

March 2021

Cardinal Allen Catholic High School



# School Newsletter

## Goodbye to Mrs Ball



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- Cardi 100 Challenge
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- Community News
- Goodbye & Good Luck
- Art & Photography Lockdown Work



# CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Daniel of 8S has been successful in his entry to the Young Writers' Mini Saga Competition.

Daniel was tasked with writing a crime/mystery piece for the anthology '*Unsolved – Mysterious Tales*' in just 100 words. His story, shown below, is both original and chilling.

Very well done, Daniel!

## THE PRIEST HOLE

As they looked at the ancient derelict house, all they could think of was making it their home. But entering they noticed a damp chill in the air.

"How many people died here?"

Jo ignored the question, instead thinking of what the walls should be painted, as she walked off in the direction where a priest hole had been concealed for centuries. Her footsteps seemed to echo throughout the cold, stone walls and she suddenly had a strange sense that she wasn't alone. Her senses heightened and a wave of goosebumps startled her; fight or flight kicking in...



# Reminder from Finance

We are currently only accepting online payments for school dinners and other purchases within school. If you have never registered for Scopay at all, please email [finance@cardinalallen.co.uk](mailto:finance@cardinalallen.co.uk) and request a set up letter. If you have previously registered but cannot remember your password, please follow the instructions on the Scopay website.

Many thanks

The Finance Team



# Cardi 100 challenge



To raise money for Brian House Hospice in remembrance of the inspirational Captain Sir Tom Moore

**We challenge YOU to do 100 of something!**

Eg.  
100 Press ups  
100 laps of the garden  
100 minutes silence  
100 minutes volunteering  
100 random acts of kindness  
100 building block tower  
100 minute Bike ride  
100 minute walk  
100 minute Run  
Plant 100 Seeds



**How do you enter? Donate a minimum of 100 pennies (£1) (Or more if you wish) To register your challenge.**

Payments of £10 or more by scopay. All other donations in cash to form tutors.



Reg Charity No. 113009

# Careers News

Our working world over the last term has been a 'virtual' one. Myself and colleagues from our partner agencies have been working together to try to ensure that our pupils still have the opportunity to gather as much information and experience as possible – even in a virtual world.



During the last term, we covered 'National Apprenticeship Week' at the beginning of February, with live sessions to Years 10 and 11 by Kerry Offord from the Apprenticeship team at Blackpool & the Fylde College. Kerry delivered her school's assembly presentation via TEAMS, giving our pupils the low down on Apprenticeships through Blackpool and The Fylde College.

Blackpool Sixth Form's School Liaison Officer Fay, hosted live presentations for our Year 10 and 11 pupils. This type of event would normally be held in school – but the power of technology allowed us to carry on regardless. Fay spoke to the pupils about the range of subjects and different course options that they offer, gave information on taster sessions and allowed pupils the opportunity to ask questions.



St Mary's have been phoning our pupils who have expressed an interest in their programmes or who have already applied. St Mary's Sixth form are still accepting applications, they offer a fantastic selection of subjects and the setting is very different from other colleges, a much smaller Sixth Form and they also offer subjects that no other college in our area cover.



For anyone who is interested in taking a look – all you need to know is available on their website, including a virtual open event, welcome from the Head teacher and Head of Sixth form as well as details on how to apply.

[www.st-mary.blackpool.sch.uk/index.php/sixth-form/sixth-form-home](http://www.st-mary.blackpool.sch.uk/index.php/sixth-form/sixth-form-home)

Thinking about your future and career can be daunting, which is why I am here to support our pupils. I want our pupils to leave Cardinal Allen feeling that they have had the opportunity to explore all their ideas and feel confident that they are progressing on to their next steps knowing that it is the right thing for them.

It is never too early to start thinking about your dream job; I would encourage all families to talk to their children about their plans for the future. It should be an exciting time, a chance to do what they love, what interests them, or the chance to study a subject to get them where they want to be.

