



## HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

This week we have welcomed back our Year 11 students following their period of self-isolation and last week a group of students in Year 8 were also required to isolate. The understanding and support from parents has been very welcome as we have had to make some difficult decisions. The more stories that we hear about in the news shows us that this is still a very real concern and that the measures we are taking in school are essential.

The impact of lockdown is affecting us all in different ways and this is further magnified with the colder and shorter days, the inability to see friends and the uncertainty over how to celebrate Christmas. This is why it is so important to try and continue with familiar routines and to that end I am delighted that the newsletter highlights a whole range of positive stories and gives us a chance to celebrate success across all years. We wish Year 11 every success with their mock exams this week after their enforced delay, and I would like to thank the staff for their efforts in running lessons online and for the way that the students have engaged with a very different way of learning.

**Mr J Eddy**

## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

We are devoting this newsletter to our amazing **"students of the week"**. We have had some outstanding winners over the past few weeks and would like to celebrate their achievements with you!

### Year 7 from each tutor group:

- 7JMA – Mylie
- 7SWO – Dylan
- 7JKA – Aleksa
- 7MTR- Cory
- 7PFE- Alexandra
- 7TOR- Noah
- 7AWA- Poppie and Theo



Dotty and Kayla for their exceptional work in DT.



Ryan, Harmonee, Keena and Mylie.



Stanley for being an outstanding citizen at all times as well as a role model to others.



**Year 8** Mia and Declan for earning a large number of merits for Children in Need and for consistently good classwork.



**Year 9** Jamie - for having a positive attitude to learning and a good work ethic.  
 Danelle – for having a fabulous attitude to learning and being helpful.  
 Olly - for having a fabulous attitude to learning and being helpful to others.  
 James - for having a positive attitude to learning and a good work ethic.  
 Chloe - for having a terrific work ethic, especially amazing work in geography.  
 Teigan - for having a positive attitude to learning and being helpful to others.



Lottie - for fantastic resilience and excellent artwork.

Seth - for having a great attitude in DEAR time – always willing to answer questions on the book.

Alfie - for his resilience and positive attitude to learning.

Lawson - for always trying to read to the best of his ability in DEAR time.



Reagan - for a positive attitude to learning and an excellent effort with the acrostic poem.

Evie - for excellent ideas and work on our remembrance door display. Being kind and respectful.



Rebecca - for having a positive attitude to learning and a fantastic work ethic.

Tyler - for having a positive attitude to learning and excellent class work.

Keely - for always reading well in DEAR time and having a positive attitude to learning.

Kurtis - for trying his best in school and for being so polite.



Eimantis - for having a positive attitude to learning and excellent class work.

Stefania - for having a positive attitude to learning and a good work ethic.

Maisy - for outstanding work in DT and having a positive work ethic.

Harrison - for always reading well in DEAR time



**Year 10** Well done to the winners of the Cross Country Inter Tutor Competition. Also to our students of the week:  
 Nathan (10BCO) – for working superbly across all subject areas.  
 Leah (10JGE) – for showing courage and determination.



## ENGLISH BEES



Year 11 Superstar Starters in English	Year 10 Superstar Starters in English	Year 9 Superstar Starters in English
Alfie K. Madeline Y. Jack G. Ellie C. Shannon B. Callum B. Lewis M. Theo G. Callan V. Abbey H.	Ruby H. Shannon H. Jog F. Conan J. Courtney G. Harry M. Mia H. Jasmine D. Jack N. Harry S. Katie B.	Tegan C. Alfie T. Kyrren J. Cody G. Ewan B. Luca T. Kathara E. Keridige B. Ethan P. Danielle V. Kaitlin W.
Year 8 Superstar Starters in English	Year 7 Superstar Starters in English	Your teachers are all abuzz about the busy bees who started this school so fabulously in English! - Well done
Dylan C. Ellen B. Willow K. Davya B. Samanth S. Kelsey D. Harry S. Yashovik M. James B. Jacob G.	Isolaa B. Cery C. Hayden C. Pippa P. Cery H. Helen J. Cherie M. Talia S. Charlotte B. Sage H. Lucy T. Patty F.	

