



TCATTIMES

THE TERMLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST

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NURTURE | CHALLENGE | ACHIEVE



DEBATING WORKSHOP FOR OUR TCAT PARLIAMENT

On the 7th November, the TCAT Parliament met the Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Warrington South - Faisal Rashid. This visit was part of the school's Parliament Week. A 'Question Time' activity was held, and the students asked a variety of inquisitive and thoughtful questions. Some examples are: 'What is a day in the life of an MP like?', 'Why did you want to be an MP?', 'What can you do to address the issue of Homelessness in Warrington?' plus questions surrounding policies and social issues. It was a very interesting and informative opportunity, with lots to think about. Students from all TCAT schools were involved in the event, hosted at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School.





TCAT CONCERT

Well done to our TCAT Parliament who were fantastic at the TCAT Autumn Concert last week. The group set up a stall in the foyer and went up on stage promoting Clatterbridge Cancer Charity. Over the evening, they raised £269.67. Well done everyone.

It was a wonderful evening with many outstanding performances from all schools involved.



WORKING TOGETHER IN PERFECT HARMONY

THE Challenge Academy Trust has struck up a musical partnership with the Warrington Youth Orchestra.

Together they are working to help make sure the orchestra's music is heard by as many people as possible in Warrington.

One of the most recent events was a concert held at Priestley College, a member of TCAT, as part of an exchange week with Hilden Musikschule.

"Every other year our German friends visit Warrington for a week and we go there on the alternate year," said Lisa Reid, membership secretary of WYO.

"Firm bonds have been created with one Warrington family in particular still hosting long after their children have left the orchestra and flown the nest."

Each visit starts with a weekend rehearsing together at a youth hostel and then the guests are hosted by local families for the rest of the week.

There is a concert on the Wednesday, attended by the local mayor, where both orchestras play.

This year was a particularly poignant occasion as WYO's long-standing chairman, Roy Green, lost a short battle with cancer in the summer.

Roy was a popular man, loved by both the WYO and Hilden members alike, and more than a dozen of his close family attended the performance.

"We held the concert as a tribute to Roy and his legacy," said Lisa.

"He will be remembered for this unstinting enthusiasm for young people making orchestral music, and for his friendly outgoing zest for life. He will be sorely missed but never forgotten."





BBC BITESIZE TOUR

The BBC Bitesize Team came to BCA last month to give students an engaging insight into careers in the creative sector. Leaders from this area formed a panel who shared information about their education and careers as well as taking part in a Q & A session facilitated by the host.

We were delighted to welcome Radio 1 DJ and CBBC presenter Katie Thistleton as our host who did an amazing job interviewing the panel:

David Jones – a Copywriter from TBWA/MCR

Mike Taylor – a Social Media Producer from Everton Football Club

Rebecca Mae Lam – an Artist Liaison Assistant for Manchester International Festival

It was a fascinating part of our Careers Week, not only the opportunity to listen to the panellist sharing their experiences but also enabling our students to speak to the producers and tech guys about their role on the day.



SHAKESPEARE IN SCHOOLS

“Haunting, modern and disciplined” SSF

BCA Perform at the Shakespeare in Schools Festival

Students have worked tirelessly over the eight months rehearsing for their performance of Macbeth as part of the Shakespeare in Schools Festival. They began rehearsals at the end of the last academic year working tirelessly several nights a week until the final performance which was held in the Z-Arts Theatre, Manchester in November.

As part of the process students attended a cast workshop day where they worked with a professional from the Shakespeare School Foundation who gave them expert feedback on their key scenes.

Each aspect of the experience was conducted with real professionalism and they were a real credit to the academy. The performance itself was attended by over 150 members of the paying public, which included friends and family of the casts of 3 different schools.

The cast were showered with praise following their outstanding performance.

“Miss Higham and I spoke continuously throughout the process about how proud we were of these students. It says a lot when you have teachers from other schools on our performance night approaching you afterwards to congratulate you on a fantastic show. I recall one teacher who seemed to be in complete awe at what our students had created, which is an incredible thing to be able to have that effect on people! The cast themselves were so hardworking, resilient and showed incredible determination to make this performance the best that they could. Those characteristics really shone through on performance night and I'd just like to personally thank each and every one of them for being such a pleasure to work with over the course of the eight months it's taken to put the performance together!” Mr Gillespie, BCA.