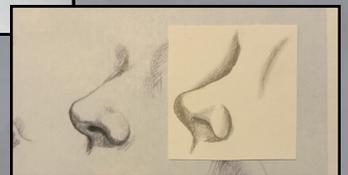
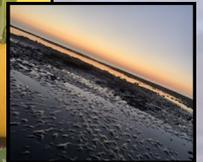
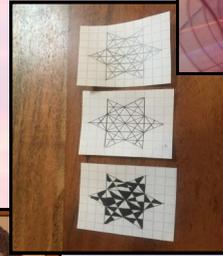
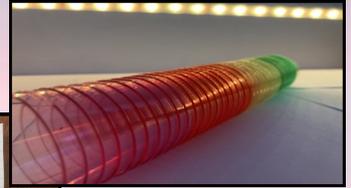
There isn't one path that's right for everyone and it's good to listen to other people's journey or story. If any parent or carer has an interesting or unusual career that you would like to share with our pupils and would like to take part in any events (virtual or actual) please contact me to discuss further – [j.sumner@cardinalallen.co.uk](mailto:j.sumner@cardinalallen.co.uk)

Best wishes – Mrs Sumner



# Art & Photography

During the lockdown period, I have been delighted with the variety of excellent art and photography work that has been sent to me. We clearly have some very talented and hard working students here at Cardinal Allen! Please take a look at the variety of project work below from all year groups! Well done and best wishes—Mrs Glaister





## ACCELERATED READER MILLIONAIRES



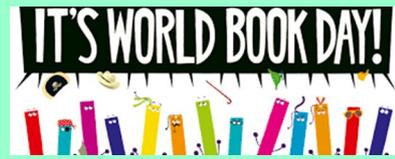
How do you become a Millionaire? Read one million words! CACHS students who have read over a million words this school year belong to a select group of Accelerated Reader Millionaires. A word count is generated each time a student reads a book and then takes a reading practice quiz online using our Accelerated Reader software.

A recent study showed that students who read for pleasure do better in all their subjects at school, not just in English. They have trained their brains to access printed information, so they find all subjects easier to follow. To encourage reading for pleasure we introduced the Accelerated Reader Programme back in September 2014 and the programme runs in Years 7 and 8.

We are keen to share reading success so with this in mind, we are delighted to announce our very first Year 7 Word Millionaires. Georgia, 7GR has read 1,390,815 words and quizzed on 22 books so far. Daniel, 7BE has read 1,232,216 words and also quizzed on 22 books. Giixing, 7AD has read 1,043,804 words and quizzed on 8 books.

We are hoping for many more millionaires before the school year ends so keep reading and huge congratulations to Georgia, Daniel and Giixing. Students will meet with our Headteacher and be awarded certificates, badges and a prize.

## WORLD BOOK DAY



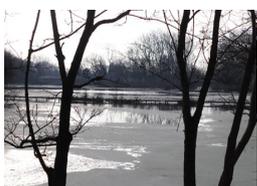
The main aim of World Book Day is to encourage children to explore the wonderful world of reading by providing them with the opportunity to have a book of their own. This World Book Day secondary pupils have a choice of 4 brilliant books depending on what appeals to their interests. There is something here for every kind of reader.

KS3 students will soon receive a special £1.00 World Book Day token in class which can be exchanged for any of the specially produced £1.00 World Book Day books at various book shops and supermarkets or used to save £1.00 off any book or audio book costing £2.99 or more.

### PROUDLY INTRODUCING OUR 2021 £1 BOOKS



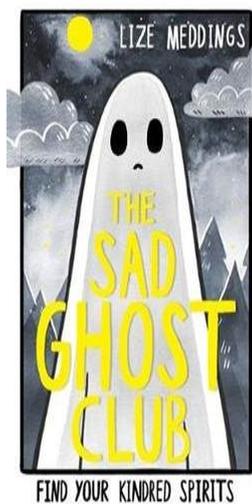
Further information on World Book Day is available at [www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com)



Over the course of this year, Yr11 GCSE Photography students have been documenting the theme of 'Identity'. This has covered a range of different ideas, from portraits of family friends, their hometown, lockdown and life before. Students have worked hard to develop their technical skills and we wish them every success in the completion of this course.



# Recommended Easter Reads



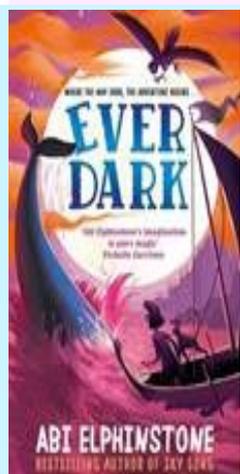
## **The Sad Ghost Club by Lize Meddings**

A sad ghost debates whether to go to a party that, seemingly, everyone at school has been invited to. On one hand, he doesn't want to be the only one that didn't go, but on the other, the thought of going to a party fills him with anxiety. Eventually, he plucks up enough courage and decides to go.

