

5th November 2021

Message from Mr O'Sullivan

On Sunday 14th November we will be taking part in the annual Remembrance Day parade. If you and your families would like to be part of this parade, please meet outside the Royal British Legion at 10am on the corner by Vets4Life.



We will then join the back of the parade and make our way to the Teddington Hospital War memorial for 10.45am where wreaths will be laid. Students should wear full school uniform. This has always been something we have been incredibly proud of and reminds me each year of our beginning in 2015. I look forward to meeting some of our families there.

Year 9 Identity Sonnets

Year 9 have produced some amazing sonnets in English. Given the theme of identity, students were asked to base their sonnets on themselves, someone they knew or a character in the novel we are reading, *The Dark Lady*. We have been so impressed with some of the beautiful sonnets produced.

Here are a few for you to read. Well done, Year 9!

*Nature and nurture made me who I am
Tortured by hunger, my body was weak.
Led to the slaughter like a baby lamb
In pain and in shock, I can barely speak.
Born an animal, led a life of crime
The pocket I pick, the purses I cut
My chances, fooled, running out of time
As hunger begins to creep in my gut
And my origin, I hath not a clue
Mother and Father, whom I did not know
And then a dream, too tired to come true
Education, my one escape, but no*

Dates for your diary

14th Nov – Remembrance Day Parade
18th Nov – Year 10 Virtual Settling-In Evening

Mock exams

Year 11 mocks
will run from Fri 19th Nov - Fri 26th Nov.
Year 13 mocks
will run from Mon 29th Nov - Fri 3rd Dec.

*My colour, coked the only thing they see,
No one can see I am the same but me.*

By Yusuf H

*If I was a planet, I would be light,
With plenty of elm trees and petrichor,
With a rolling cherry running through white,
And the most stary skies and lively storms.
If I was a planet, I would be dark,
Warm and fire, ceaseless tides, piercing sun,
Silky clouds, only the waves to outrun.
Heavy although comforting air, with no sharks.
But really, you're just pineapple on pizza.
Red and Green being here, some things just don't
match.*

*Well, you're in England so speak English.
Forever be stared at, for here you are unfit.*

Where do you really come from?

'Cause your hair looks like ...

By Elvie T

Power and magic alone with just me,
Uprooted my home to come and be scared.
Dear sister so wretched may as well flee
My people burning while everyone stared.
Hiding in plain sight we run from our past,
Waves tall as churches hindered our way,
Thought we found comfort and safety at last
We are not safe and yet here we must stay.
They say I do devils work and I'm strange
Then they use all my potions and treatments.
To them I'm not human, I'm just deranged.
At last, they take me as an achievement.

Power and magic shared across the friends
Survive the plague and hunters to my end.

By Darcey D

The case is black and shut and quiet, but then
A hand, a look, a clasp, a sigh and now
The wood that shines, it waits her touch again
The careful notes that grow and gently how
She glides the bow with skill and quiet control
The sound crescendos, birdsong fills the air
As those that listen feel music fill their soul
And focus now on wood and strings of awe
Ancient rhythms and notes from long ago
With chords and melodies racing as they soar
Sound builds and shines as you begin to know
A rallentando, sounds diminish there
She pauses, silence golden waiting still
Applause rings truly the next time until.

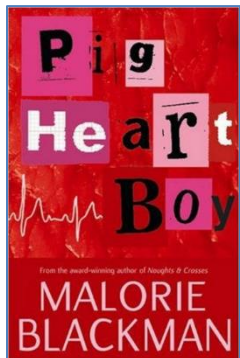
By Meg D

Sixth Form applications now open!



Applications are now being taken for our exciting and ever expanding Sixth Form, for students starting in September 2022. Take a look at the Sixth Form area on our website.

Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman - reviewed by Alice D in 7L



I would recommend this book to anyone over the age of 8, because younger children might find it hard to read and not understand some parts. This book shows you what it's like for someone with a medical condition and how hard their life can be. The storyline follows a boy who has to have an urgent heart transplant and how he copes with it.

There are no spare heart donors, so Cameron makes the decision to have a pig's heart. He doesn't anticipate what happens to him, but he has friends and family who support him all the way. His one goal is to dive down to the bottom of the swimming pool, even though he finds it very difficult to hold his breath for long periods of time.

Throughout the novel, Cameron sets himself little goals which he tries to accomplish before setting more. His family face some worrying decisions, but will they regret them?