Cast list: Izabella Gabel, Megan Thomason, Aixa Fernandes, Tayla Connolly, Maisie Jeffers, Chloe Mellow, Brodie Kitteridge-McShane, Thomas Roberts, Owen Mogg, Emily Dowell, Dylan Harrison, Nicola Mondry, Lizzie Roberts, Chloe Whittaker, Jessica Kennedy



MAGISTRATES EVENT

BCA welcomed a visit from the Warrington Magistrates in November. Each year group was involved in a carousel of informative workshops, that raised awareness of the following areas:

- The Law & The Justice of the Peace Act
- Risky behaviour and the consequences
- What could happen if a young person commits an offence
- The magistrates' job role
- The implications of a criminal record and career opportunities and restrictions

Laura Mellor – Leader of PSHE

‘The Magistrates workshop was really interesting and pupils were engaged for the whole duration. The content covered was relevant and age appropriate. Many students demonstrated interest by listening intently and asking lots of meaningful questions.’

Andrew Emmerson, Magistrate

‘Thanks for your support and hospitality during our visit yesterday. The team were so impressed by the organisation of the day but mostly by the behaviour and intelligence of the students.

You should be rightly proud of your school and the teachers. Everyone we met was delightful.’



BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

BRIDGEWATER POLAND TRIP 2019 - THE END OF AN ERA

I have just come back from the latest RS trip to Poland which for me, marks the end of an era. After ten years, it is the last trip I will be organising and leading. The students who came on the trip were a real credit to themselves and magnificent ambassadors for the school. They listened attentively to the guides on the tours and asked interesting questions which showed they had not only taken in what they were being told but also responded to this in a deep and thought-provoking way. They were polite, respectful and importantly kept us entertained!

This was the largest tour group I have ever taken with 48 students having the opportunity to experience first hand the evidence of the Holocaust at Auschwitz and the horrific scale of industrialised death at Birkenau. Over the last ten years 550 students from Bridgewater have had the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of those who were murdered and learn their stories. This has been brought to life over the years with testimonies from both survivors of the Holocaust and those who lives have been indelibly affected by this tragedy.

None of this would have been possible without the amazing staff, both past and present, who have generously sacrificed their October half term. I would also like to extend this thanks to our admin staff who have been life-savers with the vast amount of organisation that goes into running a successful trip.

With the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau coming up on 27th January 2020, and a rise in the number of people who would deny that the Holocaust took place, it is more important than ever to be reminded of the cost of xenophobia and hatred. Auschwitz Memorial is hoping to get 750,000 followers for the 75th anniversary to help honour all victims and preserve their memory. Please follow them on twitter @AuschwitzMuseum - it might be the most important thing you do today.

Pamela Griffiths, Head of RS



CHESHIRE BOOK QUIZ : 2019-20

This year, Bridgewater has four teams taking part in the annual Cheshire Book Quiz; three Y8 teams and one Y7 team. The Cheshire Book Quiz is an interschool competition set up by school librarians in Cheshire to promote reading. It gives pupils the opportunity to read a selection of books, discuss them with their friends and answer questions about the books. It also tests their general literature knowledge and pits them against other book-lovers from across the county.

The books that the teams are reading this year cover a wide range of different genres, from historical fiction and mysteries to a story based on real-life events. In Summer 2020, the four teams with the highest scores meet for the Final. One of the authors of the books is invited to the Final, and pupils have the chance to win individual book prizes and a trophy for the school. We are hoping to get another team in the Final this year, following on from last year's great effort!



SPOTLIGHT ON MATTHEW HILL, YEAR 7

Bridgewater's Matthew is a keen cyclist and takes part in races throughout the year. He is part of the North Cheshire Clarion Juniors. At their recent annual awards ceremony, he received 'Rider of the Year' in recognition of his efforts over the last 12 months in road, circuit and Cycle-Cross races. He also took part in his first multi-day racing in the Isle of Man, part of the national race series and the North West Youth Tour.

Matthew's club has recognised these achievements as it is his first full year of racing. He has displayed great commitment and enthusiasm for both the club and the racing itself, showing improvement and determination throughout the year. Well done Matthew!

YEAR 10 LUKE'S ONSIDE AWARD, NOVEMBER 2019

In November, Luke from Bridgewater's Year 10 was nominated for the OnSide Health and Wellbeing Award by Warrington Youth Club. The nomination was a credit to Luke's effort and perseverance in going to a gym every Wednesday after school.

