



Trinity Catholic  
High School

# School Newsletter

## Headmaster's Message

### Contents:

P1	Headmaster's Message
P2 - 3	Religious Life
P4 - 7	Sixth Form
P8	Mental Health and Wellbeing
P9 - 10	Personal Development: Extra-curricular
P11	Curriculum: English
P12	Bethan Library



Dear Parents and Students,

We are very pleased to publish our Autumn Term School Newsletter. This has certainly been a rollercoaster of a year. Covid, unfortunately, is still with us. Such words and phrases as “variant,” “social distancing” and “self-isolation” are now common to our conversations. Nevertheless, as a pop singer said, “The beat goes on!”

I believe that we are still passionately following our vision on behalf of the students we serve. School life continues to be enriched with a wide variety of initiatives and occasions, be it on the sports field or in the classroom. I am very impressed by the commitment of students to all aspects of our communal life. I particularly appreciate the involvement and contribution by our wonderful Sixth Form. Of course, we are now making our journey to Bethlehem, bearing in mind the famous saying that if Christ is not born in our hearts, he was not born in Bethlehem. We are now in Advent. The birth of the Divine Child is a beacon light for us despite whatever is thrown at us. Everything we do, everything we think, everything we say either strengthens the light or deepens the darkness. Our vocation, our commitment is to the Divine Light.

The contents of this newsletter reflect our commitment to others, the vision we follow as our star and our promises to Christ in the Eucharist. To deepen even more the Vocation, Passion and Wisdom of our community is the best preparation for that journey to Bethlehem. I do thank all those who contributed so generously to all which is recorded here. God bless you, enjoy the Holy Season and let's welcome the New Year with the hope which only comes from Christ.

Best wishes for the Holy Season.

Dr P.C. Doherty OBE  
Headmaster

## Religious Life

The religious life and ethos of our school community remain at the centre of all aspects of school life and provide the foundation of our mission and vision as an outstanding Catholic school within the Diocese of Brentwood.



We are now within the season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation for the Birth of Jesus Christ. The first part of Advent directs our thoughts and desires to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. This will happen at the end of time when He will gather everyone to Him for the final judgement. We profess this truth every week at Mass when we pray the Creed: 'He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead;

and His kingdom will have no end'. As we hasten towards the celebration of the Nativity at the end of Advent, it is wise for us to remember that the Christian is called to live in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. All of these words we hear weekly at Mass, but like so much that is over-familiar, they cease to make an impact on our lives. Advent is the call – made from the heart of the wilderness – for us to change our lives; to be ready and vigilant; and to live always in hope of the moment when God will come to judge the world and our lives. The first Christians would pray: 'Come, Lord Jesus with great expectation'. Let these days not distract us from the things of God, but serve to call us, and focus our gaze, on Jesus.

**May God help each of us to prepare, by inner purification, to celebrate His coming again, and His birth in time.**



### Celebration of the Eucharist

We remain first and foremost a Eucharistic community. The celebration of the Eucharist, as the 'Source and Summit of our lives as Christians', remains of paramount importance. We have sought to develop our Eucharistic tradition through the daily celebration of Holy Mass each morning before school at 8:20am in addition to weekly Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.



### Month of the Holy Rosary in October

Each lesson continues to begin with prayer and acclamation. Every student and class in the school have received formation on the importance of popular piety and in particular, the Holy Rosary during the month of October. Following this formation during Theology curriculum time, each class has spent time in the Chapel or at one of the nearby Marian Shrines, and prayed the Holy Rosary together, praying in particular for our school community, with students encouraged to bring their own Rosary to school during the month of October. The praying of the Angelus and 3 o'clock Mercy prayers continue to remain part of our tradition.