I would rate this book 5 stars, because it has a very important message, which is you can achieve anything in life, and setting yourself small goals can help massively towards a bigger picture.

Speakers for Schools National Teen Book Club

Our exciting five-week [National Teen Book Club](#) programme begins on **November 10th, 3:30-4.30pm**, and gives students the opportunity to:

Meet the UK's top writers and illustrators, including Candice Carty-Williams (winner of the British Book Awards Book of the Year 2020 for Queenie).

Become a published author – and win masterclasses from top writers and literary agents.

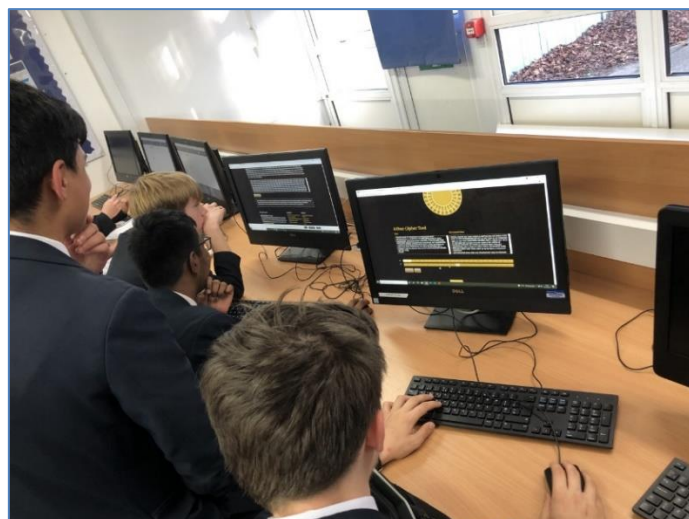
Engage in activities and conversations online with students from across the UK, related to [Chinglish](#), the book we'll read together.

The programme is free and fully facilitated and runs for five weeks. Students can [sign up individually here](#).

Contact ntbc@speakersforschools.org with any questions about the National Teen Book Club.

Turing Titans

Our amazing codebreakers have teamed up and entered the annual National Cipher Challenge. The team, named Turing Titans, have so far broken all the weekly challenges in under 15 minutes, and received top marks for their solutions! The group is formed from students from multiple year groups – some of them are veteran codebreakers with multiple years of Cipher Challenge experience, while others are learning the ropes this year. Good luck to the Turing Titans, we hope their 100%-mark streak will continue until the last rounds of the competition in December!



#Mock COP

On Wednesday 3rd November, 8 students were given the opportunity to discuss, debate and vote on possible strategies that can be used to tackle global Climate Change.

As World leaders and advisors met in Glasgow, we put ourselves in their position and looked at the options available to move to a point where the world is able to be net Carbon Zero.

Students were discussing from the perspective of different parties such as the USA, Ethiopia, Sweden, China and the UK. They then entered into some negotiations to see if different parties could reach agreements.



It was a great opportunity and one that has given us lots to think about, particularly on the topic of our local area and how as individuals we can make changes to help reach net Carbon Zero.



Full report to be written and published next week!

Bike Locks

Students who cycle to school must ensure they have a lock to secure their bike with (ideally a 'D-lock').

Although bike theft is thankfully very rare, it is the responsibility of the student and their parents to make sure their bike is safely secured while at school.

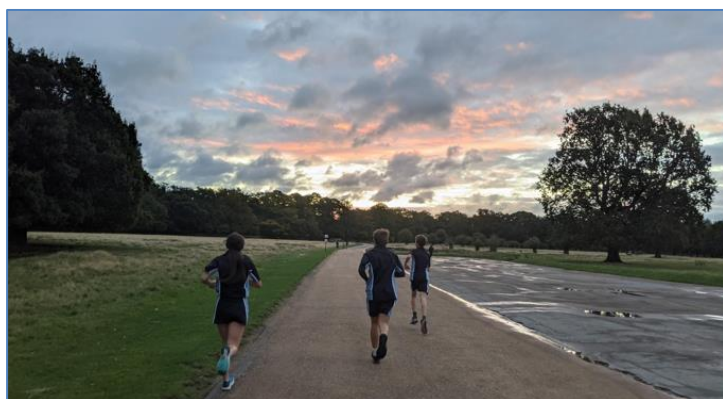
Year 8 Table Tennis Competition

Well done to the following students for being selected for the table tennis competition at Richmond Park Academy: Shamsi S; Samaira M; Ethan B; Barnaby S; Zachary S; Freddie C.