The OnSide Awards celebrate the amazing young talent from across the OnSide network. On Sunday 17.11.2019 Luke travelled to the Royal Albert Hall in London to take part in the awards.

Talented young people from across the country took to the stage and performed alongside world-renowned artists to an audience of thousands and HRH Prince Harry at the OnSide Youth Zones Awards.

The ceremony recognised young people's exceptional achievements with awards presented to those who have made a real difference in their community, have breakthrough talent or have overcome the most challenging of circumstances.

The evening saw fantastic performances from The Script, with their smash-hits 'Superheroes' and 'Hall of Fame', and John Newman with 'Love Me Again'.

HRH The Duke of Sussex attended a reception where he met young Youth Zone attendees and award nominees. His Royal Highness then delivered a speech before presenting the OnSide Health and Wellbeing Award.

Although Luke did not win the award, we are all very proud of his nomination and he had a very exciting time in London.





GREAT SANKEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

IT'S COOL TO BE KIND

GSP was brimming with kindness in November as we launched our, 'It's Cool to be Kind' week which was linked with the national anti-bullying week. We focused on being a good friend, being kind, embracing differences and also tackling what to do if people are being unkind towards us. This was supported by Odd Socks Day where we celebrated being different and being unique by coming in wearing odd socks – the odder the better! The end of the week of kindness was marked with Children in Need day, this is something which we support each year as we feel it is important that our children recognise that not all children in this world are as fortunate as they are. We gave out lots of kindness postcards which recognised the acts of kindness which took place in school.

GSP - ACCENT MEH MUSIC AMBASSADOR SCHOOL

On Wednesday 3rd December, our school received a prestigious award for music at the University of Chester. This means that our school is now an 'Accent MEH Music Ambassador School,' recognising the excellent work we do around music and the support we can offer to other schools. At GSP, we provide our children with a vast array of musical opportunities both vocally and instrumentally and it was an honour to receive this status. We were delighted to attend the ceremony and the children were presented with the award by the Mayor of Warrington.



EARLY YEARS OUTDOOR TRANSFORMATION

We were delighted to formally open our wonderful outdoor area for Early Years following an extensive refurbishment funded mainly by The Challenge Academy Trust. Our choir sang beautifully to support the event before the children helped Mr Matthew Grant, CEO, cut the ribbon, joined by governors and staff and to a big cheer from all the children. Mrs Briggs, Headteacher, said, 'We are extremely grateful for the support given to us from the Trust to allow such a large project to be funded as this would have taken us a number of years to source the funding needed. Because of this our children now have an outstanding area that will allow them to fully engage in all areas of EYFS learning. The zones that have been created will allow the children to explore, imagine, be creative and learn outdoors in a fun, educational manner.'



GREAT SANKEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



TOGETHER WE LEARN AND GROW

Another successful whole school trip took place at the start of term, this time GSP all went to Croxteth Park and Farm and our school motto, 'Together We Learn and Grow' was certainly at the forefront of this. We had a fantastic day and our children were yet again a credit to us all. Despite the rainy start, the sun shone the moment we all stepped off the coaches and the children did not stop all day. They enjoyed visiting the farm; petting and feeding the animals; playing games on the lawn; having fun on the adventure playground; building dens in the woods; exploring a nature trail; and listening to stories. Lots of special memories were made and this was the launch pad for what we know will be another successful year at GSP.

BACK TO THE THIRTIES

In October, LKS2 travelled back in time to 1939 when they visited Burtonwood Airbase as part of their, 'A Warring Town' topic. The children learnt all about Warrington's involvement in WW2 as well as finding out more about the home front and how to sieve tea leaves using an old sock; rationing and the delicious carrot butties they used to eat; evacuation and how to put on a gas mask; and they even got to sit in a C-54 Skymaster. The children had a great day and the centre were very impressed with the costumes that the children wore.

TICKET TO THE MOON

UKS2 travelled into outer space in October when they enjoyed a trip to the Warrington Museum to visit the moon exhibition installed by artist Luke Jerram. The sculpture was built to a fascinating scale of 1:500,000 with each centimetre of the internally lit sculpture representing 5km of the moon's surface. It was great to share our knowledge about the moon not being a light source, but instead giving light by reflecting it from the sun. We were also able to retrieve some of our knowledge from our topic on Earth and Space last year.