### November Remembrance

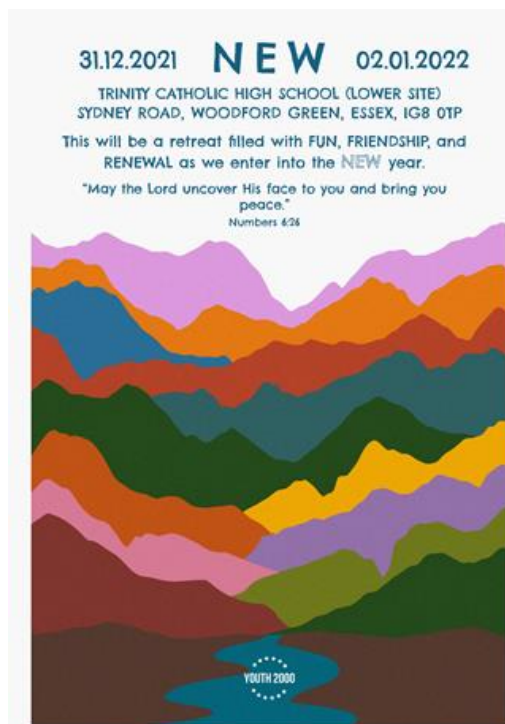
During the month of November, the month of the Holy Souls, all students had time in Theology lessons to focus on the importance of praying for the repose of those gone before us. Students and staff were encouraged to write the names of deceased loved ones in the Remembrance box in each Chapel. These intentions were prayed for every single day in November.



**Armistice Day** was also marked on 11 November with a special live streamed Liturgy, with the entire school community marking a 2-minute silence. Year 11 students took part in a moving liturgy of Remembrance in the Padua playground with our Headmaster, Head Boy, Head Girl and sixth form student leadership team leading us in the time of prayer and liturgy, laying our wreath and marking the national 2-minute silence.

## Annual Remembrance Mass

On Tuesday 30 November 2021, we celebrated our Annual Remembrance Mass for all of our deceased loved ones, including former staff and students. The liturgy was an incredibly moving opportunity to remember those gone before us, where each name was prayerfully read out and remembered, whilst we sang together "May the choirs of angels come to greet you, may they speed you to paradise. May the Lord enfold you in His mercy, may you find eternal life".



## New Year's Eve Retreat Friday 31 December - Sunday 2 January 2022

This year, in collaboration with Youth 2000, we are opening our school during the Christmas holidays in order to give our students the opportunity to take part in a retreat experience over the New Year's period. The retreat conference (NEW) will take place on the Lower Site, from Friday 31 December - Sunday 2 January 2022 and is open to all students in Year 10 and above.

NEW will be a weekend filled with fun, friendship, inspiring talks, catechesis, faith sharing, sacramental celebrations and of course lots of praise as we welcome 2022.

As we approach the end of the **season of Advent** towards Christmas, we are pleased to have been able to allow all students to take part in services of reconciliation with the Sacrament of Penance being made available in a Covid secure environment.

Our focus has been on the season of waiting and preparation for the Birth of Christ. We conclude our spiritual journey together, waiting in joyful hope, deepening our relationship with God, and growing in Faith, Hope and Charity.



The school received ten laptops from Redbridge's school laptop donation scheme. The school has already received or purchased an extra of 250 laptops and tablets since March 2020 to support remote learning and improve IT

Sixth form students accepting laptops from Redbridge on behalf of the school.

provision for students in their lessons.



# Sixth Form

## Sixth Form Clubs and Societies



### Trinity Law Society

The inaugural meeting of Trinity Law Society took place on Friday 3 December. Year 13 students will take an initial lead on the themes discussed. This society is open to students in Years 11-13 and will meet each Friday lunchtime in Room 40. Topics include:

- Mock court trials
- LNAT advice and practice
- Current affairs
- Sentencing and statutes
- Discussion on what can be improved in the legal system

**'Should juries be abolished?'**

**'Should fines be proportionate to income?'**

**'Do sentencing guidelines need to change?'**

If you have further questions, please contact Kate Collins or Miya Di Leva.



### Trinity Medical Society

This is currently led by students in Year 13 and has now been expanded to include students in Year 10-13 interested in a career in Medicine. The society meets each Thursday lunchtime at 12 noon in Room 84. Topics include the university application process, debates, medical ethics scenarios and the group are hoping to invite visiting speakers.



### Trinity Debate Club

November 2021 saw the relaunch of Trinity Sixth Form Debating Society. This is a student led activity, open to everyone in Year 12 and 13, where many different relevant topics are

discussed each week. Students suggest their own topics to be debated. Students have reported that they have been able to highlight their participation in debate club in order to enhance their UCAS applications. Some of those students, now preparing for Oxbridge interviews, have found the challenge of intellectual debate a useful starting point in developing their thinking and refining their viewpoint. They are now selecting topics that support their preparation for interviews.

We would highly recommend any students interested in the further study of subjects such as Politics, Sociology or Law to join.



