



The Word

THE BEST FROM EVERYONE, ALL OF THE TIME

11TH FEBRUARY 2022

Headteacher's Roundup

The week literally got off to a flying start with our year 8 STEM day. Our year 8 students gained much from the experience and demonstrated maturity and ingenuity. Do have a look at the pictures later on in this edition of the Word. My thanks to Mr Gara and Mr Connaughton for organising the day.

Thank you to the year 10 parents who joined us last night for parents' evening. From the responses we received from yourselves, the online system is much preferred and is working well.

As you know, we are great supporters of the power of reading. We are taking part in the reading initiative "take 10 at 10" on Thursday, and we have much to celebrate with our students at the celebration assemblies next week.

Our Eco project has taken its next exciting steps. This week we have had the ground prepared for the planting and sowing, the students are drawing up their plans for the growing seasons and we are getting ready for the Queen's Canopy planting on 11th March.

On the subject of gardens, we are proud to share with you that Mr Connaughton has been invited to Buckingham Palace in the summer as a thank you for all his community support, making masks for the care homes during lock down. Well done Mr Connaughton!



Wishing you a restful weekend

Annette Kumbler

Word of the Week



PORTRAY

Verb: To represent or describe something in a painting, film, book or other artistic work.

Both authors **portray** the love of a woman and there the similarity ends.

House Points Totals

The running totals for number of house points so far are:

			
27631	25885	27089	28161

Diary Reminders

All Years:

Monday 14th February – Year 7 – 11 Basketball Coach - Gym
Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February – HALF TERM

Year 7:

Wednesday 16th February – Year 7 Netball Skills School Games (A) Tudor Grange Tennis Centre – 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Thursday 10th March – Year 7 Netball Tournament at Alderbrook School – 4.15pm
Friday 11th March – Year 7 Athletics Indoor 1.00pm – 3.30pm at North Solihull Sports Centre
Monday 14th March – Friday 18th March – Year 7 mid-year exams
Wednesday 23rd March – Year 7 PSHEC Day

Year 8:

Monday 28th February – Friday 4th March – Year 8 mid-year exams
Tuesday 8th March – U13 Girls Football Tournament (A) at John Henry Newman – Due back 5.30pm earliest
Friday 11th March – Year 8 Athletics Indoor 1.00pm – 3.30pm at North Solihull Sports Centre
Wednesday 30th March – Year 8 PSHEC Day

Year 9:

Wednesday 2nd March – Year 9 Basketball (A) v Alderbrook – 3.00pm – 5.30pm
Thursday 3rd March – Year 9 options evening (5pm – 7pm)
Friday 4th March – Year 9 annual reports to parents
Wednesday 9th March – Year 9 Football (A) v St Peters 3.00pm – 5.00pm
Thursday 10th March – Year 9 parents' evening
Thursday 24th March – Year 9 PSHEC Day

Year 10:

Wednesday 2nd March – Year 10 Basketball (A) v Alderbrook – 3.00pm – 5.30pm
Thursday 3rd March – Year 10 Netball Tournament at Alderbrook School 4.15pm

Year 11:

Monday 21st March – Friday 25th March – Year 11 exam week (second mocks)

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Year 9 parents' evening is being held on Thursday 10th March via video call. The booking system will open on Wednesday 16th February.

Thought of the week

Celebrating all kinds of love Valentine's Day 14th February

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

There are a number of martyrdom stories associated with various Valentines connected to February 14, including an account of the imprisonment of Saint Valentine of Rome for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire in the third century. According to an early tradition, Saint Valentine restored sight to the blind daughter of his jailer. Numerous later additions to the legend have better related it to the theme of love: an 18th-century embellishment to the legend claims he wrote the jailer's daughter a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell before his execution; another addition posits that Saint Valentine performed weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to marry.



The Feast of Saint Valentine was established by Pope Gelasius I in AD 496 to be celebrated on February 14 in honour of Saint Valentine of Rome, who died on that date in AD 269. The day became associated with romantic love in the 14th and 15th centuries when notions of courtly love flourished, apparently by association with the "lovebirds" of early spring. In 18th-century England, it grew into an occasion in which couples expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines").

Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards. In

Italy, Saint Valentine's Keys are given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart", as well as to children to ward off epilepsy (called Saint Valentine's Malady).

Saint Valentine's Day is not a public holiday in any country, although it is an official feast day in the Anglican Communion and the Lutheran Church. Many parts of the Eastern Orthodox Church also celebrate Saint Valentine's Day on July 6 in honor of Roman presbyter Saint Valentine, and on July 30 in honor of Hieromartyr Valentine, the Bishop of Interamna (modern Terni).

Class charts

We are now using class charts as our method of communication with students and families. Please note that any unconfirmed absences/attendance will be sent through class charts (as per previous notices in The Word).

Please be aware of this and set your notifications appropriately.

https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class_Charts_for_parents_guide.pdf



STEM Day Challenge: Aircraft Design and Engineering Challenge

Well done to all of the Year 8 students who took part in the STEM enrichment day ran by the Smallpeice Trust in partnership with the Royal Academy of Engineering.

The students were faced with many design challenges throughout the day, working in teams to design and build an Aircraft that could fly. It had to be powered by a motorised propeller charged with a Super Capacitor. They had to select from a range of materials in order to build the best glider and then has to deliver a sales pitch to the rest of the groups.

Even though they were all winners for taking part. Ultimately, there could only be one winning team, Congratulations to: "Team TacTics": Dexter D, Harvey P, Radhika B, Issy E, and Evie M. who beat the rest of the competition to fly into 1st place with a distance of 16 metres.



