. It's quite a steep learning curve for us all, ably commandeered by Mr Garratt our resident Music Tech guru.

Year 10 GCSE Music continue to rehearse, perform and create music across many genres and are currently preparing for their role in the **Romeros Celebration of Christmas and Advent Concert on Thursday 16th Dec at 6pm.**

Year 11 RSL & GCSE Music are currently hard at work completing coursework for their final assessments which form at least 60% of their final grade; we are confident in your effort and abilities.



Individual Music Exam successes this year include: James Winton's OUTSTANDING Distinction result in his Grade 7 Trinity College Singing Exam. The examiner awarded him an AMAZING 67/68 for his four prepared pieces; well-done James! Others are sitting exams this week as this publication goes to press. Well done to all for your persistent practice and determination.

Congratulations also to James Taylor, Year 7, who has just passed his Grade 1 piano exam, at Merit standard. He was only 2 marks off a Distinction!

We have had many performances throughout this term, sometimes more than one each week, including:

Year 7 Choir at Romeros Summer Fair Saturday, 25 September, in our first performance in the school amphitheatre, with parents and friends cheering us on from the stands.

Open Evening 6th October provided us with the opportunity to show our keen singers, with over 70 Year 7's singing to prospective parents and students. They were blown away by our enthusiasm and fun warm up "The Grand Old Duke of York and "Everybody's Singing", then moved to tears at the beautiful rendition of "You Say" performed by the Chamber Choir. Our confident instrumentalists William Cavanagh, Daniel Nagatsu,

James Winton entertained visitors as they moved through the school corridors.

Tuesday, 19th October - **Glyndeborne Opera**. Glyndeborne offers world class opera tickets reduced from over £100 to £7 in a one off schools performance! 28 of our Year 9 & 10 GCSE Music and Drama students, and elite Year 8 singers, saw Beethoven's only operatic work: Fidelio.

Whole School Mass for All Saints Day in November heard the whole school in full voice in the Sports Hall; the musical highlight being 'Bless the Lord' (10,000 reasons).

Wednesday, 10th November - **Prize evening** Performances by Florence Rosser (piano), Caitlin Lupton (cello) and Chamber Choir: Louie Burke, Jack Cavanagh, William Cavanagh, Charlie Cresswell, Isla Easton, Ruby Elsworth, Margaret Henderson, Delphi Jeffries, Grace Kyte, Sophie Langrish, Abigail Markham, Elliot Meakins, Isabella Nicholls, Tess Page, Lara Parker, Katie Preston, Rhiannon Roberts, Lucy Scott, Lauren Shoebridge, Maria Sieniawska, Aimee Tessier, Emmeline Turner, Megan Worsfold-Gwyn, Soloist Jasmine Constance, Piano Accompanist: Romeo Rubia



Thursday, 11th November: Daniel Nakatsu played the last post on clarinet to the school as we joined people from around the world in **Remembrance Day**.

Friday, 19th November - **Romero Sings Live**. Family, friends and staff were so impressed and proud of all our performers: **St Mary's Catholic Primary School Choir, English Martyrs Catholic Primary School Choir, St Romero's Open Choir** - Edward Blanchard, Vinnie Ludlow, Zachary Bandar, Isla Easton, Daniel Derias, Maria Sieniawska, **Chamber Choir** - Louie Burke, Jack Cavanagh, William Cavanagh, Charlie Cresswell, Isla Easton, Ruby Elsworth, Margaret Henderson, Delphi Jeffries, Grace Kyte, Sophie Langrish, Abigail Markham, Elliot Meakins, Isabella Nicholls, Tess Page, Lara Parker, Katie Preston, Rhiannon Roberts, Lucy Scott, Lauren Shoebridge, Maria Sieniawska, Aimee Tessier, Emmeline Turner, Sophie Weller, Megan Worsfold-Gwyn, **Chamber Choir Soloist** - Jasmine Constance, **Chamber Choir Piano Accompanists** - Romeo Rubia, Florence Rosser. **Year 7 Cambridge Choir, with Soloists** Daniel Derias, Alicia Keating-Goddard, Bradley Tshingoma, Oliver Sumpter **Year 7 Oxford Choir**, Year 11 Heidi Taylor

Thursday, 25th November **Year 11 Mock Exam Music** concert. Family, friends and staff were so impressed and proud of all our performers: Maisy Banks, Owen Dutton, Loui Clark, Ella Hobbs, Amelia Van Vliet, Maria Whiting, Lillie-Mae Beavis, Marat Bushby, Tallulah Taylor, Kian Bayley, Luca Clarkson, Jamie Collins, Gino Fiondella, Logan Eichenhofer-Jones, Triston Naftel, Heidi Taylor, Alice Kennedy, Jessie Titmarsh, Skye Woolmington, Floran Yadaar, Ethan Pullen.

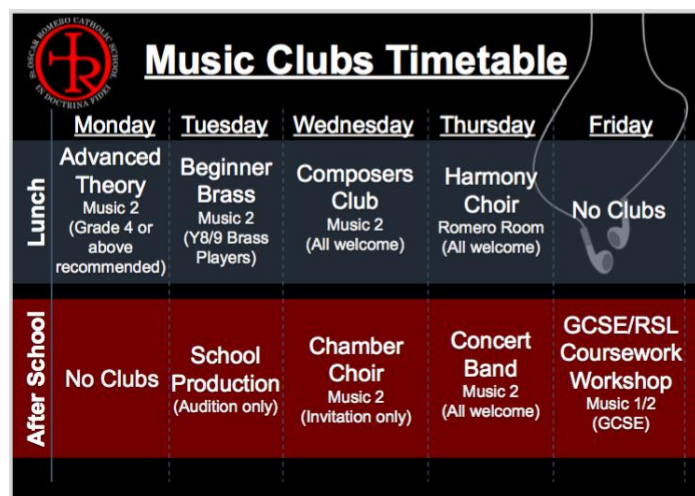


Tuesday 30th November **Advent at Arundel Cathedral**
Players: **Year 10** Ariana Peci (keyboard), **Year 9** Mia Nobes (Violin), Alicja (Ukulele), **Year 8** Daniel Nakatsu (clarinet), Lara Parker (clarinet), Denver Premathilaka (bass), William Cavanagh (guitar), **Year 7** Poppy, Connor Dales and Louie (keyboard) Miles Pigeon, Dawson West.
Singers: James Winton, Jack Cavanagh, Charlie Cresswell, Isla Easton, Ruby Elsworth, Margaret Henderson, Delphi Jeffries, Grace Kyte, Sophie Langrish, Abigail Markham, Elliot Meakins, Isabella Nicholls, Tess Page, Lara Parker, Katie Preston, Rhiannon Roberts, Lucy Scott, Lauren Shoebridge, Maria Sieniawska, Aimee Tessier, Emmeline Turner, Megan Worsfold-Gwyn, Jasmine Constance.

Tuesday, 14th December - Romero students supported **Advent and Christmas service** for one of our feeder schools, St Peters in Shoreham.

Thursday, 16th and Friday, 17th December - **Celebration of Advent and Christmas** at school with over 200 student contributors: Year 7 choir, Open Choir, Chamber Choir, Year 10 GCSE Music, Concert Band, actors, dancers and readers.

Music events planned for 2021 include our musical production Bugsy, 'Songs of Hope' at Ford Prison, Year 8 cornet concert, combined Primary instrumental music event, Art Exhibition display and our Summer Music Concert.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	Advanced Theory Music 2 (Grade 4 or above recommended)	Beginner Brass Music 2 (Y8/9 Brass Players)	Composers Club Music 2 (All welcome)	Harmony Choir Romero Room (All welcome)	No Clubs
After School	No Clubs	School Production (Audition only)	Chamber Choir Music 2 (Invitation only)	Concert Band Music 2 (All welcome)	GCSE/RSL Coursework Workshop Music 1/2 (GCSE)

At Romeros we have a fantastic team of Peripatetic Music Staff who are available to provide one to one instrumental lessons for students during the school day. Our staff can currently provide lessons in Brass, Piano/Keyboard, Guitar/Ukulele, Drum kit and Voice.

Learning an instrument is not only enjoyable but also a great way to develop organisational skills, discipline, confidence, and develop your brain. (For more information about the impact on the brain watch this TED video - www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROJKCYZ8hng)

If you would prefer for your child to not have lessons during school day, our teachers also provide lessons outside of school. Do get in contact with them to see what they can provide. Instrument hire (if applicable) is organised by each teacher individually.

Brass Lessons - Teacher: Joy White
Email: joywhitebrass@gmail.com
Instruments: Trumpet, Trombone, Cornet, Tenor Horn, Baritone, Euphonium
Website: <https://www.joywhitebrass.co.uk>

Guitar/Ukulele Lessons - Teacher: Andrew Walker
Email: bangandstrum@gmail.com
Instruments: Guitar, Ukulele and Bass Guitar

Piano/Keyboard Lessons - Teacher: Helen Phillips
Email: enquiries@helenphillipsiano.co.uk
Instruments: Piano and Keyboard
Website: <http://www.helenphillipsiano.co.uk>

Singing Lessons - Teacher: Charlotte Bolton
Instruments: Voice/Singing
Website: <https://cbsingingandteaching.mymusicstaff.com>

Drum Lessons - Teacher: Theo Walden **Email:** theowalden66@gmail.com
Instruments: Drum Kit



SEND

I am delighted to be writing this section of the newsletter as the new SENCo for St Oscar Romero Catholic School. I am really enjoying my new role within the school and have already had the opportunity to meet with many parents this term through our Meet the SENCo sessions.

