



Dear Parents/Carers,

*I hope that you and your families are well.*

*As we come to the end of the spring term, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work, dedication and support during this time. Reflecting on the past 13 weeks, there is much to celebrate in the life of the school, as you will see in reading this newsletter.*

*Highlights of the spring term include: UK Maths Challenge, Pi Day (which I am trying not to remember!), National Careers and Apprenticeship Week, Holocaust Memorial Day, Year 10 Employer Interviews, Duke of Edinburgh and John Muir activities, parents' evenings, and World Book Day. It was wonderful to have Elle McNicoll, winner of multiple literary awards, join us for this day. I know that her passion for writing, and her honesty about her autism, is something that students and staff found inspiring. Once again, we had a record number of students and staff dressing up as characters from books and I now know who Count Olaf is! My thanks to Mrs Shanley, and the English Department, who continue to inspire our students and embed a reading culture across our school.*

*Maths Week was a huge success with students from all years taking part in a wide variety of trips and extracurricular activities. The Creative and Expressive Arts team have had a particularly busy term, not only making it through to the finals of Dance Live, but also producing the most incredible version of the musical Bugsy Malone; I could not be prouder of the students who took part in this, whether through performing, playing in the orchestra, or by providing technical and backstage support. My thanks to Mrs Gladman, Mrs Gray, Mrs Walden and Mr Garratt, as well as the many other staff, who provided outstanding support and guidance to ensure Bugsy was such a success.*

*The latest science project that took place in the spring term was quite literally out of this world. Mr Clarke, Head of Physics, managed to secure the loan of moon rocks, which were collected as part of the Apollo Moon Landing, and various other materials from space. Our students are*

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St Romero's Media

*part of a tiny minority of people in the world who have held moon rocks in their hands! A huge thank you to Mr Clarke and Mr Malandain for making this happen.*

*The spring term has covered a number of weeks of Lent and, therefore, fundraising has taken a higher priority. A particular well done to the 35 students who spent the night sleeping in cardboard boxes to raise money and awareness for Turning Tides, a local charity that supports homeless men and women in our community. These students, supported by Niall, Mr Watts, Mrs and Mrs Price, and Miss Butcher, raised over £3000 for this important cause.*

*A huge thank you to all families who supported our Ukrainian Appeal through their generous donation of food, clothing, toiletries and money. We followed this up with a 'Prayer Wall' in school and a Peace Walk to Goring Gap, where we prayed for peace in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. My thanks to Niall and Fr Terry who led this. As a school community, we will continue to pray for an end to war, for those who have died or who are suffering, and for all the many innocent victims caught up in this conflict.*

*We celebrated our second ever Feast Day on 24th March, the date that St Oscar Romero was assassinated while celebrating Mass in 1980. Our Feast Day began with a whole school Mass on the amphitheatre with Fr Stephen and Deacon Mark, before breaking out into team activities and sports on the field. In the afternoon, various students performed as part of the STRUT Cup and our students enjoyed being able to spend time with their friends.*

*Sporting success has continued throughout the spring term including football, netball, basketball, badminton and rugby. A special mention must go to the KS3 badminton team, made up of Amelia Roberts, Kathryn Ticehurst, Emmeline Turner and Madeleine Weston-Smith, who were crowned Sussex Champions and also to the Year 7 Indoor Athletics team, who won the district tournament and have qualified for the county competition. These are two firsts in the school's 60 year history! Well done also to Jenny Reene, who was awarded 1 gold and 2 bronze medals for her dance solos during this festival season.*

*During the term, it was with much sadness that we said farewell to Mrs Courant, who had been our Welfare Secretary for the last 8 years. Mrs Courant had an expert knowledge of first aid and always supported any student who was unwell or in need of help. We wish Mrs Courant health and happiness in the years ahead. We have had a number of new staff join the school during the last term. These include: Miss Squires, who joins the SEN Department; Mrs Baker and Mrs Keeble, who have replaced Mrs Courant as Welfare Secretary; Mr Walden who has joined the IT Team; and Mrs Heffernan who is supporting the office and pastoral department, as well as working alongside Mrs Godfrey.*

*We look forward to the summer term with a sense of optimism that things continue to return to normal and the government's covid roadmap stays on track. Certainly, rates in school have remained low and I appreciate the outstanding support we have received during the last two years as we navigated this unknown. Please note that lateral flow testing is no longer recommended and that children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. For children and young people aged 18 and under with a positive COVID-19 test result, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days, which is when they are most infectious.*

*There are a number of exciting community events in the summer term, including our summer fayre, that I would encourage all families to support. This is the main fundraising event for our 'Friends of Romero', a dedicated team of parent volunteers who do so much to enrich our school and give our students opportunities that would not be possible without their help.*

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

*The new term begins on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022, when all students should return to school at 8.35am looking smart, refreshed and ready to pursue the opportunities and challenges of the new term.*

*I hope you and your family have a happy and holy Easter.*

*God Bless,  
Mr P Byrne – Headteacher*



## Art

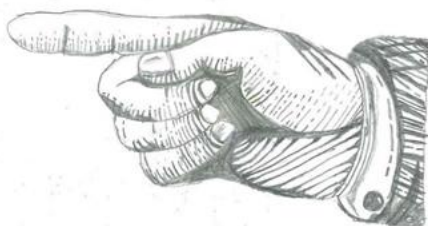
Year 7 Art have finished their 'Fantastic Birds and Beasts' unit and started their new unit, 'Gothic pop up' architecture project. The students have started by making mono-print, ruined church studies in the style of the English artist John Piper. The students will move on to making an actual pop-up church filled with; Gothic and Romanesque arches, flying buttresses, gargoyles, rose windows, tracery and crosses. Students will also write a paragraph of their own Gothic novel using the unit terminology.



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, working with Ms Langley, the textiles specialist. Students have really enjoyed dying cotton, 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 have finished their mask final pieces and started their new unit 'Landscape', looking at the work of the English artist David Hockney, who is known as 'Britain's greatest living artist'. Students are experimenting with mask making on coloured paper to create a study. Students have had an introduction to perspective and will be looking at colour theory in greater depth.



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.



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. Students have developed their skill and knowledge in colour theory, frottage, block printing and drawing.



Year 9 Art students have finished their German Expressionism box compositions and started their new unit of 'Architecture/ Cityscape', looking at the work of the contemporary Hungarian artist Peter Matyasi, who is represented by the London collectors The Saatchi gallery. Students have been working on a charcoal reduction technique and will work towards a two-point perspective relief cityscape using various painting techniques.



Year 9 have more time to try all the DT rotations, which will help them in their GCSE option choice. In Textiles, year 9 are working on the unit 'Kimono' looking at ancient

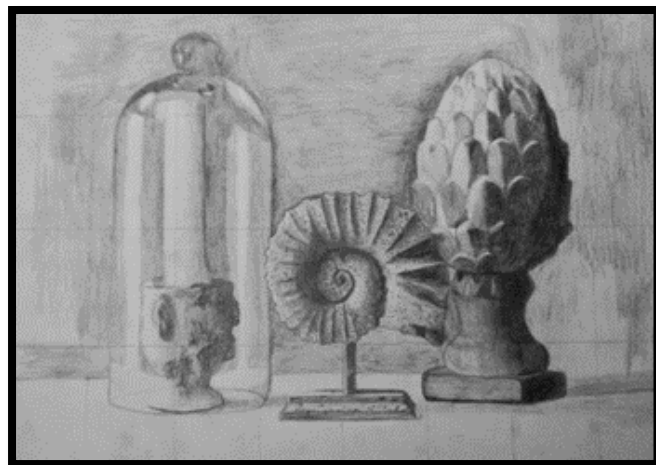


Japanese culture and cultural figures, for example, Geisha and Samurai. Student will be trying more complex textile techniques and using the new computerised sewing machines to produce a Japanese wall hanging.

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 nearly finished their Still Life unit and their final pieces, which are looking superb. Students will move onto the Portrait unit, 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, students 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 student of the term is Elizabeth Holden in year 11 Art, for her incredible dedication to her work and her determination to get the grade she wants. Ms Langley and Miss Longman took a group of year 10 Art and Graphics GCSE students to St Mary of the Angels Catholic Church in Worthing, where Father Terry had asked for a huge mural to cover the building boards. The mural was a massive success and has created a gallery in the street for all to enjoy!

activities to lead with their chosen little ones to support development of physical, social or intellectual skills to enable completion of the final unit. Good luck to you all in your final exam.



Year 10s have been busy this term completing their first of two portfolios of work. The students showed great commitment to their studies by giving up a Saturday morning to complete a bottle-making exam.

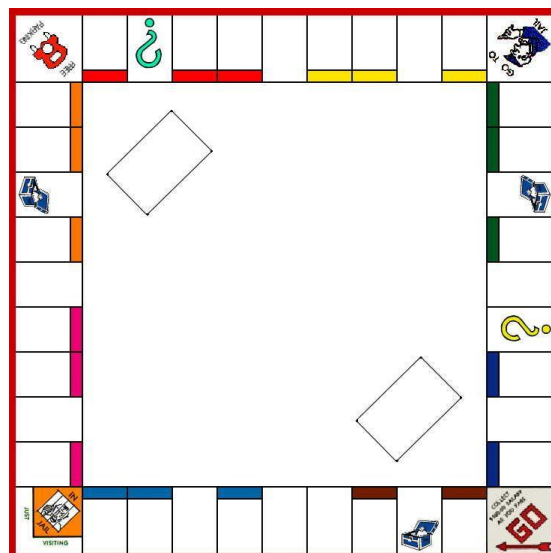


Alongside this, Year 10s have also had lots of practice of the exam element of the course, through exam practice papers, and through fun ways as Mrs Gray mentioned above, by playing games such as Monopoly and Who am I? The students really love the different styles of learning and it really helps embed the knowledge effectively.



## Child Development

In year 11, students have been working incredibly hard to prepare for their final written exam and to support this we were lucky enough to have a first aid instructor in to give two intensive sessions to the students covering emergency first aid for choking, drowning, electric shock, head injuries and burns. All students got the opportunity to practically demonstrate their knowledge by working with the dummies and peer assess one another on the recovery position and CPR too. Thank you once again to Grahame Moss for your time. We had a fantastic lesson using Miss Saksena's home made board game 'monopoly illness' to recall our common childhood illnesses and have been working incredibly hard on our revision strategies from the Michele Miller support day. Creating 'Cornell tables' and having flashcard races have been a highlight! All students have been considering their own





# Computing

## Key Stage 4 Computing

### Computer Science

Currently, Year 10 students have been learning about computer networks and have continued developing their skills in programming.

Year 11 students have been revising all the main topics they need to cover in the forthcoming GCSEs and practising different exam questions for both papers. A gentle reminder to ensure your son/daughter continues to access the 'smart revise' website on a daily basis, even if it is only for 10 minutes. This ensures that content learned is constantly revisited.

### Creative iMedia

Year 11 - students are finishing their final coursework unit, which will be submitted in May for moderation. In the meantime, we have received a fantastic set of results for their main exam, which means some students will not have to take the exam in June. For those that will take the exam in June, they will be focusing on the theory section of the course so that they can be tested on their understanding and knowledge of Pre-Production Media Skills.

## Key Stage 3 Computing

Year 7 - students have finished looking at how computers work, including hardware and software, input and output devices, and memory. They have also looked at how computers process information and instructions.

Currently, they have started to work with databases in Excel, where they will learn the basic functions, how to build a graph using data and how to present data.

Year 8 - Turtle programming. Students have been learning basic python to produce different kinds of pictures using basic shapes. There will be an opportunity later on to develop the skill they have learnt to progress in their Python studies and build robust programs.

Year 9 – Python. Students have been developing their programming knowledge of Python and they have had a look back to all the topics covered to prepare for DC2 Assessments



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

The Romero Dance Company performed a refugee inspired piece for our liturgy, the performance was moving and the dancers performed with maturity and professionalism as always.