## POLICE COMPETITION WINNERS

We are thrilled to announce that The Taunton Academy was the winner of the Avon and Somerset Police knife crime campaign competition! Well done to super animators Bertie and Dexter in Year 10 and thank you everyone who liked their video on YouTube - more than 1,000 views! The animation is called an Eye for and Eye. It explores how we all have a choice about whether or not to carry a knife and the importance of making positive decisions which can determine your future. Instead of picking up a knife to retaliate against bullying, the character in the film chooses to focus on his passion for drumming. It ends with the message 'live to your positive beat'. The film, and others from the campaign can be viewed here:

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/knifecrime](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/knifecrime)



Bertie and Dexter have also been on BBC Points West, Heart and Apple FM. They have been incredible ambassadors for the school and we are very proud of them!

Read more on the story here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-54962538>

## THE BRUNNER CUP COMPETITION

On the 25th November, Richard Huish College announced the winners for the Brunner Cup via a virtual ceremony. We are very pleased to announce that The Taunton Academy was awarded several accolades for creative writing on this year's theme of 'Lockdown'.

Commended: Shannon and William (Year 11)

Highly commended: Mason (Year 10)

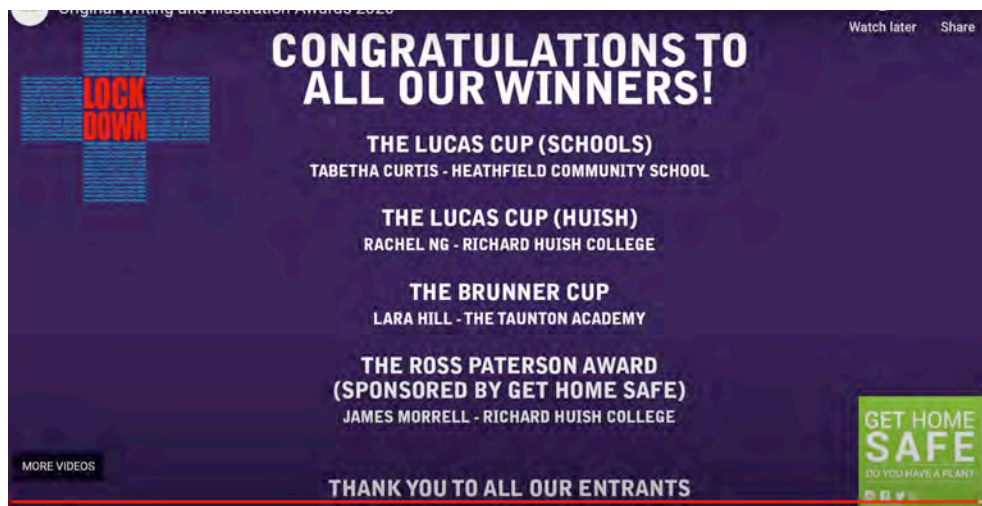
2nd place: Emily (Year 11)

1st place: Lara (Year 11)

Many congratulations to our five superstar students for their written prowess and creative flair for storytelling.

**Mrs Jones and the English Team**

An excerpt from our winner, Lara Hill:



## LOCKDOWN: A STORY OF A LOCKDOWN, BEFORE AND AFTER.

It was eerily quiet. Could hear a pin-drop silent. Almost indescribable silence. I placed my hand on the rusted lock and twirled it between my fingers. Was this the best idea? Surely it wasn't. I removed my newly cut key from its brown paper envelope and inserted it into the lock. CLICK. The heavy gate creaked in irritation. I dragged the gate across the ground leaving dirt sprayed everywhere, clouding the entry way.

As the dust cleared, I stood and stared. Empty houses lined the street, derelict and forgotten. Each footstep seemed to resonate in the air. Each breath sounded like gale force winds in the previously undisturbed home. As I turned the corner a gust of anxiety turned my stomach to mush. Like I could feel the ghosts of people long gone rushing through me tearing at my body, pushing me out of the way as they tried to escape. I could see possessions strewn on the floor laid in perfect pictures of memories. Perfect props from their "movie". The smell of damp and dust was choking, like smoke or gas. I removed a picture from a broken frame recoiling as I saw the blood stains on the back. The Main Street was covered in bullets and smoke canisters, like a metal carpet of pain and restraint.

