

The Weekly Buzz

01 March 2021





Portland
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School

Noticeboard

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

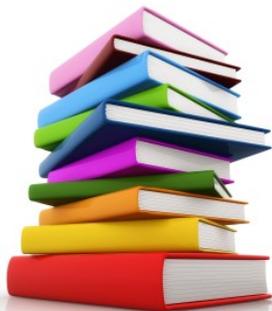
4 MARCH 2021

Keep an eye out for a book quiz in form time next week. Have a look at the *World Book Day* website for other ideas and to join digital events to celebrate.

Years 8 upwards will be shown an author event with Alex Wheatle when we are back at school, details to follow.

To find out more about the author have a look here:

[https://
www.alexwheatle.com/](https://www.alexwheatle.com/)





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“Get Epic”

Years 6 & 7

Have you tried ‘Get Epic’ yet?

It is a free reading tool which allows you to choose from a library of free online books. I can see your progress and reward you accordingly and you can also use these books to review for the Pizza Reading Challenge.

I have set up a profile for students in Year 6 and 7. To access please go to <https://www.getepic.com/> and input this code to access: **khd5108** then choose your name and search for a book to read.



THE BERKELEY ENSEMBLE PERFORMS AT PORTLAND PLACE



The Music Department are very pleased to announce that we have organised a Music workshop for all students in Year 6-8 with the fantastic **Berkeley Ensemble**, on **FRIDAY 5th MARCH**.

The Berkeley Ensemble (www.berkeleyensemble.co.uk) are a chamber music group of professional musicians who, as well performing and recording to critical acclaim, have been a leading force before and during the pandemic of bringing live music into schools and colleges, working to coach instrumental groups, create and perform student compositions and use their skills to bring instrumental music to a wider young audience. We are very proud that our own woodwind teacher, John Slack, is part of the ensemble.

On **Friday 5th March**, students will be attending a 45-minute session exploring the instruments of the ensemble, hear them play and have a chance to ask questions of the musicians about the music, the instruments, careers in music and their experience.

Year 7 – Period 2 (10:00-10:45); Year 8 – Period 3 (11:05-11:50); Year 6 – Period 4 (12:00-12:45)

A task with the link will be posted on FireFly the day before and a further letter with more information will come out to parents shortly. We are really looking forward to hearing and seeing some live performances, even it is over Zoom!

Mr S. Hill, Director of Music



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Special Offer

Only one
space left!

for newcomer
Guitar & Bass students

**25% discount on fees
for a term**

(Feb half term to May half term),

Limited spaces: first-come, first-served.

Contact Mr Hill to sign up steve.hill@portland-place.co.uk



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Nature Watch

Can you spot any of these
native birds in your garden
or local park?



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Short Story Competition 2021

The competition this year is open to all students up to current Year 11. All you have to do is write a short story of no more than 1,200 words on any setting and genre. It can be comic or tragic, period or sci-fi - just make sure it's your best! The judges, presided over by reporter and best-selling author Robert Harris, will personally choose the winner and two runners up.



Mrs Carvalho is happy to help with proof-reading and with entering. To enter please email your short story along with your name, school name, age, school year and email address to:

Competition@connellguides.com

Closing date is 14th May 2021



Post 16 Advice

If you would like an appointment next week to discuss anything related to Sixth form options, please contact Mrs Carvalho on belinda.carvalho@portland-place.co.uk

Upcoming Sixth Form Open Evenings:



Kensington Park
SCHOOL

Kensington Park School Sixth Form - Tuesday 2nd March at 5.30pm

Our final Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 5.30pm GMT. We welcome any students who are thinking about joining us to attend and learn more about what KPS Sixth Form can offer. Students and their families can sign up at our website or directly through our admissions department on admissions@kps.co.uk.



Morley College London

There will be a virtual Open Evening for 16-18 year olds on 8th March 2021 at 5pm. You can also book a one to one advice and guidance meeting between 5.20pm & 7.30pm with one of our academic team to discuss the wide range of courses we have on offer. You can also join a group drop in session if you don't feel you need one-to-one guidance. Sign up and details here: <https://www.morleycollege.ac.uk/event/16-18-open-events/2021-03-08/>



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Year 10 GCSE Fine Art 'Under the Microscope'

Jake Cossey

Jake has allowed his work to develop from an earlier starting point investigating natural landscape and form, initially researching artists such as Graham Sutherland.

Jake took a number of photographs responding to trees, natural form, and landscape and, after editing these using ProCreate software, was inspired to develop this style further. The results of those early investigations have now lead him to explore his own style and responses to this starting point, creating these calming and intricate digital drawings from Jake's own photos of various landscapes around the world.