Within the Dance Department all years have started an aesthetic route of Gymnastics or Parkour. As a department we are in complete awe of their fearlessness and ability to throw themselves into the unit. Some of them who have never tried Parkour or Gymnastics were absolutely amazing! Within year 8-10, the boys groups have been learning the keys skills of Parkour, speed, landing and rolling. Taking our equipment outside into Lucy's Garden (making a lot of noise) bouncing off picnic benches and walls, using different surfaces to change direction and using immense upper body strength to hold themselves up around a building edge! Planning their journey and route in the Dance studio the students were able to film their assessment EPIC Parkour video submissions outside.



Within the gymnastic classes in year 8-10, students began with the basics of balance, transition and floor-work. Developing these techniques onto our equipment. They could choose what music/theme they wanted, for example the picture below of Isla and Leo saw them performing a high energy, spy themed group floor to 'Charlies Angels!' Students were excited to pick their own theme, developing leadership and captain roles within a gymnastic team. We have correlated this with our annual competition at Davison, taking a boys only squad to compete in May. They will be competing in the floor and vault categories.



Year 7 have been focusing on drills, core strength and transitional balancing within gymnastics, warming up with our favourite core exercise 'Baby Shark!'



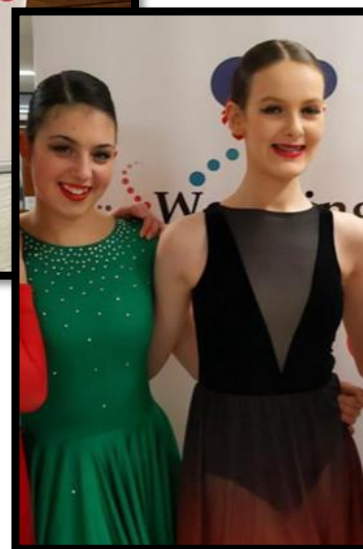
Within GCSE Dance, we had a guest moderator examine our choreography component with a new record for results so far. The dancers have worked so hard, with early morning rehearsals, as well as break, lunch and afterschool, session, this really showed when it came to film and the exam. We invited prospectus year groups for GCSE dance to watch the exam on film the next day, giving the performer's feedback to aid their Section B work within the exam unit. As a department we are really looking forward to the next GCSE cohort after the work the current dancers have produced. As a practise the dancers performed to the students in Duke of Edinburgh and staff prior to their exam, furthering feedback.

Dancers continue with Dance clubs across the school in preparation for our spring/summer showcase which will be our Year 11s last performance. Therefore Dance Leader Jack Elliott has organised the dance numbers and put a lot of choreography hours into this show. Isla Parker, who has continued to travel to London every weekend for the CAT scheme at Trinity Laban Dance and

Music Conservatoire. They have recently written to the Dance department highlighting the next rounds of auditions for the scheme. Performing at Laban means that dancers explore different ways to create, perform and enhance their schoolwork (particular classes on working with exam stress). Having our students perform at a centre of Contemporary dance means this raises our profile of dance within St Oscar Romero, especially with our boys who are growing in performance confidence.



Our Romero Dancers performed at Worthing Music and Arts Festival this term. Mairead King (yr 7) won her National dance, pictured with her medal below. Dance Leaders Amy Nicholls and Scarlett Cass also performed solos producing top places at the competition also pictured below. Scarlett taking a first for her National dance as well. All students from Romero who performed were advocates to the school and did us all very proud!



**Dance Live!** - We are tremendously proud of our amazing Dance Live team who romped to a well-deserved place in the final, leaving the head judge speechless. The 7 minute long performance vividly brought to life the Franco regime of the 1930s and the long lasting effects of its tyranny, namely the stolen babies who were given to Franco's supporters.



The performance benefitted from LED screen content which supported the communication of the bombing of Guernica as well as showing archival footage of the families who are still searching for justice today.



Our 70 strong team of dancers, back stage crew and technicians enjoyed the day at Portsmouth Guildhall where they gained insight into the world of theatre and its many roles.



If you would like to support us in the final, which is to be held on May 3rd at Portsmouth Guildhall, tickets are available directly from the theatre or by following this link: <https://portsmouthguildhall.org.uk/whats-on/event/dance-live-2022-finals/>



## Drama

What an incredibly busy term within the department from year 11 practical exams to trips, Dance Live and then finally Buggy Malone, the school production. Our feet have not touched the ground!

**Year 7** - Students have made a wonderful start and it has been fantastic see their confidence, teamwork and resilience grow in Drama. Many of our year 7 students have involved themselves in the wealth of extracurricular on offer to include Dance Live and Buggy Malone. In class students have explored story telling through the text 'Beowulf' and thoroughly enjoyed learning stage combat skills to support their final performance. They are currently analysing the play 'The terrible fate of Humpty Dumpty' linking to our PSHE programme on bullying whilst developing techniques such as script work, improvisation and thought tracking. Well done year 7, keep up the hard work!





**Year 8** - Students have had a fantastic time in year 8 learning about Commedia Dell Arte whilst working with scripts and at times improvising. They have developed techniques such as slapstick, clocking and status as well as learning about stock characters and using them to inform their final performances. All students made their own masks appropriate for the character they played, learnt lines and performed in front of their peers. Well done year 8 we are very proud of you.



Year 9 have been working hard to analyse a challenging play titled 'I love you Mum I promise I won't die' creating an inspiring cross-curricular link with PSHE, as we focused on the effects of drugs as well as responsibility and consequences for young people. The unit ended with all students taking part in a class mock trial to consider the responsibility of each character involved in this true story. They have been experimenting with a range of improvisation, devising strategies and analysing text as well as some of the inspirational movement ideas of Frantic Assembly to produce their own scenes about consequences. We were also lucky enough to see a wonderful performance this term with a fantastic group of year 9 students in Southampton. 'Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' did not disappoint. Some incredible LED screen use and set design pictured below. We are thoroughly looking forward to studying this play in the classroom very soon.



**Year 10** - Our wonderful year 10 students have had a fantastic start to the year learning how to analyse and evaluate professional theatre having been introduced to the thought provoking play 'Things I know to be True'. Now we begin the first of our practical exams and experiment with a range of physical theatre techniques to explore the devising process before they make final decisions on acting or production pathways and create thought provoking narratives. We ended the term with a wonderfully light-hearted theatre trip to see 'The Wedding Singer' at the nearby college. A fantastic performance and great for our students to see such talent at their local higher education establishment.



**Year 11** - We could not be more proud of our year 11 students as they completed their final scripted performances for their GCSE exam. Students choose to either act or design costumes, set, sound or lighting for a script of their choice as a soloist or in a duologue or a small group. The scenes were captivating and demanded attention throughout with thought provoking costume, sound and set designs to accompany outstanding performances. The range of pictures captures just some of the wonderful moments we felt privileged to witness. Well done year 11, we wish you all the best of luck in your drama written paper!



We are so looking forward to the whole school production of *Bugsy Malone*. Our wonderful students have been working so hard both on the stage and behind the scenes and we cannot wait to share pictures with you next term.



among many other possible options – could your design deliver?

Students then have to write an assignment by carrying out the below tasks.

Task 1: Identify the customer profile for a business challenge product

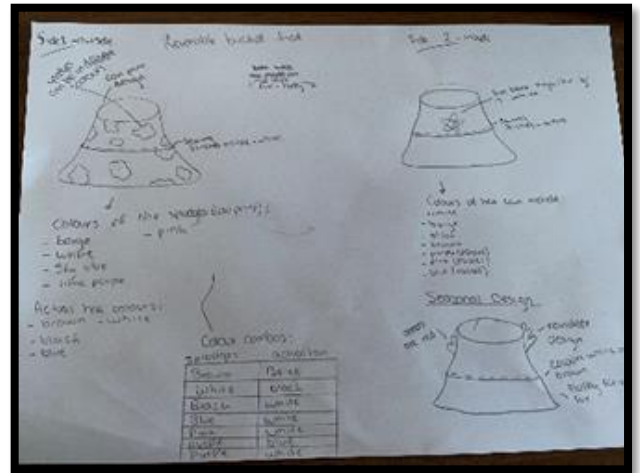
Task 2: Complete market research to aid decisions

Task 3: Produce a design for a business challenge

Task 4: Develop a proposal for a business challenge

Task 5: Be able to review whether a business proposal is viable.

It is a very practical and hands on assignment where students are free to deliver the assignment in any format they wish. It is a very pragmatic way to enable students to put all their theoretical knowledge into practice. Most importantly, in a real-life scenario. Below are some snapshots of hat designs – there were too many to choose from! Students have been producing some excellent and impressive work.



Students will now move onto the next part of the assignment where they will be ready to develop a brand for their proposal, make recommendations for its marketing and prepare a pitch to present to a decision-making panel, which includes the manager and deputy manager of Progress Ahead. This pitch must be delivered to 'sell' their idea to the panel in a way that persuades them that they should stock their hat design. Think *Dragon's Den* meets *The Apprentice* – it sure is going to be a busy Summer term for students but we can assure you, no one is going to be fired!



Enterprise

This has been a very busy term for the students of OCR Enterprise and Marketing. Students spent most of this term completing their first assignment for the course. Every student has the following scenario:

At 'Progress Ahead' we are looking to expand our accessories range to include a new range of hats. We are seeking exciting hat designs to stock in our nationwide outlets. Casual hats are needed for all seasons. These might include: sunhats, festival hats, beanies or caps,



## English

It has been a busy spring term and the English teachers would like to congratulate our students for all their hard work. KS3 students have been enjoying their reading lessons in the library and have been studying a range of literary texts, including novels and short stories. Our Year 10 and Year 11 students have studied hard for their assessments and continue to impress us with their focus.

### Woman in Black at The Fortune Theatre

148 students from year 8 travelled to London's West End for a truly spooky experience! Susan Hill's *The Woman in Black* is being studied by year 8 as part of their Gothic Literature unit and this was the perfect opportunity for them to see the novel brought to life on stage. Students shrieked with fear as they became immersed in the sea frets, which penetrated the auditorium lifting the gloomy atmosphere from the page to the stage. The two hander play delighted students who jumped out of their seats as the woman in black appeared and disappeared instantaneously and many were seen turning in their seats to check that she was not behind them!



Year 8 completed a creative project on gothic horror to complement their study of Susan Hill's *Woman In Black*. Daniel Eaton created a gothic horror painting using a forest and an ominous character. The painting did not give away the character's gender, age or identity. It was truly scary!

Jasmine Lyons used a canvas board to create an art canvas using the colours white, red and black. Using crosses, the moon and stars.

Sophie Fifield used blue and black paint to paint an image of a young girl on a swing in a tree.



### Year 7 and Year 8 Book club

This term year 7 and 8 finished Annabel Pitcher's 'My Sister on The Mantelpiece', a powerful story told through the eyes of ten-year old Jamie, which sensitively tackles issues around grief, terrorism, racism, and bullying. The book club spent their last meeting completing a book review, watching author interviews with Annabel Pitcher and contacting her via social media.

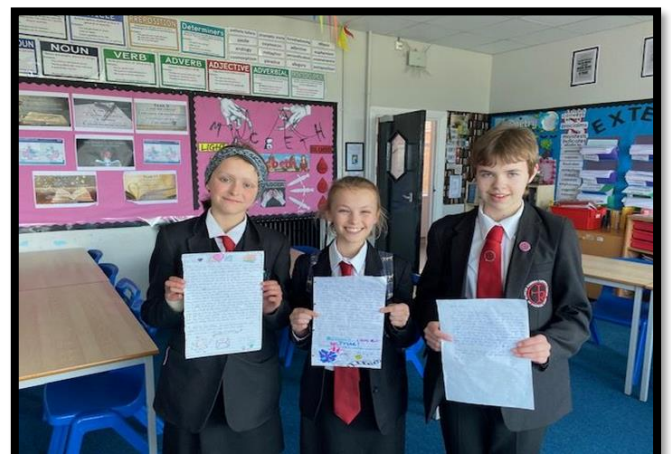
**JOIN OUR BOOK CLUB WITH MISS LOUISE EVERY THURSDAY 3- 3.30PM IN ENGLISH ROOM 3.**

### Year 9 World Book Day rewards

Year 9 completed their speaking and listening projects this term and a number of students were awarded a book of their choice on World Book Day. Rewards were given to Year 9 students for their meticulous crafting and confidence in creating a powerful speech on the theme of Exploring Inequality.