VISITING THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE

KS1 really enjoyed their visit to the Buddhist Temple in Runcorn in November and were made to feel so welcome. They saw a shrine with a golden Buddha, meditated and heard chanting from the monks. The children got to ask the monks and nuns what it was like to live at the temple as well as many other questions. It was a fascinating visit.

OUR CHRISTMAS FAYRE

It was lovely to see families and friends enjoying the stalls, meeting Father Christmas and lapping up the Christmas cheer at our fundraising Fayre at the start of December. It was a huge success and saw the hall packed with people buying hand made gifts created by their child during the Young Enterprise week. This week saw our children learning about profit and loss as well as focusing on the design, making and marketing process of their Christmas product. They were a massive hit on the stalls and quickly sold out!





PADGATE ACADEMY

IT'S ALL ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO, NOT WHAT YOU CAN'T!

Students from Padgate Academy joined with students from other Designated Provisions and Additional Needs schools to compete in the Sports Ability Day organised by WaSSP | Warrington School Sports Partnership.

Students were encouraged to try out new sports such as Boccia, Rowing, Table Cricket and New Age Kurling to overcome barriers to joining in with more traditional sports events and competitions.

Students were able to compete against their own personal bests, their peers from Padgate Academy and other students from other schools. It was a great opportunity to look at what could be achieved with some adaptations rather than the limitations which so often hold them back.

Mrs Harrigan, Lead Teacher, Designated Provision, said:

"I was very proud to see students from mixed year groups helping others compete and improve their previous best scores and fastest times. The team building that went on throughout the day was just as important as the chance to compete."

Shaun Kelly, Year 8 Student, said:

"The Table Cricket was the best! We want to go back in December to the Cricket tournament and compete again. I want to beat my highest score!"





REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE

Two of our students (Jack and Arran Sanders) took part in a remembrance day service parade in Tarporley, representing our core values of Trust, Tenacity and Teamwork within the community. #ProudtobePadgate.



CLEANING UP THE BEACH – INSPIRATION FROM A YOUNGER GENERATION

One of our students, Hannah Needs, has recently made headlines in North Wales for her efforts over the Summer Holidays.

“This is Hannah, her family own a Holiday Home at Golden Sands Holiday Park and they are regular visitors to the site, who love to enjoy our beautiful surroundings.

Whilst playing on the beach with her cousin and brother, Hannah noticed that there was a lot of rubbish scattered around and felt that she had to pick it up. So she started collecting plastic bottles, cans and various other litter that had been left by visitors to the beach. When she was doing this, other children started asking what she was doing and some of them then joined in with the spontaneous clean-up.

We found this so inspiring, that a younger generation cared about our environment enough to voluntarily clean up other people’s rubbish, in order to preserve the area so that others could enjoy their surroundings.

We spoke to Hannah about her clean-up operation and she has said that she feels bad for sea creatures and other animals who may be in danger, due to all the rubbish that gets thrown, instead of putting it in the bin. She also said that it makes her feel good and happy to do something good for the environment and while she was picking up the rubbish, other children came over and asked what she was doing and they decided to help also.

Hannah and her family have said they will be doing this again and hopefully will entice other people to join in and help keep our beach clean & tidy.

We are so proud to have Hannah at our Park. What an inspiring young lady who is setting a good example for people of all ages with her amazing goodwill. Well done Hannah! In order to show our appreciation, we have awarded Hannah a meal Voucher for our Sandpiper Restaurant.”





CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

Miss Baron and Mrs Rudd have been working hard to bring some extra Christmas magic to some deserving local families this year. The Penketh Christmas Hamper Appeal has been a great success with generous donations from both staff and the local community. We are very grateful for the support that we have received and look forward to getting on our sleigh and delivering these over the next week.

REWARDS

This term has been a busy but amazing term. Across half-term pupils have worked extremely hard preparing for their EPS assessments.

This hard work and dedication to studies has resulted in some remarkable achievements in the recent mock exams and pupils recognise how important application is in achieving this success. We're so proud of their dedication and so we're thrilled when we can issue progress postcards with pupils striving to collect these and receive their Going for Gold badges. Pupils have already broken records this year with over 1000 post cards being awarded during a single week this term. Year 10 have also broken our daily learning score record not once, but twice this term receiving over 400 learning scores of 1 in a single day.

