

TEAM MINSTHORPE

SPRING TERM 2024 - EDITION 12

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Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Welcome to this term's edition of our 'Team Minsthorpe' newsletter. This has been a short term (only 10 weeks in total) but it has certainly been action-packed here at Minsthorpe Community College! We are proud to share stories and photographs of the vast range of enrichment activities enjoyed by our students since Christmas. We place great importance on delivering a highly personalised, broad, ambitious and inclusive curriculum that enriches students' learning experiences. This newsletter showcases this excellent enrichment offer. Highlights this term have included extra-curricular activities, such as the Board Games Club and Basketball



Team, wonderful performances, such as the Dance Show and this week's production of 'The Addams Family' and offsite visits, such as to the University of York and Sheffield Climbing Wall. We have marked national events, such as National Careers Week and World Book Day, and delivered our own events, such as the Science Fair and Numeracy Day. The breadth of activities means that there really is something for everyone. You will have noticed that the building work at the front of site is well underway. The foundations for the new Sports Centre are now laid. Similarly, the work in the English Block is progressing well. Staff and students are settled in the temporary classrooms for now (though it hasn't been great on



wet days tripping across the astroturf to English and PE lessons). Of course, all the upheaval will be worth it in the end when our blocks are fully modernised, and we have a fantastic new Sports Centre for college and community use. There is a lot to look forward to. It just remains for us to wish you all a relaxing Easter break. The lighter evenings are approaching and hopefully, we will soon see some warm, spring sunshine, along with the flowers and chocolate eggs! Happy Easter everyone!

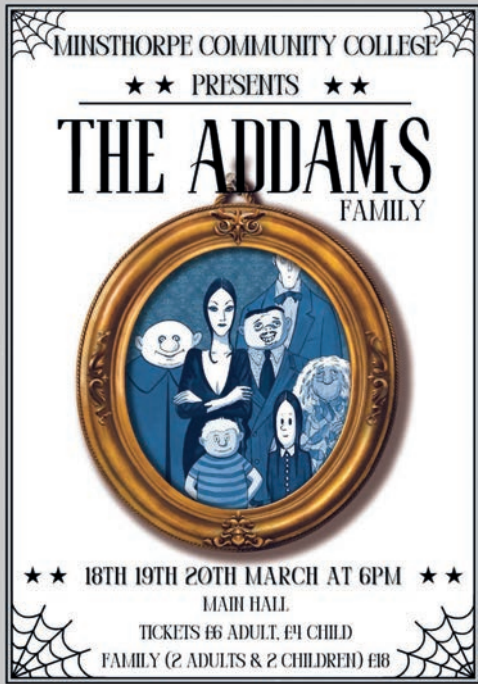


Mr Gilmore
Joint Principals



Mrs Merritt

THE ADDAMS FAMILY



In September 2023, the creative department auditioned over 70 students to take part in our musical production of 'The Addams Family'. Successful students have committed to months of rehearsals, their talent and motivation have been outstanding. With weeks left until the final shows (18th, 19th and 20th March) we continue to work on creating a show stopping performance for all the family. The backstage crew have now stepped in, without whom the show would not

be possible, their time and efforts do not go unnoticed. Students have taken time to learn lines, dance routines and song lyrics, all while making new lifelong friends, having spent months doing something they love! That's what this process is all about. Please show support and get tickets to come and see the show.



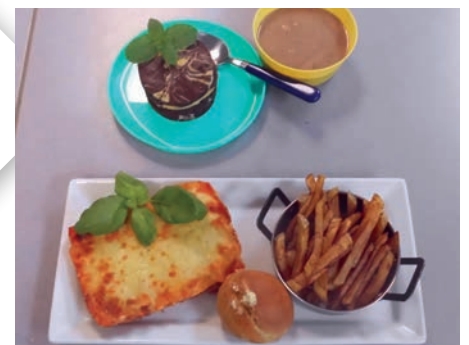
A BUSY TERM IN RESET

The students in the Key Stage 4 RESET group have been busy gaining certificates for their academic progress and development of practical skills. Mr Wilkinson and Mrs White are proud of their achievements!



During the two week assessment period our Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students made two dishes in a timed allocation. Their brief was to make a dish for a parent and toddler level with consideration to skill level, preparation and presentation. All students did amazingly well and we were blown away by the enthusiasm and resilience shown throughout with some extraordinary outcomes. We would like to publicly thank parents for their support in the supplying of ingredients during this time and we appreciate the practices and efforts from home on the run up. Well done Year 11!!