At the party, Sad Ghost finds Socks, another ghost that finds it hard to connect with the others. Slowly, they start to lower their defences and find that they have a lot in common, from an interest in animals to a shared experience of loneliness and depression. Can two sad ghosts reach out to others like them and find their kindred spirits?

This charming, heartwarming graphic novel by Lize Meddings would appeal to anyone from about ten upwards, but it probably has most appeal to those at secondary school who can relate to what it's like to be outside the popular group, or to anyone – adults included - who has ever felt nervous about social interactions. Despite being a story with depression as a theme, ultimately it's

about the power of friendship to help us step outside our loneliness, and the joy found in making communities of like-minded souls. There's no troublesome content at all, and a rather heartwarming ending.



## **Ever Dark by Abi Elphinstone**

Every 500 years, a new phoenix rises from the ashes, allowing a fresh era of magic to safely begin. It's this magic on which all kingdoms depend. However, something is amiss tonight - instead of a phoenix, a sinister darkness is rising out of the forests of Everdark.

Everyone senses something is wrong, but only an 11 year old girl spots the ominous black-winged creature heading out across the ocean. 'Smudge' is not an obvious hero. At school she is disorganised and distracted. She struggles to focus or put things down on paper, her head filled with 'what ifs' and 'just maybes'. And she irritatingly refuses to fit into either of the two career options into which everyone else in Crackledown slots so neatly. Can this same Smudge, along with a rather reluctant monkey called Bartholemew, take on the villainous Morg and save the Unmapped Kingdoms?

The book follows them as they set sail on a rollicking adventure. Through Smudge, we see that it's not always those who are top of the class who end up changing the world, and that thinking a bit differently is not necessarily a hindrance.

A fast-paced adventure starring a dyslexic heroine, this is a book that will encourage any reader to believe in themselves and the power of magic. This republished edition features a beautifully accessible font and layout, on dyslexic-friendly cream paper.



## **We Played with Fire by Catherine Barter**

This is the true and bizarre story of the Fox sisters; a family of spiritual mediums who became rich and famous off the promise that they could speak to the dead.

15 year old Maggie has been accused of an awful crime, and her family have had to move to a new community to escape the scandal. Bored and frustrated in their cold, draughty new house, she and her younger sister Kate begin to play tricks on their parents – little knocks on the walls and scratches on the floorboards to make them think the house is haunted. The trick works, and their new neighbours become convinced Maggie and Kate are mediums.

This is a chilling story for older readers, subtle and creeping with echoes of Shirley Jackson. Maggie is a wonderful character, impulsive and flawed but hugely relatable, and her slow realisation that she might be in over her head whilst nobody believes her is heartbreakingly written. Whilst none of the imagery or descriptions are ever outright horrifying, it's the tiny details – a misplaced wine

bottle on Maggie's table, a knocked-over candlestick, a shadow in the hallway – that make it a deliciously spooky tale, and one to leave the reader sleeping with the lights on.

# Community News

## Bees



Our bees are just waking up after a long, cold, wet winter to find that their apiary now has a large viewing window in place so classes can observe hive inspections in the summer. A big thank you to the Queens Commonwealth Trust for funding this. Our Bees Club website [www.cardyhoney.com](http://www.cardyhoney.com) is really worth a visit and will be selling lavender plants and oil in the near future.



## Woodland

Following much hard work this winter our woodland now can boast new bird boxes, 2 clearings for outdoor learning, renovated footpaths and a birdwatching hide.



## Allotment

Planting has started in our allotment and currently work has started on producing the following; strawberries, raspberries, garlic, leeks, onions, potatoes, beans, peas, broccoli, cabbages, kale, carrots pumpkins, lettuce, radishes, cucumbers and parsnips.



## Chaplaincy Garden

Our Chaplaincy Garden now includes a remembrance area dedicated to Mrs Grimshaw—in remembrance to her dedication as Leader of Modern Foreign Languages at Cardinal Allen High School. This area consists of a bistro area and boules pitch.