A year ago today was when they left. We saw them climbing over the 6ft fences holding in the 'better life'. The worthy. They'd been promised a better life, one with no worrying about jobs or food. Disease or water shortages. People from all over the country has flocked to get in. We didn't know what was really happening. No one did. Until now.

## LOCKDOWN POEM

### LOCKDOWN

'We're all the same' they say,

'Just stay on the boat' they say,

'We'll sail together' they say.

Some sail through the storm,

The tumultuous and rugged waves,

Crashing into all and every obstacle in sight,

Some sail through the still sea,

Smooth and calm,

Not a worry in their eyes.

Some sail on battle ships,

The war never ends,

Constant battling with their other side,

Struggling to avoid problems ahead,

Some sail speed boats,

Gliding through things blindly,

Not noticing your surroundings,

Not a worry in their eyes.

So when you're out sailing your boats,

Notice we're not all in the same boat,

Some sailors are sinking with no one to help them,

So help that sinking sailor and guide their way to shore.

## DOORS TO REMEMBRANCE

Here are the winners of this year's Remembrance Day decorated doors competition (and the "wooden spoon" entry in the last photo!) The winning tutor group received a prize from the History Department. Well done to all.



Congratulations to those students from 9SBI who won the Remembrance Day door decorating competition. Well done to Ebony, Wess, Evie, Elliot and Evie.

## CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Children in Need, we raised £626! In addition we set students the challenge of getting a certain number of merits this week, as fund raising and thinking of others has been difficult this year, which we called "Progress for Pudsey".

Students have responded really well and we have now smashed all records with 7,847 merits being awarded across the school this week - which is the highest by far for any week in the term!

We will identify students in each year who secured the highest number this week. As a thank you, the school will also make an additional donation to the charity in recognition of the efforts of the students.

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

A group of Year 8s recently took part in a leadership assessment session. They had all been nominated by their tutors, year head or PE teacher as they have demonstrated leadership potential in lessons. They had to work in groups to complete five different challenges/problem solving activities, testing their ability to work as a team, communicate effectively, lead small groups etc. At the end they were required to work as a team to create a short sequence based on sports shapes.

Those selected will go on to become young leaders and they will assist me at primary school festivals and fulfil various other roles around school. They will all get a chance to be involved at some point over the next year or so.

They all approached the session with a mature and positive attitude, gave it their all and many really put themselves out of their comfort zone. I was very impressed and grateful for their efforts. They were a credit to TTA.



## WELLNESS CHAMPIONS

We're committed to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of all students and staff. We have a caring ethos based on our aim for everyone to have 'life in all its fullness' and integrated in our values of: aspiration, integrity and respect. A group of students from each year group have received training to become Wellbeing Champions. They are now helping to promote positive wellbeing in the school.

### Year 7 Wellbeing Champions

Dylan, Charlie, Sebastian, Ollie, Mylie, Poppy and Casey.



### Year 8 Wellbeing Champions

Sam, Alexis, Ellen, Roxy, Alaia, Lilimay, Harrison and Alana.



### Year 9 Wellbeing Champions

Atlanta, Oliver, Chloe, Holly, Mia and Alissa.



### Year 10 Wellbeing Champions

Tom, Ben, Joy, Josh, Luke, Ruby and Cassie.



There is lots of wellbeing support available to students in school, anyone needing support can initially speak to their tutor or year leader. Every week we have Wellbeing Wednesday and tutors lead Wellbeing Moments with their group, we also have assemblies and character education themed around wellbeing topics.

Every Tuesday there is a School Nurse Clinic for advice and support around physical, emotional or sexual health. Students can arrange an appointment through Chat Health or by speaking to their year leader.

Kooth is a free online counselling service for young people, the website has lots of useful information. Register with kooth.com There is also help and advice for young people and parents from Young Mind.

Chat Health video:

<https://youtu.be/NZU4NElqX0>

**Mrs Vercoe**