### Encounters with Employers

Year 12 and 13 Business students took part in an online session with senior professionals from the Bank of America. The session gave the students a fantastic insight into the various roles and responsibilities of the professionals. The students were



allowed to ask questions throughout. Feedback from our students concluded that this was an extremely interesting and beneficial way to spend part of a lesson.



## Destinations Support

We are very proud of the programmes in place and the advice and guidance at Trinity that supports students in the sixth form to progress to the next stage of education, training or employment. Our destinations data is strong and Trinity exceeds the national picture in terms of sustained destination measures. For the cohort who completed their education at Trinity in June 2021, 81% have now progressed to Higher Education, of which 42% are reading their subject at a Russell Group university. We also have an increasing number of students successfully applying for degree apprenticeships.

The programme is a brilliant way for students to achieve a fully sponsored University degree whilst earning a competitive salary. Year 13 students who are interested in applying to this particular programme have until **31 January 2022 to apply and can seek further details from Miss Keegan.**

Ronak describes his journey to joining the 'Building Your Future' - Management Training Programme with Higgins Partnerships and a selected University in September 2021.



The current Year 13 students are using the online platform Unifrog to help them with UCAS applications and other destinations. Trinity has invested in this

platform to help our students make decisions with regard what they wish to do after leaving us. The purpose of Unifrog is to support students to progress into the best opportunity for them. Unifrog do this by providing a one-stop-shop where students can explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their best next-step after school. The platform has also really helped students with their UCAS applications in particular. Students can use the platform to help them design their personal statements and information that they provide on Unifrog is being used to enhance their overall UCAS references.

## The UCAS Process at Trinity

Throughout the autumn term, the majority of our Year 13 students have been engaged with the UCAS process. Our early applicants to Oxbridge/ Medicine/ Veterinary Science/ Dentistry sent their applications by the October 15 deadline. The rest of the year group that wish to apply have been sending their applications on an ongoing basis, which will continue to the end of term. Students have been given expert guidance through the PSD programme and through presentations from their Year Leader, Mr. McGrory. Students have also received a great deal of guidance with regard their personal statements from the sixth form team. Hopefully, the majority of our students will have sent their applications by the time the term ends.

Trinity was delighted to welcome the Rotary Club into school during November. The Rotary Club forms part of the interview support students receive in the Sixth Form in support of their job and university applications.



On Monday 29 November, members of the Woodford Rotary Club came into school to carry out practice interviews with our Year 13 students. Some of our Oxbridge candidates and students planning to gain apprenticeships took part in this opportunity. Feedback from students was very positive indeed and the Rotary Club members were full of praise for our students whom they found to be both eloquent and well prepared.



## Enrichment Opportunities

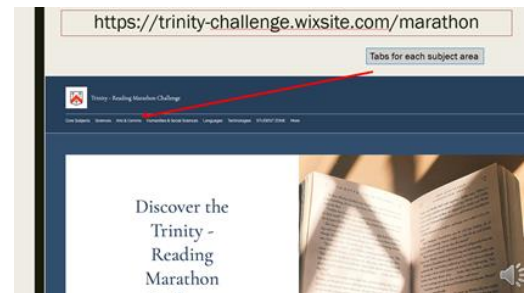
### Trinity Catholic High School Year 12 Luminaries Programme



can engage with over the course of the academic year. They should certainly undertake our Marathon Reading Challenge to develop academically and to provide materials to enrich their personal statements. They will receive advice from top universities with regard their applications. If possible, we very much hope that we will be able to organise a visit to Oxford next summer.

### Marathon Reading Challenge

The Marathon Reading Challenge has been launched with our Year 12 students. The idea of the challenge is that our Year 12 students read 26 non-fiction books to add depth and breadth to their studies and to explore the subject that they are thinking of reading at university. Our students have been directed to a Marathon Reading Challenge website where there are examples of books to read and even the ability to purchase books! Students can also use the template on there to keep a record of their reading to later showcase within personal statements. Alternatively, they can complete a blog of their reading journey. Students are being provided with advice on how to complete their blogs in a specially arranged blog school that meets regularly. We would encourage all our students to undertake the challenge but it could be particularly important to our Luminaries group who wish to apply for Oxbridge, Medicine/ Dentistry/ Veterinary Sciences or Russell Group universities.