It has been a very busy term and we are delighted to have welcomed seven new LSAs to our team! The LSA team now consists of: Mr Awde, Mrs Baker, Miss Barton, Mrs Berthiaume, Mrs Bray, Mrs Carter, Mrs Clark-Gutierrez, Mrs Franks, Mrs Lacy, Mr Malandain, Mr Negus, Mrs Price, Miss Silver and Miss Squires.

In addition, we welcome Mrs Parsons to the SEN team as our new administrator for the department, supporting both myself and Mrs Stewart, our Intervention Co-ordinator and Deputy SENCo.

The email addresses for the department are as follows:
lbenson@stromeros.co.uk
lstewart@stromeros.co.uk
nparsons@stromeros.co.uk

Our Meet the SENCo sessions continue throughout the year. You can book these appointments on Edulink and are held in person at school in 'The Den'. Future dates for these sessions are: 10th January, 17th March, 9th May, 30th June 2022.

If you are not able to book an appointment for these sessions, please contact Mrs Parsons who will assist you. If you find you are unable to attend your pre-booked appointment, please use Edulink to remove your appointment so that it is available to others. Many thanks.

The LSA team, myself and Mrs Stewart look forward to continuing to work with and support our amazing students.

Mrs L Benson, SENCo



Physical Education

We start this PE Newsletter with a section from an article written by the journalist Fiona Evans. Published on the Burnley Express website on the 12th November 2021, it sets the scene for why Physical Education, Physical Activity and School Sport are so important for our children:

Back in the early noughties Nelson Mandela delivered a speech – the words which would outlive their father.



“Sport has the power to change the world,” he told the inaugural Laureus World Sports Awards.

“It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination.”

More than two decades and a pandemic later, Mandela’s message is no less relevant, especially to the legions of young people whose lives were railroaded by lockdowns. Arguably, there has never been a greater need and opportunity to place physical activity and well-being at the heart of education – for the benefit of the individual as well as the common good.

Yet children risk becoming increasingly disengaged from physical activity over the next decade unless more is done to champion the value of PE and school sport according to a recent report published by the Youth Sport Trust.

PE and school sport is at the heart of all we do at St Romero’s. We hope you enjoy reading this section of the school newsletter, which will give you a flavour of the amazing things that have been happening during this first term.

Autumn PE Curriculum, Extra-Curricular and House Activities

Our first term has included a diverse range of activities and provided students with a broad and balanced PE

curriculum. Baseline assessments (Year 7 only), dance, football, fitness, leadership, netball, badminton and basketball have been delivered in lessons with high levels of engagement and progress.

PE house competitions have thus far included cross-country and table tennis. Whilst table tennis was an optional after school competition, almost all students from Year 7 to 10 took part in the cross-country and contributed points towards the house cup!

Extra-curricular provision and engagement has sharply increased following the relaxation of COVID restrictions. At the time of writing this PE newsletter, over 40 different clubs have been on offer since we returned in September. The first few KS3 boys’ football training sessions was seeing almost 100 students in attendance, whilst over 40 girls have been consistently attending Year 7 netball and dance clubs!

The first half term focused on football, rugby and netball (in line with district fixtures). As we move towards Christmas, the focus has now shifted towards basketball.

Please check the PE club timetable for changes at the start of every new half-term. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. All you need is a positive attitude and full Romero PE kit (appropriate for the activity).





The Year 8 boy's football team put in a number of strong performances throughout the season without getting the result they wanted, or at times deserved. The season highlight was a fantastic win against TLA. Star performers include James Mugadza, Elliott Birchall, Luke Awde and Jack Beverton.



The Year 9 boy's football team had a fantastic season! After five league matches they finished top of the league, undefeated on 13 points with a goal difference of +13! Wins against Bohunt, TLA and Steyning secured our place in the finals where we faced St Andrews at Steyning Town Community FC.

The final was an epic encounter, with both sides regularly taking and losing the lead. With just three minutes left to play, Destiny scored the winner (his third of the game) and we were just about able to hold on for a dramatic 5-4 win! The boys have grown so much as a team during the season, and we could not be prouder of what they have achieved. Exciting times are certainly ahead, and we already planning for next season!

Stand out performers throughout the season were Deion Williams, Beau Cole, Destiny Omokaro, Henry Chandler, Jack Cox and Issac Smith.



Football - The Year 7 boy's football team have made a great start to life in secondary competition. Despite defeat in their opening game against Angmering, the team improved quickly as the league progressed. On their way to a very respectable third place finish, the team beat strong opposition in the form of Durrington and Worthing High.

The Year 7's entered into the National Cup and enjoyed impressive victories against Hove Park and Shoreham Academy. Unfortunately, we were eventually eliminated by a strong Warden Park team in what was a closely fought third round contest. Star performers of the season included Kian O'Reilly, Harvey Reid, Jack Banfield, Bradley Tshingoma, Finn Dzekawong and Hayden Hickey.



Players on the fringes of the Year 9 first team squad took part in a tournament at St Andrews. We had enough players to create two teams, both of whom put in a series of brilliant performances. Both teams remained undefeated and should be incredibly proud of how they played and the attitude they showed.



The under-14 girl's football season was full of success stories. A dramatic season opening victory against Davison came after a VERY late Hattie Knight goal. A comprehensive 3-1 victory against TLA followed, with goals coming from Milly Grim, Charlotte Kay and Chloe Read. The girls have one more match (against Angmering) to determine if they will make it into the finals – we wish them all the best!



The under-15 girl's football team won their first national cup fixture, beating Hove Park 4-3! After conceding a very early goal, the team fought back to win an epic battle! Player of the match went to Ashleigh Bartram who was clinical on the day, scoring all four goals! Unfortunately, defeat in the next round against Worthing High School means that the team's journey in this particular competition has ended – but they should

be extremely proud of what they have achieved in a short space of time.

Basketball - The Year 9 girls' basketball season began early and the girls enjoyed plenty of success. The team finished fourth in their league, with highlights including impressive wins against Shoreham Academy and Sir Robert Woodard. Star players from the season were Chloe Read and Freia Ramiro.



Swimming - The junior boys swimming team (Sammy Smith, Mihki Nezhoda, Ede Ruso and Leo Finch) put in a fantastic performance at the Sussex Schools Team Championship Qualifying Round. They won both of their races (4x50m freestyle relay / 4x50m medley relay) in emphatic fashion beating various schools from across the county! Unfortunately, we did not manage to qualify for the national finals held at the London Aquatic Centre, but the team did the school proud and they are eager to go again already! I hope that next year a few more swimmers will emerge and we can take multiple teams.



Rugby - The under-14 rugby team have already begun to prepare for their league season that begins in early March 2022. They train every Friday after school, under the guidance of Mr Noye, and recently enjoyed an impressive victory against the always-strong St Phillip Howard.



As the Year 7 and 8 girl's rugby team prepare for their season, they recently attended a coaching session hosted by The Angmering School. This session was led by a team of coaches from Worthing Rugby Club, and our students really benefitted from this had a fantastic time!



Table Tennis - On Wednesday 24th November, St Oscar Romero Catholic School took part in the annual county Table Tennis Tournament held at the Triangle Leisure Centre in Burgess Hill. Our students, as always, were outstanding and fought hard in every match. The opposition faced were of a very high standard and included a number of national players. Unfortunately, we did not manage to qualify for the next round but are already planning for next year's event!



Under 13 Team 1:	Under 13 Team 2:	Under 16 Team 1:
JAMES FRYER	LUKE AWDE	LUCA MARC
IMANI	NICK TRZEPIZUR	ASHLEY
ZYAMBO	LOGAN PURDIE	COLEMAN
HARVEY READ	SAMUEL SMITH	VINZI SALAZAR
AUSTIN BROAD		HENRY
		CHANDLER

Squash - Some of our Year 8 students have been having a great time with Noah from West Worthing Tennis and Squash Club. For most, this was their first experience of squash, and this 10-week development programme provides a fantastic opportunity to improve their understanding of this fantastic sport!





against other district teams and the standard of football played is incredibly high.

In early November, they played against Brighton Boys, winning 6-2. Ronnie scored a screamer and provided an assist, whilst Callaghan put in a fantastic performance as wing-back. Well done Ronnie and Callaghan - we are incredibly proud of you!

HUGE congratulations to Beau Cole who has been selected for the Saracens Developing Player Pathway. The purpose of this level is to provide the first Saracens rugby opportunity to the players aged 13-15, and to identify those players with the greatest potential to enter the pathway towards the professional game and England. Players are exposed to rugby, strength and conditioning, lifetime session and festivals.



DIScoverABILITY Day 2021 - DIScoverABILITY Day is a fantastic event that gives hundreds of people the opportunity to take part in a range of cricket activities at The 1st Central County Ground – the home of Sussex County Cricket Club. The event is open to schools, colleges, charities, day centres, care homes and community groups from across Sussex to come along and enjoy a series of batting, throwing, catching and bowling challenges on the outfield. A group of Year 8 and 9 students attended on the day and were an absolute credit to the school! We cannot wait to return next year with even more students!

A MASSIVE well done to Year 11 student Miller Cole who took part in trials for Saracens Professional Development Group during the summer holidays. We are incredibly proud to announce that Miller was successful with the trials and was chosen to represent Saracens Kent PDG at the Stonex Stadium against Herts and Essex. Miller's training sessions are slightly further away now, but we are all HUGELY proud of his hard work and deserved success. Keep it up Miller!



Pride of Romero's - Ronnie Baker and Callaghan Stobart were both selected to represent the U16 West Sussex South District Football team for the third year running. This team is made up from all of the best players from secondary schools across the district. They regularly play



HUGE congratulations to Year 9 student Henry Chandler who was selected to represent the Sussex U13 cricket squad during the summer. Henry played five matches during this time, and was also made captain for the first time! We are incredibly proud of you Henry - keep up the great work.



