



Spring Newsletter

Issue 38: March 2021

This half term was, to use a commentator's analogy, 'a game of two halves'. We started the half term with remote learning, continuing the approach of live lessons for all pupils in all subjects. Everyone had got into the routine of this: teachers had developed their delivery skills and adapted their lessons accordingly; pupils knew when to put their virtual hand up, when to turn the microphone off and were now adept at juggling Google Meet and Classroom Assignments! It certainly requires a completely different set of skills, compared to the physical classroom experience, however all of our staff and pupils approached it for what it was, a phase in time, which we will look back on in the future, keep the best bits of and hopefully never have to do again.

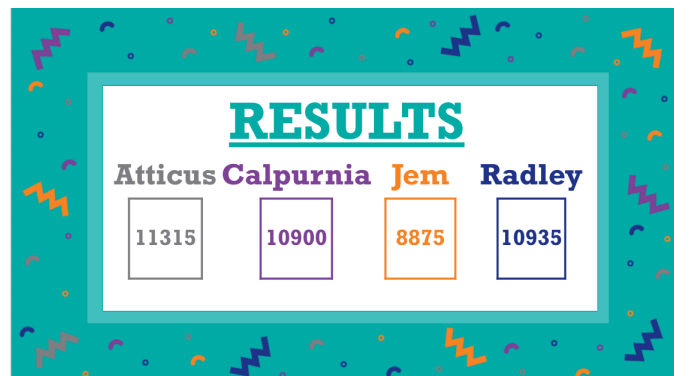
Fast forward to Monday 8th March and it was time to welcome back the pupils into school. We purposely phased the return to ensure we could test our pupils and I am extremely pleased with the participation in this. Over 95% of pupils took the asymptomatic testing and while it presented huge logistical challenges, it was one which the staff, and pupils, managed with aplomb. The testing centre has now been significantly scaled back as we all move towards testing ourselves at home. I must reiterate the importance of this and encourage everyone to continue testing themselves twice a week, so that we can pick up any asymptomatic cases before they come into school.

Over the course of the last few weeks back in school, it is evident that pupils have relished the chance to be back in their familiar surroundings, with their teachers and peers, getting back to learning in a more 'traditional' way. If anything, the last 12 months have taught us that we all need social interaction in order to flourish.

On Saturday 13th March we held our annual Parents' Consultation Day. In 2020, this was the last event we held before the global pandemic was announced and the country went into a national lockdown. This year it took on a slightly different form, parents could still book to speak with their children's teachers, but it was all held virtually using School Cloud. We will reflect on this approach before deciding whether to continue with it next year, but it has been incredibly well received and while there are only a limited number of positives to take away from the last 12 months, this could be one of them.

On that note, we are mindful that it is important that parents and the school still get to know each other and are familiar with each other, as opposed to being behind a screen or email and therefore we are exploring how we can engage with our families, once restrictions have been lifted across the country. We will also be looking at how we can bring back our programme of residential trips as well for 2022 and more information on this will be available after the holidays.

This week we have been able to host our House Games. It was a great week of PE and subject challenges and, as you can see below, Atticus have taken the lead with Radley and Calpurnia in hot pursuit as we head towards the summer term.



Well done to Atticus who are now heading the House Games

We now have a two week Easter break, which on one hand feels strange seeing as the pupils have only been back in school for a little under three weeks, but we must remember that it has been a twelve week term, which has at times, been a grueling period of lesson after lesson of remote learning. Therefore we must not underestimate the importance of time away from screens, doing things that we enjoy and as restrictions start to lift, spending time with our family and friends following the rule of six or two households outside from Monday 29th March.

So on that note, please continue to follow the guidance and hopefully the longer, warmer days, will contribute to lifting everyone's spirits. I hope you have an enjoyable and restful Easter break.

Richard Booth
Headteacher

Winning House by Year Group	
Year 7	Atticus
Year 8	Radley
Year 9	Calpurnia
Year 10	Calpurnia
Year 11	Atticus

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Science Week

This year British Science Week took place over a ten-day period incorporating the STEM subjects of Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths. At The Reach Free School we dedicated time in lessons to stimulate and inspire our pupils. Here are some examples of the sessions they took part in.

Encounter EDU

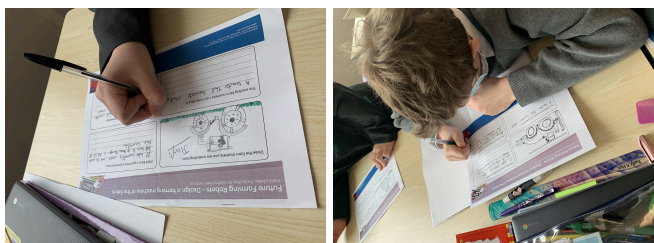
Our year 7 pupils participated in a number of live webinars throughout the week in which they joined numerous experts in their fields. Pupils were invited into a robotics lab to look at how robots can solve some of farming's greatest challenges:

How can we improve soil health?

How can we make growing crops more efficient?

How can we farm areas that weren't suitable for growing crops before?

