

9th November 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am thrilled to announce that Tejay Bacon has returned from the World Kickboxing Championships in Ireland a world champion and now hopes to represent his country at Olympic level. Tejay won gold in the -45kg semi-contact, silver in the -45kg light contact and bronze in the 13-14 open weight team points' competition. Tejay's hard work and pure dedication is clearly paying off, this is his ninth world championship and he has come away with a gold medal at most of them. As well as training he instructs the younger children aged between four and thirteen years at Alf's Blackbelt Academy, where he attends every day and spends about eight hours a week there. This is some achievement when you consider that Tejay is Year 11 and managing his time so that he can also study for his GCSEs. Very impressive Tejay; you should be very proud of yourself!



Ten Year 11 pupils recently had the opportunity to visit Manchester University as part of the Gateway Project. As this was their last visit to the university before leaving school, the day was designed to help them with skills they will use in their college/university life. The first presentation was 'effective note taking'. The students had to listen to a lecture based on Prince Harry and Megan Markle's wedding and take notes in a style they had been given. Following on from that, they were split into different teams and asked to research a particular aspect from the lecture and present their findings to the rest of the group. Leon Watson, Rory Jackson, Ellis Walne and Brandon Mayor were part of the winning team which evaluated the economic cost of the wedding. The winners received a Manchester University scarf.

Thirty one Year 10 pupils were taken to the Lake District to partake in a four-day, three-night activity camp. The trip was organised through a national pilot programme for NCS (National Citizens Service). Traditionally this programme has been offered to pupils aged 16+ once GCSE examinations have been completed. As a school we had the opportunity to take part in the pilot, which includes a residential followed by a series of in-school learning opportunities and culminates in a community action project to be completed by the pupils involved. The residential is the first



stage and from Monday 29th October until Thursday 1st November our Y10 pupils had a trip they will never forget! The students were split into three teams and were involved in a variety of activities across the four days including; canoeing, rock climbing, abseiling, orienteering, crate stacking, zip lining and finished off with a raft building competition and race (which Mrs Simporis' team won!) All pupils were actively involved during these activities and developed key communication, team work, resilience and motivational skills. During certain activities such as rock climbing and abseiling, pupils were not

only responsible for their own safety but were taught to support other members of their group. The Year 10s represented themselves impeccably and were a real credit to themselves, the school and their

parents/carers. Thank you to all those involved in the camp – the Year 10 pupils, Mrs Lomax, Mr Gibbons, Mrs Barker, Mr Pickles and Mrs Simporis. We also thank Mrs Panteli - for organising the camp.



An amazing and jam-packed trip was taken by two of our pupils, Kalumn Ridgway and Dale Lord, as representatives of Fearn on the Wilfred Owen English Literature battlefields tour. The pupils gained some first-hand knowledge of what it would have been like in the first world war trenches, as they walked around the recreated trench system at Passchendaele Memorial Museum in Zonnebeke,



Belgium. They then visited the German cemetery at Langemark and the British cemetery at Lijssenthoek, a former casualty clearing station, to see the contrast in how the dead are remembered in these two very different cemeteries. At Lijssenthoek we found the grave of a local soldier, A Halstead, from Stacksteads and laid a cross of remembrance on behalf of the school. A very moving visit was made to the death cells and the shooting post where soldiers, many suffering from shell shock, were executed in Poperinge. A visit to Talbot House showed that behind the lines soldiers did gain some respite from the hell of being in the frontline trenches, a place that afforded some opportunities for entertainment as well as the peace of the gardens and the chapel away from the sound of the constant bombardments. We then made a visit to Essex Farm Cemetery where John

McCrae was moved to write 'In Flanders Fields' and to pay our respects at the grave of Valentine Joe Strudwick, a boy born on Valentine's Day who was killed on the battlefields aged 15, bringing home the reality of the very young age of many of the soldiers. In the evening we had the opportunity to participate in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, which commemorates the fallen at 8 o'clock every evening. The next day we moved on from Belgium to France where we went to the very poignant Newfoundland Park at Beaumont Hamel where the trenches have been left as they were in reverence to the 92% of the Newfoundland regiment that died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Various readings were made by pupils on the trip at the different cemeteries we visited where several of the war poets are buried. Kalumn and Dale did a tremendous job of the extracts they read from Robert Graves and Siegfried Sassoon. The tour had a very touching and fitting end as we were privileged to attend the Wilfred Owen commemoration service at Ors on 4th November, the centenary of his death, after a visit to the canal side location of his death and his resting place in Ors communal cemetery. Thank you very much to Mrs Ashworth for organising and taking the boys on this fascinating trip which will have deepened their knowledge and understanding of events. Hopefully they will be able to relay some of that learning back into the classroom for others.



We welcomed Jake Berry MP into school on Wednesday this week. He met with an eager group of Year 10 pupils who had questions for him about the school and the local community. It is good experience for our pupils to have the opportunity to discuss what is important to them with someone who they see may be able to voice some of their concerns and answer some of their questions.

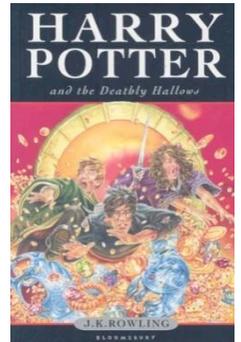


Bert the Bookworm Recommends...

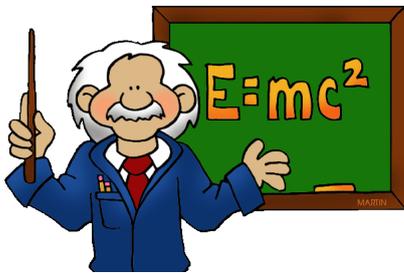
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J K Rowling

Summary: Harry, Ron and Hermione leave school to find all of Voldemort's horcruxes. Mad-eye Moody dies. A battle takes place at Hogwarts where many get injured or die protecting and fighting for Harry, the boy who lived. My favourite character is Ginny Weasley because even though her parents and brothers told her to stay in the room of requirement, instead of fighting, she disobeyed and fought in the battle against Tom Riddle and his followers.

Hallie-Brooke Maddock – 7A



Numeracy Question



The answer to last week's numeracy question is £2.31.

This week's numeracy question is: The newly discovered square plant grows 1 leaf on day 1, 4 more on day 2, 9 more on day 3, and so on. Assuming no leaves fall off, how many leaves will there be after 11 days?

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Mrs H Stead
Headteacher