YEAR 11 CHEFS

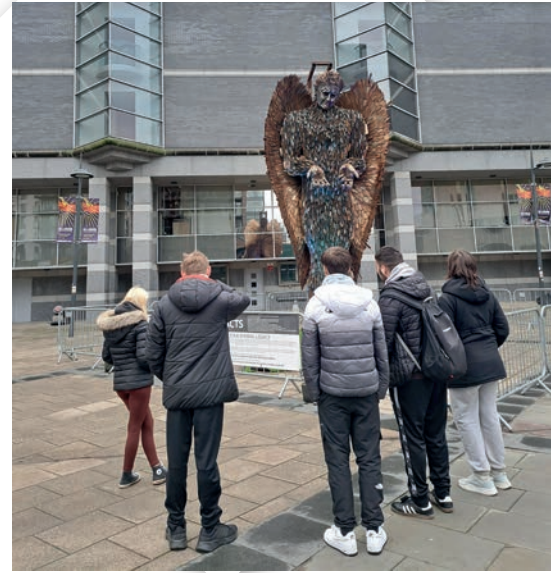


KS5 VISIT LEEDS

Mrs Martin took the KS5 Photographers into Leeds for a stroll (18000 steps!) around the sights.

The purpose was to take photos for their coursework or exam preparation.

The group managed to view the Knife Angel (a very impressive sculpture made of over 100,000 knives that were collected through knife amnesties across the UK's constabularies) visited the Royal Armouries, viewed street art and visited the Leeds Museum (including the Hip Hop exhibition).

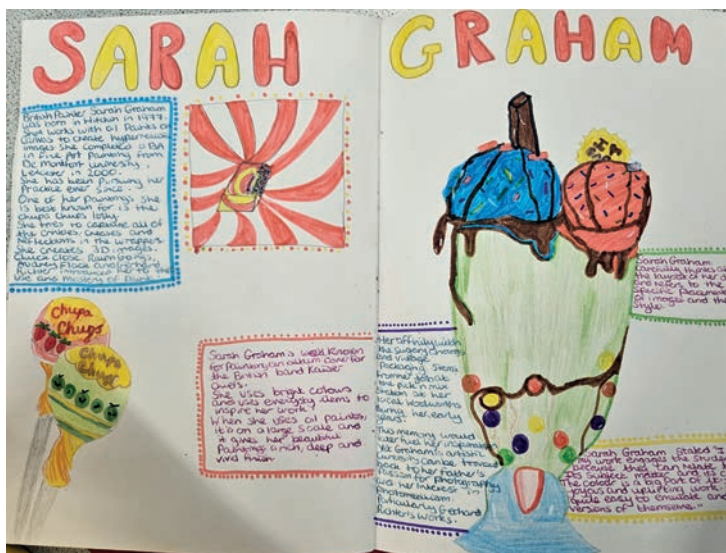
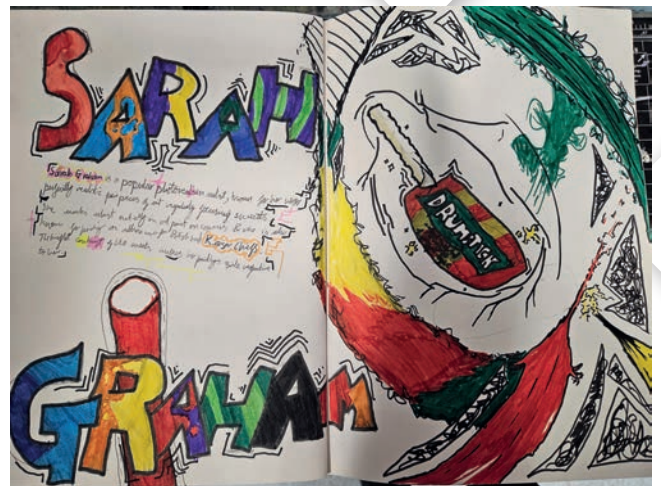


YEAR 8 POP ART

Here are some of the excellent examples of Year 8 work based on the Pop Artist Sarah Graham.