Not only did this allow for pupils to recognise common uses of information technology beyond school, links to Science and Geography were also made. Pupils were able to explore the types of machinery used in farming as well as weeding crops by doing practical as well as design experiments.

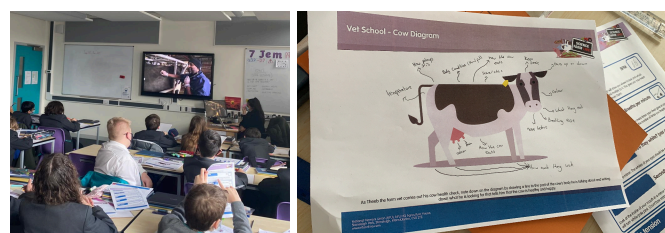


Designing a farming machine of the future



Precision weeding activity

An opportunity to become trainee vets and assist a farm vet to ensure Farmer Michael's cows were happy and healthy was one we could not miss. Farm vet Theeb, explained that it was his job to check that cows have everything they need to stay happy and healthy. The pupils were asked to be Theeb's trainee vets and record his medical observations by annotating diagrams of a cow. Theeb performed simple medical tests such as assessing pulse rate, breathing rate and temperature on a cow and asked the children to join in by taking their own measurements and comparing them. They then also audited the cow's environment and assessed whether it had all it required to stay happy and healthy. Theeb explained the importance of good nutrition for both humans and cows and he demonstrated a simple cow faeces test.



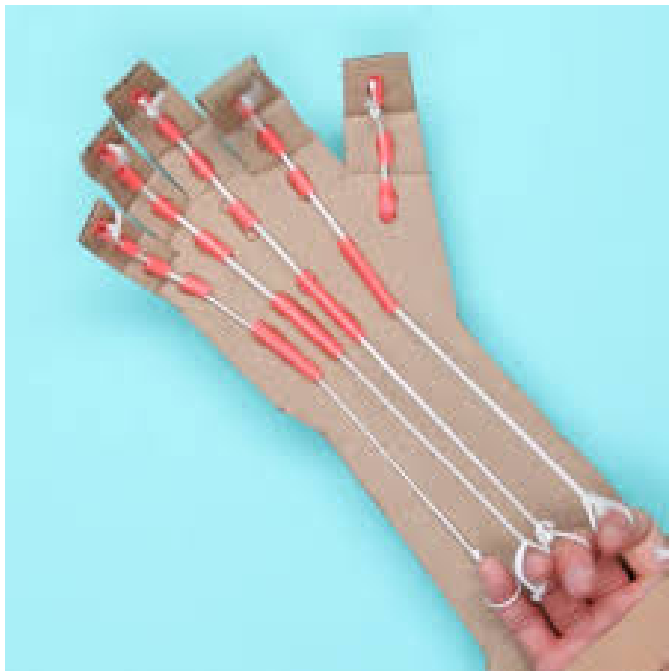
Vet School Live and interactive health check of Farmer Michael's cow

Mission X

The purpose of Mission X is to introduce pupils to what it takes to become an astronaut, both scientifically and physically. Activities completed are then converted into miles and the aim is to get as many miles as possible in order to transport our team to the moon!

Year 8 completed two activities: the physical was called 'Discover and Explore' and the scientific activity was 'Bionic Hand'. For the discover and explore element, pupils learnt what it took to complete science

experiments on the moon, and the movement of samples between places on the moon. The bionic hand is important as this is a technology that is being developed to allow us to access parts of space that humans cannot currently reach, but makes tasks for astronauts a lot easier. The bionic hand was built out of cardboard, elastic bands, string and straws. Pupils had to follow instructions carefully in order to build the hand. When the hand was completed, the fingers could be controlled and moved by the strings. The string, and elastic bands represented the muscles and ligaments within the hand. Pupils could then try to pick or complete different tasks using their bionic hand.



Bionic hand

Live Talks

Ms Patricia Diez, a medical physicist spoke to our year 9 pupils and shared insight into her role at Mount Vernon Cancer Care, within the radiotherapy trials quality assurance group. Patricia shared a fantastic insight into the tailored treatment of cancer using radiotherapy with the specialised equipment, the Linac accelerator. Our pupils were fascinated and we were truly impressed by the range of questions they had for Patricia, not only were they thought provoking but they were relevant and interesting for all involved.



Linear Accelerator (LINAC) - The impressive equipment used to treat many cancer patients



Ms P. Diez - Lead Clinical Scientist

Broadcaster, Ayo Akinwolere, delved into the story of his world record triumph in the first of our two live sessions with our year 10 pupils. Ayo swam five miles across the Palau Trench, an 8,000-metre deep abyss in the Pacific Ocean. He is the first person to swim across the deepest part of the trench, and now holds the world record for the deepest location for an open water swim. Ayo took us on a journey into his fear of water, the ten week training period he had, but most importantly the science behind his swim! We heard about: the ecology of the ocean and the safety factors taken into account to protect him from the deadly jellyfish; the use of sonar rays to detect any potential sharks that could have been coming his way and even the type of wetsuit required, hydration and of course the technique behind his stroke!