As we come to the end of the first term year 7 are winning the counter competition with 176 counters; however, it is all to play for especially with year 10 being a very close second.



This year we have introduced special recognition nominations; the pupils that have been nominated have shown perseverance and willingness to learn new skills across school. It's been an absolute pleasure to issue pupil with certificates and awards, recognising the fantastic attitudes to learning they show each day.

SPARK STUDENTS SHOWCASE EXCELLENCE

As we share our great projects and practice, we have started to encourage our students to share their expertise in short clips and videos to explain their learning process. Our wearables and 3D printing enrichments have expanded to include a festive theme this month with pupils developing skills in Computer Aided Design to design Christmas decorations which they have been able to print using the 3D printer. Two of these designs have pride of place on the Christmas tree in the main school reception.

We were delighted to be asked to continue our resin printing projects that have been showcased worldwide by Photocentric at the international 3D printing event recently.

Our year 7 pupils have been learning about how to 3D print and all about careers in the additive manufacturing industry as part of their curriculum enhancement sessions. Year 8 designed, coded and built their own robots and have been learning about how to use microcontrollers. Whilst Year 9 have been wowing us with their use of GIS (Global Information Systems) to showcase the uses of big data. The museum in a box team has shared it's final designs with representatives from the Smithson Museum including a resin model of Buckingham Palace. Due to the popularity of our mircobit classes we will be including more mircobit session within our enrichment programme so that pupils can develop their projects further. We are looking forward to them sharing more clips and showcasing their work at events in the coming months.



PENKETH AUTHORS

Six Year 9 pupils from Penketh High School became published authors last month after writing the novel "Interview With Anxiety".

The project "White Water Writers", in conjunction with Higher Horizons+, provides pupils with the opportunity to undertake the process of writing a novel from conceptualisation and planning, through to the publication.



Pupils were given a week to plan, write and proof read the book. During the initial planning stage pupils said stress and anxiety were important to young people today and so this feature of adolescent life became an integral part of the plot.

Each pupil was responsible for a character and independently wrote their chapters.

The pupils had a book signing at which pupils were able to sign copies of the book for staff and families.

Mrs Moore who co-ordinated the programme said:
"The pupils worked so hard, they had no adult input just supervision. I was amazed that they managed to produce the book in just a week."



CHRISTMAS VISITS FOR THE EYFS CHILDREN

The children from EYFS enjoyed a visit the Chill Factor. They all met Father Christmas in his grotto and then had lots of fun on the snow. The children also enjoyed a Christmas sing song along with the residents at Meadowview nursing Home. The children sang the songs from their Christmas production 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' as well as some nursery rhymes and Christmas favourites.





DOES ANYTHING EVER CHANGE?

Year 3 at Penketh South enjoyed a fabulous school trip to Burwardsley, linked to their enquiry question 'Does anything ever change?'. The day involved lots of fun activities such as exploring a round house, making clay pots, investigating artefacts and even an archaeological dig.



OXFORD LECTURERS INSPIRE PRIESTLEY STUDENTS

STUDENTS aiming to secure places at some of the world's finest universities were told their best chance of securing a place was to just be themselves.

Oxford lecturers Andrew Bell and Martin O'Neill visited Priestley College to speak to high fliers about the interview process for university and said the key was to stand out.

"We are trying to find people who will benefit from the back-and-forth system of learning," said Andrew.

"The best way to be original is to be yourself. You need to make yourself stand out against a lot of intelligent people."

During a discussion with 14 students who have applied to the UK's top universities, the lecturers admitted the interview process was not easy.

However, they advised it would be more fun if the applicants made it engaging by asking questions and entering discussion.

Another tip was to ask for clarification of a word or a question if you don't understand it.

Interviews, they said, were not to assess knowledge but a candidate's thought process and their way of going about answering a question.

Student Lennox Munjoma, who is hoping to study Chemistry at Oxford, said: "It was great getting insight into what they are looking for because it means now that it shouldn't be as stressful for me.

"It's made me more confident for the whole process."

Speaking after the discussions, Martin O'Neill said the Oxford lecturers were already impressed by the level of engagement shown by Priestley's students.

"The discussions don't always last as long as they did here today, which is really encouraging," he said.