MASSIVE congratulations to one of our many footballing stars Finn Dzekawong! On 13th November, Finn represented Sussex at a county tournament and helped them to win 3 out of 4 matches. Finn also played for Brighton & Hove Albion FC on Sunday 14th November in the U12 Premier League Truce qualifiers. The team did everyone proud and played incredibly well, finishing runners up to Chelsea.



A HUGE well done to Becky Smith who has been excelling in the swimming pool! This year Becky qualified for the swimming regional finals, and has also been selected for the England u17 water polo squad. Becky made her debut in the women's national water polo league in Sheffield and scored in her first match. She was also part of the Sussex water polo team who won gold the annual London/South-east region Under 16 (mixed) tournament on Sunday 14th November at Whitgift school in South Croydon. Becky actually scored the first goal in the final! Becky has also represented the South East team (as vice-

captain) at the inter-regional championships in Walsall, where she will be playing against teams from across the country.



Sammy Smith (brother of Becky) has also been in exceptional form in the pool. Sammy is a regional level swimmer and regional level water polo player. He is on both Regional talent pathways, which include extra training sessions both in the pool and online. At the recent swimming County Championships Sammy qualified for every event! He won three medals including gold in the 400IM. The 400IM is one of the hardest events in swimming, and requires the competitor to swim sixteen continuous lengths (i.e. four lengths butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and front crawl) without stopping as fast as they can. Sammy also won silver in the 200 Butterfly and bronze in the 200IM.

In water polo, Sammy represented Sussex in the inter-county championships where the team won a silver medal. Next month Sammy is playing in the Worthing u15 team at the National Age Group champs in Sheffield. He is the only 12 year old who has been chosen as part of the team. Well done Sammy – we are incredibly proud of you!



Huge congratulations to Year 7 student Emily Menezes Mendes, who finished 5th at the South East Region Schools Trampoline Championships. She will now take part in the regional finals in Somerset on 30th January 2022.

Good luck Emily!



Finally, a HUGE well done to Chloe Read! Chloe is currently playing for Lewes Under-14 football team in the Junior Premier League, Worthing United and has recently been selected to represent Sussex! Chloe plays centre back and trains twice a week. Lewes Under-14s are currently second in their league and have reached the Semi-final of the County Cup.



Please let your PE teacher know of any sporting success occurring outside of school so we can include it in our Spring Newsletter.



PSHE

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

This academic year we have continued to carefully map out a programme that is tailored to the school's needs and the new Ofsted guidelines including the new PSHE and RSE statutory framework. The PSHE planning team has also taken into account how pupils have been socially and mentally affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic. The PSHE tutor programme has continued this year, giving the different year groups opportunities such as assemblies or whole school approaches where pupils have taken part in this year's Anti-Bullying week as well as Mental Health Awareness Week back in October.

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

	Term 1	Term 2
Year 7	Learning Skills - My New School	Sexual Health, Fertility and Puberty
Year 8	Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco	Social Influences
Year 9	Media Literacy and Digital Resilience	Contraception and Parenthood
Year 10	Media Literacy and Digital Resilience	Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
Year 11	Work and Careers	Employment Rights and Responsibilities

Anti-Bullying Week 15.11-19.11.2021:

This year's Anti-Bullying week took place under the motto "One kind word". We offered pupils a broad programme across the week to raise awareness for bullying processes in school environments. Pupils took part in a whole school assembly on Monday morning and



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Odd-Sock to show everyone is allowed to be different. Our dedicated Anti-Bullying Ambassadors shared a video message in the assembly of how we can spread kindness in our everyday lives. The pupils were also reminded of the procedure of reporting bullying incidents by either emailing [Ms Brunner \(PSHE Lead\)](#) or posting a slip in the Anti-Bullying Box that is placed at reception. The pupils took part in tutor activities from Tuesday to Friday creating a sorry box, discussing bullying scenarios and plastering tutor doors with messages of kindness. The highlight was marked with a Drop-Down-Session on Thursday 18.11.2021 where pupils completed an Anti-Bullying session in vertical tutor groups (Year 7 to 8 pupils in mixed groups). We ended the day by forming a circle of unity around the school and then spelt "One kind word" out, which has been captured by a drone navigated by Mr Larkam.

What's happening next term?

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

	Term 3
Year 7	Positive Relationships
Year 8	Choices and Pathways
Year 9	Financial Choices
Year 10	Positive Relationships
Year 11	Social Influences and Personal Safety



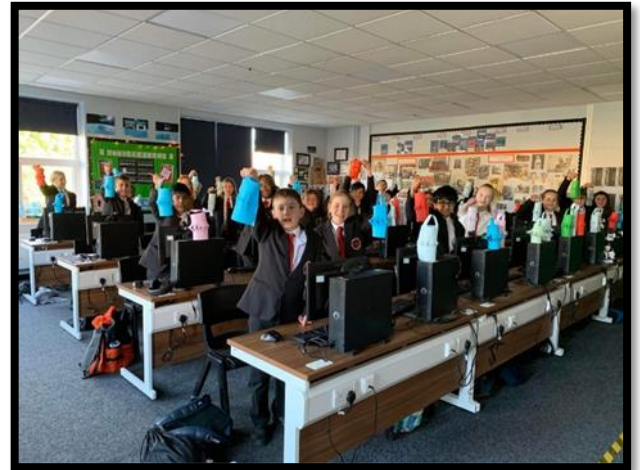
Religious Education

This term the RE department welcomed Mrs Taylor and Mr Verkade to the school and to the RE team, as well as Miss Saksena and Mr Noye who have both joined the teaching team in RE.

KS3 - This term Year 7 units have been 'Foundations of Christianity' and a unit mapping out the Old Testament. Year 8 have looked at the roots of Judaism and at Jesus of Nazareth. Year 9 have looked at the ancient roots of

Christianity and at different approaches to ethical decision making.

Year 8 - In year 8, our first unit this year focused on Judaism. For the first seven weeks of the school year, we learned all about the history of the Jewish people, and the modern day practices of this religion. At the end of this unit, year 8 students were given a very special piece of homework; over the course of two weeks, students researched either the historic tabernacle and temple, or modern-day synagogues. They then had to use the information they gathered to build a model of one of these three Jewish places of worship, complete with an interior, displaying all the key aspects of Jewish worship. Our year 8 students went above and beyond with this task, and showed off not only a solid understanding of the Jewish faith, but also their amazing creativity. Using a variety of materials in their work, from Lego bricks to cardboard, and from Styrofoam to real sand and tent-cloth, they built some absolutely stunning projects!



Year 11 - It has been a busy term for year 11. They have embarked on their study of Islamic Beliefs and Practices which has included a detailed look at The Six Beliefs of Sunni Islam and The Five Roots of Usul al din. This has enabled them to be able to compare and contrast the beliefs and practices of the main Muslim groups. They are currently learning the Five Pillars and I am confident that they will be able to tell you what the Five Pillars are in both English and Arabic if you ask them!

They have worked hard in preparation for their mock exams and are now looking forward to a visit to the Worthing Masjid to further their understanding of Islam. This will give them the opportunity to deepen their learning through seeing the Muslim place of worship and by asking questions to the Imam. As we near the end of the term we are not slowing down, but are preparing to deliver RE intervention sessions to a small number of pupils across the year group to boost their knowledge and skills.

Reflections of an RE Trainee Teacher

*As I walk into every lesson, I wonder what questions the students could ask me,
Today I had a girl ask, what is the point of RE?
All the things I could say could fill books in a library,
But I say, there is no need to ask a question so arbitrary
For I will show you, young minds,
All the things you can find,
If you ask the right questions,
Your mind will open into new dimensions.
Ask me not the point of RE,
Discovering for yourself is easy.*



To mark the Hindu festival of Diwali the RE department ran a competition for tutor groups to design a Diwali display, including colour and light, centred on the theme of 'Good triumphing over evil'. Below are some of our wonderful entries from Mr Price, Miss Standing and Mr Challinor.





Chaplaincy

Jesus said “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” And stretching out his hand towards his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

-Matthew 12:48-50

At St Oscar Romeros, we are proud to be more than simply a community, but strive to be a family. As a family we seek to find ways to give thanks for each other, to lift each other up in times of difficulty, and to reach out to those in need. Each of these endeavours go far beyond just the students and staff in school, but to our parents, grandparents, friends, and wider community. This first term of our new year has brought with it many opportunities for us to become a family.

Grandparents Liturgy

In November we had the great joy of welcoming grandparents, godparents, and all those elders in our lives who offer us care and share with us wisdom in a particular way. The morning started with a short and prayerful liturgy, and our Chamber Choir along with our Year 7 Choirs, were able to assist us in joyfully praising God in song, and blessing our morning with joyful music. Our students were then delighted to be able to show off their school to their guests along with a hot cup of tea and a sweet treat.

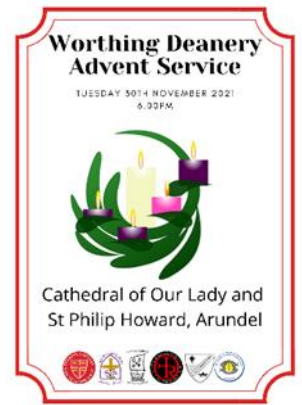


Thank you to all of our grandparents, godparents, and special people in our lives who play such a vital and immeasurable role in the lives of our young people.