Mr Ayo Akinwolere - Broadcaster

Our second live speaker, Christopher Rush, a materials engineer from Lockheed Martin, gave an enlightening account of his journey through education into the field of Engineering. He shared with our pupils how relevant their curriculum is to the modern world of materials and how even in the fast paced world of materials development he still relies on the concepts he was taught at GCSE and A-Level. The pupils were enthused to hear about some of the exciting things he has worked on, including defence and a tied project with NASA. Following this there was a question and answer session in which pupils were interested to hear about the diversity in modern engineering, following on from the women in science day.

Pre-recorded Interviews

Our pupils in KS4 and KS5 were able to select and watch a number of pre-recorded interviews completed by Ms Dheiman and Mr Dixon. The Scientists ranged from doctors, a pharmacist, quality director of a Pharmaceutical company, lead clinical scientist to a sound designer and music technician. The vast range of healthcare professions within the NHS were also discussed to explain they were more than just test tubes and laboratories! Pupils then had the opportunity to partake in an NHS healthcare quiz which gave them a personal insight into a field that would suit them in the future. Job descriptions ranged from play therapists, financial leads, project managers to the more traditional roles of nurses and doctors. This provided opportunities for our pupils to see real life Scientists in action in many different ways, along with truly understanding the wide variety of careers that make up our healthcare system.

Biology Olympiad

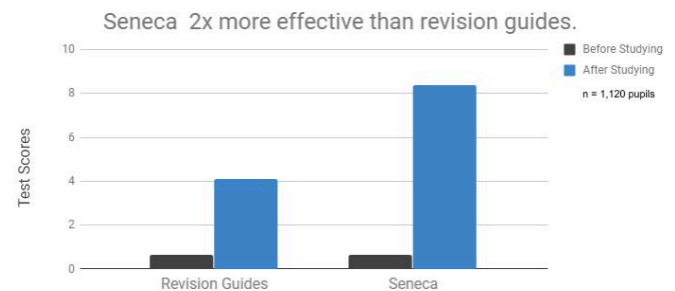
For Year 12 and 13 Biology students we hosted, for the third year running, the British Biology Olympiad. The BBO challenges and stimulates students with an interest in biology to expand and extend their talents. It enables students to demonstrate their talent and to be suitably rewarded with publicly recognised certificates and medals. This competition consists of two, 45-minute papers taken online under exam conditions. Students were presented with topics and ideas which they are not familiar with, so competed with their problem solving skills and understanding of core principles. Well done to all those who participated; results will be in the next Newsletter.

Talking of Olympiads, the Chemistry Olympiad completed last term and we are proud to announce that Isadora L won a Bronze award, so a huge well done to Isadora. Congratulations.

Seneca Competitions

Each key stage had the opportunity to take part in a Seneca week-long challenge to complete as many minutes as you can on the Science courses.

Why do we actively promote Seneca? Seneca is more interactive and effective than reading revision guides or making notes. Seneca's platform has been tested in a research project with over 1000 students. The students were first assessed on their knowledge and then again after 4 weeks. They either used revision guides only or Seneca. It was identified that those who used Seneca scored 2x higher.



Competition Results

Key stage 3 completed 31 hours 20 minutes of work on Seneca. The winner, with 5 hours and 33 minutes, is Gavin G. Key Stage 4 completed 103 hours 26 minutes of work on Seneca. The winner, with 8 hours 30 minutes, is Bruno B. . Key Stage 5 completed 46 hours 5 minutes of work on Seneca. The winner, with 8 hours 19 minutes, is Bruna.

Congratulations to all three of you; you will each receive a £10 Amazon voucher.

Photography Competition

Science is present in every inch of our body and every part of our lives. Science has also played a major role in improving the quality of our lives. The Reach Free School's photography competition was a challenge to pupils to take a photograph that captures an image associated with Science and then describe the science within the image using as much detail as possible

Entries were judged firstly on the creativity in the image and secondly upon clear, informative and accurate Scientific descriptions all presented in an engaging manner. Congratulations to all that took part, our winners will receive a £10 amazon voucher, with runners up receiving a £5 amazon voucher.

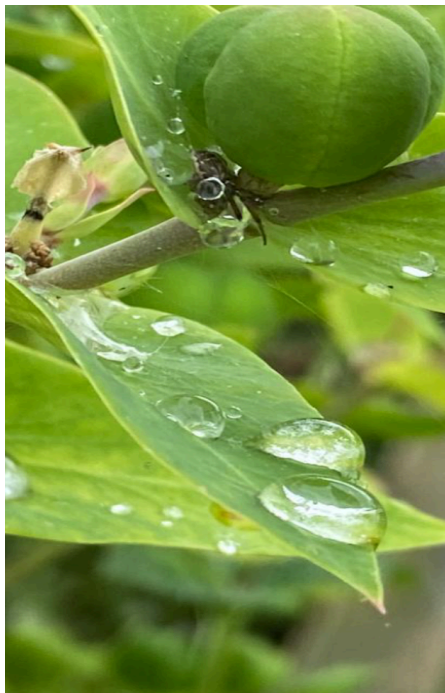


Q9

The wave of depolarisation across the walls of the atria in the heart is initiated by:

- A. Atrioventricular bundle
- B. Atrioventricular node
- C. Bundle of His
- D. Sinoatrial node

KS3 Winner & runners up



Winner: Joshua C



2nd Place - Adam W

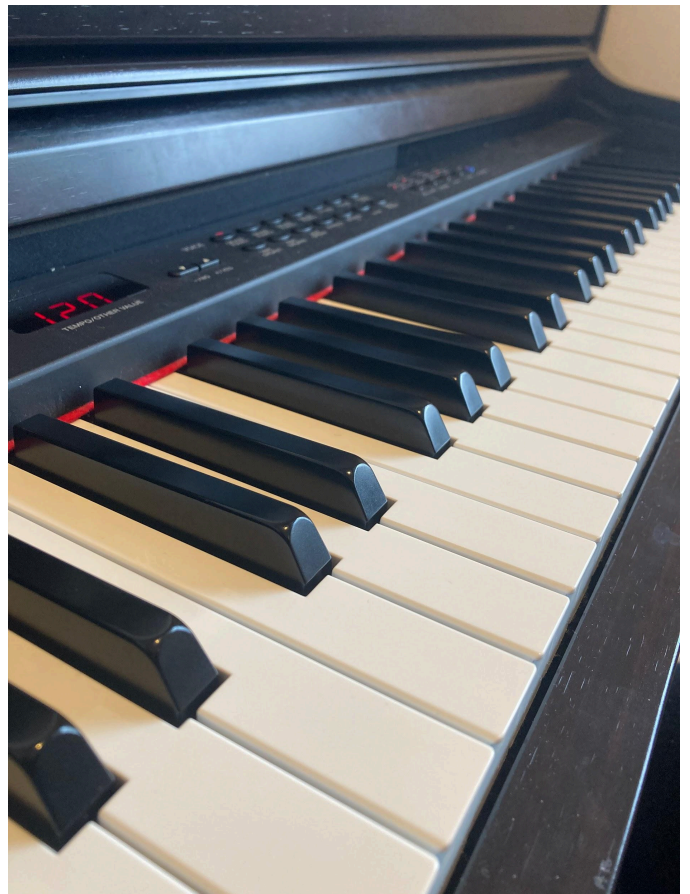


3rd Place - Alex B-M

KS4 Winner & Runner Up



Winner - Emily M



2nd Place - Aniela D



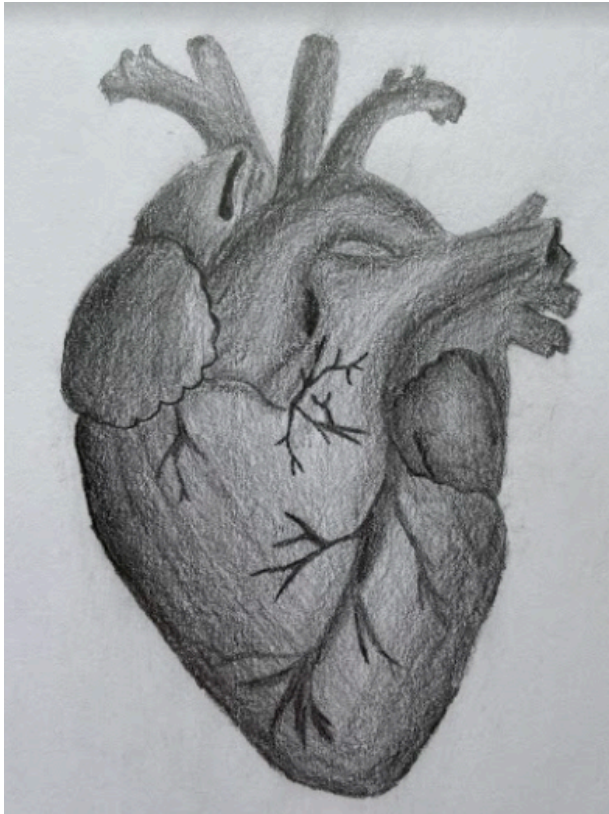
3rd Place - Evie N

The Nancy Rothwell Award

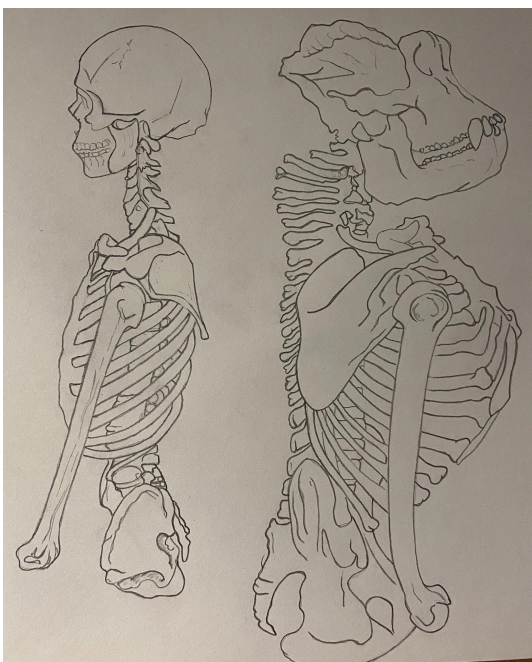
The Nancy Rothwell Award celebrates specimen drawing in schools and highlights the benefits of

combining art and science. Each entrant can submit only one drawing for the award. We encourage entrants to enter scans of their specimen drawings rather than photographs. They need to be sent or given to Miss Gillan by Friday 26th March. She will then put forward the specimen drawings from our pupils which will then be judged by a panel of judges from Inspire!, Royal Veterinary College, Zoological Society of London and King's College London. The winners will be announced in September 2021.