Trials for this one-off event took place just before the half term break. These students will be competing against students from other schools next week on Tuesday 9th - good luck!

Years 9 – 11 Cross Country Club

Cross Country club has started for years 9-13. The club starts just before school at 7.15am on a Thursday - what a great way to start the day!



All abilities welcome - please see the PE department if you are interested in getting involved.

England v Tonga Twickenham Trip

The PE Department are very excited to be taking 40 students to Twickenham Stadium on Saturday 6th November to watch the rugby match between England and Tonga.



If your child is involved in this trip, then keep an eye out for the information that has been sent home. The information gives details of meeting points and trip timings. Please contact the PE Department if you have any questions.

Celebrating Achievement

As part of our new rewards system, we need your help in designing the certificates issued for Bronze, Silver and Gold awards!

See the poster below for how you can take part - a huge 30 Positive Points are up for grabs for the winning designs!



Certificate Design Competition!

We would like you to submit your designs for each of our certificates (Bronze, Silver and Gold). These can be hand-drawn or designed on a computer.

The winner of the competition will receive an instant **30 positive points** for their effort!

All submissions should be uploaded through the following link (or QR code), or via the School Office on either site. Make sure your name and Tutor Group is attached.

Competition deadline: **Wednesday 17th November 2020**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bCkKhvVdnEu5UFI-fzQ18bBJZ...EEem6-xyvapUOVFBWE02UzJKRURXOVRMMU9...ODAwRv4u>



the school webpage. These policies provide parents and carers with invaluable information relating to how we operate as a school. One particular area that we wanted to remind parents/carers of is allowing students to hold non-prescribed medication such as paracetamol or ibuprofen in their possession, for example in their blazers or in their rucksacks and taking these as when they require (this does not include emergency medication such as Epipens (AAIs) or the use of asthma inhaler pumps). In the 'First Aid and Administration of Medicines Policy found on the school webpage it clearly states the detail, however in summary: all medication (prescribed or not) should be handed into reception and locked away for use. This helps protect our students and support with their wellbeing.

Self-management for Emergency Medicines

1. Generally, students should not carry medicines whilst at school. However, students will be encouraged to carry and be responsible for their own emergency medicines, when staff in conjunction with parents (bearing in mind the safety of other children and medical advice) judge that they are sufficiently capable and competent to do so.
2. Other non-emergency medicines should generally be kept in a secure place, not accessible to children.
3. Medications should be handed into reception on arrival at school and then locked in the drug cupboard in the medical room

Happy Diwali

Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. Diwali, which for some also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations, is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. The festival is usually sometime between October and November, with the date changing each year.

This year Diwali takes place over five days from 2 November to 6 November with the main day of celebration on Thursday 4 November.



Self Medicating

As we are still in the first part of the academic year, we wanted to remind you of the policies that are held on

Same Day PCR Testing

For the next two weeks, those who take a COVID-19 PCR test at the pop-up testing centre at Old Deer Park will receive their results on the same day.

A mobile COVID-19 processing unit will join the PCR mobile testing unit at Old Deer Car Park on 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 November, as part of the Council's commitment to keeping residents safe.

This will mean attendees will get their PCR results on the same day they take their test. London has only 3-5 mobile processing units at present and Richmond Council has been chosen to host these pop-up events.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

"Our case rate is still very high, showing us that COVID-19 is still an unwanted guest in our borough. One of the ways we can curb the spread is to get tested and isolate.

"For those who have had a positive lateral flow test or are displaying symptoms, it is important that you isolate straight away and book an urgent PCR test. Having a processing unit at the Old Deer Park testing centre, will mean tests won't need to be taken off site and people will have their results on the same day."

Residents are reminded that the service is for pre-booked appointments only, but tests can be booked up to 24 hours in advance. Please only book an appointment if you have any [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or have a positive lateral flow test.

If you wish to register for an appointment, you can do so using the links below:

- [Register for an essential worker test](#)
- [Register for a non-essential worker test](#)

Those attending are asked to follow the instructions provided. Signage will also be in place to help direct attendees. Please note, these are PCR testing and processing units.

STEM Club



STEM club continues to develop strategies for earthquake survivors. This week they used sensors to detect road breaches and survivors from the earthquake. More information can be found [here](#)