Deanery Advent Service

At the start of Advent, as we began the journey to Christmas, we gathered together with our Deanery Primary Schools, local clergy, and Bishop Richard, for a time of prayer and music at Arundel Cathedral. Though a little chilly outside, the cathedral was full of warmth provided by the joy of being able to gather together as a wider community and family. Students from each school

sang their hearts out, setting us well on the way to Christmas and we await the arrival of Jesus, Emmanuel, and God with us. Bishop Richard spoke about the importance of Integrity. That we are called to be whole and complete. Though one of our Deanery Primary schools were unable to be with us on the evening, we were together in spirit and praying for one another, and for our whole family as we approach Christmas.



Supporting Turning Tides



As we came towards the end of this term, our Ambassadors, especially Will Hudson, took the initiative to ensure we were supporting our wider community. Turning Tides support some of the most vulnerable people in Worthing, those who are homeless, and at this time of year there is a greater need than ever, with the cold weather coming in. Students and staff came together in a way that is characteristic of St Oscar Romeros, by filling a minibus with food which will ensure many will have a hot Christmas dinner to share with others this year.

We are immensely proud of our students, and their compassion which drives them to help others and inspires many others to get involved.



I wish you, our extended and much loved family, and blessed remainder of Advent, and very merry Christmas when it comes, and a happy New Year.

May God bless you all – Niall Farrell (School Chaplain)



Science

STEM Club

Year 7 & 8 STEM club have enjoyed lots of exciting extracurricular fun including, dissections, flame tests, catapults and rockets. Next term students can get involved in activities including circuits, the night sky and chemical reactions by coming along to Lab 1 on Tuesday 3-4pm.

In addition to the Y7&8 STEM club, we now have the Senior STEM Society for Y9&10 students to explore advanced Maths and Science topics with Mr Malandain on Tuesday 3-4pm in Lab 3.

Competition success

Following the success of the Lost Box project in the Big Bang competition 2020, we were delighted to find out this term that once again we have won a national Science competition. Luke Bartram, William Clarke and Dominic Winton (Y10) entered a competition run by the Institute of Acoustics to mark the International Year of Sound. They produced a Soundscape walk of the local environment, which included not just descriptions of the sounds they encountered, but also sound recordings and images. In October the three students attended an awards ceremony at the Palace of Westminster, where they collected an engraved glass trophy and the £500 prize money.



The winning entry can be viewed here:

<https://www.ioa.org.uk/news/secondary-schools%E2%80%99-soundscape-competition-2021-winning-entry>

We look forward to students getting involved in further competitions in the spring, including: Biology Challenge, Chemistry Top of the Bench, British Physics Olympiad Challenge.

We also have lots of exciting events coming up around Science Week in February/March - more details to follow!

Educake winners

Our students have now answered over 200,000 questions this term! Students can set themselves an Educake test at any time (it's not just for h/w) - this is a great way to consolidate learning, and to revise topics. Y10 are currently the most active Educake users, having answered > 80,000 questions - well done! Congratulations also to the following students:

Year	Most Qs answered	Highest % correct
7	Savannah Anderson	Elliot Curran
8	Jasmine Judge	Emily Clarke
9	Tiggy Brookes	Amy Nicholls
10	Dominic Winton	Innis Jeffries
11	Jazmine Honnor	Matthew Nicholls

Open evening

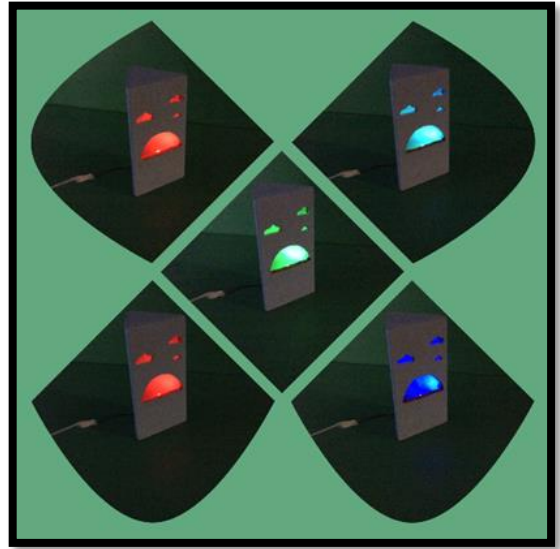
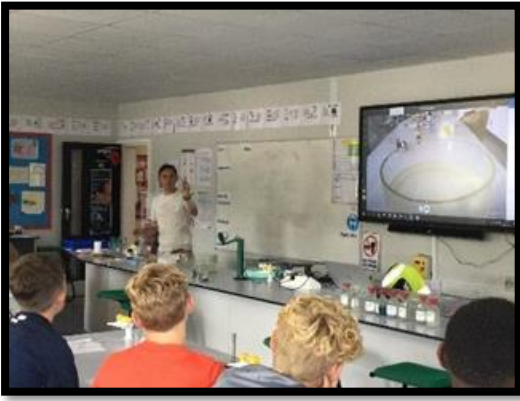
Open evening saw a fantastic array of Science experiments going on. In the biology corner we had Forensics Fun with crime scene evidence being analysed and eyeballs, hearts and even a whole rat dissection in Bloody bodies. Along the corridor in Physics we were *ecstatic* in Electrifying Physics and *enlightened* in Dark matters. Explosions and reactions were enjoyed in both 'Crazy Chemistry' and 'Can you feel the Chemistry' rooms. The prospective year 6s were able to experience what science has to offer at St Oscar Romero's and that couldn't have happened without the superb help from our student helpers. Thank you to all those that helped out on the evening.

Summer school Spectacular!

During the first week of the summer holidays, year 6 students from the Deanery Primary schools were invited for a week of fun and learning at St Oscar Romero Catholic School.

The Science department put on a spectacular show for students led by Mr Kirby, and of course supported by the very talented Ms Kimber.

The sessions were designed to ignite the excitement and awe of science and prepare all students for the transition from KS2 into KS4. The students carried out various practical investigations including; Flame Tests – these are used to detect and identify ions in samples and the reactions between metals and acids – students could see how different metals react with acids (we even used Group 1 metals....These are very reactive!). The feedback from all the students was amazing....I hope they had a great experience.



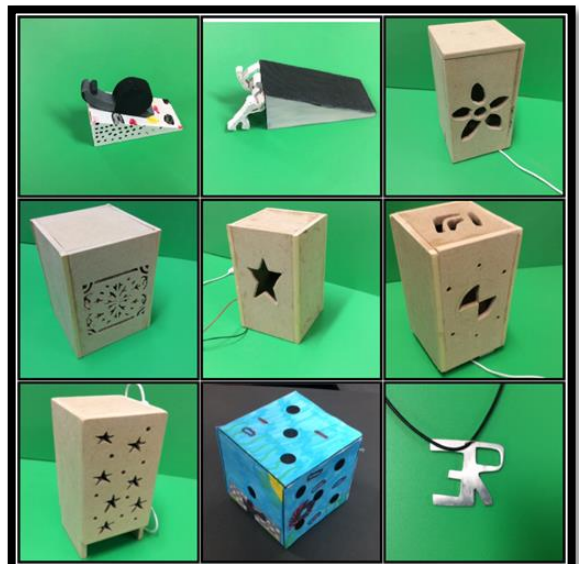
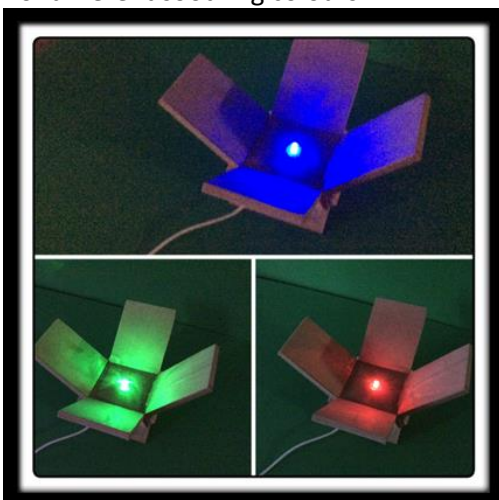
Two more projects that proved a hit were the door wedge and jewellery. The door wedge required carefully research and planning to produce a product that was safe and functional. Many of the parts were very intricate and small and required real skill and accuracy to complete.



Design Technology

This term has seen Year 11 start their final NEA coursework. An independent project to design, plan and manufacture a solution for a given problem or need. The ideas from students are varied with lots of interesting concepts and projects. Furniture design is popular this year with lots of useful and innovative designs being developed, including a number of space saving options.

Lower down the school, students have been working on a number of projects. These include LED mood lights, puzzles, mobile phone stands and jewellery. A real highlight of the term has been the LED mood light. This involved students designing, planning and making the light from scratch. The pictures below show two working lights. As you can see the mood light cycles through a number of different soothing colours.





Food & Nutrition

It has been a very busy term as usual with all year groups cooking.

Year 7 have been hard at work practicing their chopping skills. They have made a Couscous salad, Frittata and Mediterranean tart. All students will complete a 10 week course in Food Technology. They learn how to use all the different parts of the oven and become confident using a knife.

Year 8 have completed the first of an 8 week rotation making Upside Down cake, Pasta Bake and the very popular Sausage rolls.



Year 9 have been busy developing their skills with Springrolls, Curry, Bread and Risotto.

I have started up 2 Food clubs that run after school every Wednesday for year 7 and Thursdays for years 8 and 9. I would like to say a big thank you to M&S Shoreham who donated mixing bowls, cookie cutters and tote bags, the students were so excited to use them and now proudly bring in all their ingredients in their new bags.



We have made a range of products from Raspberry Buns, Apple Swans, Halloween Chocolate Orange Cakes, Bread and Butter Pudding and Jam Tarts. The Food Club is very busy making Christmas products, Clementine Chilli Jam and Peppermint Polar Bears.