### Penpal project

Well done to Year 7 students Emily, Katie and Isla and Year 9 students, Ashley and Kathryn, who have invested their time as part of a penpal project with a secondary school in Corumba, Brazil. The focus was to develop their non-fiction writing and communication skills.

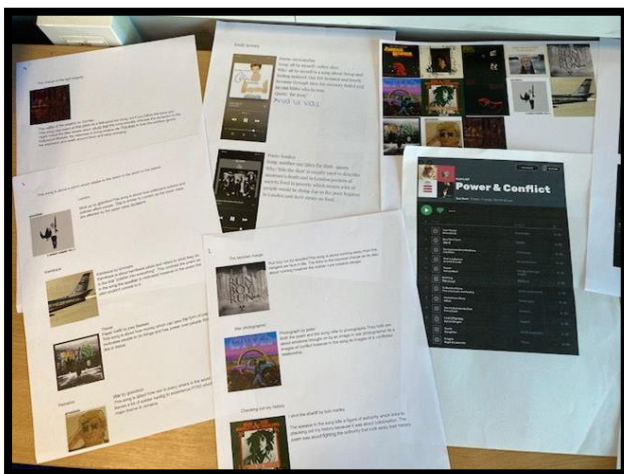


## Year 11 Power and conflict Spotify half term project

Incorporating Michelle Miller's 'study for success' and part of their final drive to GCSEs, year 11 created a Spotify playlist for songs that link to the AQA Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology using lyrics, themes and context. Emily Kenney thematically linked genre and poetic theme. Poem titles and songs that evoked similar meanings inspired Floran Yadaar. Tallulah Taylor paid close attention to song lyrics and quotes within the poems to make connections.



World Poetry Day: All of our KS3 library lessons included spoken word and poetry appreciation. In small groups, students from Year 7 and Year 8 explored a range of poems, which culminated in a performance at the end of the lesson.



Finally, thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting our students in their studies!



## Library

This term has seen the return of the World Book Day and not just a day but also a week full of fabulous activities! We started with our "Dress a potato as a book character". We had some imaginative entries and the overall winner was Claudia in Year 7.



Students were also asked to illustrate the benefits of reading in a poster. Congratulations to Isla, who was a clear year 7 winner with her very colourful and informative entry.

There were many competitive students participating in our Harry Potter Competition to win the colour changing glass! Even a certain teacher with the initials WB wanted to join in too! Our overall winner was Hana in Year 7. Better luck next time, Mr Bowerman!



We were very lucky to have a famous author visit us on World Book Day. The highly celebrated Award Winning Author Elle McNicoll joined us for the whole day. Elle gave a talk to students about her books and her journey as an author. Elle's mission is to include as main characters, neurodivergent protagonists in her stories. As a school, we fully support Elle's mission to have a much wider range of neurodivergent characters. Why not pop up to the library to borrow one of her books?



During the visit, students got to ask questions and get to know Elle McNicoll better. Some questions we asked were;

*What made you want to be an author?* She said she always loved writing and it was her favourite part of school. Elle also told us that her favourite animal was of course, a red panda!

*What made Elle want to write about witches in A Kind of Spark?* She told us how in Scotland where she grew up, there were many witch trials and she was always left thinking how appalling it was that no one seemed to care about how awful it was that people were killed just for being different! The character that she said she was most alike was Ranya because of her personality and her loyalty. We also discovered that the country she would most like to visit was Japan! She said she loved the culture and the food!

*We also asked her if she likes listening to music whilst she writes?* She said that every book has a playlist! In fact most playlists include Olivia Rodrigo, Doja Cat and Taylor Swift! An amazing choice of music, especially for her style of writing!

She told us that her favourite author when she was growing up was Jacqueline Wilson and Jennifer Killick - another author that we have had in recent months!

We discussed her favourite books and she told us that her favourites were the Goose Girl, Treasure island, Noughts and Crosses, and A Christmas Carol- some very good classics and some shared favourites within the librarian team, along with her favourite movie, which she

admitted was Birdcage PLUS a movie which I'm sure we all love - Encanto!

When it comes to school, she told us that her favourite subject was history, because it was all one long story, and it was interesting to see the different viewpoints the story is told from.

For inspiring writers in school, she said that her top tip for writing is that it's okay to not be okay but always be curious and interested, question everything, and read lots! She shared this idea because when you read you take in new vocabulary and are constantly improving your writing when you read...even if you are not aware of it!

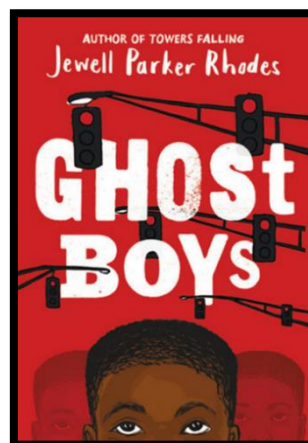
We had a 10 out of 10 day with Elle and cannot wait for our next author visit in May with Tamsin Winters!

Elle also judged our Costumes for World Book Day and was astounded by the range of costumes and creativity of our students. Some students were lucky enough to participate in a Year 8 writing workshop too. The day was finished off with the library prefect team who enjoyed afternoon tea whilst interviewing Elle to gain an insight on how to become a top author.

We also took part in a National creative poetry competition and we are proud of Chloe in Year 10 who is now a published author. You can read her poem in the poetry anthology Empowered, which is on the library shelves!



Our students are continuing to borrow many books from the library. The top two most popular books this term are Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes and Hexed (YA) by Julia Tuffs.





# Geography

**Year 7** - The focus at the start of 2022 has been on developing an understanding of natural hazards. With the focus on the cause, impacts and responses to natural hazards such as earthquakes and volcanoes. This culminated in an assessment where the students had to compare to major earthquakes and the effects on countries with varying levels of development.

**Year 8** - This term year 8 developed their geographical skills, the emphasis was on developing a deep and wide range of Geographical skills, such as map skills, statistical analysis and graphical skills. The aim of this unit was to build on the foundation knowledge built up in year 7 and develop understanding of key skills learning through geographical concepts and topics.

**Year 9** - Students have been learning about Tectonic hazards this half term. The focus was on the response to earthquakes and how this varies between countries of different levels of development in the short and long term. Students have had the opportunity to look at an emergency disaster pack, discuss, and evaluate the different items inside.

**Year 10** - Students have completed the unit on resource management. This culminated in an interactive learning task using skittles! Students had to use the different coloured skittles to represent different resources: food, energy and water. Each student represented a different country and were able to trade freely or not depending on how developed their country was.



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



# History

**Year 7** started the term by looking at the medieval period and did a depth study on the Black Death and Peasants' Revolt. They have been studying Tudor Monarchs this half term and the religious changes that came along with them. From Henry VII winning the Wars of the Roses through to Elizabeth I and her Religious Settlement, students have seen how the connection between Church and State has changed and how different people have been persecuted as a result.



**Year 8** - students have started the new year by looking at how Europe has changed between 1919 and 1939. Students have looked at different totalitarian regimes across Europe, including Italy, Russia and are now moving onto Germany. A study into life in Weimar and Nazi Germany, which will prepare them for their GCSE unit which looks into this in more detail.

**Year 9** - Students across years 9 have studied the impact of migration on culture in Britain since the arrival in 1948



of the MV Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks. We have looked at how culture changed with the introduction of new music and fashions and the emergence of new subcultures including (but not limited to) Teddy Boys, Mods, Skinheads and Punks. Students have been doing lots of source work and developing their skills to

interpret the message behind these sources, which will help them at GCSE. Since half term we have started to look at the origins of the Cold War which is in preparation for History GCSE.

**Year 10** have started work on their final unit for GCSE History. This section of their paper is a depth study into Elizabethan England. Students have started by looking at Elizabeth's background and character to see how her early life helped to shape the woman she would become and to see the impact that this would have on England. This makes up the second part of Paper 2, having completed the "Power and the People" module earlier this term.

**Year 11** have been brilliant in their attitude toward their upcoming examinations. They have made good progress on their second round of mock exams and are in a strong position heading towards the final push. Students have been recapping their unit on Germany 1890-1945 this term as well as having timed practice each week to prepare for their GCSEs.



## Mathematics

Students at St Romeros have had a very busy spring term in Maths, having been involved in a number of enriching activities alongside their lessons. They have covered a variety of challenging and exciting topics.

Our year 7s have been very excited to begin studying algebra for the first time, learning fundamental skills such as how to solve equations. They have also been putting their geometry skills from the autumn term to practice in interesting problems involving fractions, decimals and percentages.

Year 8 have worked with probability and chance, considering problems involving rolling dice and flipping coins. They have then moved on to units on algebra and solving equations.

Continuing the algebra theme, year 9 have been working with simultaneous equations and quadratics this term. Many have been using a song to help them remember the quadratic formula!

Year 10 have studied GCSE-style questions on volume involving algebra, looked at speed, density and pressure, and graphs of circles.

Year 11 have finished the syllabus, done their second round of mock exams and are now well on their way revising for their GCSE exams.

### Hegarty Maths and Sparx

Year 7 and 8 have recently changed to using Sparx to complete their maths homework. Students complete their assigned homework, plus extra-personalised tasks to earn XP. Well done to those students who have pushed themselves to complete the most questions.

<b>Most XP – Year 7</b>	1. Connor DALES
	2. Oscar KEARNON-CAISTER
	3. Oscar BUSS

<b>Most XP – Year 8</b>	1. Jasmine JUDGE
	2. Ella PEAPPELL
	3. Oscar BUSS

Well done also to students from years 9, 10 and 11 who are continuing to use Hegarty maths for their maths homework. Congratulations to the following Hegarty stars.

<b>Most Questions Answered</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	Kaitlin Dalglish
	<b>Year 10</b>	Alexander Junor
	<b>Year 11</b>	Josh Morley
<b>Most Hours Spent Learning</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	Summer Laker-Body
	<b>Year 10</b>	Dominic Winton
	<b>Year 11</b>	Cavan Weston-Smith
<b>Most Reattempts</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	Alfie Armet
	<b>Year 10</b>	Alexander Junor
	<b>Year 11</b>	Cavan Weston-Smith

### Maths Week

The spring term saw our annual Maths week, in which students took part in a number of trips and exciting activities showing them where we can maths in the world around us. Trips took students to the Mathematics Gallery in the Science Museum in London, the i360 and solving problems in escape rooms in Brighton, to Bletchley Park, where the enigma code was cracked in World War 2, and to Mercedes Benz World.





Year 10 students also visited Sussex University, to get a taste of the mathematics studied by undergraduate students there. The students who took part in Maths Week trips have been praised for their exemplary behaviour and insightful questions.

In lessons, students took part in activities such as code breaking, testing their geometry skills with origami, stocks and shares games, Murder Mystery puzzles and maths quizzes.

### Pi Day

Our annual Pi Day competition took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March (3/14 in the American date system), where students competed to memorise the most digits of  $\pi$ . Dr Palsler discussed with year 7 and year 8 students in the audience how  $\pi$  is the ratio between a circle's diameter and its circumference, and the long tradition of competitions to memorise digits of the number. Winner Connor Dales recited 320 digits from memory and got to 'pie' Mr Byrne in the face as his prize. Winner of the year 11 competition was Amelia Van Vliet, who pied head of year 11 Mr Davies as her prize. Well done to all those who competed!

### Outreach to Primary Schools

This year, Mr Sloggett and Miss Roskams have been visiting nearby primary schools every week. Mr Sloggett has been working with small groups of year 5 and 6 students at English Martyrs Primary School, targeting the high attaining students, while Miss Roskams has been to

a number of local primary schools, offering taster sessions of secondary maths, and sharing resources with the teachers.

### Mathletics

On Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, world Maths Day was in full swing, with students given the opportunity to compete with people from across the world in the Mathletics competitions. There are big prizes on offer for the winners – good luck to all competitors while we await the results.

### Worthing College Mathematics Challenge

Two teams of year 10 students were invited to compete at Worthing College this spring in a Mathematics Challenge. The students competed against many other local colleges and secondary schools in a number of different rounds. The teams did St Romeros proud, with one of our teams coming out on top for one of the challenges.



