



MORE LIFE



St Thomas More RC Academy, North Shields
24th JUNE 2020



STM WRITERS

In this third 'Community Update' issue of More Life, we would like to share with you some excellent pieces of writing, amongst other things. Students have been busy responding to various challenges that have been given to them, and have produced some outstanding results.

Firstly, Zoe Parkin, Year 10, has won a national competition in The Telegraph newspaper with her article, 'Imagine', published on Sunday 28th June. Below is an extract from her article, and the rest can be read on our website at www.stmacademy.org.uk/zoe-parkin-journalist-of-tomorrow/. Accompanying photograph (above) by Miss Dalrymple.

"Nine o'clock; rain had fallen this morning. A strange, sombre light had taken hold of the atmosphere. Any sunlight that dreamed of breaking the clouds surface had now been engulfed by heavy, ominous cloud. I looked around me, surrounded by four walls concealed in plaster and thick layers of egg shell paint, wondering if and when the world would let me escape. How strange it seemed to reminisce on a short twelve months ago, when everything was simple, and as it seemed."

We would also like to congratulate Aleksandra Szymczak, Year 11, for winning another national competition, this time writing an article on highly infectious pathogens for 'Mentor' magazine, a national publication aimed at informing and enlightening prospective medical students and university students. Again, Aleks' full article can be viewed on our website at www.stmacademy.org.uk/aleksandra-puts-lockdown-to-good-use/, but her introduction is as follows:

"As society and the environment progress, the vulnerability of mankind to the ever-widening spectrum of infectious diseases becomes more apparent. Extensive population growth, escalating poverty, increasing urban migration and numerous other factors inevitably affect our exposure to the infectious agents which inhabit the Earth, leading to further demands for medicine to protect the populations from new and resurgent infectious diseases. However, our attempts to shield ourselves from the inevitable deterioration of health and suffice our desires, pertaining agriculture in particular, has come at an ever-larger cost. With antibiotic resistance being just one of mankind's effects, we desperately need to understand that the "post-antibiotic era" is seemingly approaching, and so must adapt with knowledge to prevent the possibility of further pandemics and famines.

IN THIS ISSUE...

13,000 books

16 biologists

6 avid readers

2.6 challenges

2 poems

1 trustworthy politician,

plus...

a skull,

an erupting

volcano, and a

misunderstood

queen



While the girls on the front have been writing articles and essays, some of our Year 8 boys have been inspired by the Poetry work they have been doing in English. Below we have two excellent examples, the first one a Geordie poem by Alex Kelly, written after studying Accent and Dialect:

THE GOOD AL' TIMES

It's match day,
 The best day of the week for a wor beirn,
 Ga'an to the metty,
 Ready to watch the toon loose again.
 Get to toon,
 Steak pasty from greggs,
 Ga'an towards the leizures end to walk up al' the steps,
 only to seize to feel me legs.
 The music roars around the heart of Newcastle,
 Where football lies,
 Chantin' al' the time,
 The spirit never dies.
 It's 'arf time,
 arf time amusements,
 kick a ball in a bucket ,
 Or sometimes yee take pens.
 I would do out to get them days back,
 Bite into 700 limes,
 Walk 1000 miles,
 just to get back the good al' times.

Our second budding poet is Sam Wilkinson, who was inspired by recent events in the USA and around the world:

WHERE DID LOVE GO?

Where did love go,
 The love that we don't show,
 I look up to the sky
 and think why,
 why do we let ourselves hate,
 why are we so irate,
 to kill another brother,
 because of his colour,
 And let death be the only fate,
 We turn to the wrong things and waste our lives
 Making this world a worse place, oh why
 And in this case justice has been served, that
 makes me feel good,
 But it doesn't end here, our courts are so corrupt ,
 So Please today I urge to do a simple thing,
 SHOW LOVE and you can do your bit
 to change the hate, the murder, the injustice, and
 everything
 And not accept defeat, but claim the win
 And make this world a better place bit by bit.
 #justiceforfloyd #showlove #doyourbit

UPDATE FROM OUR YOUNG MAYOR

Hi all. My name is Suzie Mckenzie and I have been elected North Tyneside's Young Mayor for 2020! Since I have and I will miss a lot of the opportunities associated with the position I am trying not to waste any time. Most of my plans relied on schools being open but obviously that has been put on hold for now. Thank you to all who voted me into this position, I will try to do my best for you.