## DofE

Congratulations to those students who have achieved their DofE Certificate of achievement for completion of their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections of their DofE award. This year has been especially challenging with much work being home based during lockdown. It's been wonderful to see evidence of shopping for relatives, helping siblings with online classes, and learning new skills such as sign language. Looking at students' activity records, many dogs around Fleetwood will be looking forward to a well earned rest post lockdown!

Currently our DofE pass rate stands at Silver 58% and Bronze 55%

# Goodbye & Good Luck



## *And It's Goodbye From Me.....*

Let me take you back to 1991 – Oasis and Blur battled it out for the top pop slot, shell suits were the height of fashion (*were they ever really 'fashionable'?*) and in to school bounds a keen-as-mustard PE teacher adorned with hair like Merida from Brave and a considerably slimmer version of myself.

30 years - yes, 30 years later and I'm still 'bounding in' to Cardinal Allen each day. Maybe a few greyer hairs and not quite so much energy, but definitely double the 'sass' and I'm pretty sure I've still got the shell suit somewhere.

After 30 years of teaching a whole plethora of subjects and a variety of students, I'm off to pastures new. I'm ready for a new challenge and since COVID closed all our beautiful theatres and extinguished the spark of the Performing Arts, it's time for me to bow out of Drama and perform my encore elsewhere.

'So how do I feel?' seems to have been the hot topic of late. With only 10 days to go as I write, it truly is the end of an era, so I guess the only word that can do my feelings any justice is OVERWHELMED. Cardinal Allen is in my blood, teaching in my veins and working with young people in my bones; it's all I've ever wanted to do. And still do.

I've come from a Catholic background, been educated in Catholic schools and Cardinal Allen, true to its Catholic roots, definitely has the familiarity and feel of a Catholic community – and that's what makes it special. I even wrote a blog once entitled, 'There's A Catholic Thing Going On'.

Mr O'Brien told me in my interview that our school provided the kind of education and moral grounding that parents would expect us to deliver and I firmly believe this ethos is at the heart of everything we do.

So what has Cardi done for me? Where do I begin?! All of you know me as 'the Drama teacher', some remember me in the shell suit teaching PE (& I have to say, teaching PE, is, without doubt, THE best job in the world – especially in Summer), some students tentatively ask 'did you teach my Mum PE?' – probably, and fewer these days recall *Miss Thompson* who ran the last leg of the staff v pupil relay on Sports Day (we lost).

PE was incredible but Drama has been my personal passion, going right back to 1997 when a bunch of staff, none of whom had much idea about putting on shows, produced 'The Sweeney Todd Shock 'n' Roll Show' – the rest is history. Drama has taken me all over the world and I consider myself very privileged to have taught classes in India, flown over the Atlantic on a trip to New York and visited London on many occasions to experience West End Shows; every trip and the travellers completely and utterly fabulous.

I've written and produced my own shows, my classes have produced results to be proud of, and it's all been down to those of you who have bought into '*the Diane Ball experience*'.

Brilliant staff, some fantastic students, a few lifelong friends; Cardi, I'll miss you but it's time for some young blood and the next 'keen-as-mustard' newbie to make their mark.

Thank you all and BRAVO!



*My absolute BEST time, 'Alice 2015' or 'when Drama teachers are let loose with the make-up box.'*



## Key dates 2021

School closes for pupils	Thursday 25th March (normal finishing times)
Inset day	Friday 26th March
School re-opens	Monday 12th April
May Day Closure	Monday 3rd May
Mid Term Closure	Monday 31st May—Friday 4th June
School closes for Summer	Friday 16th July (12.20pm finish)

## Easter Wishes

We would like to wish all associated with our school a very Holy and restful Easter. At Easter, Christians celebrate the salvation won for us by the Lord Jesus through His suffering, death and resurrection. I hope this season is a time of spiritual renewal for all and that you are filled with the peace of the Lord. Whilst there may be some restrictions in place, most Churches are open for Easter, but if you cannot make it for whatever reason, lots of parishes now broadcast their services live via the internet:

[St Wulstan's and St Edmund's](#)

[St Mary's](#)

[St Teresa's](#)



# He is Risen

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.

Rejoice in the resurrection of

*Jesus Christ.*



WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!