MFL

Buenos días! Bonjour! Our Spanish and French language students across the year groups have continued to impress us with their hard work and enthusiasm this spring term and we have seen our budding linguists really starting to shine in the classroom. Not only have we seen a passion for language learning from so many of our linguists, but students have also shown a keen interest in the culture and we are really looking forward to learning about Easter in Spanish and French speaking countries at the end of this term!

Year 7 have continued to enjoy the variety of studying both Spanish and French during this term and are making great progress in grasping the basics in both languages, which will give them a good grounding for their chosen language in year 8 and beyond. We have really been focusing on comprehension skills, even pairing this with their artistic skills when learning about objects in their classroom, along with translation games and other activities to boost their confidence in languages.

Year 8 French students have enjoyed making presentations about St. Oscar Romero's in their French lessons.

EMPLOI DU TEMPS		ST OSCAR ROMERO	
Vendredi		 <p>Bonjour, bienvenue! Je m'appelle Rebeca. J'adore mon collège parce que c'est génial! Ma matière préférée c'est le français parce que c'est intéressant et facile. Je pense que mon collège c'est génial parce que tout le monde est sympa. Mon professeur préféré s'appelle Madame Rys-Kent. J'adore les sciences parce que c'est génial et un peu difficile.</p>  	
9 - 9:50 -Langlais			
9:50-10:40 -I'EPS			
10:40 -11:00 Récréation			
11:00 -11:50 -I'EPS			
11:50 -12:40 -Les sciences			
12:40 -13:20 déjeuner			
13:20 -14:10 -Les sciences			
14:10 -15:00 -Les maths			



Year 8 Spanish students, as well as learning all about Spanish tapas (¡qué delicioso!), have even been cracking codes in Spanish as part of Maths Week!



About to embark on their GCSE years, year 9 students have been looking at the importance of

language learning and why studying a language at GCSE is so beneficial, obviously we are not biased! We discussed what learning a language shows about you as a person, for example, having good listening skills, being a good communicator, being able to multitask, having a good memory and being open to discovering other

cultures and new experiences. Our year 9 students made some impressive posters to convey the benefits of language learning in their own words and have continued to impress us with the progress they are making in becoming increasingly confident linguists as we move through the curriculum.



Our Year 10 and year 11 students have been working even harder preparing themselves for GCSE, showing resilience and hard work every step of the way. Our year 11s are currently preparing for their speaking exams and we wish them all the very best of luck as they take these in the coming weeks.

Our MFL Wall of Fame is a celebration of one student from each class that has demonstrated a lovely attitude towards learning, and they have received certificates with comments from their teachers as well as their very own spot on the wall. These are updated every term so watch out for our next cohort of Wall of Famers coming soon!



Year 7 have had a lot of fun developing their keyboard playing skills this term by learning the electronic dance piece: Electrowave. We then introduced them to the computers and they had a go recording Electrowave into Garageband and Logic. A good example of this was from AJ and Alfie. Well done boys! Scan the QR code to the right to listen to their recording.



More recently, they have been exploring classical music in class with help from BBC Ten Pieces.

Our study of orchestral music so far has included:

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

We are currently having our first attempts at creating our own masterpieces using Garageband or Logic. There are currently a real mixture of results; from the simple to complex, to those that please the ear and those that do not quite yet....

**Year 7 Choir** has spent this term working on developing their singing ability and technique by learning a truly beautiful piece, Distant Land by John Rutter. We hope to be able to share this with you in the near future so look out for our performance.

**Year 8** played and wrote Blues songs in the January half term and we have now moved onto exploring song writing (in any genre). This includes creating lyrics, melodies, chords, and rhythm tracks for their own songs. The song topics include party songs, love songs, rejection songs and rebel songs. We look forward to hearing what is created by the end of this term.

In **Year 8 orchestra** lessons, we are making fantastic progress on the cornets. We can now play 7 notes from B to A and will hopefully be mastering 2 more before the Easter holidays. This will enable us to play pieces at a Grade 1 level, which is a fantastic achievement in less than 1 year!



**Year 9** started this term by finishing off mixing their band songs that were recorded in October. Take a listen to some with the QRs. We have gone through all the stages, and used all the effects, that a professional recording would go through before it is released to the public. We have now moved onto a new genre entirely and are exploring creating our own epic, cinematic, orchestral trailer pieces using Logic. This is a great opportunity for us to develop not only our composing skills but also our ability to use the software.



**Year 10** GCSE music have been looking at Musical Theatre and have performed a number of different group numbers together over the term. They recently sat a mock exam and have now been split into their two GCSE pathways, either GCSE or RSL, and are beginning their GCSE coursework.

**Year 11's** focus this term has been completing their respective courses. The RSL students did a fantastic job performing at their recent performance exam and now look ahead to completing their final assignments. Meanwhile our GCSE students are very close to completing both their performance and composition course work and are working towards their final exam. Scan the QR codes below to listen to some of their work.



**Chamber choir** have been busy learning a number of pieces this term. Our main goal for this term was to finish learning and record a performance of the song You Say by Lauren Daigle, which we are pleased to announce we achieved. Scan



the QR code to watch our beautiful rendition of You Say on our school's new amphitheatre.



**Concert band** has had a challenging term learning the music for our school production of Bugsy Malone. The music has challenged us, but we have risen to the task to provide the accompaniment for the school musical.

**Open choir** have begun working on an arrangement of This Is Me from the Greatest Showman. After a very popular Karaoke January, we have now begun learning this song. It is not too late to join the choir, all are welcome, Tuesday tutor time in Music 1.



Our instrumental peripatetic teachers are hard at work delivering one to one or small group lessons to our students. After some restructuring in how our peri teachers work, they are back and doing an excellent job working with our students.

If you are interested in learning an instrument, please find the details of our teachers below. We currently have availability in Drum, Guitar, Ukulele, Brass and Piano/Keyboard lessons.

#### Brass Lessons

**Teacher:** Joy White

**Email:** joywhitebrass@gmail.com

**Instruments:** Trumpet, Trombone, Cornet, Tenor Horn, Baritone, Euphonium

**Website:** <https://www.joywhitebrass.co.uk>

#### Pricing:

Group Lessons:

Group lesson = £6.00

(20 min for 2 students,

30 min for 3 students)

Individual lessons:

20 min lesson = £12.00 per week

30 min lesson = £18.00 per week

**How to apply:** Fill out the form to sign up for lessons here:

<https://joywhite.mymusicstaff.com/Sign-up->

#### Guitar/Ukulele Lessons

**Teacher:** Andrew Walker

**Email:** bangandstrum@gmail.com





### Year 8 Indoor Athletics

On the Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January, the male and female Year 8 Indoor Athletics teams competed in their district School Games (same format as Year 7). As always, our students performed to an exceptionally high standard, consistently finishing in the top three places for all events. At the end of the event, excitement grew as the final placings were about to be revealed. Eighth through to third were announced in reverse order with no mention of St Romero's. After a very nervy wait, it was revealed that Team Romero's had finished second - a phenomenal achievement from the squad. Star performers on the day were Rafferty Howcroft and Phoebe Leech.



### Years 7-10 Sussex Schools Cross Country Championships at Brighton, Waterhall

A group of Year 7 to 10 students represented St Romero's in the Sussex Schools Cross Country Championships in Brighton, Waterhall. They were up against a high quality field of runners and did our school proud. Andrew Martin and Becky Smith were the stand out performers.



### Sussex County Cross-Country

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, we took the Year 7 and 8 Cross Country Squad to the district run at Christ Hospital. Despite the freezing conditions, the team did incredibly well. The stand out performance came from Caleb Ansell who finished eighth (out of 175 athletes) and has now qualified to represent the southern area at the county finals.



### Badminton

#### KS3 School Games

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, the KS3 boys and girls badminton teams took part in the district tournament held at Angmering. Both teams played incredibly well, with the girls winning all matches and qualifying the county round of the competition. The stand out performer for the girl's team was Amelia Roberts. The boys won most of their matches, but unfortunately lost to a strong WHS team who ran out as overall winners. The stand out performer for the boy's team was Ashley Coleman.

Best of luck to the girls team who will be competing in the next round on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March.





## Basketball

### KS3 Basketball

The KS3 basketball team made significant progress as the season progressed. Although the results did not always go our way, the team always gave 100% and remained positive and brave in the face of high quality opposition. The stand out team performances of the season came at home against Durrington and away against Angmering. The stand out individual performances came from James Mugadza, Brandon Lavery and Ciaran Barnes. We are already looking preparing and looking forward to next season!



## Netball

### Year 7 School Games Netball Tournament

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March the Year 7 Netball Team travelled to The Angmering School to compete in the School Games Netball Tournament. The tournament included seven Schools from the local area. The girls started brilliantly, beating a strong Shoreham Academy team. Of the six games played, the team only lost once and ended up on equal points, and goal difference, in first place. Unfortunately, we ended up runners up overall after losing to Davison (who finished joint first with us) during the league stage of the tournament. Well done team – you did us proud! Star performers on the day were Tasha Katsamba and Emily Luke.



### KS4 Basketball

The KS4 basketball team performed to an incredible standard in the district tournament. Victories against Shoreham Academy and Steyning Grammar School were the highlights of the season. Matthew Nicholls, Chris Barley and Ethan Buckman consistently performed to a very high standard and led by example. Unfortunately, despite a very a closely contested game, the team lost to Angmering in the League semi-finals.

Despite the disappointment of defeat in the district league semi-finals, the team are still marching on in the County cup. The team have already defeated St.Wilfrids and are playing Seaford in the coming days. We wish the team the best of luck in the quest for glory!



### Year 7, 8, 9 Netball League

The Year netball 7 team have just begun their Netball League season. So far, we have had one game against Our Lady of Sion where we won 8-4. Players of the match were Isabel Griggs and Tasha Katsamba. The team have four more matches to play (Vs Bohunt, Durrington, Angmering and Worthing High) and we look forward to a successful season!

### Year 8 Netball Tournament

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February, our Year 8 netball squad played in a Tournament at Durrington High school. The team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place (out of 12 schools) and did the



school proud with their efforts.



### Table Tennis

#### Year 7

James Fryer and Harvey Read represented St Oscar Romero's at the U13 Table Tennis Tournament at Warden Park. Both students did incredibly well, winning all three of their group matches. As group winners, they received a bye into the quarterfinals where both unfortunately lost to high quality opposition in closely fought contests.

There were 25 boys in total from Year 7 & 8 taking part in the U13 competition. James and Harvey did the school proud and we will forward to celebrating future success

in the competition. A HUGE thank you to Mr Fryer and Mr Read for taking the boys!



### Rugby

#### U13 Girls Rugby Tournament

Year 7 and 8 Girls Rugby team took part in the U13 District Rugby tournament and played superbly with just two defeats in six games! We finished first (in the touch matches) and seventh (in contact matches). Star performers were Marcelina Smith, Jessie Chao and Annabelle Shirley. Well done to all involved!



### Football

#### Girls Year 7 League

The year 7 girls' team competed in the football League throughout this term and played against various teams from the local area. We won two games, drew two games and only were defeated once. The team qualified for the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place finals against Steyning Grammar School. After going 2-0 down the girls managed to draw it back to 2-2, before eventually losing 3-2 overall. Star performers were Eve Christie and Katie Shanley.



### Boys Year 10 League

The Year 10 Football team have had a strong start to the league season, with impressive away wins against TLA and Steyning. We were disappointed to lose our most recent match against a strong Angmering team (3-2) which shows how far the team has come. Upcoming matches against Sir Robert Woodard Academy and Bohunt will determine where we finish in the league and if we qualify for the semi-finals. The stand out performers so far this season have been Luke Bishenden, Joe Clevett and Bruno Kuran. Good luck to the team for the rest of the season!



### Boys Year 11 League

The Year 11 Football team hope to finish their time at St Romeros with some silverware from the district league. They started the season with an impressive performance, battling their way to a 1-1 draw against a strong WHS team. They lost their next game against Bohunt (3-2) and need to produce some big performances in the remaining two league matches to qualify for the semi-finals. The next run of fixtures will determine their fate and we wish them well. The stand out performers thus far have been Jack Owen and Callaghan Stobart.