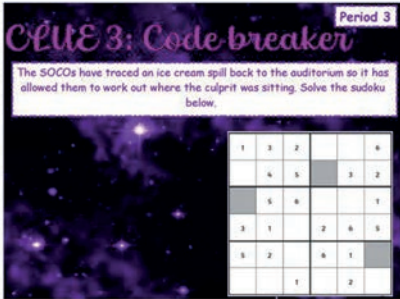
Students have been drawing sweets in her distinctive photo realistic style and have produced some excellent examples.

This work belongs to Matilda, Betija and Dominik.



Suspects

Suspect	M/F	Reason not in seat	Seat row
Mr Gilmore	Male	Left early	A
Mrs Merritt	Female	Didn't leave seat	E
Mrs Drysdale	Female	Arrived late	F
Mr Ruston	Male	Left early	G
Mrs Reed	Female	Went for drinks	B
Miss Marshall	Female	Arrived early	C
Mr Lumley	Male	Didn't leave seat	D
Mr Threlton	Male	Arrived late	B
Miss Rainford	Female	Left early	A
Miss Lancashire	Male	Went for drinks	G
Mr Mountain	Male	Didn't leave seat	D
Miss Marsh	Female	Arrived late	A
Mr Miles	Male	Left early	F
Miss Prew	Female	Didn't leave seat	C
Miss Ingham	Female	Went for drinks	G
Mr Brodie	Male	Left early	D
Mrs Deyer	Female	Arrived late	A
Mr Andrews	Female	Went for drinks	B
Miss Atkinson	Female	Left early	G
Mr Prescott	Male	Didn't leave seat	E
Miss Worrall	Female	Went for drinks	F



NUMBER DAY 2024

On Friday 2nd February, Number Day was celebrated in the form of a 'whodunnit?' as Year 7 and 8 students took part in "The Mystery of Pi Hard". Students got involved in various problem-solving tasks, including reading coordinates and completing a sudoku, across all three lessons and lots of students managed to successfully figure out the thief... Mr Ruston! Looking forward to Number Day 2025!

LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS

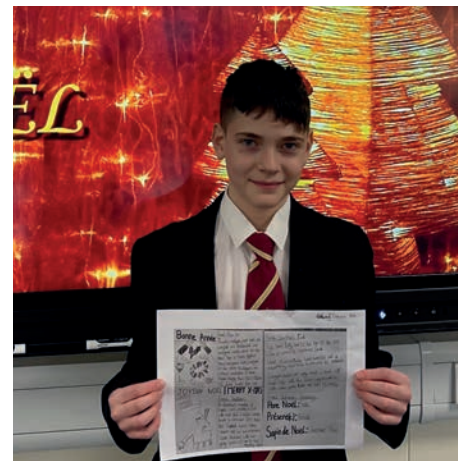
Bonjour et bienvenue à nos Ambassadeurs de Langues fantastiques. Ils ont écrit d'excellentes paragraphes pour le rôle. Ils vont aider à célébrer et promouvoir les langues et les cultures différentes à Minsthorpe. Ils vont aussi aider Madame Hartley d'organiser des évènements futurs et représenter les langues aux évènements. Félicitations à ces étudiants d'année 9 et d'année 10.

Hello and welcome to our fantastic Language Ambassadors. They have written excellent paragraphs for the role. They are going to help to celebrate and promote languages and different cultures at Minsthorpe. They are also going to help Miss Hartley to organise future events and represent languages at events. Congratulations to these students from Years 9 and 10.

CHRISTMAS IN FRANCE

En décembre il y avait une compétition de Noël. 22 étudiants d'année 7 ont fait des recherches sur les traditions de Noël en France. Ils ont reçu des chocolats pour les grands prix!

In December there was a Christmas competition. 22 Year 7 students researched Christmas traditions in France. They received chocolates for their big prizes!



KS3 KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENTS



Students in Year 7 and 8 remain fantastically dedicated to Home Learning and this has been reflected in the latest round of

Knowledge Assessments. Year 8 recorded their best ever Knowledge Assessment score with the average rating for the year group 65.2%.

Year 7 were not far behind with an average score of 64.7%. 7.9 and 8.3 topped the P&A Premier League with both P&A groups recording the highest average score in their respective year groups. A special mention must be given to all the students who have improved their scores from Autumn One. The list of names grows and grows with each assessment. Students will be rewarded over the next few weeks with vouchers, certificates and positive text messages home. We would like to thank all Year 7 and Year 8 students for their motivation, commitment and care when completing Home Learning and parents and guardians for their ongoing support.