Year 10 have been increasing their skill levels making a Finish Fruit Loaf and Choux Pastry.

Year 11 have been working on their NEA, completing coursework and their final GCSE practicals. They have to complete 2 dishes with all accompaniments in 3 hours, which is slightly different this year due to Covid. All students have different dishes ranging from Ice Cream, Homemade Pasta, and illeting chicken and making puff pastry in the New Year they will complete their final assessment and I will be able to show off their fantastic work.



Extended Learning

Speaks for Schools Programme

St Oscar Romero Catholic School is proud to bring back the 'Speakers for Schools' program, which invites guests in to help our students. On this occasion David Allison from 'Get my first job' came to give the students an insight into his history and career pathway and to really get to grips with the world of engineering. David talked about the importance of the Pillars of Possibility and how being inspired, being able to navigate and to problem solve was so essential in the world now and the future.

The Speakers for Schools program helps people in industry to connect with young learners. It is essential that all students have the opportunities to 'See what they could be!' The more chances they have of meeting professionals from all walks of life the more chances the students have of building their own informed pathways.

Students having the opportunity to learn about careers and labour market information from people who are

very aware of what is happening in the World is essential. To make informed decisions helps transition and future planning.

'The speaker and the participants all seemed very engaged in the meeting, and the subject of it. There was also good communication among the students'. Leland Backhouse Year 9 student

'It was totally fascinating to hear about David's industry journey and how engineering connects every part of what we do. The problem solving that the students took part in was really effective and David really engaged the students sparking interest and questions'. Mr Dean - Extended Learning Leader

'It was very interesting to learn and was a fun activity to help us with our future' Aaron Colbran Year 9

'Thanks so much for hosting me and inviting me into St Oscar Romero's. I am very fortunate that I get to visit many different schools and colleges and it was clear from the moment I turned up what a great school it is – impeccably behaved and confident pupils and a great sense of purpose everywhere. I particularly love your Pillars of Possibility – fantastic approach'. David Allison



David's Bio - Having joined Ford Motor Company from school, I was fortunate enough to be sponsored through an engineering degree at Brunel University. Ford's training programme was exceptional; I gained experience working in a wide range of engineering, project management and commercial roles. These experiences opened up many new opportunities and ultimately, I ended up leading Ford's joint venture with Loughborough University where I also gained an MBA. Since leaving Ford in 2005 my work has been focused on education and consultancy which lead me to co-found GetMyFirstJob Ltd. I now lead this social enterprise making innovative use of technology to increase access to apprenticeships, traineeships and other work based learning. I remain a visiting lecturer of the School of Business and Economics at Loughborough University,

and am also a Non-Executive Director of NCFE, one of the UK's largest Awarding Bodies and a Director Bishop Luffa – an Outstanding Church of England Secondary school in Chichester.

St Romero's relaunches the Careers and Future's Fair for Year 10 and 11



The Careers and Future's Fair was held at the school in October this year with stall holders from all walks of Business, Higher Education and Further Education. Students and their families were able to chat to them about their offer to help make some key life and next step decisions. Members of the RAF told us that they had many inquiries including one parent who was looking for a Career change.

'I liked the fact that all the colleges were there so you could make comparisons' - Year 11 student.

'My son spoke to Finecast, a local engineering company about their Apprenticeship offer, he never thought it would be possible to be an engineer without going to college full time'- Year 11 Parent.

Year 10 student Ambassadors had responsibility for the smooth running of the event gaining valuable work experience along the way.

'To have all the information at hand in one room was a delight to see, of course through these difficult times students need as many chances to 'See what they could be'. Having these dedicated people giving up their time for our students is amazing and so important'. Mr Dean (Extended Learning Leader and event organiser).

We aim to give every student the opportunity to meet multiple employers and to be able to choose their next steps through the amazing variety of Sixth form colleges. Choice is the most important factor in their transition with a totally unbiased guidance process including mentoring and guidance from our dedicated 'Partners'.

Here is a big thank you to our Partners present at the event

Angmering School - Tony Kerrison
GBMC - Clare Barwick & Peter Whiffen
BHASVIC - Denise Mansfield
Worthing College/Chichester College - Sharon Stevens
SPH Sixth Form - Kirsten
Newman College - Victoria Jones
Collyers - Steve Martell and a group of 6 ex students
Jace Training - Alison Callaghan
Adur-Worthing Council - Angela Crane
Brighton Medical School - Charlotte Smyrk
Steve Willis Training - Colleen Willis
Safety Mode - Kayla Shepherd
Alpha Training Safety solutions - Louise Grant
MOD - Alex Bush & Tom Fuller
NCS - Victoria Jones
Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust - Vivienne Cannons
ASK Apprenticeships - Neil Secombe & Sarah Sawyer
Police - Simon Chigwell & Sarah Dunkley
West Sussex Careers Team - Dexter Kunaka
Equiniti - Charlotte Lister
Fusion Business - Chris Mansfield
Willmott Dixon - George Solomon
Bitech Ltd - John Bradley
Reward Hair Academy - Katie & Paige Millard
Ingeus - Philip McCloskey
HOP - Ria French

The Duke of Edinburgh Award at St Romeros

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a three stage development program involving various sections that each student has to complete. The students in Year 9 going into Year 10 are just completing their Bronze level and the Year 11's that left in June 2021 have completed their Silver level. This year a Parent; Dave Mctighe joined the staff team as an expedition volunteer and found out first-hand what remote supervision involved!

Each team completes a series of expedition training culminating in an assessment on the South Downs (Bronze) and The New Forest (Silver). 'It's quite an achievement in itself without Covid restrictions so to see

the students completing their awards. 'I am so proud of their efforts and we look forward to the Award Ceremony in January 2022' - Phil Dean (DofE Coordinator - Extended Learning Leader)

'Thanks so much to the staff at St Romero's for dedicating their own time to the DofE. My son has had a great time and learnt a lot about being more self-sufficient'. Year 10 Parent.

The impact of doing the DofE is well documented and we are looking forward to welcoming the new Year 9 students to the experience in January 2022. Employers see the DofE as a great gauge of skills at an interview and the students who take part often end up in very successful careers.





Finger Prints Ambassadors Visit Shoreham Port

The FingerPrints (not footprints) Ambassadors have been busy this term with lots of Climate change and COP26 activity. They have been working on the Actions 4 Change that will form the main back bone of the 2022 New Year's resolutions across the Tutor Groups.

The team visited Shoreham Port in September to meet their Port engineers and other sustainability managers and learnt all about what industry is doing for their Actions. They also met with other Sustainability student ambassadors to talk about their plans and actions.

'We had a great session and learnt so much about the World of industry and how more sustainable it could be. It's great when we get out of the classroom and remove the ceiling to our learning' - Elliot Meakins (Year 9)

'There was a breadth of experience and backgrounds in the room which allowed the students to listen to differing viewpoints. Shoreham Port has always offered some great outreach work and this trip was no exception' - Mr Dean (Extended Learning Leader).

St Oscar Romero Catholic School continues to see education outside the classroom as an essential part of the student development. Opening the doors to new ideas is the key to creativity and greater understanding. These sort of events open hearts and minds and allows the students to make their own opinions and choices. Often they will learn new things without even realising. The students added their experience to their Pillars of Possibility personal development program (Pillar 12 - Be Inspired).

Guest Speakers and new Partners

The FingerPrints (not foot prints) Ambassadors welcomed a couple of guest speakers recently to their weekly gathering. The idea was to make the students more aware of what is happening around Sussex and beyond and to build a network of environmentally oriented people.

Kayla Ente from BHESco (Brighton and Hove Energy Services) gave an enlightening talk about how all buildings could become carbon neutral with their support. Many schools have started their neutral journeys and St Romero's is planning on moving this forward themselves.

'So excited to hear that the students are buzzing about my presentation and the possibilities that exist with today's technologies' - Kayla Ente (CEO BHESco)

'I think it is really important to meet people from outside school so we know what is happening. Each of the Ambassadors is looking for a connection so If you know anyone from the World of Sustainability and Climate Change please do let us know' - Elliot Meakins (Year 9 Chief Ambassador)

Jean Raleigh from Plastic Free Worthing (an offshoot of Surfers Against Sewage) also spoke to the Ambassadors about what they can do to help and introduced them to Worthing seafront litter picks that they are organising.

'What an amazing bunch of students, I can't wait for them to sign up to the Plastic Free Worthing. I look forward to further collaborations' - Jean Raleigh

'The support we get from our Partners around Worthing and beyond is brilliant. There are fundamental shift in the way industry is starting to respect the environment more which is so beneficial for our children's future. The more we expect our businesses to be more responsible the better it will be. Having these student 'ChangeMakers' empowered to effect that change is so important and cannot be done without external and dedicated support' - Mr Dean (FingerPrints & Extended Learning Leader).



John Muir Award

The John Muir Discovery Award set off with gusto this season allowing Year 8 classes to spend some quality time in the wild. Each Year 8 has the opportunity to join a group within their technology rotation and to spend 7 weeks discovering the sea, beaches, rivers, Downs, and local conservation projects like Brooklands Park and the Adur and Worthing Rivers Trust EPIC project in Lancing



Generation Green residential visit

At the end of October this year St Romero's took a group of Year 8 students on an overnight stay at the amazing Youth Hostel at Truleigh Hill on the South Downs. The aim of the visit was to help the students engage more in nature, to help their wellbeing and to think and reflect about their learning outside the classroom.



The visit was paid for by So Sussex, a not for profit organisation focusing on 'learning without walls', in partnership with the YHA. The students were all able to gain so much from the two days.