### - STAR STUDENTS -

#### Grace Clarke

HUGE congratulations to our resident cheerleader Grace Clarke whose team Zodiac All-stars shadow travelled to Atlanta, Dallas and Orlando ESPN to perform in three of the biggest cheerleading competitions in the world. After weeks, days and hours of constant training, the team not only smashed every routine with zero deductions for errors, they also came 1st in every competition with a winning score of 99.28. They are now the first UK team to win the Triple Crown in cheerleading. Well done Grace – we are incredibly proud of you!

### Becky Smith

Becky recently played for the Girls u16 Sussex Water polo team who won the inter-counties championships, making them Regional champions. Becky was selected for the South-East England u16 girls team to play at the inter-regional tournament – an incredible achievement considering that she was only 14 at the time. The South-East England team played several games, including against Scotland (who they beat), and came away with a national bronze medal. Becky was then awarded the Most Valued Player for the South East team, which was voted for by coaches from all over the country! Well done Becky – you are an absolute star!



### Mikulas Nezhoda

Miki had four swimming events in February at the County Championships held in Crawley. Miki swam brilliantly and has new personal best times in several events. He also reached the finals in most events, winning bronze medals in the 50m and 100m butterfly. Well done Miki!



### Hadley Davis

Hadley is a cyclist who competed on Road and Track last summer. This winter he has been riding in the London and South East Cyclo-cross League. He rides as a Youth B, which means he competes with 14 year olds and under. At the time of writing, he is currently sixth in the league, and recently qualified to ride in the National Championships where he was 34th.

Cyclo-cross races for his age category are between 30 and 40 minutes long. The courses are mainly off road, often with features such as steps, hurdles and steep banks. Bikes often have to be carried over parts of the course so being a good runner helps. There are regularly around 50 riders in his race, and avoiding crashes is difficult especially in the mud!

Keep up the great work Hadley!



**Finn Dzekawong**

HUGE congratulations to Finn who continues to represent Sussex in football. The image shows Finn playing against the Brighton District, a game Sussex won 3-1. Keep up the great work Finn!



**- SURVEY WINNER -**

In February 2022 we asked the students to complete a survey reviewing PE, Dance and school sport at St Oscar Romero's. Congratulations to Tom Hooper who was randomly selected (from 169 students who completed the survey) to win £20 worth of Amazon vouchers.

**Miller Cole**

HUGE congratulations to Miller, who has been selected to progress to Saracens U16 EPDG! Only 48 boys from across three counties (Hertfordshire, Kent and Essex) have made it through to this stage. Miller is now training at Stonex (Saracens stadium) once a week with academy staff, and in the next four weeks will be playing Harlequins, Northampton (at Warwick School) and London Irish (at Stonex). At the end of this, and after his exams, Saracens will select for the U17s Academy squad for next season. Fingers crossed that this includes Miller. Well done Miller - we are all incredibly proud of you!



\*\*\*Please contact Mr Durr (ldurr@stromeros.co.uk) if you have any sporting success stories from outside of school that you would like to share\*\*\*

Rugby has continued to go from strength to strength at Romero's with over 35 boys attending training sessions every Friday. The sessions are run in partnership with Worthing RFC and visiting coach Tom Adams - who we are indebted to for his commitment and expertise.

Following the autumn term exploits, where the squad returned wins vs. St Philip Howard, Canford and Worthing High, the spring term saw the start of the area league, with results as follows:

- Romero's 17 - 7 Durrington High School
- Romero's 22 - 10 Sir Robert Woodard
- St Andrews 15 - Romero's 40
- Romero's 0 - Steyning Grammar 17

After an unbeaten start, the squad received a reality check against a robust and physical Steyning side; however, in a season, that has seen such progress and growth, the squad can hold their heads up high with a record of played 7, won 6 and lost 1.

As we head into the summer term, training will continue every Friday afternoon, with the focus turning to Touch Rugby, fitness, speed and agility as preparations commence for the challenges of Under 15 rugby, which will include testing ourselves against opposition at both county and national level.



### Rugby and Netball Tour to South Africa 2023

In January, we pitched our ambition to run an ambitious and aspirational rugby and netball tour to South Africa in April 2023. This will involve training and playing with and against South African schools and clubs, as well as several excursions to broaden our own horizons but also to raise money and carry out mission work in support of a partner township school and club. The ethos of our tour can best be summed up

School travel, particularly sports tours that include several days away from home; provide young people with an unparalleled window on the world. We consider our role as your child's school, not just to support them achieve outstanding academic success, but also to instil the knowledge, understanding and skills to live in and contribute to today's global society, within our specific Catholic context. There are not many better ways to provide these opportunities than via a school sports tour where children are provided with a unique opportunity to increase their understanding of the world in which they live, including the languages, cultures and values of societies different to their own.

In addition to the sports tourists, if your child is interested in joining this tour in a non-playing capacity as a cultural tourist they would be most welcomed. If you are interested, please do make contact with Mr Noye on [rnoye@stromeros.co.uk](mailto:rnoye@stromeros.co.uk)



In Term 3 students celebrated World Religion Day and Safer Internet Week – I will be talking a bit more about Safer Internet Week below. To give you a brief overview of what our students

have engaged with over term 3 and 4, as outlined in the table below:

	<b>Term 3 (after Christmas )</b>	<b>Term 4</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	Positive relationships - Families	Healthy Lifestyles
<b>Year 8</b>	Choices and Pathways	Bullying, abuse and discrimination
<b>Year 9</b>	Financial Choices	Mental health and emotional wellbeing
<b>Year 10</b>	Positive Relationships	Managing risk and personal safety
<b>Year 11</b>	Social influences and personal safety	Being Safe

### Safer Internet Week



This year's Safer Internet Week thankfully took place in school. The week aimed at raising awareness about how to stay safe online and how parents can keep an eye on their children's online activities. This year we had a KS3 and KS4 Drop-Down-Session during form time, which was delivered by tutors. The learning objective of this session was to make students aware of harmful sexualised behaviour online. Please follow the link by the NSPCC for further information around this topic: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2016/review-children-young-people-harmful-sexual-behaviour-online>

As this is naturally quite a sensitive topic, staff members were trained to deliver these sessions accordingly by speaking their form groups through case studies, scenarios and further learning opportunities. At the end

of the week, parents received an email containing resources with tips, conversation starters and family activities around online safety. Please contact Miss Brunner for further questions via [fbrunner@stromeros.co.uk](mailto:fbrunner@stromeros.co.uk).

### What is happening next term?

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

	Term 5 (after Easter)
Year 7	Financial Choices
Year 8	Self-concept (Personal strengths)
Year 9	Self-concept and social influences
Year 10	Work and career
Year 11	Mental health and emotional wellbeing



## Religious Education

This term has been a busy one in the RE department, with students continuing through a curriculum which aims to stretch and challenge each student, engage them (as always in RE) in deeper questions of meaning and purpose, and provide opportunities to question, to discuss bigger questions of truth, meaning and faith.

### KS3

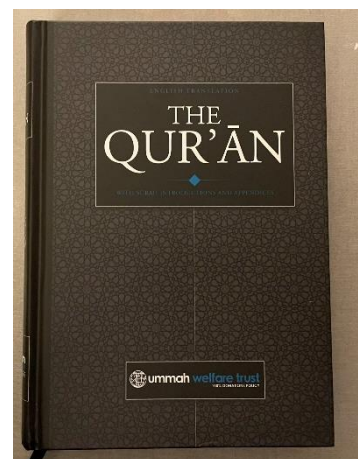
This term **Year 7** have completed a unit of work looking at the religion of Hinduism (or 'Sanatana Dharma' (Eternal Truths)). As part of this unit students looked at the roots of Hinduism and the different ways this ancient faith is explored in the modern day. Students took a deep look into beliefs about the different deities and how these beliefs are expressed in the practice of Hinduism. Students in year 7 have then continued with a unit on the Church, looking at how Christians put into practice their key beliefs (which we explored in unit 1 of this year). That unit included a visit to our school chapel (see the image below) in which students researched the different features of a church and their significance.



In **Year 8** students have completed a unit of work on the existence of God, exploring reasons people of faith come to a belief in God, and then evaluating these reasons, discussing their validity. Areas covered include Paschal's Wager, the problem of suffering, unanswered prayer,

religious experience, miracles and the relationship between science and faith (a lesson that included perspectives from the Science department here at St Romero's). From there students have gone on to looking at a unit on 'Vocation', an area of study that looks into where people feel 'called' to live their life, focussing on the Christian sense of vocation. Students have been simultaneously completing the Alpha Course with Niall down in the chapel for one of their RE lessons a week, which the students have been amazingly engaged with.

In **Year 9** students have completed one of the most challenging units given to them in KS3, on the topic of 'Philosophy', where students have looked at a range of philosophical ideas on the meaning of 'truth', 'reality' and 'knowledge'. Students have explored questions such as 'What is Truth?' 'What is real?' 'How do I know I exist?' 'Is there reasonable evidence for a belief in God'. Students have since began a unit of work on the religion of Islam, looking at the historical roots of Islam. Students have been assisted in this course by the generous donation of the Ummah Trust of a brand new set of Qurans for every RE classroom. These Qurans are beautifully made and have helped emphasise the importance of the Quran for Muslims.



**Year 10** have worked incredibly hard this term as they continue their journey through the GCSE course. Students have completed a unit of work on Catholic Beliefs and Catholic practices, and are currently mid-way through their study of sources of authority in the Christian tradition.

**Year 11** have also been working incredibly hard in preparing for their GCSE's in May / June. We have finished the GCSE course so the last 5 weeks of term have seen students being taught by different members of the RE team (not just their usual class teachers) in covering the 8 units of work they need to focus on for their GCSE. We commend our Year 11's for the excellent attitude they have demonstrated so far, and encourage them to keep believing in themselves and working hard to reach for the outstanding grades we know they are all capable of achieving this summer. Also during the spring term, we were able to take year 11 to visit the Worthing Mosque in Ivy Arch Road. We were greeted by Imam Idris who gave a presentation on the key beliefs of Islam. Students were encouraged by Imam Idris to ask any question relating to RE and he responded with detail and relevance for the 21st Century. Students were allowed to enter the main prayer hall and were able to apply their classroom knowledge to what they could see and hear. All students

displayed exemplary behaviour at all times and we were extremely proud of them.



vulnerable, and put faith into action. The response we saw in supporting the collection we held for victims of the war exceeded expectations. It is widely known that our community is generous, but the donations we received were exceptional, and expressed in such an inspiring way what it means to be a member of St Oscar Romero's. A further high point of our response to the war in Ukraine was our peace march, which we held on the 25th March. To see and hear our school community speaking out and being "God's microphones" as St Oscar Romero calls us to be, was a wonderful witness. It was not a politically driven event, but rather a response to live out our Christian duty to speak out in truth and for justice. This was highlighted in such a beautiful and awe inspiring way, when as a whole school community we knelt in honour before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

As we come towards Easter, we continue to look to Jesus, both to His crucifixion and His Resurrection. The cross shows us the cruelty and injustice that is present in the world and in our lives at times, but the resurrection overcomes that, it shines a light into darkness, it is hope in the face of fear.



## Chaplaincy

This term is always an exciting one, not least because our school Feast Day falls in this period and is a highlight each year. In Chaplaincy this term we have had some fantastic highlights in both expressing and sharing in faith and in putting faith into action.

**St Oscar Romero Feast Day** 24th March brought with it our school feast day. On this day 42 years ago, Archbishop Romero was shot while celebrating Mass. Fr Stephen reminded us at our Feast Day Mass, that St Romero was shot because he had non-negotiables in his life. There were things that he would not compromise on, he would not compromise on love. Oscar Romero spent his time as archbishop, fighting against injustice, being the voice of the voiceless, loving those in need without compromise and without condition.



As a school community we are inspired by St Oscar Romero, and in response to the crisis in Ukraine, we too have stood up against injustice, supported the



May the Resurrection be a sign of hope to you and your families this Easter, reminding you of the presence and love of God who gave Himself without holding back and may His love and mercy lift you and fill you with unfailing joy.

God bless, Niall



## Science

### Moon rocks land at St Romero's!

This term we were thrilled to have loaned a number of meteorites and lunar samples, and every student in Y7-10 had the opportunity to see them up close. The lunar samples are owned by NASA / US Government, and contained pieces of moon rocks collected from the Apollo 15,16 and 17 missions.