Here are two of the many entries we have received so far:



The Mammalian Heart by Freya H

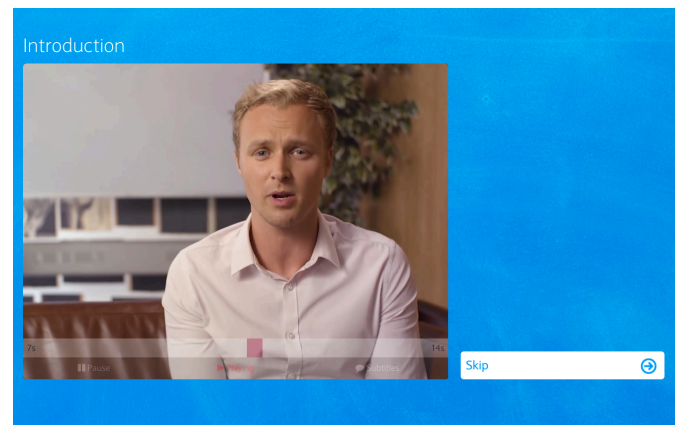


Side-by-side; Homo sapiens vs Gorilla beringei by Daly S

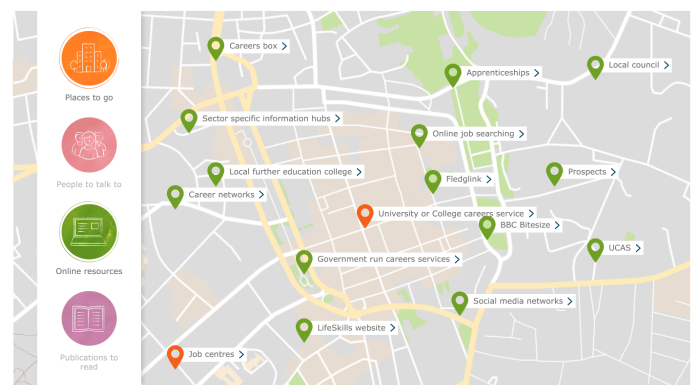
There are three age categories (7-11, 12-14, and 15-18) and prizes are awarded for Highly commended; Top three runner-up entries in each category will be awarded a set of drawing pencils and a certificate. The overall winner in each category will be awarded a set of drawing pencils, a certificate and £25. The winners' schools will also each receive £100. All highly commended entrants and winners will be invited to an online experience day at the Royal Veterinary College.

National Careers Week

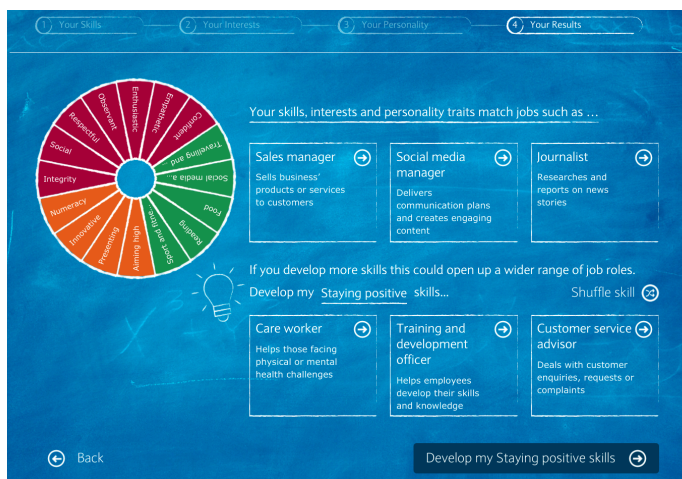
National Careers Week (NCW) is a celebration of careers guidance with the aim to help support young people making some crucial life decisions. As such, each morning during registration, pupils discussed various career topics and completed a series of short tasks. These were designed to: give them an opportunity to identify their strengths and weaknesses; offer guidance and support on their future plans and allow them to create a list of personal goals. Some of the activities included were the [Wheel of Strengths](#), [Play the Boss](#), [Advice map](#) and a [Virtual Interview Practice](#). Click on the links and have a go yourself!



The Virtual Interview Experience



The Advice Map: find the job, training or work experience that is right for you



Wheel of Strengths: What career is right for me?



Once Upon a Time in...the Classroom

British Film Institute (BFI)

Of all the classrooms in all the towns in all the world...the BFI came into ours!