### Guardian Angel Programme

Trinity Sixth Form students have a long standing tradition of school support of which we are rightly very proud. One of our students describes her experiences of the Guardian Angel Programme as follows:

*'During our time in the sixth form, as students we have the opportunity to participate in a programme called Guardian Angel. Guardian Angel is all about helping and contributing to the school's community, through helping those students who might need extra support during their classes. Through tasks such as helping the younger student keep on track, to helping them with their work, Guardian Angels are a helpful part of Trinity's community. I was aware of the Guardian Angel Programme when I started Trinity in Year 7. I observed how these sixth form students benefitted the classroom and how the students they helped benefitted too. They were role models to us as younger students. Students benefit in many ways such as a gain in confidence, as the sixth form student might encourage them to answer a question in class or just help them to realise that they do know the answer without the help of the textbook. Personally, I have loved the programme and in particular the opportunity to become a Guardian Angel this year. Even after we were told we didn't have to attend these lessons anymore, I have continued to go. As someone who would like to go into teaching, it gives me first-hand experience of working with people one on one or in little groups. It has helped to develop my confidence when interacting with large groups and understanding how you can help someone to progress in their learning.'*

### Outdoor Leader

### Qualification in Lowland Expedition Leadership

This new course is now running as an enrichment course in curriculum time. We currently have 7 Year 12 students enrolled on this award. They will earn a vocational qualification that will enable them to assist in the running of Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions. They can also use this award for the skills section for their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.



## Wellbeing and Sports...

### Mindfulness - Sixth Form Yoga

In response to the sixth form wellbeing survey we are delighted to announce that Yoga classes will now be facilitated for students in the sixth form. These will be led by Mrs. Duffy who is a qualified Yoga teacher. Yoga is a type of exercise in which you move your body into various positions in order to become more fit or flexible, to improve your breathing, and to relax your mind. It is extremely beneficial if you are feeling anxious or low and it helps with all round wellbeing. Whilst practised in a class, yoga is an individual form of exercise, which you take at your own pace. There is no winning or losing, just simple exercise that can be as easy or difficult as you like.



Students are advised that they do not need previous experience to attend. Just bring yourself along wearing some comfortable clothing i.e. leggings/ shorts/ tracksuit bottoms and a T Shirt. You don't need any fancy trainers as yoga is practised without footwear.



The sessions will be held in the Victoria Theatre after school on a Monday, starting on 6 December from 4:05pm to 5:00pm.

If you are interested in joining the yoga class, please click [here](#) and complete the form.



### Sixth Form Rugby

A big thank you to the Beavis family who have paid for and sponsored Trinity Sixth Form Rugby Kits for our recently formed Rugby Team. This fledgling team has competed in one tournament so far and have expressions of interest from Southend Boys High School and Davenant Foundation School for fixtures, as well as an Essex County Knockout Competition and an Essex 7's competition later in the year.



Students interested in participating should contact Mr John Doherty [jdoherly@tchs.org.uk](mailto:jdoherly@tchs.org.uk).



### Sixth Form Netball

Following some successful training sessions on Tuesday evenings after school, our sixth form netball team recently played their first post covid friendly match against 2 teams from Davenant School. It was a great opportunity for our Year 12s and 13s to showcase their talents.

Students interested in participating should contact Miss Healey [chealey@tchs.org.uk](mailto:chealey@tchs.org.uk).

# Mental Health and Wellbeing

Children and Young People's Mental Health has never been so high on the public agenda. **One in six school aged children has a mental health problem.** This is an alarming rise from one in ten in 2004 and one in nine in 2017 (Source: NHS Digital). It is vital that we have the basic facts if we are to see better mental health for all children, wherever they live, whatever their background or class.

At any one time, a child or young person may be somewhere on a spectrum between healthy and unwell. Many children move along the spectrum at different times.

If you have any concerns about your child's mental health, please contact a member of our Pastoral Team so that we can work with you to support your child. You may also want to seek advice from your local General Practitioner (GP).



## Student Surveys

Throughout the last academic year, we conducted **Student Wellbeing Surveys** with all students. These surveys give us invaluable feedback from the students in terms of their own wellbeing. We have reviewed the student responses and have taken action on a number of areas which are highlighted below:

### Counselling

For a number of years, the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) has provided counselling for our students in school. We would like to thank the BCCS for their support over the years.

However, from January 2022, we are employing our own full time **School Counsellor**. Mrs Benoit will provide full time support for students within the school. This role will provide 1-2-1 support for students, small group work and in time, working with parents and delivering workshops to support the whole school community.