On the Wednesday of 'Moon Week' we took the lunar samples on a tour of 6 local primary schools, bringing these amazing artefacts to over 400 younger students. What an experience!

We also hosted an evening for parents and families, where Mr Malandain spoke about the Apollo missions, followed by an opportunity to 'hold the moon'.



### BPhO Online Intermediate Physics Challenge

Congratulations to William Armitage, Will Hudson and Evelyn Starbuck who received GOLD Awards in this Physics competition. Their scores placed them in the top 19% of the 4500 students who took part in this national competition.



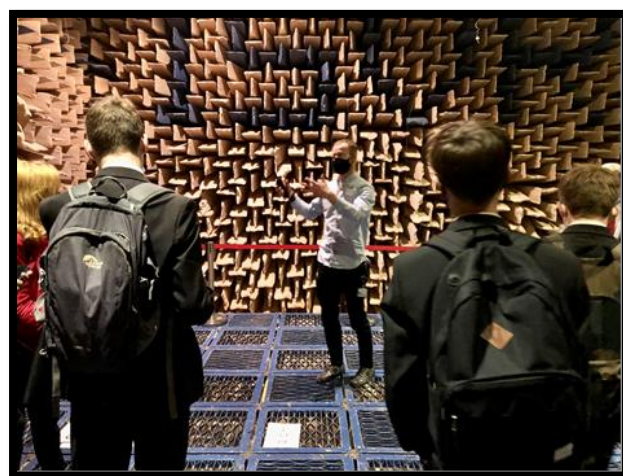
**Silver Awards** were given to Corin Malandain, Angel-Mae Lomandas, Bill Robinson, Joseph Finch, Matthew Nicholls, Alice Kennedy, Christopher Barley, Dean Cooke, Emma Day, River Jocson, Ashley Pollard, Kaie Peapell, Llucc Ambros and Maggie Horne.

**Bronze Awards** were given to Miller Cole, Poppy Faires, Bella Saunders, James Winton, Aien Sanchez and Floran Yaadar.

In May 2022 there will be an online Junior Physics Challenge for all Y10 students. Details to follow.

### Y10 Visit to Southampton University

The Institute of Sound and Vibration Research at the University of Southampton hosted over 100 Y10 students in March. The facilities we visited included one of the largest anechoic chambers in the UK. This is a room in which the walls are specially designed to absorb all sounds, so no reflections / echoes are heard – a very strange experience! Students took measurements of sound levels in this room, and compared them to the measurements taken in the reverberation chamber (in which the sounds echo for over 6 seconds). We also had a lecture from Emeritus Professor Victor Humphrey on the uses of sound and ultrasound in imaging. As a follow up to this visit we have two STEM ambassadors from the acoustics industry booked in to work with students in June. All Y10 students will study waves in Y11, so this has been an excellent introduction to this fascinating subject.



### Educake Champions

Our students have now answered almost half a million questions so far this academic year! Students can set themselves an Educake test at any time (it is not just for h/w) - this is a great way to consolidate learning, and to revise topics. This term, once again Y10 are currently the

most active Educake users, having answered > 81,000 questions, closely followed by Y11 with 71,000.

Congratulations also to the following students:

Year	Most Qs answered this term	Highest % correct this term
7	Isla Easton	Louie Newsom
8	Jasmine Judge	Emily Clarke & Megan Worsfold-Gwyn
9	Elisha Smith	Elisha Smith
10	Alexander Junor	Carl Gonzales
11	Jazmine Honor	Evelyn Starbuck, Cody Howard & Matthew Nicholls

### Year 5 Science Enrichment Day

Friday 11th March saw St Osc-worts school of witchcraft and wizardry's successful effort to celebrate the finale of British Science Week with a bang. Staff and students celebrated the climax of the week by inviting 210 students from local and feeder primary schools to take part in a 'Harry Potter' themed science day. Students were treated to an amateur dramatic performance of a (staff-written and performed) Harry Potter play, featuring all of the main and most loved characters from the Wizarding world. This set the scene for them to then engage in three exciting lab sessions to help uncover the identity of the Philosopher's Stone to save it from Lord Voldemort. These included; Potions, Wind and Flame and Density of Mythical Objects. The students threw themselves into the whole experience, enjoying each session and described the whole experience as 'magnificent' and 'spell-binding'. We were also delighted to offer a session of quidditch this year, with St Peter's winning the coveted Quidditch Cup! Thank you to Mr Davies for becoming an honorary member of the Science department for the day and leading this fun activity.

### Science Live at the Brighton Dome

We were lucky enough to take 30 year 11 students to the GCSE Science LIVE! event at the Brighton Dome on Tuesday 8th March. This was a fantastic event, led by some of the world's leading scientists as well as a lead examiner who gave support and guidance on the GCSE syllabus. Students had the chance to see and hear five of Britain's top scientists, all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms; Professor Lord Robert Winston, Dr Kate Lancaster, Professor Steve Jones, Dr Helen Czerski and Dr Anna Ploszajski and examiner Stewart Chenery. The day really did inspire our students and showed us how science really does offer solutions for many of the world's great problems.



## Design Technology

This term has seen Year 11 finish making their final product for their GCSE NEA coursework. This is 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 architectural design. A real highlight of the term has been the architectural design project by Year 10. This involved students designing, planning and making a 3D model to meet a given brief. These models were made from foam board and carefully constructed to produce realistic buildings in both scale and proportion.



Students whose work is showcased here: Tommy Harrison-Horn, Harrison McIntyre, Rocco Colgate, Seb Wattam, Kaylib Judge, Jamie Collins, Mark Rowe, Charlotte Parsons, Sydney Batley, Lily Moss, Kie Bashford, Dean Cooke, Will Hudson, Matthew Nicholls and Lorna Fowler.



## Food & Nutrition

**Year 7** - Another busy term with year 7 practising their chopping skills, couscous salad and making a vegetable frittata. Next week students are trying their hand at Mediterranean tart followed by fruit crumble.



Year 7 food club have not disappointed this term they have been working on different ways to cook eggs. Starting with fried, scrambled, poached omelette and finishing off with pancakes. Then they went on to making shortcrust pastry, which they froze and then went on to make delicious Cornish pasties. We also made Honeycomb in time for Mother's Day.



**Year 8** have just started their new rotation making pineapple upside down cake, and flavoured butter in a jar.



**Year 9** have just completed their first practical assessment where students had a choice of three recipes they had to follow and try to put their own twist on it. Nikhiel Korcia made an amazing pizza pie with a bread base and cheese on the bottom followed by the tomato.

**Year 10** have been doing a mock NEA where they had to produce one dish with all accompaniments in an hour and 20 minutes based on the topic Street Food. Everything had to be made from scratch and presented in take away containers. We had some great results from Indian masala, French toast, pork dumplings and churro's.



Year 11 have been doing their final GCSE practical, which is to produce two dishes with all accompaniments in 3 hours. There were two questions to choose from a vegetarian or any event to celebrate food. The students had to show a wide variety of skills with both dishes being served at once.



# Extended Learning

## National Apprenticeship and Higher Education Show

Students in Year 9 took part in an event at the Sandown Racecourse in Surrey this month. The NAS & HE Expo had many UK wide training providers and Universities present and the students were able to chat to them and to collect information to help and guide them through their choices. This trip is all part of the student GROWTH program that enables every student to access the very best Career education, advice, information and guidance.



'I found out all about Apprenticeships that has given me a different perspective of what I would like to do after Year 11'. Arianna Peci (Year 10 student)

It was a great chance for the students to way up the differing routes of University V Apprenticeships. Many were amazed by the Degree based Apprenticeship offers too offering the best of both Worlds.



As Covid recedes, the chances and opportunities to get out in the World are increasing so we will see more of these opportunities emerging.

## Duke of Edinburgh Awards

The Duke of Edinburgh Awards continue at St Romeros'. New Year 9 participants have now signed up and started their learning journeys. The expedition training has commenced and a bit of emergency first aid training will help them on their way.



The Duke of Edinburgh Awards have been around for the past 70 years and continue to motivate and to build the skills needed in life. Each participant can choose what they do and they complete sections that include; physical, skills, volunteering and an expedition.

The 2020 and 2021 participants took part in an Awards evening during March and many received their certificates. Some are just finishing off after quite an eventful and fractured time due to Covid. They have until they are 25 to complete so some are choosing to continue their award in Sixth Form.



Seb Wattam in Year 11 has joined the Expedition leadership scheme to help and encourage the younger students. He is part of the Alumni program that is launching which hopes to build a bank of willing ex-students who support the learning and experiences of the younger generation.



'I did Dofe when I was at school and I really enjoyed it. Made such a difference to me and enabled me to be more confident and self-assured' Mr Cutler (Head of Year 10).



Alongside a packed Tutor program, the teachers posted their career journeys on their doors for students to see with some hilarious and informative results. Assemblies and whole year group activities took place, which included a very interactive 'Flight of the Phoenix' assembly involving all the workings of a mock business. Year 10 even got the chance to create design teams to drop eggs off the Drama roof without breaking.



### National Careers Week

All the students at St Romero's took part in National Careers Week this month. Held every year across the UK in schools and colleges the week is to help the students focus on their Careers and skills development pathways. Everyone's journey is different was the message that was put out and each student had the chance to think about what they are doing now and what they need to do to get to their chosen destination. Many students are still researching and experimenting with ideas and the teachers help and guide them to make some key choices. Having a focus on the future helps the students to understand the support they can get and that anything is possible if you put your mind to it.



'All in all it was a great week and so important to the students to build more confidence in what is ahead of them. At St Romero's National Careers Week is here every week with holistic student development at the heart of what we do'. Mr Dean

### John Muir Award





St Romero's have their very own sustainability program called the John Muir Discovery Award. This is the first of three levels and each Year 8 student gets involved. The program has been written for our students and takes in consideration their individual needs and nature that is part of all their lives. Each week the students sample areas of wild nature that includes the beach, Downs, rivers and woodland and they get to discover the areas as well as their own feelings and emotions. We focus on wellbeing and keeping safe as well as how to take calculated risks and be able to be dynamic in the outdoors. Recently it was voted number 1 in all lessons for the most enjoyment.



'I love this class; you get a chance to have fun as well as learn to live a more sustainable life. We learn about looking after ourselves and each other so that we are able to save the planet and do what we can to help'. Year 8 student

'I like this Lakota Indian saying 'The further we go away from nature the more lost we become'. This is so true and we feel blessed that we are able to offer this amazing experience to our students. We continue building the program and it develops all the time, the more connections we make and the more we can build the next levels'. Mr Dean - Outdoor Learning subject leader

### **Pillars of Possibility Where Anything is Possible**

St Romeros students are lucky to have their very own Personal Development program called the Pillars of Possibility. The journey starts in Year 7 and takes them all through to college and beyond. Each student works on a level and completes a number of tasks associated with a Pillar. They can add evidence of anything they do that is not in a lesson. As an example, students who visited Southampton University Audio research facility recently placed their learning experiences on the platform. Each time they add evidence their 'Shape' changes and becomes more and more rounded. As the students go up to Year KS4 they focus down on their passions and ambitions with the Pillars evidencing all that they do.

'Sam Reed, ex-student from the class of 2020, has done an amazing job writing and coding this Personal Development project. He has been leading on its development, gaining feedback from the students and staff so the whole program moves forward. He is off to study Computer Science at University in September but will continue to work with the students in this role alongside in his Duke of Edinburgh Award leadership position', Mr Dean - Extended Learning Leader

Each Pillar has associate Business/Further Education/Training providers attached to help and support the Pillar development alongside a department at the school. Each Head of department uses the focus of their Pillar to help plan and create their students' advancing learning journeys.

Mr Dean is planning to create a Parent/Carer/Business working group to help develop this program further. <https://pillarsofpossibility.co.uk/> please email [pdean@stromeros.co.uk](mailto:pdean@stromeros.co.uk) if you would like to be involved.

### **WSP Geography Workshop**

WSP is a global environmental/engineering company that visited the school last month to present to a group of willing Geography GCSE students. They spoke about coastal defences and how engineering can directly affect our local wildlife. Students learnt how companies like WSP support business development whilst having an important environmental agenda too.