SPRING ONE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER ROUND UP

It has been an absolute pleasure to reward Year 7 and Year 8 students for their latest round of Knowledge Assessments. Home Learning is key for students' progress, self-esteem and attainment, and it is wonderful to see so many students committed to completing their work every week. We have rewarded students with positive text messages home, certificates for improving assessment scores and vouchers for students who have excelled. It is clear many students are going above and beyond in their revision to achieve the best

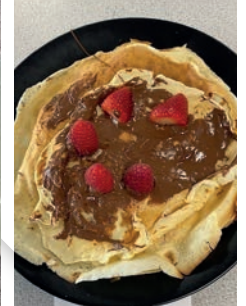
grade possible. Year 8 have been collectively rewarded this half-term with a sweet treat at Snack Break 2 on Thursday 29th February; all Year 8 students had the opportunity to eat a free jam doughnut in recognition of attaining the highest ever average Knowledge Assessment score we have had a Minsthorpe. Every single student in Year 8 contributed to this fantastic accolade. How long will the record (65.2%) last? We will keep you updated in the newsletter. Once again, well done to both year groups and keep working hard.





RESET AND RP4 PANCAKES

This term the alternative provision groups have had a go at making pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. They had lots of fun practising tossing the pancakes, serving them with accompaniments such as strawberries/ nutella and raspberry/golden syrup.



YEAR 10 HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

This term Year 10 have been developing their higher-level practical skills by making their own pasta from scratch, naan breads, spring rolls/samosas, and oreo/ biscoff truffles. We were very impressed with their efforts and plating up skills, well done Year 10!



ASTROCAMPUS

Our sixth form Physics students recently visited the Astrocampus at the University of York. They had a fantastic time listening to the post-graduate students talk about the research they were conducting into the origins of our universe. On a bitterly cold evening they then went outside to explore the night sky with the state-of-the-art telescopes. Having located Jupiter and some of its moons they then managed to capture this amazing image of our moon's surface.



MINSTHORPE MAVERICKS

Basketball is going from strength to strength at Minsthorpe! Following on from the trip to see Sheffield Sharks earlier in the year, Basketball club is running on Wednesdays after college with the team playing fixtures against other schools. The first game for the Minsthorpe Mavericks ended in a narrow defeat away against Kings. However, in our second game we showed fantastic progress to secure a win against Featherstone!



YEAR 8 SCIENCE FAIR



The Year 8 science fair took place in January and what an event it was. The students were asked to create displays on the theme of "time" this year and the work they put into their projects at home was outstanding. The standard was so high that the judges had a very tricky time picking winners from each side of the year group.

Four prizes were handed out to Jazmin for her full size grandfather clock, Annie for her amazing model depicting the phases of the moon, Olivia for her brilliant model of a flux capacitor and Archie with his interactive model detailing computer consoles through the ages. Each student received an Amazon voucher and Archie also took home the trophy as overall winner of the fair. The science team would like to congratulate all students who took part in the fair and worked hard to make it the best science fair ever. Well done everyone you were all winners.



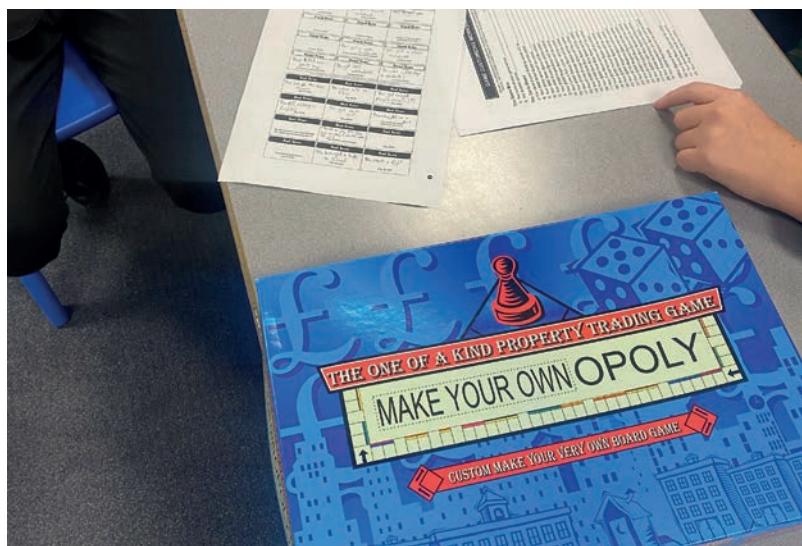
GCSE CLIMBING

The start of the Spring Term saw the return of the GCSE PE Climbing trip to the Foundry Climbing Centre in Sheffield. 36 students from Y10 and Y11 learned new skills and showed fantastic progress throughout the week and were a credit to the college in how they conducted themselves. The hard work definitely paid off, with students achieving excellent scores that will improve their overall GCSE PE grades.