Lights, camera...but no action? This term our A Level Film Studies students were scheduled to take a trip to the Southbank and experience the cinematic sights and sounds of the wonderful British Film Institute (BFI). But like many things this past year, it unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the ongoing Covid restrictions.

However, in the world of film, action is key and any good director will tell you that sometimes you have to adapt and improvise to make things work. So if you can't get to the location...then why not bring the location to the studio? And that is exactly what we did in the shape of two webinars for our budding film buffs hosted brilliantly by the BFI.

The first had a focus on the Classical Hollywood great - Casablanca and the second one, a stark contrast with the boundary pushing, still shocking, Bonnie and Clyde from the New Hollywood Era.

To access them, the students were able to log on from home as part of their remote learning for the first webinar and then back at school for the second one on their return earlier this month.

Bonnie and Clyde saw interactive activities and deep analysis that were particularly useful in understanding the fall of the Production Code. They also learnt how Casablanca reflects the time and place in which it was made with a real focus on the Studio System and the Vertical Integration process.

Overall a very enlightening experience for all that perhaps was not quite as exhilarating as a visit to the Real McCoy, but a very accomplished understudy by all accounts. We managed to bring a slice of the BFI to The Reach Free School and that deserves the Special Achievement Oscar alone! That's a wrap!



BFI SCHOOLS: CLOSE UPS: KS4 & KS5 FILM STUDIES

After half term, reinvigorate your students with brand new resources and live webinars.

- **Close Up - German Expressionism KS5** Thu 25 Feb, 10:00-11:00. A live and interactive look at historical and cultural contexts, with links to aesthetics and narrative.
- **Close Up - Bonnie and Clyde KS5** Thu 04 Mar, 10:00-11:00. Interactive activities and deep analysis particularly useful for Eduqas students.
- **Close Up - Casablanca KS5** Wed 10 Mar, 10:00-11:00. Linked to specification requirements students will learn how Casablanca reflects the time and place in which it was made.

The webinars put on by the BFI

Sporting Update

PE House Games

PE has been an opportunity for all pupils and staff to get out of the classroom and enjoy being active with their peers again. The PE department has varied the sports and activities offered to all pupils since welcoming them back. These have included trying new sports such as korfbal, tennis and invasion games but also the favourites of football and table tennis. The positive engagement and enthusiasm from the pupils returning to PE has made the lessons enjoyable for all involved.

House Games this term saw each year group battle it out for the NBA title on the basketball court, a grand slam on the tennis courts and the champions of the field in 'Capture the Flag'. Highlights of the House Games include ...



Year 8 mastering the field in Capture the Flag



Reach Free centre court looking glorious in the sunshine

Subject Challenges House Games

Science

There were two challenges that pupils could take part in for Science! The first was researching a scientist that is not that well known and creating a video or voice note to tell the Science department about that Scientist and why they should be celebrated. The second challenge involved completing one or several experiments. These experiments were:

- Growing gummy bears
- Sugar crystal sparklers
- Dancing raisins
- Grow your own rainbow

It was so incredible to see such a fantastic turn out of pupils completing not only one of the challenges, but all of the challenges! Super well done for all your effort and hard work.

Special shout outs to: Clayton N, Taylor G, Josh H, Imogen B, Florence W and Emily M for their fantastic videos!

And a huge well done and shout outs to: Oliver G, Keira G, Chloe M and Emily M for completing more than one challenge.



Josh's Bears



Gavin's Gummies



Oliver's Rainbow



Chloe's Rainbow

Winning house with the most entries

Year 7- Atticus (Chloe M)

Year 8- Calpurnia (Ronnie C)

Year 11- Atticus (Emily M)

Spanish

Everyone was challenged to see how much they know about Spanish culture - there were some tough questions in there but the standard of answers was really fantastic! We definitely know our paella from our sangría - Olé!

Perfect scores:

Joshua H (7R), Dylan C (7A), Reece C (7A), Henry P (7A), Rafal E (7A) Ilya O (7A), Louie S (8A), Sienna C (8A), Maariya E (8A), Lola H (8C), Ben R (8C), Ana M (11C), Andreas S (11C), Jeniffer H (11C).

Winning house with the combined highest totals

Year 7- Atticus

Year 8- Calpurnia

Year 9- Calpurnia

Year 10- Atticus

Year 11- Calpurnia

Enterprise

KS3 were challenged with an Easter Bake Off! This saw them baking cakes with the theme of Easter in mind. We've also received some beautiful Easter themed cakes, using lots of chocolate, mini eggs, and sweets!

KS4 and KS5 were challenged with making puns, by combining teacher's names with something related to food and nutrition. We received some very creative responses from everybody: Mr Keane = Mr Bean! Mr Essery = Mr Cressery! Miss Pritchard = Miss Prilchards! Mr Bueno = Mr Kinder Bueno! Mr Noble = Mr Noodle! And Mr Addy = Mr Anchovy!



Adam W 9C



Rose M 8R



Chloe M 7A



Mr Cressery



Mr Noodle

COVID-19 Update

This Easter holiday it is important to remember that while the restrictions are being lifted slowly, a number are still in place. We must all play our part in ensuring that the threat posed by COVID-19 continues to diminish and we can begin to return to normal as soon as possible.