This position is already keeping me busy and, with the help of the Participation team and the Member of Youth Parliament, Abi Tang, we have designed a website with blog posts from youth councillors and young people – which I suggest you have a look at! They may give you some reassurance that you are not the only one struggling with quarantine – I know I do at times! (<https://ntparticipation.wordpress.com>)

I am also still very active on my Young Mayor Twitter account (@NTCYoungMayor) where I regularly post things on Mental Health and how to look after it during this pandemic. Please feel free to take a look at that if you need any support!

You're doing amazing! Stay safe!
 Suzie McKenzie, Year 10, Young Mayor of North Tyneside (full article can be found on the STM website)

HEGARTY MATHS CHAMPIONS

If you don't already know about HegartyMaths, you soon will. It is an online revision tool used by almost 1.2 million people around the country. Since lockdown began, many of our Year 11 students have kept up their Maths skills by working through online content. We were recently informed that Aleksandra Szymczak and John Campbell have completed all 925 skills to 100%, making them only two of around 50 people who have ever achieved this feat. Out of over 1.2 million users, I'm sure you will agree that this is quite impressive (in fact, it puts them each in the top 0.0043% of users!)



DESERT DOOR by Madeleine Sarin, Year 8

I saw it as just a speck in the distance. My eyes were drawn to it immediately, it was some variety in the never ending span of sand dune after sand dune. Nothing more than a tiny dot of blue on the horizon. My arms and legs felt so heavy and my body felt emptier than a hollow cave. My tongue felt swollen and dry, drier than the desert that surrounded me. Every time I swallowed, I felt like sandpaper was being rubbed against my throat. When I blinked I could feel sand that was trapped under my eyelids as it scraped against my raw and itchy eyes. I had a thumping headache, cuts on my feet from sharp rocks and my skin was red and burnt and was beginning to peel off. I had been left in the middle of the desert to die. I had seen and heard too much. No one was coming to rescue me. All I could do now in a bid to survive was keep walking in one direction and hope that someone found me. I was going to die.

But what was that dot in the distance? Would it be my last chance of survival? I needed to get there before my body gave up.

I began to run, heat from the sun glaring down on me, causing sweat to drip down every inch of my body. I stumbled and staggered through the sand and soon the blue dot began to grow. I could begin to make out a shape. It was a bright blue rectangle bordered by a white line. Confused I charged ever closer to this mysterious rectangle. It couldn't be what I was thinking. Still running I squinted to get a better look. It was quite clear what it was, but how on earth did it get here? I tumbled the last few metres and fell to my knees in front of the shape. Before me was a door.

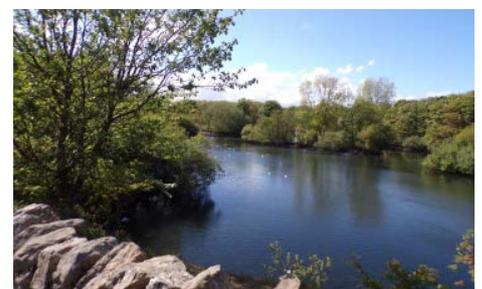
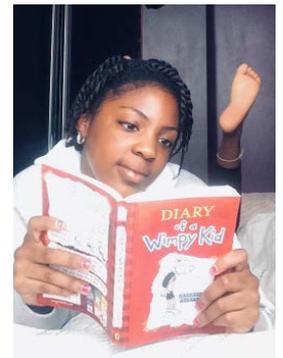
It was standing alone on the top of a sand dune, with nothing behind it or on either side. It was smooth and I could see the grain of the wood. There was a shiny brass handle, a perfect sphere. In the centre of the door there was a magnificent elephant knocker, with huge protruding tusks and a strong, swinging trunk. I walked around the door scanning it up and down. Who on earth would put a random door that leads to nowhere in the middle of the desert? I placed my hand on the door, doubting my eyes, wondering if it was something from my imagination. But I could feel the polished surface under my palm, and I assured myself that this was real. The door was surprisingly cool even though it had been exposed to the sweltering desert heat. I decided to knock on the door.