Each department in the school increases the student experience and learning by providing many opportunities for the students to flourish. Guest speakers, events, trips and work with ex-students all bring the real World into the school enabling them to see the relevance of the subjects.

'I found it very interesting how they adapt new ways of creating sea defences, whilst conserving ecosystems'. Shay Wheeler

'I feel that it is really important to connect the Geography curriculum to the real World. It makes everything the student learns relevant. Having these key industry interventions helps students become more motivated and keen to extend their understanding. The students start to build their evidence of problem solving and are able to save the proof and outcomes on their Pillars of Possibility.

If you are involved in a business, which could support in this sort of way then please email [pdean@stromeros.co.uk](mailto:pdean@stromeros.co.uk)

### **Electric Car Club**

The Electric car club was started out of a conversation with a group of FingerPrints ambassadors. A breakaway

group has come up with an ambition to help support the development of electric car technology by designing, fund raising and building a Green Car. They are hard at work creating ideas and seeking advice from professionals. Each week they meet to talk strategy and to have some fun with their own mini electric cars.

'We get to try different things each week and have some fun together. It does get quite competitive sometimes and next week we are building Robot Wars prototypes'. Daniel Derias (Year 7 student).

'Meeting weekly is really good as you see the group developing both in identity and purpose. They are the mechanics and engineers of the future and it is really important to motivate them now.' Mr Dean - Extended Learning Leader

The students have raised enough money now to purchase the basic chassis kit and motor and will be building it after Easter. If you or your business are able to support this club with sponsorship then please let us know. [pdean@stromeros.co.uk](mailto:pdean@stromeros.co.uk)

### **Finger Prints (not foot prints)**

The students at St Romero's know very well that actions need to happen to create change in our World. They created a working group of 50 students from all year groups called the FingerPrints Ambassadors. Their ultimate aim is to help us all be more aware and live more sustainable lives. We are not here to create footprints and to damage the Planet, we are here to support it and nurture its beauty. Each time we create an issue for the planet, we leave our fingerprints. We are taking responsibility and doing all we can to make a difference.

The students have split into Actions 4 Change groups and have a number of initiatives they are working on. One of these Actions is to try to halt the 'Progress' of the building works on Chatsmore Farm and Goring Gap, working alongside Sir Peter Bottomley and XR Rebellion/Transition Town Worthing.

Climate change and living more sustainable lives is quite BASIC.

Be the change

Ask the right questions

Say the right things

Implement your own actions

Collaborate to create bigger actions.

'We all need to stand up for change! Take some responsibility for our actions and really understand what living sustainably really means' Elliot Meakins (Year 9 Ambassador).



'The students are our voice and should be heard to help now and the future. They are the future decision makers and should be respected for their views'. Dr Webb-Blofeld.

If you would like to be involved in this organisation, either as a parent/carer/business or to support please email [pdean@stromeros.co.uk](mailto:pdean@stromeros.co.uk)

### **Year 11 Beast Mudder**



Year 11 students took some timeout during a busy revision techniques day to think about their wellbeing. The freezing fog cleared to present them all with a Beast Mudder, an assault course with a difference. One where the teams had to support each other and to solve various tasks around the course.

At St Romero's we feel that providing a good balance of wellbeing and challenging activities opens hearts and minds and allows students to experience new learning. It is not all about work and play has its place whatever your age!

'The Year 11 had no idea that this was going to happen and it took them all by surprise. The best bit was the mud and watching the students trying to get a body and stretcher through the course'. Seb Wattam (Year 11)

The Beast Mudder is going to be developed and will be set up to provide outdoor learning opportunities for all the students as well as the chance to have fun in the mud.

# The Wainwrights Challenge 2022

Following on from our successful Three Peaks and Welsh 3000's Challenges, which previously raised over £13,000 combined for local charities, students at St Oscar Romero Catholic School have now set their sights on a new target, to trek the highest points in the Lake District in support of Turning Tides. Selected students will be trekking up the highest peaks in England's Lake District more namely Scarfell Pike, Helvellyn and Skiddaw. The image below shows you the view from the top of Helvellyn (3000ft). The mountain challenge itself will be exhausting, but a memorable feat, in some of the most stunning backdrops in England.



Although, it should in no way be underestimated. The challenge covers a distance of around 37km, as well as a height climbed in excess of 12000ft. The weather and terrain play a significant factor in the challenge. Turning Tides is the largest provider of support for homeless men and women in West Sussex. For over 28 years, the charity has continued to grow and develop a wide range of services to meet the individual needs of those accessing their support. Turning Tides believe that everyone

has the right to a home and supports people at every stage in their journey out of homelessness. The charity brings together compassionate individuals and organisations who work tirelessly to transform the lives of people in the local community.



The selected group of 16 students, and 6 staff, will carry out this challenge between Thursday 9th and Sunday 12th June 2022, and the fundraising is already well underway! The following students from year 10 have been selected; Poppy White, Vinzi Salazar, Chiara Ballard, Katie Montgomery, Josh Shanley, Harrison Roberts, Innis Jeffries, Charlie Illes, Elena Simmonds, Andrew Martin, Joe Clevett, Ewan Ferguson, Becky Smith, Lois Keane, Luke Stephenson and Arianna Peci.



If you could help contribute to this amazing charity, by any means possible, it would be gratefully received. You can either donate by following the QR code using your smart phone camera, which will take you to our *Just Giving* page or follow the following link <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/storc-wainwright-challenge>

**SCAN ME**

Wish us luck!



# Head of House

It has been another fun filled term, with so many House events running and once again the students have shown great enthusiasm and commitment to the competitions and events run. Alongside our regular weekly house quizzes, we have run Sudoku challenges, badminton matches and collected items to help support the Ukrainian refugee effort.

## Ukraine Collection

On Monday 14th March, the school launched a collection for Ukraine. Students were asked to bring in items such as clothes, toiletries and towels to help families in crisis. As students arrived at school, they were able to place items at their house collection points, designated at the front of the school. By 10am, the piles were full. The overall results of the house collection are 1<sup>st</sup> - Teresa, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Malala, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Attenborough and 4<sup>th</sup> - Kolbe



## Year 7 Sudoku

This term every Year 7 tutor received 4 sudoku challenges to complete. Every student had 5 days to complete the challenges during morning tutor times. Congratulations to the winners, 7A1, and the runners up, 7K1.

## Year 7, 8 & 9 Badminton

Male Overall Results		
Rank	House	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	Piotr Sienlawska 7M1	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Zachary Bandar 7A1	4
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Allie Jannaway 7A1	4
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lucas Young 7K1	4

Year 7, 8 & 9 students were given an evening after school to compete for their house in a badminton competition. Students were split into two tournaments (boys & girls) and played running matches between each court. We saw some excellent play during this time and some fierce competition! The overall results were:

Overall Results		
Rank	House	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	7A1 Ms Palser	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	7K1 Miss Standing	4

Female Overall Results		
Rank	House	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	Amelia Roberts 8M2	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kathryn Ticehurst 9A1	4
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Elizabeth Brockwell 9A2	3

## Guess what is in the box

To help raise money for the Dance Live competition, we ran a 'Guess what's in the Boxes' competition. There were two boxes, one with a small item and one with a more valuable item in it. The students managed to raise £50 towards Dance Live and the winners were, Sunnie Wood for Malala, who correctly guessed what was in the small box and Ewan Ferguson for Kolbe, who correctly guessed what was in the big box.

## List the countries challenge

Each tutor had 4 weeks to revise as many countries in the world as possible. Tutors used a variety of strategies to allow students to revise; videos, maps and even songs. Between 21st - 25th March every tutor had 5 days to write down as many countries as possible. So far, we have had some fantastic entries: 7T2 (Mr Price) - 67 countries, 7A2 (Mr Verkade) 118 countries, 7K1 (Miss Standing) 149 countries, 10T1 (Mr Watts) 91 countries and 11T2 (Miss Hughes) 82 countries.

## Year 7 Dance House and Charity Weeks

Attenborough house have launched the 'House Dance Cup' competition for Year 7. A minimum of 8-10 dancers in their performance however every member of the form must be involved in some capacity, whether this is costume, hair and make-up or even dance captain/theme creator!! The Performance date for your diaries is the 24th June 6-7.30pm, we hope to raise as much as possible through ticket sales for our schools chosen charity. There will be the main Dance cup for the winners of the competition as well as smaller awards for best music, props, costume and theme. We cannot wait to see all the pieces perform at the Amphitheatre in June. Guest judge soon to be announced!

**Student of the half term** - This term has launched an opportunity to select one star student of the month. Students are selected on behaviour, effort and punctuality to class and will see an opportunity for students to show this every half term. Look out in assembly for the results. In addition, students selected will receive a house point for their house!



# Head of Year 7

As we come to the end of another packed term, it is imperative to reflect on the superb work and achievements by Year 7. This year group are amazing and I am so proud of the way that they have developed so far. They are remarkable students with many talents and attributes.

Rewards have been a highlight of the year and students are keen to receive their certificates and rewards in assembly. Isla Easton and Imani Zyambo are the first students to reach Double Diamond on the reward system. So far, the following rewards have been given out; Bronze 130, Silver 73, Gold 22, Platinum 9, Diamond 3, Diamond Plus 2 - Well done, a superb achievement!



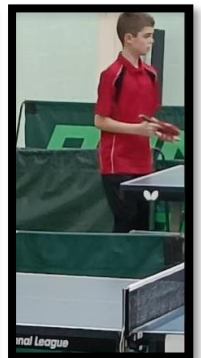
We celebrated with World Book day on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and year 7 were easily the best-dressed year group by far. Lexi Quick was the winner of Year 7 dressed as Mary Poppins. The photo below shows all of the students during assembly.

Other highlights for me this term include Connor Dales who recited 320 numbers of Pi on National Pi Day, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March. He won the opportunity to Pie Mr Byrne in the face. Full credit to the other contenders, Phoebe Duvall came second with an amazing 125 numbers followed by Oscar Buss and Louie Newsom.



James Fryer and Harvey Read represented the school in Table Tennis. They both won their group winning all three matches, then as group winners, they received a bye into the quarterfinals. Both boys played really well in the quarterfinals against 25 boys in an U13 competition.

Year 7 Netball team who came joint first with Davison in the School Games at Angmering. A huge achievement. It shows how Saints Netball Academy is contributing to the involvement and love for Netball.



Our sporting achievements have seen the Year 7 Indoor Athletics team win the Indoor Competition against all of the local schools which is another amazing achievement.

Gideon's visited us on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March and presented every single student with a Gideon's bible. The weather was beautiful and we used the Ampitheatre for the special occasion.

A huge shout out to the students who did the Big Sleepout last weekend for Turning Tides. We were represented by the following students; Connor Dales, Charlie Clayton, Andrew Jenkins, Megan Clayton, Oscar Buss, Melody Silverson and Lucas Young. Well done to you all an amazing achievement.

I am looking forward to the summer term where we can regain a zest for school life without the hindrance of Covid. The warmer days are already here and giving us a flavour of warmth, sunnier and happier days.



# Head of Year 8

Spring has arrived and we are preparing ourselves to embrace our summer term. Time to reflect on the last few months...

We have been fortunate to see normality coming back into our school life, with the Maths trip and the very successful trip to Woman in Black theatre production in London.

Feast day was equally a great success and of course the march to the beach. What a joy to be able, at last, to unite as a year group, to share great moments and to get together as a community. You have worked hard, you have applied yourselves throughout this term, with an incredible amount of positive points collected, and certificates handed out (...and chocolate!!).



Special mention to a few students who have made us particularly proud including **Isla Parker**, who has been accepted and is already training at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London. To **Megan Worsfold-Gwyn** and **Peter Close** for achieving their Diamond Award.



Let us not forget Careers week, which will stick in everyone's memory for the superb transformation of Mrs Lumsdon into a glorious phoenix! Poor Mr Challinor, despite his best effort nobody showed any interest in buying his newspaper!



### Attendance Recognition

Congratulations to all of the following students for achieving 100% attendance since the 1st September. Remarkable achievement!

