

'The Arts and Humanities are a vital part of the curriculum and must be studied by all

School that Matters: the Arts and more!

It was certainly a busy first week back, but it was a good one. After welcoming back staff and pupils we were straight into the new term with vocational subject exams, a Year 11 parents' and carers' evening, routine immunisations and all the exciting and mundane daily work that characterises life in school. After a few hours I think most of us, pupils and staff alike, were struggling to recall whether or not there had actually been a holiday at all.

The news and media this have been dominated by the tragedy of the sub-postmasters, driven by a brilliant piece of ITV drama (making many of us in education wonder if that is what is needed to jolt the powers that be into action on all manner of issues such as Ofsted, wellbeing, recruitment, funding etc.).

What 'Alan Bates vs the Post Office' also did very powerfully was remind us all of the power of speaking out and of the even greater power of speaking out through the arts. Programmes such as that would not be made if their writers, performers, producers and technicians had not been exposed to art, drama, music, literature, the humanities and other learning when they were younger. It is a vital reminder of the importance of the arts and humanities within the curriculum and an illustration of why arts and humanities must be studied by pupils and access to them protected. In addition, programmes such as Oracy provide essential opportunities for young people to learn the power and value of their own words and voice. As the Sunday's Gospel reminds us, we are all 'called' to something (or as we said in assemblies this week we all have our 'mission') and experiencing a range of subjects and learning opens our eyes to finding that thing that gives our lives meaning and purpose.

As this week's newsletter shows (and the picture on the front cover illustrates, to the right you can see Eve, year 8, celebrating her acceptance into English Youth Ballet) the arts are very much part of our school and many of our pupils excel. Thinking back to the Christmas Concert it is worth remembering that performances and experiences such as that can be life-changing for participants and audience alike.

As ever, thank you for your support and here's to a year that is marking by peace, compassion, understanding and hope.

Ben Davis, Headteacher

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Picture below: Eve, Year 8. Congratulations on the fantastic achievement of being selected for the English Youth Ballet.



*'Year 8 classes are
hard at work
making clay cakes
in Art bring together
their skills'*

CALENDAR

Year 9 Options

Information Evening,
February 8th

Year Group Leadership

Year 7

Year Manager: Mr Heal
(Senior Leader: Mr
Jordan)

Year 8

Year Manager: Mrs
Vincent
(Senior Leader: Mr Jones)

Year 9

Year Manager: Miss
Moore
(Senior Leader: Mrs
Johnston)

Year 10

Head of Year: Mr.
Pemberton
(Senior Leader: Miss
O'Leary)

Year 11

Head of Year: Miss Toon
(Senior Leader: Mrs
Tulloch)

Attendance: using Synergy

Please ensure you inform
school if your child is
absent from school.

The easiest way to do this
is through the Synergy
App by clicking the
contact school and
choosing the department
absence reporting.

This also allows any
medical notes to be
attached.

Around our School this Week: Highlights

1

A new year brings new opportunities for learning and in the Art department (as the pictures show below) our Year 8s are off and running with a project to work and design in clay. Their specific task is to create very realistic clay cakes, packaging and branding that brings together art, 3D and entrepreneurship skills (images below).

2

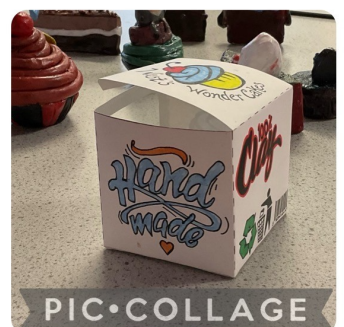
The first Tuesday of the term saw Father Ernest from St. Charles' church back in school for our weekly form Masses. He brought with him the usual energy and enthusiasm that characterises his ministry and offered some interesting insights in his homily. It is very generous of him that we are lucky to have weekly Masses throughout the year.