"They are going to find the interview process stressful to some extent and we can't solve that. However, they now know we understand it is stressful and that we are on their side wanting to get the best out of them."



COASTAL RETREAT INSPIRES PRIESTLEY ARTISTS

ARTISTS have drawn inspiration from landscapes for centuries.

So it was no surprise when Art and Design students from Priestley College produced work worthy of exhibition during a stay at Robin Hood's Bay on the North East coast. In fact they showcased their collection of sculptures, photographs, paintings and textiles during the residential at the YHA Boggle Hole.

"The response from the students to the landscape and from the public to their work was incredible," said Tutor Steve Lane.

"We've stayed here four times now and every time it has been a special experience for everyone involved."

Several years ago the manager of the YHA wrote to Principal Matthew Grant praising the talent of Priestley's students and their behaviour following their stay. Standards were similarly high this year. First students headed to the beach where they cleaned it of plastic and other waste materials. Not only did this lend an environmental theme to their stay, it also provided them with materials for their artwork.

"We had to throw them out of the studio at night because they were still in there working at 10pm," said Steve. For former Lymm High pupil Sophie Huguen the highlight of the trip was bonding with fellow students and the tutors. "As a whole Foundation Art cohort we were brought even closer and spent the week getting to know one another, sharing stories and experiences over walks through the beautiful landscapes and also whilst creating a variety of artwork," she said.

"I learnt that being surrounded by people who are so artistically inclined and share the same passion as yourself pushes you to do better. You can gain inspiration from every art form even if it is not your own."



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

On Tuesday 5th November, Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School hosted Anti-Bullying Ambassador training, led by the Diana Award. The Diana Award is a charity legacy to Diana, Princess of Wales' belief that young people have the power to change the world for the better.

Alex Holmes – Deputy CEO of the Diana's Award came up with the idea to train Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in schools to encourage young people to stand together against bullying. Bullying is not a normal part of life, and there is nothing that is character building about it. The training provided them with insight into the impact of bullying and why it is so important for them to wear their badges, take a stand and be the best Anti-Bullying Ambassadors that they can be.

The training also provided them with lots of inspiration, top tips and practical ideas they need to prevent bullying and ensure that everyone feels safe and happy in their school.

10 schools from around Cheshire were invited, including Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School, who each took part in the training. Head of Year Miss Hayes commented "The students and staff from attending schools gave such positive feedback and were raring to get back to their schools with fresh ideas to stamp out bullying in their schools."



CAREERS FAIR

This term Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School held their annual Careers Fair, with 24 exhibitors from different establishments visiting the school. Assistant Headteacher Mrs Mawby commented "the students were very well prepared with questions and engaged with the event. The exhibitors were delighted with how our students were informed about their future choices in education, training and employment."

Here are some of the comments from the exhibitors:

Chester University : "Students are positive. They appear well informed and seem very prepared. They're confident and seem like they have real direction for the future."

Police: "The students have been ace. There has been lots of interest in cadets compared to previous years. Students are definitely more knowledgeable in regards to the questions they need to ask when thinking about next steps after school."

Warrington Vale Royal: "The students are lovely and engaged. They have clear career pathway about careers they're interested in which is actually really refreshing. We have spoken to Year 11 students in other schools who have much less of an idea than the Year 9s we have spoken to today. This demonstrates that whatever work is going on behind the scenes in regards to careers is having the right impact."



REMEMBRANCE

Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School held their annual Remembrance Service today. The service was led by Lukas Dewhirst and attended by some of their 'Old Boys' – former students from as far back as 1947, as well as Councillors Hans Mundry and Karen Mundry, and members of the community. Students who are cadets wore their uniforms with pride. Class of 2019 student Ronnie Booth also attended the service in his service uniform. The school was visited by two other former students: Grant Clements Class of 2015, and Harris Bates, Class of 2014 in their service uniforms. The first part of the service took place in the schools' Peace Garden, which has been decorated by the poppy cascade kindly donated by St Barnabas CE Primary School, and flag from Bridgefoot cenotaph. Children and staff from St Barnabas attended and were very happy to see their cascade in its pride of place. The service then continued in the school hall with moving and powerful performances from students, leading to a 2 minute silence at 11am. Headteacher Mrs Scott-Herron commented: "Thank you to the parents and carers who attended . It was a very moving and inspirational service fit to remember all those who lost their lives in past and recent conflicts. We will remember them."



