



Dear Parents,

Apologies if you are tiring of snowy pictures. However, I thought the above was an especially good one. It comes courtesy of Mr Swatman and seemed apt today as the sun sets on a challenging but successful half-term. Despite the pressures created by remote education, not helped by uncertainty and about-turns from the government, the St Edmund's community has responded brilliantly once again, making the very best from an unwanted situation. My thanks to all of you. I hope that you enjoy this final newsletter of Lent H1...

## Safer Internet Day

Tuesday saw the whole school take part in Safer Internet Day. In Senior School, this consisted of watching and discussing a presentation by Karl Hopwood that was specifically designed for issues the pupils wanted to address. After this, pupils were invited to be inventive; create a poster, a song or work of art on the theme of online safety. Responses included an excellent song by George Burton and George Betts - a mash up between Eminem and an AI voice singing their song *World Wide Webby*. Lucy Walker-Reid created a presentation seemingly influenced by director Mack Sennett (Mack and Mabel), guest starring former students of the school. Many created posters and these will be displayed around the school.

It was a successful morning of learning, sharing, collaboration and creativity - St Edmund's at its best. My thanks go to Mr Underwood (Designated Safeguarding Lead) for masterminding this important and worthwhile event. Well done to Aimee AR Hawksworth on her excellent poster below:





## Digital Award for Tom

Tom Blunt has become the first pupils at St Edmunds to achieve the Silver in the *Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award* (iDEA).

This is a tremendous achievement, and an excellent conclusion to a superb half term for Tom in Computer Science.



iDEA is the digital and enterprise equivalent of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Recipients of the Silver Award are required to demonstrate a wide range of intermediate level digital skills.

Tom will no doubt be eagerly awaiting the release of the scheme's Gold Advanced Level!

## Academic Enrichment: “Pi and the Concept of the Never-Ending”

This week, Dr Edwin Jones (Head of Mathematics) gave a fascinating talk to our academic scholars. He expertly guided us through a look at some interesting aspects of infinity. These included rabbits catching tortoises, monkeys typing out Hamlet (and other works of Shakespeare), fractals and cosmology. He concluded with an investigation of the number Pi 3.14159265359 (ad infinitum) and how far into this number you would need to go to find your birthday! It was a thought provoking and superbly delivered seminar which was appreciated by a large audience.



## Creativity Rocks

Our Friday Skills and Services programme on Adventuring and Entrepreneurship concluded with a talk on creativity by local musician Blake Sonnet. Blake talked to the pupils about his time as a professional footballer, actor and singer/songwriter. He discussed the creative process and then led a Q and A session with Mr Millard. We thank Blake for his time with us and hope that it sent our pupils off for the half term break with lots of creative energy!



## Talking of Sonnets...

Mrs Shearer's M5 English group have been grappling with poetic structure this week. Their challenge was to write their own poem utilising the sonnet – a 14-line poem in iambic pentameter. This is a line of verse with five metrical feet, each with an unstressed-stressed syllable structure with each "foot" resembling the rhythm of a heartbeat. The most famous example is probably Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 "*Shall I compare thee to a Summer's Day*".

Writing in this style is immensely challenging. However, the pupils did brilliantly and I have included three examples of their work below.

I can't perceive a more fulfilling view  
Than being matter in the Milky Way  
And seeing solar systems watching you,  
A part of Space's endless dancing sway  
Andromeda would seem much more in reach  
When intertwined in Ouranos' cloak  
Forgetting Gaia's gravity and beech,  
Redwood trees, magnolia and oak  
To be out of the reach of pain and strife  
In deepest space, so cold, devoid of sound  
Escaping all the mortal chains of life  
Floating where I never can be found  
I wish for Neptune, Nemesis and Mars  
Oh, to travel by the side of stars

*By Orla*



How hard is it for you to be trapped here?  
Our home now a bird cage to be confined,  
Out of the frosted window we all peer,  
We are engaged for an eternal time.  
Held captive in our own homes to save lives,  
Peering out at the life I left behind,  
Hearing the sorrow and all of the cries,  
Yet inside we remain, breaking our minds.  
And now a single breath could cost a life,  
We stay, careful, confined, hidden away,  
Tracing arrest like the edge of a knife,  
Our responsibility to obey.  
I look from inside at nature beauty,  
The birds above I begin to envy.

*By Caitlin, Max, Huw and Charlotte*

A forked free spirit of heat and flames,  
Like Persephone herself dragged into fire  
Infernal light reflecting off the panes,  
And Hades giving into his desire.  
Frantic arms engulfing sturdy structures,  
Tongues of flames writhe to lick the plaster  
The beams of houses creaking as they rupture  
Roaring into the night as they get faster and faster.  
A Force cries tears of hope onto the scene  
As Zeus himself refuses to crumble  
Now the tongues are only heard not seen  
The bellowing *hiss* and the towers tumble.  
The scene tonight is dull, dark and macabre,  
With Hades shaking silently with laughter.

*By Isabel*



It has certainly been a busy week in the English Department. Upper Sixth Literature students put the finishing touches to the first drafts of their comparative coursework and had fun playing devil's advocate with Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, arguing for the villainy of the heroine and the heroism of the villain. Lower Sixth shuttled between the glamour and glitz of Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and the menace and corruption of Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi*, worlds, they are learning, that are not so far apart as they might at first seem.

Meanwhile, Upper Fifth pupils continued with their revision of their modern texts, broke out within Teams meetings to discuss ideas in smaller groups and prepared to hijack the high-octane motivational writing of Rich Roll for their own original writing purposes. Middle Fifth brought their study of Component 02, the second of their two Language papers, to an end and Lower Fifth closed the coffin lid on the Gothic. In addition, a small number of Upper Fifth pupils completed their study of Language and Gender, the final unit they need to prepare for their AS English Language.

## British Science Week

Watch this space St Edmund's scientists. It is British Science week beginning 5th March – this year on the theme of innovation. We will be launching a competition after half term open to all year groups. Dr Jones will provide more information in the near future...



## Chinese New Year

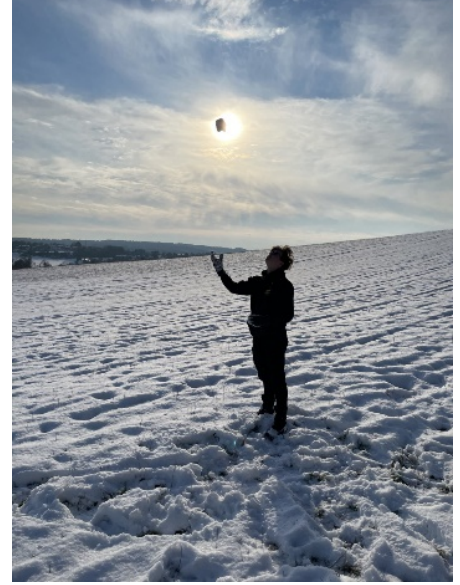
To celebrate Chinese New Year, Dr Edwin Jones organised a small-scale food festival! Irritatingly, I was not invited!





## Sports News

In addition to this week's 'This or That' live PE sessions, our pupils were asked to take part in the #mileformoore in memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore. They sent in some beautiful photos whilst out on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Many congratulations to Matthew Bawtree (U6) who has won The Big Challenge, having travelled miles and miles this half term, checking in regularly with his distances. Impressive!



Have a great half term and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Edward O'Connor

Head