### Notice / Information Boards

We now have **dedicated Notice / Information Boards** on both sites focused on student wellbeing. These displays allow us to signpost all students to appropriate support for a variety of topics i.e. Counselling both in school and online, The School Nurse, Safer Schools Officer (Metropolitan Police), Bullying and [askforhelp@tchs.org.uk](mailto:askforhelp@tchs.org.uk).

## Emotional Literacy Support Assistants

This year has seen the inception of our **Emotional Literacy Support Assistants** or **ELSA's**. Mrs Mudie and Mrs Francescotti are accessing significant training from the Redbridge Educational Wellbeing Team (REWT) throughout this academic year. The training covers the following areas: Emotional Literacy and Awareness, Active Listening and Communication, Managing Uncomfortable Feelings, Social Skills, Friendship Skills and Bereavement and Loss. As the training rolls out, our ELSA's will begin working with students on a 1-2-1 basis and in small groups.



## Anti-Bullying Week

We supported National Anti-Bullying Week 2021 which took place between Monday 15 November and Friday 19 November. This year's theme was **'One Kind Word'**. It is coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, which is based at the leading children's charity 'National Children's Bureau'. They have worked with over 300

children and young people to decide the theme for this year. We talked about different types of bullying and how these are not acceptable. The school adopts a zero tolerance on bullying and has improved ways of reporting bullying for all students. Students are encouraged to report any bullying to their Trusted Adult, or a member of the Pastoral Team. They can also report this via the school website and more recently via our new email address: [askforhelp@tchs.org.uk](mailto:askforhelp@tchs.org.uk).

## Children's Mental Health Week 2022

We are working with Place2Be who are the key delivery partner for Children's Mental Health Week which takes place on 7 -13 February 2022. The theme of this week will be **'Growing Together'**. We will be encouraging the students and adults to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow. Look out for additional information nearer the time.





## Personal Development: Extra-curricular

At Trinity there is a vast array of extra-curricular activities happening each and every day available to all students from Year 7 to Year 13.

The Physical Education department have a variety of clubs on each and every day with a high uptake for all activities. The year started off with clubs such as **football**, **netball** and **rugby** moving to indoor sports during the winter months such as **basketball**, **badminton**, **futsal**, **table tennis**, and **trampolining**. For further details, students should look at the PE notice board or speak to a member of the PE department. The school has participated in many fixtures for both the District and Essex Cup already this year and will continue to do so over the winter months, no more so than the **girls' football team** which has really taken off this year, with the girls competing regularly and performing extremely well.



A staple of extra-curricular activities within the school is the Music department, who are currently busy preparing for the Christmas Carol Concert on Monday 20 December. The **Choir**, **Glee club**, **Orchestra** and **Windband** have been rehearsing weekly since the beginning of term, with **Rock and Pop** rehearsals also starting recently. These groups are very well attended and showcase an array of talent across all year groups.



Students involved said 'You form relationships with other people across different year groups.' and '(It's) a fun and therapeutic way of escaping a hectic workload that gives a sense of belonging to all students each week.' Finally 'You get to be part of something.'





Also going on at lunchtimes is our **Lego** and **Games clubs**, both of which give students a quiet indoor space to meet up with friends and meet new ones with similar interests. Students enjoy time being creative, enhancing their strategical play and developing social skills. These take place every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime. One student says *'I love going to these clubs as it gives me somewhere quiet to go, meet with my friends and do a new activity in school with them. I also meet new friends who are in different year groups but have similar interests.'*

As a Catholic school, Trinity also has faith groups like the **Tauists**, who meet every Friday lunchtime in the Lower-Site chapel. This is a chance for students to meet with the Headmaster, talk to him about their day, reflect on those in their lives and the community who may be going through a hard time and to pray for them. One student says *'I love going to Tauists because it makes me feel much better about myself. Also, if someone close to you is going through a hard time then you can pray for them to get better. It is a fantastic opportunity to talk to the Headmaster and also God. It is a very welcoming club to go to because they give you sweets after it and you can also go to lunch five minutes early. Everybody there is so nice and would do anything for you.'* Another student says *'It helps calm you for the rest of the day, you also get a lovely rosary ring and to say a nice prayer.'*

There are also dedicated extra-curricular activities for our Sixth Form students. These include **basketball**, the **Medical Society**, **netball**, **rugby** and **yoga**. For more detail please see the Sixth Form section of this newsletter.



