



Head Teacher's Newsletter

SUMMER TERM 2024

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Mrs Frost-Briggs' message to parents and carers



As we draw this academic year to a close, we reflect upon the wealth of hard work the students have put in and the range of events and opportunities our young people have enjoyed this year.

This year has seen the advent of a new Rewards Trip, the Big Ask Student Voice 2.0, the continued work of the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, the development of the Student Council and by popular demand the first charity non-uniform day to raise money for a commemorative area for Mrs Turner and to raise money for her favourite charity. We have certainly had a busy year! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support this year and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Rewards Trip – Alton Towers

Over 200 students attended the new Rewards Trip to Alton Towers after attaining over 500 positive ClassCharts points.

It was a delight to see the students enjoying the many rides, attractions and games that the park had to offer. The sun even made an appearance! Students conducted themselves positively throughout the day and represented the Academy maturely. #nothingshortofremarkable



Spanish Pen Pals

Year 8 & 9 Spanish Dual Linguists have been writing letters to our pen pals in the San Jordi school on the outskirts of Barcelona. The students in Barcelona write to us in English and we respond in Spanish. The letters are beautifully decorated and the pupils have put a large amount of effort in. Well done to all!

Year 7 EMET Maths Challenge

Our remarkable maths students competed as 2 teams, over 3 Maths events. They impressed us with their conduct, teamwork and enthusiasm as they discussed and solved difficult problems. Well done Year 7 mathematicians!



Guatemalan Guest Speaker!

Ms Cortez-Lopez from John Flamsteed School came to talk about Guatemalan culture and the importance of the Mayan civilisation. Students learnt about how the Mayans invented the mathematical concept of zero and how they have given the world their expertise in astronomy and mathematics. The students also learnt about how the Mayans developed a complex and accurate calendar system.

She also brought a lot of genuine ingredients from Guatemalan gastronomy for students to see, such as platanos (bananas) and chocolate beans. Students were also able to take part in a little representation of Christopher Columbus, the Catholic King and Queen, and the Mayan King and Queen... all in Spanish!



Barcelona Trip!

Some of our Year 9 students recently had the opportunity to visit Barcelona to practise their Spanish skills. Despite a 3.30am start, students were in high spirits for the first afternoon, where we enjoyed lunch together before visiting the beach. Day 2 featured a visit to the Cordineu champagne caves, with a tour of the grounds and a visit to the caves which maintain a consistent temperature of 15 degrees. We then spent the afternoon in 'PortAventura', with the opportunity to wander the park and enjoy the rides.



Day 3 saw the group separate for the first time. Around 30 students chose to visit the immersive experience at Camp Nou - including seeing the Champions League trophies - where they also had the chance to look at the new stadium build and visit the official Barcelona FC store. The remainder of the group took the opportunity to visit Barcelona City Centre for shopping in local Spanish shops such as Zara and Primark (!).

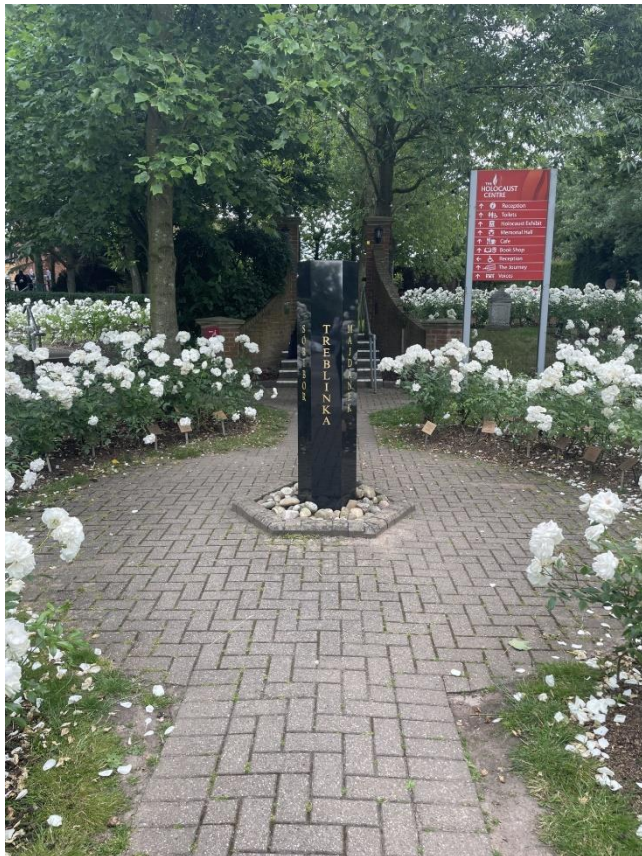
Day 4 was a visit to the market, where year 9 had to use their Spanish (and even some bartering skills!) to purchase a range of items as part of a shopping challenge. We then travelled to the beautiful city of Girona. We had lunch by the river (with some operatic background music!), before students had to navigate their way around the medieval grounds in groups. There was then a pit stop in the middle for a much-needed ice cream. Students spent the afternoon with a choice of time at the beach or in the pool, before celebrating the England win...Vamos!

Year 9 were #nothingshortofremarkable and we are proud of the way they conducted themselves for the duration of the trip.

UK Maths Challenge

28 Year 7 and 30 Year 8 students took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. The challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques. Over 250,000 students took part across the UK with the top 40% of students nationally receiving a gold, silver or bronze certificate.

22 of our students have been awarded a certificate! Thomas M was the "Best in School" and George K "Best in year 8". Both achieved Gold certificates and will go to sit the Junior Kangaroo 2024 follow-on round. In total we gained 8 Silver and 12 bronze certificates. We are so proud of you!



National Holocaust Centre visit

45 Year 9 students participated in a workshop which explored the concept of what it means to be Jewish and how the Nazis defined this, including an interactive tour of the museum. We had the rare opportunity to listen to Holocaust survivor Martin Stern, who captivated our students with his amazing story of survival. Martin was just 5 years old when he and his 1-year-old sister were taken to Theresienstadt concentration camp, where they were looked after by a fellow prisoner, Mrs. De Jong. This remarkable woman saved their lives, stealing food and caring for them. Martin and his sister almost ended up on a train to Auschwitz, but the camp was thankfully liberated by the Soviets and the Red Cross took it over after the war.

Athletics Competition

On Tues 25th June the PE dept took 70+ athletes to compete in our annual inter-school athletics competition at Moorways. The sun shone and there were some incredible individual performances from our students. Congratulations to all that competed. You did us proud!

The following students finished an amazing first place:

- Y7 Aston C 800m
- Y7 Kyrie S 1500m
- Y8 Harry M 300m
- Y9 Corey F 200m
- Y9 Olivia B 1500m
- Y10 Gino F 1st Javelin
- Y10 Josh A 1st Shot
- Y10 Aaron N 1st High Jump
- Y10 Leah P 1st 100m



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