



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents / Carers,

Well done to the Year 11 students who completed public examinations for some subjects this week. The next set of exams for this cohort will now be in March.

Mrs Jerred and Mrs Hix launched the Reading Rampage for Year 7 and we hope that our students will embrace this challenge. My thanks also to Ms Lucchesi who organised the trip to London Dungeons this week to support English work for students in Year 8. The trip was enjoyed by all participants.

We are delighted to have so many of our students and staff in school despite the number of COVID cases nationally. We are still awaiting a delivery of LFT devices and hope to issue these to students through tutor groups shortly. We really appreciate the work of all our stakeholders to ensure our students are learning in class with their teachers.

Finally, Codementum is an online platform used at our school to teach coding. This leading, fun and intuitive curriculum where students learn to code in real programming languages launched a competition last term together with the Hour of Code group. Over a thousand schools from 98 countries participated. 7MMU came second in the junior section, pipped to the post by a private school in Sussex. Many congratulations to Mrs Muir's group.

Have a good weekend.

Miss McBrearty

Reading Rampage



The English Department and Welland Park school library launched the Reading Rampage challenge this week for Year 7 pupils. This is an exciting initiative which involves 25 schools across the county and inspires and motivate young readers.

12 novels have been selected for this year - all published within the last two years - and the titles this year include a graphic novel, a mystery and an action-packed thriller. Mrs Jerred spoke to Year 7 pupils in assembly on Monday and there was a subsequent 'run on the books' at breaktime with many keen young readers selecting their first book of the challenge.

This reading scheme will run until June and there will be a number of prizes and rewards for those who take part. The ultimate aim is to read all 12 books!

There will also be author talks by the writers of the 12 books, where students can ask questions and hear more about the ideas in the novels and the writing process. You can read more about the Reading Rampage programme and the books on the website: <https://readingrampage.org.uk/>



London Dungeons and Shrek English Trip

Year 8 students visited London this week to brave the London Dungeon tour and the dark secrets and plots which lurk therein.

Students came across a host of notorious characters including Sweeney Todd, Guy Fawkes and Jack the Ripper. We also experienced a taste of life during the bubonic plague and several Year 8 students were judged in a merciless 18th Century court for a series of crimes which included stealing a horse, unruly behaviour in a tavern and being from Market Harborough!

Following some unforeseen circumstances which led to the cancellation of a scriptwriting workshop, we experienced the magic of Shrek World (not in the original plan, but some welcome light relief after the jump scares and darkness of our London Dungeon tour). Mr Mummy and a small band of adventurous students had to be rescued from the mirror maze by the bartender from the Poison Apple (who temporarily had to come out of role to stop us clattering into our own reflections).



The trip was great fun and the actors on the tour praised our Year 8 students for their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm (there was a lot of screaming in the Dungeons and a lot of cheering at Shrek World). The tour linked in with the English scheme of work on Victorian life in year 8 and it was great to take the students on an educational trip and take home some interesting memories.

Infographic: Building resilience in children and teens (Family Lives)

The Family Lives charity aims to offer all parents somewhere to turn before they reach crisis point. Crisis support, provided for over 40 years through their helpline, has always been at the heart of what they do.

Family Lives also have an excellent website to help parents with the ups and downs of family life. One useful infographic is this one about building resilience in children and teens. You can download it here: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/wellbeing/building-resilience-in-children-and-teens/>

The Family Lives parents' helpline is available Monday to Friday, 1.30 - 9pm on 0808 800 2222.

The website can be found here: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/>