I lifted the grand elephant head knocker. It looked very shiny and new, as if it had been made just yesterday. I brought the knocker down with a bang. Nothing happened. I lifted and dropped the knocker again. Of course nothing happened, what had I been expecting, a rescue party to come running over the hill? Frustratedly, I slammed the knocker down one more time and leant my head against the door. This is the part where my fatigue and thirst get the better of me and slowly fade away. This is the part where I die. Suddenly, the door flew open and I was sucked into never-ending darkness.

Reading challenges for English, 2.6 challenges for PE,



Fred Dixon's skull and lockdown photography from Ben Wilson, Year 9 and Sophie Wells, Year 10





LIBRARY REORGANISATION

Taking advantage of the school closure Miss Edwards, the school librarian and her band of library elves have completely reorganised the school library. This has made more room for new fiction for students joining us in September and new collections on Wellbeing, Empathy and Multiculturalism. It was hard work moving the entire stock of c13,000 books and took a lot of tea and biscuits.

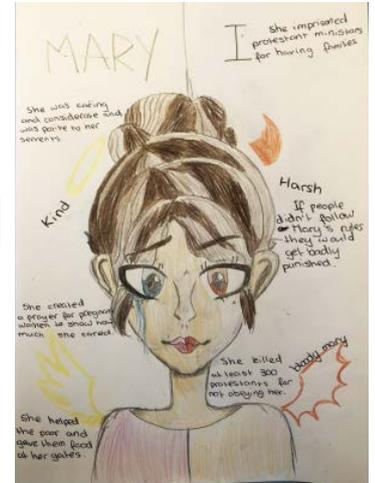
MARY TUDOR, MISUNDERSTOOD QUEEN

As part of their ongoing History work, Year 7 have been researching Mary Tudor, creating some great pieces of work to show the two sides of her monarchy. Faith Rumney's example particularly impressed the History staff.



ERUPTING VOLCANOES

Over the Easter holiday, Geography students were set various challenges. Holly Kersey, Year 7, rose to one of these challenges, creating an erupting volcano, concluding that this was a simple and effective experiment that created 'amazing results'.



YEAR 7 RESEARCH TUDOR SCHOOLS

Year 7 History students have been researching Tudor schools. Ben Morris has discovered a major difference is that "you don't get beaten when you are late" at St Thomas More, while Olivia Atkin discovered that "now we write with pens and pencils when they would write with quill pens."

Extract from Tom Horsley's work



Here at Hampton Court, we celebrate St. Mary's day in style. Enjoy activities including a well-known favourite, public execution! Bring the whole family down to witness this month's criminals facing capital punishment. There is no better place to see justice being served than at this year's St Mary's festival!



RECORD NUMBERS ENTER BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

Mrs Woodman was very impressed by the sixteen Year 12 students who entered the Intermediate Biology Olympiad this year. This competition required them to complete the work completely independently at home, showing 'determination to succeed in Biology and a keen attitude to challenge [themselves].' We look forward to hearing the results, which should be announced in the coming weeks.

RESEARCHING AN INSPIRING HISTORICAL FIGURE

Charlotte Williams, Year 8, produced an excellent piece of research on Desmond Doss, the inspiration for the film 'Hacksaw Ridge'. She concluded that he was an inspiration, "after being ridiculed in training he was probably the strongest soldier on the battlefield. His story has a very positive message to always stick to what you believe in, putting others before [yourself]."



NEXT ISSUE IS OVER TO YOU...

These updates are a chance to bring together the whole school community through stories of what is going on in people's homes as well as at the school, so the next issue relies on you submitting those stories. Any stories of hope, examples of community spirit or tales of working together in times of difficulty would be very well received.

Email Mr Logie on alogie@stmacademy.org.uk.

Check stmacademy.org.uk/coronavirus-updates for the most up to date information from school on the Coronavirus. This includes all letters to parents, information on work for all yeargroups, plus links to lots of useful websites, and is being updated regularly.

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