Trinity also runs a fully inclusive **Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award** for Years 9 to 13 from Bronze to Gold level. Bronze was launched to Year 9 this half term, and we are expecting a take up of approximately 140 pupils. The Silver Award currently has 45 pupils from Years 10 and 11 enrolled, and the Gold Award currently has 16 pupils from Years 12 and 13 enrolled. Seven of the Gold Award pupils in Year 12 are also

enrolled onto the Lowland Expedition Assistant Leaders Award, which is a vocational qualification that teaches them how to assist in leading expeditions. This award is also used for the skills section for the Gold DofE. One student said *'Doing DofE has taught me so much about myself. I have gone so far beyond my comfort zone on several occasions whilst participating in the award. The DofE has been a truly life-changing experience for me.'*

Prior to the October half-term holiday, 34 Year 10 students embarked on their journey to Maes Y Lade Outdoor Education Centre in the foothills of the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons National Park. This involved students participating in **canoeing**, **caving**, **mountain biking** and **walking** as well as **gorge walking**. Students also engaged in evening activities such as team building challenges and laser tag. The students had an amazing time, building memories and learning valuable life skills throughout. One student said *'I enjoyed the interaction with the others from my year and in particular peers I rarely talk to. All the activities were a great way to do this and helped with making new friends.'*



In the New Year we will be expanding our extra-curricular activity even further and circulating this information to all students and parents. Please see the school website for more details.



## Knowledge and power in English

Students of English have been engaging in a wide range of literature texts along with honing their written expression this term. Our rich and varied English journey has started with Year 7 students embarking on an in-depth exploration of the Dystopian genre with the novel *The Hunger Games* where literary themes such as social inequality are discussed. Students have also discovered the timeless nature of good literature through the study of 'The History of English'. An extensive study of the history and evolution of our language has been complemented by the history of storytelling, with students studying - and translating - Beowulf, Chaucer and Shakespeare. This literary timeline provides the perfect foundation for their future studies of canonical and modern literature. *A Christmas Carol* along with a range of Victorian extracts from the literary canon has brought the Victorian era to life for Year 8 students. Equally, students have studied the importance of social justice and the Catholic ideologies of forgiveness, charity and redemption in these texts by understanding the treatment of the working class, Victorian fears, and the role of the family and the iconic characters of Scrooge, Miss Havisham, Jane Eyre, Dracula and Oliver Twist.



The **power of reading** continues to be embedded into all aspects of the subject. In English, we want all our students to be able to enjoy the wonders of reading and to flourish in their ability to do so. KS3 students have been paired with sixth form prefects for a lunchtime reading fluency programme. Support and guidance is offered to boost confidence and accuracy when reading aloud. As we approach Christmas, to support our library's Advent Reading Challenge, the English department are gifting our students with a Book Advent Calendar. Every school day in December, KS3 students will be sent a recommended read. We are gifting parents also with some Christmas stocking filler book recommendations!

*All the world is a stage* again this term where students' study of drama is enhanced by experiencing live performances through Digital Theatre +. Year 9 students have enjoyed the genre of tragedy through Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* as have Year 10 with *Macbeth* and A Level students with



**DIGITAL  
THEATRE +**

*Othello* and modern tragedies such as *Death of a Salesman* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. This wonderful partnership with Britain's leading theatres along with a range of academic reading ensures that diverse characters and themes continue to be brought to life in English classrooms. In addition, students

across KS4 and KS5 have been deepening their knowledge of texts and genres through *Massolit* where they have access to the knowledge and insight of the world's best academics.



The role of semantics in the debate of *global warming versus climate change* and the power of words has intrigued students at KS4, where they have been exploring the recent COP26 conference in Glasgow, and the environmental consequences of the decisions made there. Students have engaged in the emotional and intellectual debates engendered by this most urgent of issues, and have been using it to write their own informed arguments on this topic.

### Competitions

We eagerly await the outcome of the poetry competition '*About Us*'. Some of our flourishing poets have submitted poems on the theme of connectivity and the universe. In addition to this, University College London are providing an exciting opportunity for our Year 9 students. *UCL Scholars* is a programme that improves students' literacy skills and confidence, and teaches them more about the next steps in their education. The students who have applied to this programme will interact with current UCL students as well as a range of students their own age from across the country.