The school will continue to follow the Department for Education's systems of control and we have updated our COVID-19 policy, which is available [here](#).

[This](#) letter from Jim McManus, Director of Public Health at Hertfordshire County Council, outlines some of the latest changes announced by the Government to support the return to face-to-face learning for children and young people in the county.

From 8th March, children in year 7 and above have been taking twice weekly lateral flow tests, firstly at school and now at home. All pupils have been provided with sufficient tests to cover the Easter holiday, so please ensure that your child keeps up the routine of testing themselves on a Tuesday and Friday and reporting the results to the school and the NHS. We ask that you please support children to take their tests and record their results at home.

In addition to this, parents, carers and support bubbles providing childcare - regardless of the age of your children - are also being encouraged to take twice weekly lateral flow tests at home. You can find your nearest collection site and order online at: www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests. You can also book a test at one of the county council's rapid test centres: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest.

Uniform and Equipment

As we come to the end of the spring term and have had some time back in school, you may have found that your child has grown somewhat and that their uniform, PE kit and/or shoes may no longer fit. Please use this Easter break to make sure your child has all the correct items of uniform for when they return. [Stevensons](#) continue to supply this and are receiving all their orders online with a collection service. This will also be an opportunity to replenish their pencil cases with the correct stationery.

Wellbeing and Mental Health

The pupils have made a great comeback to school and no doubt are pleased to see their peers and school friends again. The last year may have put a strain on the wellbeing of young people all over the world and we need to ensure that our pupils continue to be supported as they acclimatise to learning back in school. We will continue to use Wednesday form time as an opportunity to focus on this, drawing attention to the Five Ways to Wellbeing. We are also keen for our Just Talk Ambassadors to restart signposting and representing the support with mental health which we provide in the school. We still have an extensive and live [list of support](#) that can be used by young people and which we have also added to the Support for Pupils page on our website.

Online Health and Safety

As we are all becoming well accustomed to working online and learning in new environments, it can be easy to forget to monitor our use of screen time and the impact this can have on us. Making a concerted effort to

ensure we are spending adequate time away from a screen once lessons are all done, is an important aspect to maintain healthy brain activity. These moments can be an opportunity to become creative and do something very different from using your phone or laptop. Try to encourage your children to have a healthy balance with their current online learning schedules and time away from a screen, considering parental controls and restrictions that can be used on devices to monitor usage and screen time.

Another key aspect to remind everyone of whilst online learning becomes the norm, is staying safe online. As young people are spending more time online, it is imperative that they are regularly reminded about the precautions they can take to remain vigilant and safe. Talk to your children about these issues and for any further support you can use the [NSPCC Online Safety](#) resources which covers aspects mentioned in this article.

Attendance

With the recent national lockdown and period of remote learning, coming back to school and high levels of attendance are vital to support your child's education.

Statutory attendance has been recorded from the week commencing 8th March, so any absences from this date could impact your child's attendance percentage. We hope that the routine of a school day will help to support routines at home and punctuality to school, however consistency is key when it comes to maintaining routines effectively.

Please be reminded that if your child is late to school (without a valid reason) they will be expected to make the time up at the end of the same school day. If your child is genuinely unwell, please contact the school and inform us through the absence email on: absence@reachfree.co.uk or call the school Reception. If your child needs to isolate, you will also have to contact the school and let us know of key dates for their isolation period and return.

Herts Catering Summer Menu

Next term we will be launching a brand new menu which you can view [here](#). The price of a meal deal is £2.50 for a main meal (one of five choices).

If you are entitled to Free School Meals, please remember to apply for these through Hertfordshire County Council. More information can be found by searching for Herts free school meals. This entitles your child to a free meal every day, and the school receives additional Pupil Premium funding.

Road Safety and Parking

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the guidelines around pick up and drop off times. Please ensure you are not using Long Lane to park vehicles or wait to pick up your child. This road is where many pupils cross, however they are put at risk due to some instances of irresponsible parking.

We would ask that you support the school with this matter and not pick up your child from Long Lane. If you do wait here, you will be asked politely to move by a member of the school's senior leadership team

While we appreciate that the school drop off and pick up area can be busy at time, it clears very quickly. It is also the safest place to collect your child and is closely monitored by members of staff.

Please be aware that parents are not permitted to park in the staff car park unless arrangements have been made with the school to do so. The Health and Safety Executive have made it very clear that schools should provide dedicated walkways for pupils, as we have in the drop off area. The same does not apply in the staff car park. This area of the car park is not monitored by staff at the beginning or the end of the school day, therefore it is dangerous for cars to be using this space with children arriving and leaving.

Finally, please remind your children to be alert as they commute to and from school. Using mobile phones and headphones when crossing roads is dangerous. Children should always be watching and listening for oncoming traffic; please can you reiterate this over the holidays before they return in April.