100% Attendance			
AWDE, Luke	COLE-SAVAGE, Orin	MORGAN, Mackenzie	STARBUCK, Elliot
BARTON, Harley	FIGUEIRA-DIEZ, Victoria	MURRAY, Mia	TRZEPIZUR, Nikodem
BEASLEY, Sidney	GILBERT, Leo	ROBERTS, Ralph	VILLAMOR, Jayden
BIRCHALL, Elliot	GRANT-BARWIS, Naomi	ROGERS, Henry	WHATLEY, Natalya
BRADFORD, Joseph	HALASZ, Dora	RUSSELL, Emily	WORSFOLD-GWYN, Megan
CHAO, Jessie	KEANE, Orla	SAJI, Alf	
CLARKE, Emily	MARKHAM, Abigail	SMITH, Marcelina	

With spring and the daffodils, come also great personal changes. Year 8 is slowly but surely leading to Year 9. Students are faced with the challenges of becoming teenagers. Let us have a fantastic Easter break and return to school for an existing summer term, which will include a whole week of fun activities and visits (more to be revealed). But in the meantime, remember to make the right choices Year 8, to be good to your parents and carers, to your teachers and more importantly to yourselves. Happy Easter!



# Head of Year 9

We are now at the end of the second term of the school year and as ever, it has been a busy one with so much to celebrate. The students have recently taken their DC2 assessments, which they approached in a mature and responsible way.

The main focus of this term was the guided pathway process. All choices were in on time and I was very impressed with the attitude of the whole year group as they made decisions about which subjects to study at key stage 4.

Year 9 have also been very supportive of the school's support for Ukraine, with generous donations to the collection of clothes etc. and on the march for peace. Our Feast Day was very special and we were blessed with fantastic weather. Year 9 students were fully involved in all aspects of the day with some of them overcoming their fears on the assault course!

Well done to all of the students who have received awards this term.

Ms Hedger – Head of Year 9





# Head of Year 10

As we come to a close of my second term at St Oscar Romero I have been further impressed with Year 10. This busy term has seen some fabulous opportunities for our students such as football successes, the science trip to University of Southampton ISVR and a fantastic Feast Day and Peace Walk. Next term will present further exciting opportunities, including a focus on what Year 11 success will look like and Work Experience.

## Attendance Recognition

I would like to recognise that Year 10 have been continually improving their attendance throughout the term, showing improvement January to April. 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 from September to end of March:

RANDALL, Oliver	HARRISON-HORN Thomas
CRANFORD, Oliver	JEFFRIES, Innis
BAKER, Connor	KAMARA, Hakeem
BRISTOW, Jack	MARTIN, Andrew
GONZALES, Carl Andrei	MEREDITH, Bethany
WINTON, Dominic	PECI, Arianna
SPINK, Adriana	SANCHEZ, Leon
SALAZAR, Vinzi	
PERRY, Natasha	
PICKETT, Jessica	
SEARLE, Joseph	



I would also like to recognise the student below who have persisted and have improved their attendance from January 4<sup>th</sup> to End of March:

Kattai Phohom	Sloanne Lafoudre	Ella Chapman
Rena Moore	Harry Bell	Molly Gunner
Holly Nevell	Rebecca Rowland	Florence Rosser
Ellie-Mae Sparks	Josef Anderson	Sasha Salugao
Poppy Barnes	Caitlin McTighe	Ben Kirby
Dylan Young	Zoe McCorduck	Miles Flexen
Brooke Williams	Thomas Lamb	Frederick Lyons

I am looking forward to a packed summer term leading my year group. We can look forward to Work Experience and all the activities leading up to that including interview practice and preparation. Our assemblies will continue to develop our skills to perform and cope with exams, revision and our aspirations. We will begin to look at the step up that is required into Year 11 and what success will look like for your subjects. A fantastic performance so far, and I look forward to even more success in the Summer.

Mr Cutler - Head of Year 10



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. As always, the students have been amazing and we are all so proud of their effort and attitude. They continue to go above and beyond in the quest for achievement and personal progress. The way they engage and further their own studies (inside and outside the classroom) is not only inspiring, but also motivating to others around them. They truly are amazing individuals and we are honoured to have them at St Oscar Romero Catholic School.

In this latest edition, I will summarise the talents and successes of the year group, what they have been up to and what is also waiting in the new academic year for them.

## What has been going on in Year 11



### Development Day

Early on in the academic year, the cohort were treated to an exceptional development day. It truly was an inspiring and insightful day for all involved. We were all treated to a masterclass from the exceptional individual, Michele Miller. I am sure those that attended the session will all agree what a motivating, encouraging and knowledgeable individual she is. The wealth of information and guidance was unparalleled and I have no doubt that this day will have huge impact on the progress of all students come exam season in May.

### Drop Down Day



The year group took part in another amazing drop down day this academic year with learning outside of the classroom taking a focus. The group took part in a number of sessions, which supported their personal development and enhanced key communication skills.

### Final word from me

Lastly from me, I would like to thank the students who I believe have been remarkable this term. Despite the difficulty of a testing and demanding year, their effort, attitude and endeavour has been amazing. They are a credit to you, themselves and the school. Please stay safe and keep the faith. Happy Easter. Mr Steve Davies (Head of Year 11)



## School council

The newly formed school council is well and truly underway and we have just held our fourth meeting of the year. We are very proud of our elected volunteers and have arranged for a small group of them to attend an upcoming Governors' meeting. This will be an opportunity for them to put forward the student views of the school regarding various issues. The following students have put themselves forward to attend this meeting: Chloe Peskett, Joey Harber-Dearden, Otto Muddle, Sophia Heale, Isla Parker, Jack Cavanagh, Liam Parry, Bradley Tshingoma, Ben Mwariwangu, Max Hudson.

We are delighted to celebrate some recent successes of the council, including:

- Reduction in year 7 homework
- The ordering of new for Rugby posts
- Planning underway to remove showers from changing rooms to create more changing space.
- Year 11 toilets. Contractors booked. Hopefully refurbished by Easter
- More seating in the hall at lunch time for students to sit and have lunch.
- Planning secured for the hardcourts to be extended by one pitch with the addition of floodlights and resurfacing.

This week we were delighted to welcome Matt, our Catering Manager, in to answer questions directly about the canteen and food. He has already made some changes such as more obvious labelling of vegetarian and vegan food. He was extremely accommodating and has assured all students, and particularly those with specific dietary needs, to speak to him if they have any concerns or cannot find something suitable to eat.

The full school council minutes will be discussed and fed back in form and can be found on the Edulink noticeboard for all students.

## Ambassadors

Our ambassadors have once again been working incredibly hard to represent and lead the school. Since the last newsletter, we have welcomed Chris Barley as an ambassador. Chris has supported the school in many ways and particularly over the last two years and we were delighted to award him with his tie for his final few months at Romeros.

Since I last wrote to you, the ambassadors have supported many in school events such as the Harry Potter science day, packing boxes and fundraising for the Ukraine appeal, reading with younger students and local primary schools and supporting the turning tides appeal. The year 10s are really stepping up to the plate whilst our year 11s take a bit more time to revise and study for their exams.

With the upcoming departure of our wonderful year 11 ambassadors, we are now opening applications for next year's ambassador team. For year 9 students, this will be their first opportunity to apply for a place. Any interested student should complete the application form, which has been emailed to you by Mrs Byrne. Year 10s may apply for a place on the leadership team and for the head girl/head boy role. All year 10s must reapply regardless of the role they wish to apply for. The criteria includes; exemplary attitude to learning and all aspects of school life, a willingness to put themselves forward and to lead other students in the school and the ability to demonstrate the core values of the 'Pillars of Possibility' programme. Successful candidates will also wear the school uniform perfectly and with pride and be able to demonstrate an excellent behaviour record.

Those wishing to apply for the head girl/head boy role will currently be in year 10 and, in addition to the usual process, will need to make and send a **video entry** detailing why they are the right person for the position. The video should not be more than 3 minutes and should detail:

- Who you are and why you should be Head Boy or Head Girl?
- What do you believe are the key issues / worries that students face at St Oscar Romero's?
- What impact will you have after 12 months and how will students benefit?

**All video entries should be sent to Mrs L Byrne ([lbyrne@stromeros.co.uk](mailto:lbyrne@stromeros.co.uk))**

Places are limited and roles will be decided based on both the application and interview.

Mr Bell, Mr Byrne and I are very excited to bring the next generation of leadership into our school.

The application deadline is 27th April 2022. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



As we come to the end of another busy term, we would like to celebrate 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 in year and house assemblies. Also on the notice boards around the school. We thank both students and parents/carers for their continued support.

The following tutor groups have achieved the highest level of attendance in their year groups. Well done to Mrs Bowden and 11M1.

Also great job to Malala House for having three tutor groups in the top spot. Keep up the fantastic work!

<b>7 Kolbe 1</b>	<b>8 Malala 1</b>	<b>9 Malala 1</b>	<b>10 Attenborough 1</b>	<b>11 Malala 1</b>
95.71%	96.89%	95.42%	94.14%	96.67%

Congratulations to an amazing 99 students who have maintained 100% attendance this academic year. Below is the breakdown by year group. This is a superb accomplishment.

<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>
16	24	18	18	23

We end the spring term celebrating our overall attendance for this academic year, and with the continued exceptional circumstances is a wonderful achievement.

<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Whole School</b>
94.47%	94.41%	93.93%	93.28%	95.16%	94.25%

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 Easter break.

## Attendance Matters

**On Time: First Time, Every Time**



**Which Zone are you in?**

### 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.



As the spring term ends, Friends of Romero are reflecting on a very productive period once again.

In January, the ever-popular Virtual Quiz made a return with the wonderful Mr Rosiello as quizmaster. All had an evening of good competitive entertainment, whilst fundraising. Everyone that took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves and huge congratulations to the winners who took home luxury hampers.

Last week, our school Chaplain, Niall Farrell and FOR decided to work together to help the desperate families displaced in Ukraine. We held a donation day, inviting families and the community to donate pre-loved clothing, toiletries and other essentials. We were overwhelmed on the day, so much so, that our courier had to return the next day with two more vans to take it all. Our generous school community were invited to wear blue and yellow mufti in exchange for £1 donation. £1100 was raised on the day and was then doubled by the government fundraising initiative. Another outstanding example of how our community pull together in support of others.

During February half term, FOR were finally given the keys to the 'Friend's House' formerly the caretakers house. Our team of volunteers worked hard to clean, tidy and arrange the house into a functional space. The plan is to turn the garden into a quiet space for our students and to ensure that gardening club can continue in order for the students to develop their skills in more suitable surroundings. FOR are hoping to paint the outside of the house to make it blend with the rest of the school and for it to become a welcoming site as you enter school grounds. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the garden or painting, if you have any time during the Easter holidays a number of us will be in school 9am until 4pm, weekdays, come and join us. Please email [for@stromeros.co.uk](mailto:for@stromeros.co.uk).

Our regular tuck shop continues on a Friday. It has a brand new location outside the Friend's House and will have a new look in the summer term. Ice creams will be a welcome treat after school and will be on sale every week. To help us plan and improve the tuck shop we would like your children to let us know what they would like to buy, please ask them and let us know by email [for@stromeros.co.uk](mailto:for@stromeros.co.uk)

The pre-loved recycling bin, soon to be moved opposite the tennis courts, continues to raise funds, please support us by donating any clothing or shoes in tied bags. The bin is emptied weekly and a donation is given to FOR and the clothing is recycled.

Friends of Romero have some exciting events planned, please put these dates in your diary.

St Oscar Romero School lottery - launch date to be confirmed.

**Year 7, 8 & 9 Disco - Friday, 29th April**

**Film night - The Greatest Showman - Saturday, 14th May (time tbc)**

**Summer Fair - Saturday, 9th July, 12pm to 4pm. We have some amazing entertainment and rides booked for you all to enjoy**

**Tombola Mufti Day - Friday, 1st July**

**Grand Fireworks event - Thursday, 3rd November, 5pm-8pm**

**Christmas Fair - Friday, 25th November (time tbc)**



FOR are keen to build on the amazing work so far so if you know any new parents joining St Oscar Romero School in September, please feel free to invite them along to our next meeting on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated, whether it be with donations, match funding or your time. Please email [for@stromeros.co.uk](mailto:for@stromeros.co.uk) if you can help any way.

On behalf of the Friends of Romero, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your valued support.

Kindest regards

Sarah Baker

Chair, Friends of Romero