3

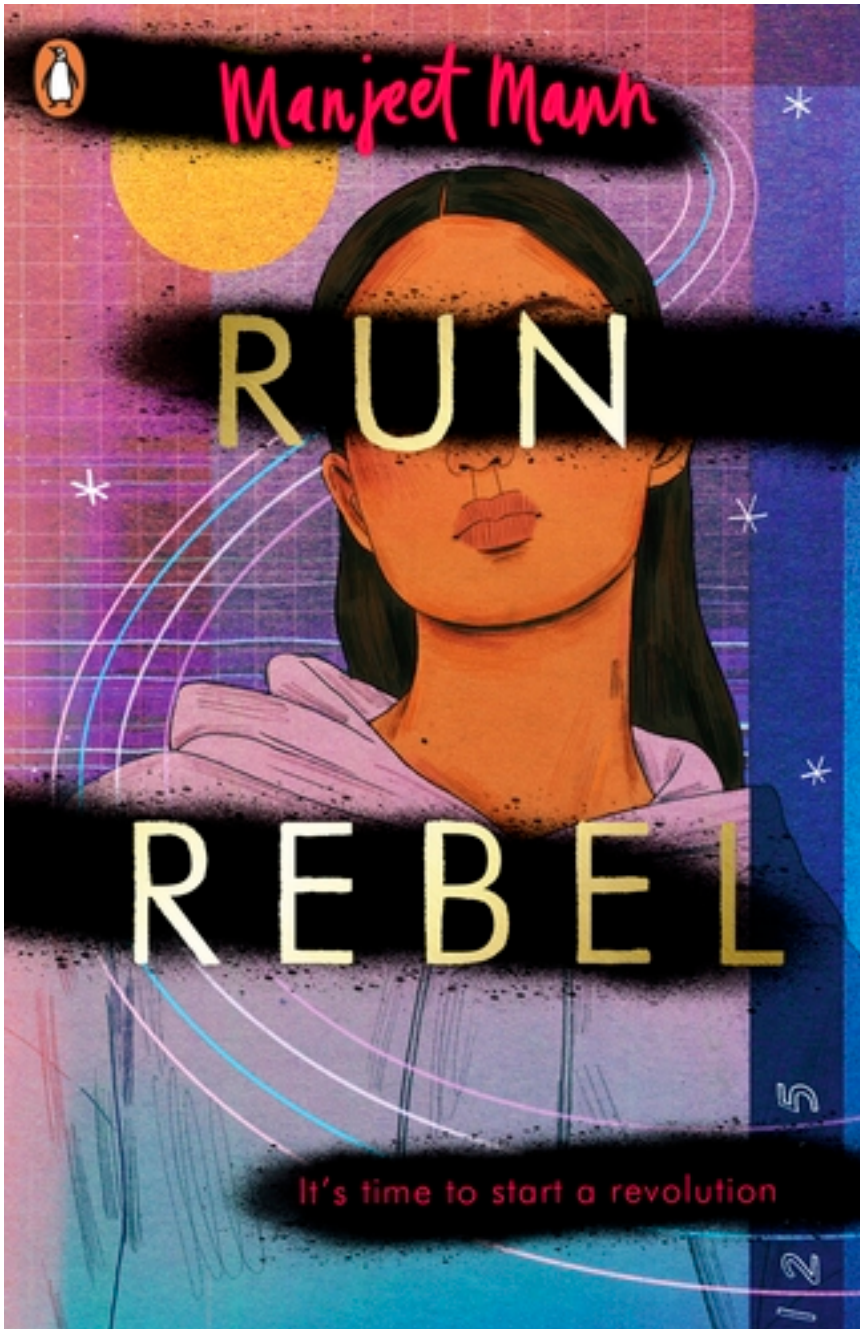
The weather might be a bit chilly, but we continue to celebrate our pupils warmly. Our first Stars of the Week get together took place this Friday, with 42-ish pupils coming together for a bit of hot chocolate and a high-five to say well done for the little things. We don't do rewards, but we do try our hardest to celebrate and recognise pupils.

4

We welcomed two new members of staff this week. Mrs Vincent joined us as Year Manager for Year 8 and in Maths we have been joined by Mr Rogers. Both members of staff bring years of experience in other settings that will be very valuable to us as we continue to develop as a school.



PIC•COLLAGE



New into the Library this week is the brilliant 'Run Rebel' by Manjeet Mann.

Amber is trapped by her home circumstances; poverty and domestic violence dominate her experience of growing up. She dreams of being a professional athlete but her father is dead against her taking part in sport, believing staunchly it's not something women do. Her dad's extreme and strict rules for how she, as a girl, should behave are making Amber feel increasingly oppressed and incredibly angry.

Amber's also dealing with having romantic feelings for David, a close friend, but is convinced this is hopeless as she'd never be able to spend time with him without someone seeing and reporting her to her father. The thought of the punishment she'd receive for this type of 'dishonourable' behaviour haunts her dreams.

But now Amber is getting ready to fight against her father's rules...

BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

We are hoping to establish a collection of foreign language texts in our school library and wondered if any of our families might have books written in their home language that they wouldn't mind donating.

It can be expensive and difficult to get hold of foreign language books appropriate for our 11-16 age group, but we'd love to offer our pupils (especially those for whom English is an additional language), a selection of books in their first language.

The languages we could particularly make use of are as follows:

Arabic; Cantonese; Farsi; French; Italian; Polish; Portuguese; Russian; Spanish

Any donations can be dropped off with Mrs Davis at the school library.

Key Stage 3 Book Club

Our book club meets at 3:15pm - 4:00pm in the Library every Tuesday.

Our current read is 'There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom' by Louis Sachar. It has short chapters and so is easy to catch-up on if you're new to the club.

Next we'll be reading the Salford Children's Book Awards short-list.