'We took part in a couple of exploration walks, den building, fire making, nature arts and crafts and a rather fun quiz which involved students dressing each other up! I think it is so important to give every child the chance to experience new and exciting activities and this was a brilliant way to introduce them to a different way of learning' - Mr Dean (Trip and Extended Learning Leader).

'I really enjoyed spending time outside the classroom with my friends and doing some fun activities' - (Tess Page - Year 8 student)

'The sessions were really engaging and relevant, students all enjoyed their experience at such an amazing venue' - Ms Hughes (PE Teacher and DofE Leader)

St Romero's is proud of its mission to ensure every child is included and given full life chances. Every child is expected to complete a residential course in their time here and for these students this was a very memorable one.

'I am thrilled with the way the students have coped with the course, they show great signs of resilience in everything they do. I am also thrilled that the vast majority of the year group state that the John Muir Award is their favourite lesson of the year. We have lots of muddy and wet fun with some active and relevant learning on the way'. Mr Dean (John Muir Teacher and Extended Learning Leader)

'I always look forward to going on the John Muir Award, we get out of the classrooms and we take part in environmental conversations and learning that makes you think'. (Sidney Beasley - Year 8 student)

'Mr Dean, we had to put an extra wash load on today because of your lesson. My daughter is beaming from ear to ear!' (Year 8 parent)

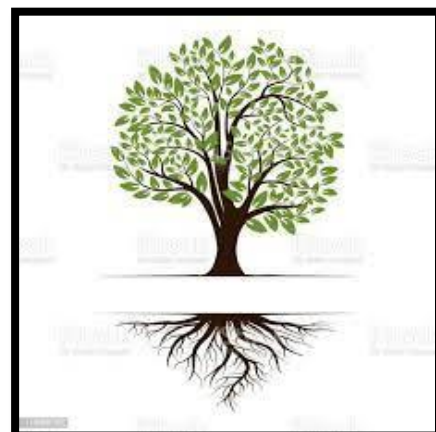
St Romero's is very proud of its curriculum and how it develops the students' minds and spirits. The John Muir Award is a very effective way of engaging the learning and allowing the students to learn from experience. All the Year group took part last season and received a certificate allowing them to progress to the next level - The John Muir Exploration Award

Tree Planting

This November St Romero's community planted 400 beautiful saplings provided by the Woodland Trust. With 9 varieties available families and businesses kindly sponsored the trees and over 60 people came to help plant them and gave the trees the best start in life. *'It was fantastic to see.'* Victoria Robertson (Parent)

The school will dedicate planting periods at Easter & November 2022 as these are the perfect planting seasons. If you would like to sponsor a tree and help to plant it please do let us know and we can allocate one of the following to you and your families.

- Turkey Oak
- Goat Willow
- Dog Rose
- Hawthorn
- Rowan
- Downey Birch
- Crab Apple
- Blackthorn
- Wild Cherry
- Hazel



'I think we need to plant trees to show how easy it is to help protect and conserve our environment.' - Ben Mwatsuku - Year 8 John Muir Student

'Our FingerPrints (not foot prints) Ambassadors suggested that we plant some trees as part of their Actions 4 Change. They continue to think of ways to help our environment and to guide us on the journey to be more sustainable in our lives. I look forward to seeing what Actions will happen as a part of the students' - New Year Sustainability Resolutions in 2022. Mr Dean (Outdoor Educator - Extended Learning Leader)

Please contact Mr Dean if you can make our 3pm to 4pm Wednesday allotment club slot as we still have some saplings left over from this season to plant.



Better Business Show

As a dedicated member of the Adur and Worthing Chamber of commerce, St Romero's students attended the latest Better Business show in September this year. Students from year 8 and 9 were tasked to meet and talk to as many local businesses as they could. They also enjoyed listening to a Goodwood Estate talk about doing business through Covid times.

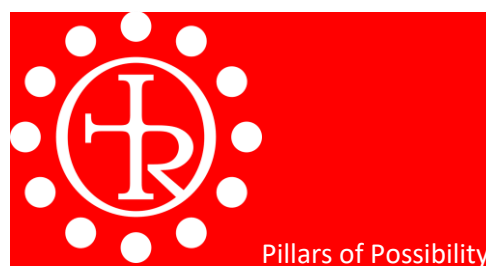
'I thoroughly enjoyed the Better Business Show; it was such an amazing experience and I loved it. I learnt how much the Goodwood estate truly cares about their staff and all the effort they put in to make sure it's an enjoyable place to visit. Many companies interested me especially the Sweets/cakes and also the life savers too as they actually gave us demos and even let us try out their equipment. I don't usually like talking to people but after entering into the atmosphere of many amazing businesses, I wanted to talk and find out more!' - Celestine Year 9 student

It's with great pleasure to commend you on such polite and wonderful pupils that visited our stand at the 'Better Business' show today. It's so great to see your school proactively educating the pupils in how businesses work

Each student has their own developmental profile and can set their own aims and record the outcomes. When

(something I wish we did in my school days!) their questioning was great and they even came away from their scripts/questionnaires to dig deeper and widen their understanding. I wanted to let you know how wonderfully behaved and well-mannered they all were' - Grace & Paul stallholders @givemecandy.co.uk

'I think it is so important to take the students out of their comfort zones and teach them some lessons on effective networking. Ask any business owner and they will tell you that to be able to connect and ask for support from other people is an essential part of being effective in the World. Our students did an amazing job and came home with lots of connections, business cards and sweets!!!' -Mr Dean



- Pillar 1** - Be an Entrepreneur
- Pillar 2** - Be a writer
- Pillar 3** - Be able to Navigate
- Pillar 4** - Be a Life Saver
- Pillar 5** - Be able to Cook a Meal
- Pillar 6** - Be a Volunteer
- Pillar 7** - Be able to Bounce Back
- Pillar 8** - Be a Presenter/Performer
- Pillar 9** - Do a Passion Project
- Pillar 10** - Be Organised
- Pillar 11** - Be Proactive
- Pillar 12** - Be Inspired

The POP (Pillars of Possibility) is a student's centred personal development program that starts in Year 7 and never ends! It is all about lifelong learning and sparking interests for now and the future. Each student gets invited to start the journey in the first days of Year 7 and are guided through expectations and individual tasks. There are 12 Pillars which represent a set of both human and practical skills. Each Pillar is assigned to a school department and each Pillar has an external organisation that supports that Pillar development.

'Here at Worthing College we strive to help students have a vision for their futures and the Pillars of Possibility is a brilliant way to start this reflective journey. We aim to help students change their lives through learning and each Pillar step is in the right direction' - Paul Riley (Principle of Worthing College)

students apply for Sixth form they are asked what 'Shape their in?' which can be answered by the evidence shown on this profile. <https://pillarsofpossibility.co.uk>

'I think it is really important that students get the chance to try new things and find out what they are good at. The Pillars of Possibility helps to develop the student's skills and encourages them to go beyond expectations' - Faye Brunner (Head of PSHE)

Sam Reed is an ex student from St Romero's and is deep in A level study at BHASVIC. He is instrumental in the development of the Pillars and has worked with coding experts to ensure the student users have the very experience. We are privileged to be supported by such a talented young man.

The journey has continued, fuelled by the new Year 7 students who arrived in September. Other Year groups who have now achieved Level 1 in all Pillars equivalent to 25% completion and will move to level 2 and so on. Of course 'Anything is Possible!' and some of the students have reached 50% completion and have been named the POP MASTERS.



Head of House

Introduction - It's always lovely to see the students back after the summer break. The Heads of Houses team have kicked start the new academic year with a plethora of House activities and quizzes. These have included sporting events, tutor quizzes, languages week competitions, and a recycling competition. Also, as we do every year at this time, Christmas themed competitions such as a Christmas card competition, a nativity scene competition and best decorated classroom competition have also been organised. Suffice to say it has been a busy term!

Cross Country - The first term always includes the schools annual cross country event that is run in PE. Every student Year 7-10 will run laps of the school field (2 laps for Year 7) 3 laps for 8, 9 and 10. Students are always eagerly anticipating this event and it is an opportunity for our most talented runners to shine. Results include:

Year 7 Overall Standing

Names	Time	Position	House	Points
Zack Emery	8:10	1st	Attenborough	5
Isaac Sharp	8:21	2nd	Attenborough	4
Hayden Hickey	8:43	3rd	Attenborough	3
Imani Zyambo	8:46	4th	Attenborough	2

Names	Time	Position	House	Points
Olivia Davis	5:56	1st	Attenborough	5
Isabel Griggs	6:00	2nd	Attenborough	4
Eve Christie	6:19	3rd	Malala	3
Isla Easton	6:23	4th	Teresa	2

Year 8 Overall Standing

Names	Time	Position	House	Points
Caleb Ansell	6:58	1st	Malala	5
Harley Barten	7:36	2nd	Malala	4
Dylan Pannell	7:38	3rd	Malala	3
Lewes Harman	8:12	4th	Kolbe	2

Names	Time	Position	House	Points
Ella Peapell	9:00	1st	Attenborough	5
Abbie Markhum	9:56	2nd	Malala	4
Phoebe Leech	10:20	3rd	Malala	3
Annabelle Shirley	11:23	4th	Teresa	2

Year 9 Overall Standing

Names	Time	Position	House	Points
Noah Stepney	7:28	1st	Attenborough	5
Ashley Coleman	7:38	2nd	Teresa	4
Henry Chandler	7:40	3rd	Kolbe	3
Deion William	7:54	4th	Attenborough	2

Names	Time	Position	House	Points
Zuzanna Sieniawska	9:31	1st	Kolbe	5
Amalie Lloyd	9:48	2nd	Teresa	4
Emmeline Turner	10:00	3rd	Attenborough	3
Grace Kyte	10:21	4th	Kolbe	2

Year 10 Overall Standing

Names	Time	Position	House	Points
Andrew Martin	6:53	1st	Kolbe	5
Joe Clevett	7:49	2nd	Malala	4
Andrew Gardner	7:35	3rd	Teresa	3
Charlie Illless	7:49	4th	Teresa	2

Names	Time	Position	House	Points
Ella Barwick	10:09	1st	Teresa	5
Becky Smith	10:11	2nd	Malala	4
Erin Trotter	10:36	3rd	Kolbe	3
Jessica Pickett	11:10	4th	Attenborough	2

Tutor Quiz - The Head of House Team have decided to do tutor quizzes now every fortnight, rather than weekly as the weekly tutor programme is always very jam packed. Quizzes will also be 10 questions now rather than 20 in order to encourage all tutor groups to take part. We have collated scores from all tutor quizzes so far and the winners are:

In 1st place: Teresa
In 2nd place: Attenborough
In 3rd place: Malala
In 4th place: Kolbe





Well done to all tutor groups who take part in quizzes and now that they have become a little shorter and less frequent, please make every effort to complete them and gain some winning points for your house!