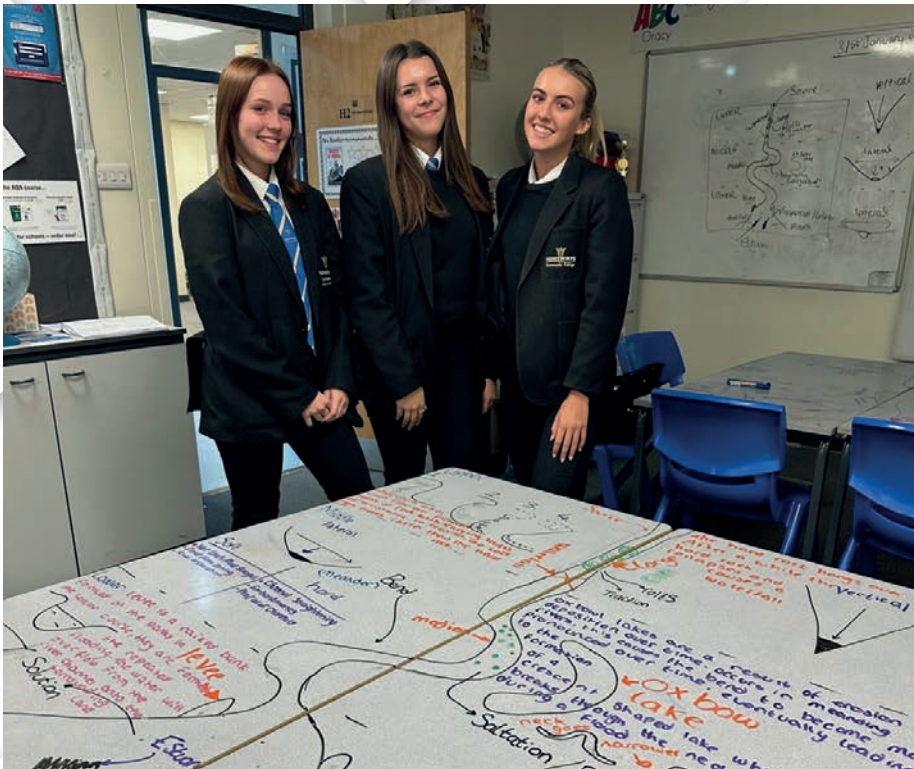
MINSTHORPE MONOPOLY

Students in the maths Tabletop Gaming club have been spending this term designing their very own 'Minsthorpe Monopoly' set. They are aiming to complete this by Easter, ready to play in the summer term. We have had some very creative ideas for this project already but if you think you would like to contribute then come down to M2 on a Thursday afternoon.



Y11 GEOGRAPHY COMMITMENT

Here are some of our Y11 Geographers trying out new ways to revise River Landscapes. The topic they fear the most. Amazing class engagement!



YEAR 9 ALUMNI TALK



Three ex-students talked to Year 9 about their career paths after leaving Minsthorpe Community College. Ellie Lloyd provided us with an excellent video, where she talked about the route she took to becoming a junior doctor at Barnsley Hospital.

Yasmin Walker spoke to the students about her role as a solicitor for Ridley and Hall. She also spoke about looking at degree apprenticeships as an alternative route into becoming a solicitor.

Our third speaker of the day was Chloe Key, who spoke about her graduate scheme within the civil service. She explained that through this role she has worked within different areas of the government.

We are proud and grateful that these former students are keen to share their successes with current students. All three speakers were excellent, and the students listened superbly well.

We hope that the information that the speakers shared has given our students something to think about for their futures.

YEAR 9 WORK SHADOWING

On Friday 8th March, the majority of Year 9 students took part in work shadowing, where they spent the day at work rather than at college. Austin spent the day at the Cerealto factory where his father works. Austin kindly fed back to Mr Dowey about his day.