OUR LIBRARY LAUNCH

Hundreds of students from Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School enjoyed celebrating the reopening of their school library on Thursday with a series of workshops led by local published writer, Rob Parker. Rob is from Warrington and is the author of the Ben Bracken series of novels. Rob gave freely of his time to inspire the next generation of writers with his passion and experience 'You can be anything you want be in the world of writing. You just have to be yourself and be brave.'

Some comments from students were:

'Rob was so honest with us in sharing his life story and how he became a writer.'

'I think Rob is inspirational and that everyone should buy his books'

'Rob's message of never giving up on your dreams will stay with us'.

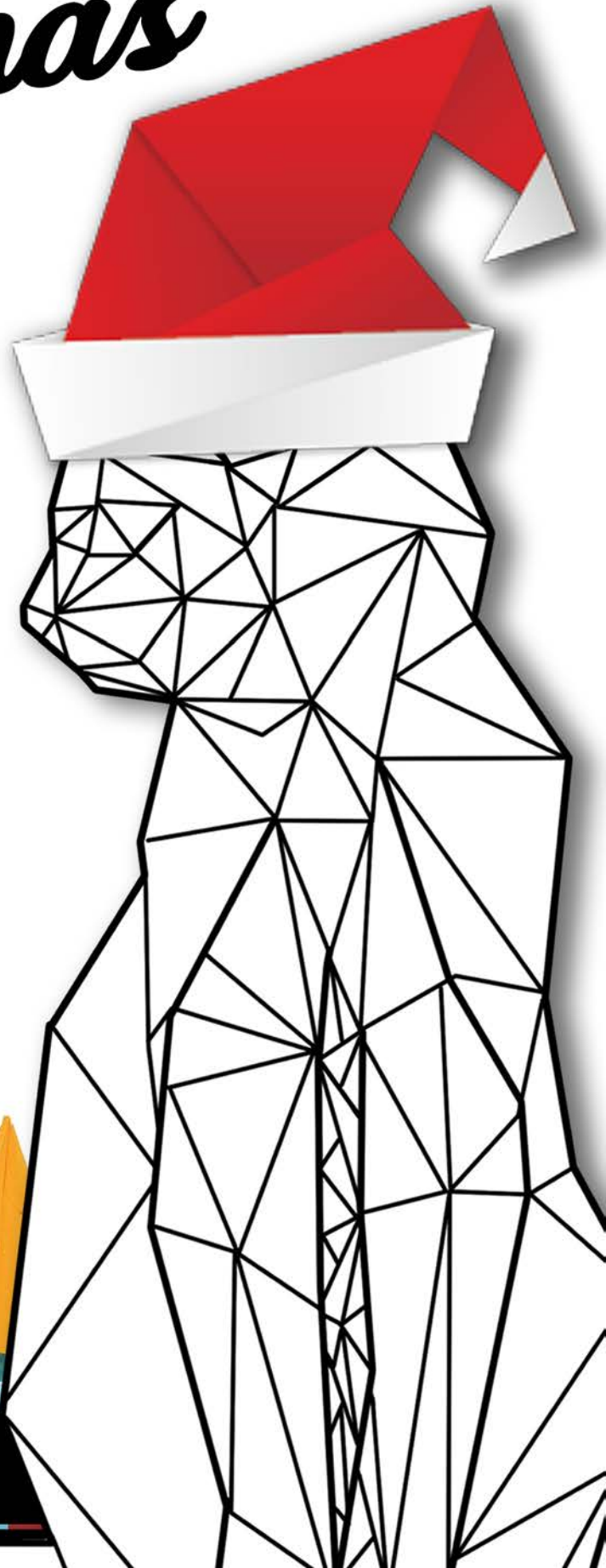
'We all enjoyed listening to Rob, his amazing books and about his life story.'

'Rob's passion about reading and writing was inspirational. I will remember that this can get you anywhere in life'

Mrs Jane Woodcock, Teacher of English explained: 'Learning from real-world local writers at such a young age is truly inspirational. We plan for our students at Sir Thomas Boteler to experiencing further writing workshops throughout the academic year - both with Rob - and also fellow local writer Emily Chriscoli as part of our school's relentless focus on literacy'.

Merry Christmas

FROM ALL THE
STUDENTS
AND **STAFF**
ACROSS ALL THE
TCAT SCHOOLS



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