Christmas Card - As we do every year, in conjunction with the Art Department, a Christmas card competition has been run for students to design the St Oscar Romero's official Christmas card.

Tutor Room Decorations and Nativity Scene Competition - 'Deck the Rooms!' was launched on Monday 22nd November, 4 weeks until the last week of term. It gives an opportunity for every tutor group in the school to decorate their tutor room in the most creative and Christmassy way possible. So far Christmas trees have been bought and are starting to be decorated along with lights and paper chains. Miss Standing (Head of Attenborough) has also announced that sustainable handmade decorations will also win extra points.



Alongside this there is an opportunity to create a nativity scene, this could include making figures or drawings to illustrate the nativity scene of the birth of Jesus. Good luck to all who are involved.



Year 7 & 8 Christmas Quiz - During the last week of term and to celebrate Christmas there will be a Year 7 & 8 Christmas quiz. Both years will battle each other within house groups to answer the most questions. Question rounds will involve many subjects from physical challenges to more complex subject based questions. In previous years this has created a huge buzz around the school and students love the competition between both students and adults. Good luck Year 7 and 8!

Table Tennis Competition - There was a huge buzz down in the sports hall for the evening of the House Table Tennis Competition. Over 60 students entered in every year group and battled it out for the top spots. Mini competitions ran between year groups.



Year 7 winner - James Fryer (Attenborough)
Year 8 - Luke Awde (Kolbe)
Year 9 - Ashley Coleman (Teresa)
Year 10&11 - Luca Marc (Malala)

Head of Attenborough Welcome message & Recycling Competition - Welcome Romero community I am Miss Standing, The new Head of Attenborough. This Term we focused on working parallel with someone or a patron who is positive that relates directly to our house. Being under the Attenborough name, I took influence from Sir David Attenborough and launched a 'SAVE THE RECYCLING' competition. This was also in line with the Climate Change conference COP26. Tutor groups across year 7 and 10 collected & saved all their recycling. We weighed the bags and bags of recycling! The winner with a whopping 15kg of recycling was Miss Lord's Tutor 7M2, we have awarded them with 5 house points & a sustainable prize. In the New Year as a collective we plan to tie a charity to each house and look to positively impact the houses students are in.





Head of Year 7

Year 7 have 7 tutor groups and they have all made a great start to the year. Attendance has been key and year 7 have been leading the attendance league with many tutor groups achieving 100% each week. Miss Standing's tutor group 7K1 won the whole school league (front cover photo) and Mr Verkade's tutor group 7A2 were third place.



Rewards are handed out each week in assembly and 27 students in Year 7 have received their Bronze certificate this term, 11 their Silver Certificate and Vinnie Ludlow was the first student in year 7 to receive his Gold Certificate, 150 rewards!

The highlight so far for Year 7 was the visit to the Isle of Wight just before half term in October. Students enjoyed a week filled with outdoor activities, water sports and team building activities.



On Friday 10th December Year 7 enjoyed a Christmas lunch at school where they all ate their dinner together in the Hall, wearing their Christmas jumpers and festive hats, whilst listening to Christmas music. In the evening they all enjoyed a Christmas Party, kindly hosted by the Friends of Romero, where they competed for prizes for the best Worm, Floss, Handstand and Freestyle Dance!

Year 7 are such a kind and hard working year group. I am very proud of the way that they have settled into life at secondary school and I look forward to seeing them develop and flourish. There is a lot of talent in this year group!

Mrs J House - Head of Year 7



Head of Year 8

Year 8 students have been true to their excellent reputation. Throughout my first few months at St Oscar Romero, I have not ceased to be amazed by the overall Year 8 students' ambition to do well.

And time flies by, it was not long ago since we all started a new academic Year! And for some of us, in a completely new school. These are a few moments that may bring back some memories.

DAY 1 All queueing and waiting patiently... And greeted in style!



We were the **first** Year group ever to inaugurate the Amphitheatre. We had our Assembly outside, without the use of technology. This was the time of COP26 (Climate Change Conference), we talked about how simple changes can make a big difference to our planet, and whilst people are very often reluctant to make changes to their lifestyle, everything that we do now will have an impact. Yes, I admit, it was **FREEZING** cold! But what an excellent moment to remember and to cherish, in particular singing all together, with Mr Garratt playing the guitar! This was a wonderful moment, Year 8.



We have celebrated your successes and achievements and I would like to congratulate all students for their enthusiasm and their resilience. We also celebrated 66 students achieving 100% attendance this term, truly amazing!



Mrs L Rys-Kent – Head of Year 8



Head of Year 9

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of the first term of this academic year! The time has flown by and I have enjoyed getting to know the students in the year group. The term has been a very busy one and the students have risen to the challenge of Year 9 and deserve a well-earned break.

One of the outstanding successes of this term has been the boys' football team. They won the championship this year with a string of wins and really demonstrated resilience and a great team spirit.

As I write this year 9 students are in the middle of their Data Capture 1 assessments, which they have taken in their stride and approached maturely. This attitude will be invaluable as they make important decisions about their option subjects next term.

I leave you with a photos of the boys' football team and I look forward to more Year 9 success next term, both on and off the field.

I wish you all a very happy and relaxing Christmas.



Miss J Hedger - Head of Year 9



Head of Year 10

As we come to a close of my first term at St Oscar Romero I have been continually impressed with Year 10. I would like to spend some time with you reflecting on the superb work and achievement that has taken place during this busy term.

As always students have worked incredibly hard engaging well in lessons and taken advantage of the numerous opportunities that are regularly presented to them.

Attendance Recognition

I would like to recognise that Year 10 have been continually improving their attendance throughout the term, showing improvement September to December. This upward trend must continue as we return after Christmas. Through determination and a true desire to attend school I would like to congratulate the following students who have a 100 per cent attendance record and should be justifiably proud:



BADMAN, Charlie	LEVETT, Joseph	ILLES, Charlie	PERRY, Natasha
BAKER, Connor	COX, Cameron	JAMESON, Arthur	PICKETT, Jessica
BARNES, Poppy	CRANFORD, Oliver	JEFFRIES, Innis	RAHEL, Amerie
BRISTOW, Jack	DAVIDSON, Joshua	KEANE, Lois	RANDALL, Oliver
TORIBIO, Bianca Coleen	FOWLER, Lorna	LLOYD, Edward	ROWLINGS, Joseph
TROTTER, Erin	GILES, George	LYONS, Frederick	SALAZAR, Vinzi
WHITE, Poppy	GONZALES, Carl Andrei	MARTIN, Andrew	SANCHEZ, Leon
WICKENDEN, Ronnie-Jay	HARRISON-HORN, Thomas	MEREDITH, Bethany	SEARLE, Joseph
CHERRYMAN, Phoenix	PECI, Arianna	MUNOZ-BOYD, Alexander	SHINKFIELD, Jamie
SMITH, Rebecca	SMEETH, Paige	WINTON, Dominic	SOLE-BURTON, Kenan
TROTTER, Erin	WICKENDEN, Ronnie-Jay	WHITE, Poppy	

I would also like to recognise the 31 students who have persisted and have improved their attendance from October to the first week of December:

WILLIAMS Brooke	MCTIGHE Caitlin	COLLINS Lucas	STEPHENSON Luke
SPARKS Ellie-Mae	ROWLAND Rebecca	LEE Joseph	STOGIEWICZ Antoni
FEASEY Spencer	BARNES Emma	KENNARD Sophie	THOMAS Morgan
ROBERTS Harrison	GUNNER Molly	KIRBY Ben	
YOUNG Oakley	HEWITT Sophie	FAKHOURJI Marcus	REED Caleb
	KURAN Bruno	KEENAN Niamh	BARNARD Joshua
MCGEE Callum	HARDIE Roman	MCCONDACH Hollie	THORNE Kylan
NEVELL Holly	LACEY Mairead	SALUGAO Sasha	SHANLEY Josh

I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead as we progress further through your studies and deal with every challenge together and continue on our mission to ensure every child reaches their God given potential.

Mr I Cutler - Year 10 Head of Year



Head of Year 11

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. This year group are amazing and never cease to amaze us all, day in day out with their varied and diverse talents. They truly are remarkable individuals and I could not be prouder of them all.

What has been going on in Year 11

Volunteering - "There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time & energy to help others without expecting anything in return."

Nelson Mandela

A massive well done to Poppy Faires who volunteered at The Brighton Marathon in September this year. Poppy embodies what we stand for as a school, embracing our key values of CARPE. Many can learn from Poppy's lead, we give back not because we have to, but because we want to. Thank you Poppy and well done.