"At the start of the day, I met new people and people that my dad works with and went to the factory. After I went with one of my dad's colleagues who is the raw materials specialist to learn about what they did. What they do is that they check the raw materials and no illegal food colourings and there is no unwanted things in the food and also that that it is reliable and sustainable.

About halfway through the day I went with my dad to see another one of his colleagues and then I went with another to so what they do. They see what foods needs to be ordered in and when. My dad has to order the food and try and save money for the company.

At the end of the day, I was given the chance to be able to go down to the lab where they test food flavours, and I was able to try some different flavoured bourbons and custard creams that haven't been released yet like bat berry and poison apple."



A FEAST IN NURTURE

The students in Nurture have been busy working creatively to create a perfect feast following on the study of Fantastic Mr Fox. Some students used junk modelling to create a cake fit for a feast. They planned and sketched ideas in small groups, then used teamwork, creativity, resilience & often leadership skills working together to create some amazing cakes. You could almost taste the chocolate & strawberries. Their motivation, artistic flair, imagination & creativity really came to light with this task and they all thoroughly enjoyed seeing their finished results.



NURTURE DO NUMBERS



The students in Nurture continued the theme on national number day through their social intervention with games and activities, where they used problem solving, teamwork, speaking & listening skills to enjoy an afternoon of number games.



Years 7 and 8 students were invited to take part in the Read for Good Readathon last term, and the final total of £168.00 was revealed in February.

Congratulations to Olivia in Year 8 for raising the most money! She received a Certificate and Voucher from Principals Mrs Merritt and Mr Gilmore. Four runners up also received vouchers for the amounts they raised.

The sponsored read ran for a two week period. All students received a Sponsor Card and were able to choose their own reading material for the two week challenge, asking friends, family and neighbours to donate online at readforgood.org/sponsor, or paying by cheque. Every penny raised contributes

READATHON TOTALS £168

towards funding a resident storyteller to every major children's hospital in the UK as well as a supply of brand new books for the college library. It's been proven that children who read for pleasure are more likely to be successful and happy throughout their lives (OECD). The charity Read for Good encourages children to read through its unique motivational approach inspiring reluctant readers to give reading a go, and keen readers to read more widely. Pupils can choose



whatever they want to read - from comics to classics and audio books to blogs - they are not being assessed, it's all about reading for fun. Well done Readers!

WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

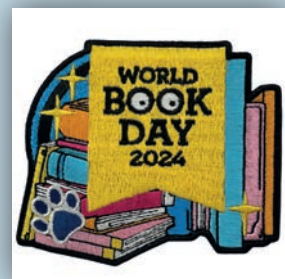
We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 7th March by focusing upon literature about children in all subjects across the curriculum. The Whole College Reading Policy was applied to predict the narratives, understand the texts and pin down the plot and themes.

World Book Day is a national opportunity for schools across the country to celebrate the past, present and future of children's literature and promote reading for pleasure. Every student at Minsthorpe received a voucher for a book of their own or a £1 reduction from a full price title. Students in all year groups

were given the opportunity to read extracts from some inspirational literature in every lesson throughout the day. The three novels all dealt with children facing unexpected adventures, in 'Alex Rider, Scorpio' by Anthony Horowitz, 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief' by Rick Riordan and 'One of Us Lying', by Karen M. McManus. As always, the class discussions which followed from this collaborative reading were mature, insightful and engaging, and all three novels were accompanied by the trailer for their recent TV adaptations.

Mrs Thompson, in the English

Team, said, "It's wonderful how reading for pleasure



opens up new worlds for everyone to enjoy. I deliberately chose these popular books because students can see child characters of varying ages facing exciting challenges and adventures. These titles are available to borrow from the library or myself, and the £1 voucher offers a good reduction on the purchase; students could even buy the next in the series for Alex Rider or Percy Jackson. Keep reading!"



PI DAY



All year 7 & 8 classes took part in a competition to create the longest 'pi chain,' representing each digit of pi with a different colour loop. Some students managed to put over 20 correct loops in order in 3 minutes and 14 seconds.

In P&A last week all students watched a video of the 100 first 100 digits of pi and in Year 7 and 8 they were challenged to remember as many digits as possible, each class held a competition and our over all winners were:

Year 7 Harris remembering 58 digits!!

Year 8 Lottie and Betija both remembering 44 digits.