## Bethan Library

It seems almost impossible that we are at the end of the Autumn term already, but time really does fly when you're having fun and working hard. We began the school year with library inductions for new year 7 students, as well as for those in year 8 who missed theirs last year due to Covid restrictions. Students enjoyed taking part in practical activities and learning how to navigate the library and locate resources.



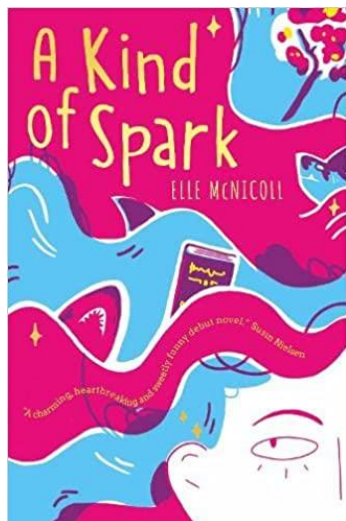
### Activities and Events

September began with 'Banned Books Week' and a quiz to test students' knowledge of which books have been a source of controversy over the years. Many were surprised to learn that favourites such as Roald Dahl's 'The Witches', JK Rowling's 'Harry Potter' and even George Orwell's classic 'Animal Farm' have been banned at one time or another from various schools or libraries around the world.

Hot on the heels of Banned Books Week was National Poetry Day, which we celebrated by sharing some of our favourite poems. Pupils from all year groups volunteered to be filmed in the library for a Reading Period assembly, where they performed their favourite poems and told us why they liked them. We also ran a Book Spine Poetry Competition and were impressed by the many creative entries.

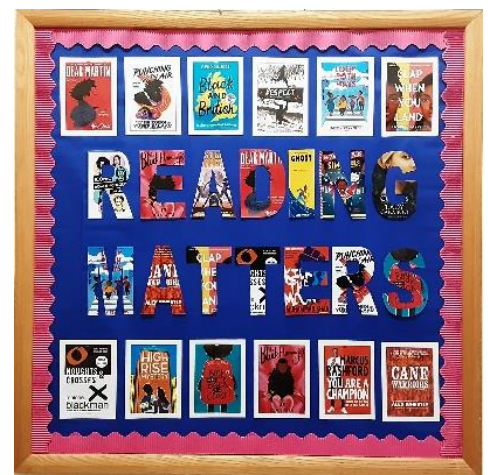
October saw the launch of Black History Month, which was celebrated

in the library with themed displays of both fiction books written by Black authors and non-fiction books on topical issues such as Black Lives Matter, race, culture, politics and history. We produced a booklet of Recommended Reads and also took the opportunity to establish the library's first Film Club, streaming relevant films such as 'Hidden Figures' and 'Selma' before school and at lunchtimes throughout the month.



The KS3 Book Buzz Book Club was introduced in November. We meet fortnightly at lunchtimes and are currently enjoying discussing our chosen book 'A Kind of Spark' by neurodiverse author Elle McNicoll. The book raises lots of relevant issues about courage, friendship, tolerance and acceptance.

And finally, in December, we have launched the Advent Reading Challenge to encourage students to continue reading throughout the festive season, with a Christmas Stocking full of treats to be won by one lucky person who completes all 25 activities!



**Advent Reading Challenge**

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Finish reading a novel you've been meaning to complete	Go to bed earlier and enjoy your book	Read on your commute to school	Read a short story	GROUP EVERYTHING AND READ IT!
Browse a book to your family or friends	Read a comic book in a short novel, around 100 pages	Struggle up with a sibling, get a really big note read to them - why not?	Start a new fiction book to dip in and out of throughout the month	Read some poetry
Recommend a book to your family or friends	Read with your family or friends	Browse a book about the country you live in or your family's country	Get up your school library and check up for the festive break	Visit your school library and check up for the festive break
Use a book to discover more about autism	Browse books at home or in your local library and discover something new	Browse a Christmas recipe book and get baking	Create a reading wish list for the New Year	Browse a book that will help you improve your creativity
Travel anywhere (local or further afield) with a book	Read in the most festive place you can find	Read a book that has been made in to a movie (or watch the movie!)	Start a new comic or short story	Read with a recipe or Christmas cake in hand
21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th

**Win a Christmas Stocking full of treats for completing the challenge and returning a photo collage (25 images - or as many as possible) to the school library by Monday 10th January.**

Happy Reading!!

Name: ..... Form: .....

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas from the library!