Back in October, a Family Camp where scouting families with young people as young as 3, up to adults, camped, completed challenges and spent some good old fashioned time in the great outdoors. Charlie Reed (Year 11), Noah Allan (Year 11), Dean Cooke (Year 11) and Lily-Rose Cooke (Year 10) attended as Young Leaders and they were superb. They were great role models for our younger



members; supporting them and encouraging them in challenges and led pioneering activities with both children and adults. Ferring 1st Sea Scouts and St Oscar Romero are so incredibly proud of you all.

Confirmation

A massive congratulation to Corin Malandain, Joe Finch, Will Armitage and James Winton who recently celebrated their Confirmation at Arundel Cathedral on 26th of September and 31st October. They will be presented with their certificates at mass on November 27, 1st Sunday of Advent.

Congratulations

Congratulations to James Winton for gaining a distinction in his grade 7 singing exam. He only lost 7 marks in the entire exam. He only lost 1 mark out of the four songs he performed. The examiner and the rep were so impressed. Well done James, we are very proud of your efforts.



Final word from me

I would like to thank the students who have been remarkable this term. Despite adversity and pressure, Year 11 consistently bring exceptional effort, attitude and determination. They are a credit to you, themselves and the school. Merry Christmas to all.

Mr Steve Davies - Head of Year 11



Student Ambassadors

Ambassadors

Our Student Ambassadors have worked incredibly hard over this term to support a wide variety of events and activities in school including; being the year 7 guides, year 7 tutor meetings, dance showcase, Autumn Fair, Open Evening, the firework's display, awards evening, grandparent's liturgy, Romero Sing's Live and the Christmas Fair to name but a few. Their commitment to the school has been exemplary and we are all very proud of their leadership and role modelling for all of our students.

Congratulations to our Principal Ambassadors, River Jocson and Jessica Trace for all of their hard work and leadership over this term and a particular well done for their excellent speeches for our annual prize evening in front of a large and, some may say, daunting audience.

We were delighted to welcome three new ambassadors this term; Innis Jeffries, Shumi Mukando and Mohamed Chamseedine. Congratulations on your new role and thank you for all of your hard work so far.

Following the success of the summer school programme which ran in July, we were delighted to reward those ambassadors who helped at that event with a trip to Go Ape at the end of November. From the tree climbing and zip lining to the enthusiastic singing in the bus on the way home, I am reliably informed that a good time was had by all!

The ambassador leadership team have been working hard with their committees to draft their goals and mission statements for the coming year. They have some excellent ideas for how they can make a real impact on school life for all of our students. Some committees will be recruiting the help of some of our younger years so please listen out for any announcements regarding these opportunities. It would give any interested students an opportunity and insight into the role of an ambassador should they wish to apply in the future.

As a thank you for all of their hard work over the previous weeks the ambassadors have enjoyed a Christmas party and look forward to an exciting trip to London to go Ice Skating in the New Year.

School Council

This term saw the very exciting launch of our new school council. This is made up of a representative from each form who will meet every half term to discuss, evaluate and raise issues about school life with members of the SLT and governing body. We are very excited as this is a brilliant opportunity for our students to ensure their voices are heard.

This is an incredible opportunity for pupils to develop a leadership role within the school. The successful delegates have the opportunity to voice their views and vote in meetings and act as the link person for their form. There is a designated form time before each meeting for issues to be given to the councillor and one after each meeting for feeding back the minutes to the form.

We were delighted and honoured to welcome Baroness Virginia Bottomley (wife of our MP, Sir Peter Bottomley) to launch our school council. As a former MP, cabinet minister and current peer in the House of Lords, she very kindly gave up a morning to share her experiences and answer questions from our council members. She also distributed badges to the team and gave some wise words of encouragement. Our students asked some excellent questions regarding her time in the cabinet in the House of Commons regarding a wide variety of issues including the running of the cabinet, her opinion of current issues, her schooling and parliamentary career and what it was like working with John Major and Margaret Thatcher. It was incredibly fascinating and our students found the experience truly inspiring.

Baroness Bottomley also kindly gave up her time to work with some of our girls. As a huge advocate of gender equality, the girls were inspired by her personal and candid account of her own and other's experiences in government. As a former Health Secretary, she was able to give some excellent advice regarding women in leadership. Our girls, again, asked some excellent and challenging questions, to which they were treated to some honest and thought-provoking answers.

We would like to thank Baroness Bottomley for giving up her time to support the school. We are all incredibly grateful for her input.

A huge congratulations to our new school councillors:

Year 7: Elliot Curran, Viktor Bochat, Bradley Tshingoma, Sabina Ambros-Carrilero, Maxwell Montgomery, Oscar Buss, Connor Dales.



Year 8: Grace Giles, Sophia Heale, Jack Cavanagh, Sky Lyons, Leo Gladman, William Nevell, Isla Parker.

Year 9: Joey Harber-Dearden, Liam Parry, Jacob Knight, Elizabeth Brockwell, Max Hudson, Ben Mwariwangu, Elliot Meakins.



Year 10: William Clarke, Spencer Feasey, Ben Kirby, Amerie Rahel, Tommy Harrison-Horn, Josh Shanley

Year 11: Emily Kenney, Cami Millot, Noah Allen, Floran Yadaar, Rodrigo Aguiar, Otto Muddle, Ethan Buckman, River Jocson, Jessica Trace, Jessica Pickett, Aien Sanchez, Amy Redden.



Wishing you a peaceful, safe and happy Christmas.

Mrs L Byrne – Student Leadership



ATTENDANCE – AUTUMN TERM

As we come to the end of another busy term, we would like to celebrate the continued success of attendance at St Oscar Romero. We strive to consistently push the boundaries, and be the best that we can be.

We are committed to providing an environment whereby your child enjoys coming to school, and thrives with their learning, whilst embracing the community spirit.

Attendance has been celebrated 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 259 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
65	60	50	36	48

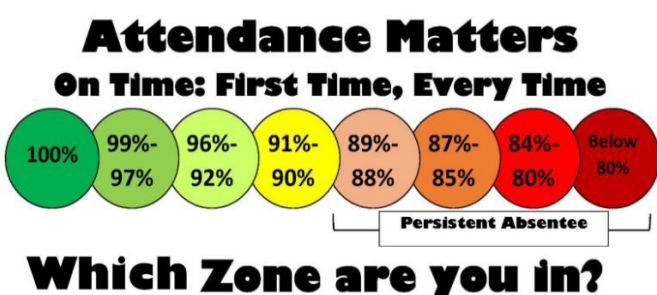
We are currently celebrating this within school on the 100% attendance board located on the top corridor. This is a superb accomplishment. **Well done and keep up the fantastic work!**

We end the term celebrating our overall attendance for this academic year, and due to the current exceptional circumstances is a wonderful achievement.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
96.30%	95.13%	94.94%	93.93%	96.63%	95.40%

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

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



Reporting your child absent

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



Friends of Romero's

The autumn term saw the start of a new Friends of Romero generation. Following on from the Annual General Meeting in July, a new committee was created. Alongside Leanne Kyte and myself, Sara Banks, Natalie Luke and Carolyn Bristow joined the team and the new FOR era began.

Immediately the new team set to work, planning and organising the first of three huge events this term. Firstly we were fortunate enough to agree a sponsorship deal with local Estate Agent James & James who have proven to be an influential addition to the Friends of Romero.

Our postponed Summer Fair was held in September. The idea was to bring our school and the wider community back together again, after such a long time apart. Together with a group of volunteers, staff and students a fantastic fundraising initiative came to life. The Summer Fair proved to be our best one yet. Our community enjoyed a morning of entertainment, including Wipeout, Gladiator, Bouncy Castle, a football speed cage to name but a few, as well as the ever popular Tombola and raffle. The BBQ, bar, sweet shop, candy floss and fidget stalls all proved extremely popular. It was a truly wonderful day and a good time was had by all. Together we raised £7350, our highest profit so far for this event!



Following the success of the Summer Fair, we had no time to rest as the Fireworks Event was fast approaching. This event has always been a brilliant fundraiser, but we knew we wanted to make it even bigger this year. We invited a new pyro technician to the school and quite honestly, it was the best decision, he didn't disappoint, the fireworks were spectacular. Together with the volunteers, we had fire performers, a BBQ, served hot soup, mulled wine and much more, our funds raised, exceeded £10,000. Everyone had such a great time, the atmosphere was incredible, and to raise that amount of money just makes all the hard work worthwhile.



A little over two weeks later was our very first Christmas Fair. Our school hall was transformed into Santa's Grotto and Santa himself made a special appearance. Independent stall holders, FOR Christmas stalls, refreshments and our wonderful students entertained us, making it a very special evening. Another £2500 raised for our school!

The regular tuckshop continues every Friday after school come rain or shine and is proving very popular as a treat for students at the end of the week. You will also have seen us supporting other events in school, including Open Evening, Year 7 disco and The Celebration of Advent.

FOR and the team of volunteer parents, staff and students, together with your support will have raised well over £22,000 for our school in this term alone. Every penny we raise together is spent on our students to help purchase items that otherwise might not be affordable. Our aim next year is to support the improvement of the outdoor facility for the students, enabling them to socialise together as well as an increased space for Physical Education.

Are you interested in joining our team and attending one meeting a term? Could you help out at events? Do you have ideas to aid our fundraising efforts? Do you work for a company that offers a Match-funding Scheme?

Our next meeting is Monday 10th January 2022 at 6pm. Please contact us if you can help in any way for@stromeros.co.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FOR team, the loyal volunteer parents, staff, students and the wonderful school community, because without your support, none of this would have been possible.

On behalf of the FOR team, I would like to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Warmest regards - Sarah Baker - Chair FOR