Update from Arriva Bus UK

We recently received correspondence from Arriva Bus UK regarding their bus timetables which are updated on their website: [Coronavirus Timetable Information | Arriva Bus UK](#)

And also regarding alternatives to local council bus passes. Please see the information Arriva has shared with us below:

Student and Child Direct Debit Schemes

We want to make sure your students, parents and carers are getting the most cost effective ticket for travel, which come in the form of our direct debit schemes.

The ticket is an alternative to local council passes and, for those students who are not entitled to a local council pass. These are more cost effective for parents and carers, compared to buying daily, weekly and 4 weekly tickets and allow unlimited travel within the relevant travel zone

Links to the relevant schemes are below, with a dedicated mailbox for any enquiries they may have talktous@arriva.co.uk

Child/Scholar tickets are for students up to and including year 11. www.arrivabus.co.uk/school-travel

Student tickets are for anyone in the Sixth Form regardless of age, as long as they hold a valid student ID. More information is available [here](#).

A reminder that you can purchase a savers card for bus users aged 11-19 years old. You can find further information about updating, renewing or purchasing a savers card [here](#).

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust

Please click [here](#) to view a leaflet from Hertfordshire Community NHS trust relating to Public Health - School Nursing.

Sewa Day Watford

Please click [here](#) to view a leaflet from Sewa Day Watford regarding free food parcel pick ups from the Holywell Centre to support the local community during the pandemic.

Bikes and Scooters

As a school we actively encourage our pupils to cycle to school. It promotes independence and a healthy lifestyle. If your child chooses to cycle into school, we would like to remind you of the safety guidelines expected of our them. Please make sure your child has a suitable helmet, which they must wear. Pupils will not be allowed to ride their bikes off of the school site at the end of the day if they are not wearing a helmet.

Please be aware that electric or e-scooters are not permitted anywhere on the school grounds and we do not allow pupils to use them as a mode of transport to or from school. Hertfordshire Constabulary have asked the school to remind pupils and their parents that "riding an e-scooter in public, when it is not part of an authorised trial, is against the law and can result in penalty points, a fine and the vehicle being seized. Offenders who knowingly and persistently break the law will be dealt with appropriately." Please use this [link](#) to check the legalities behind riding an e-scooter.

Safeguarding and online safety update

During this most recent national lockdown, many of our pupils have been using their devices for long periods of time, either for school work or for pleasure. However, this acts as a timely reminder that parents should familiarise themselves with the parental controls on their child's devices. If you need a reminder, you can

watch the Cyber Know-How video on our Youtube channel [here](#). The ThinkUKnow [blog](#) will give you guidance as to how to keep children safer online.

As parents, you will always have concerns about your children and what they are doing, but if you have seen a significant change in your child's behaviour or have noticed your child with new things and money and you don't know where they have come from, please investigate further. County lines or 'going country' is criminal activity where gangs groom young children and young adults into 'moving' drugs for them. They target children because they feel they are more inconspicuous. Have a look at this website from the [Children's Society](#) for further information and support.

NSPCC UK SAYS NO MORE End Domestic Abuse

UK SAYS NO MORE is a national campaign to raise awareness to end domestic abuse and sexual violence across the UK. The campaign provides resources to help organisations take action and work to make a difference. Amongst the resources is a specific toolkit written by young people and designed to help parents speak to teenagers about healthy relationships and topics such as sex, consent and abuse. You can find the resources [here](#).

Twitter - Daily tweets push us to 3,015 in total

During this half term we have been keeping in daily contact with followers of the school via Twitter and have now surpassed the 3,000 tweet mark! Follow us @reachfreeschool to get the latest news from our pupils and staff. Do not worry if you are not on Twitter as these are all directly accessible on the website [here](#).

Diary Dates 2020/ 21

Here are the important calendar dates for the school. Please also note the minor change to the end of the next half term.

Summer Term 2021	12 th April to 18 th July
April	
12 th and 13 th April	Staff INSET days
14 th April	Pupils return to school
16 th April:	First Give Workshop
19 th April:	Year 11 Food and Nutrition - Final Cook
19 th to 23 rd April:	Bikeability Level 3
23 rd April:	Year 8 Boys and Girls HPV2
28 th April:	Year 9 Virtual University Talk
May	
3 rd May	Bank Holiday
20 th May:	Year 12 Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud (5.00pm to 7.00pm)
25 th May:	Year 9 Careers Day
28 th May	Staff INSET day (School closed to pupils)

31st May to 4th June: Half Term Break

June

7th to 10th June: Year 7 End of Year Examinations

9th to 11th June: Year 8 End of Year Examinations

14th to 18th June: Year 9 Examinations

21st to 25th June: Year 12 Mock Examinations

28th June to 2nd July: Year 10 Mock Examinations

July

8th July: Year 12 Personal Statement Workshop

9th to 13th July: Years 7 and 8 Progress Tests

15th July: End of Year Awards Ceremony (6.00pm to 9.30pm)

16th July: End of Term (School finishes at 12.45pm)

Term Dates 2020/21

If you would like downloadable or printable versions of the school calendar you can find them on our website or via the links below. The term dates for 2020/21 are available [here](#) and the term dates for 2021/22 [here](#).



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