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TAE



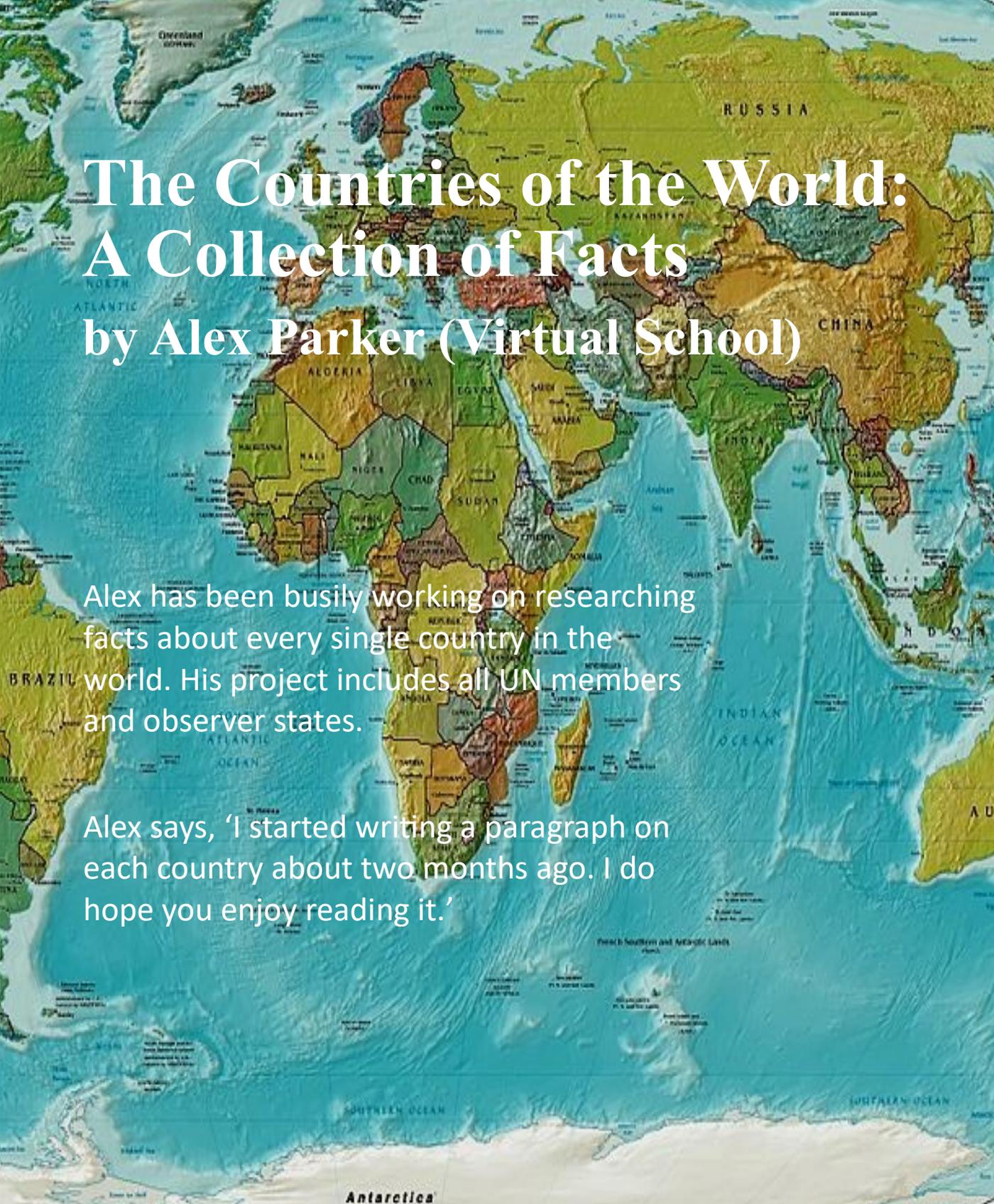
TAE





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The Countries of the World: A Collection of Facts by Alex Parker (Virtual School)

Alex has been busily working on researching facts about every single country in the world. His project includes all UN members and observer states.

Alex says, 'I started writing a paragraph on each country about two months ago. I do hope you enjoy reading it.'



Thailand has been a continuously independent country since 1238, and it is the world's biggest exporter of rice. It is the second-most Buddhist country in the world after Cambodia, with about 93.2 to 94.5% of their 70 million people. Thailand has a city that has been invaded by monkeys, the population of this city is 58000 or about 2/3 the city of Bath in the UK.

Cambodia, is the most Buddhist country in the world. Cambodia has a transport line called Norries, it is a transport system made of abandoned rail lines and people make their own carts and push them along.

Timor Leste, borders Indonesia which is the most Islamic country in the world. Timor Leste was colonized by Portugal and is 98% catholic and 99% Christian making it the most catholic country in the world, excluding Vatican City. Timor means east and Leste also means east. Therefore it is called East East, it also was called East Timor. There is also confusion as to what continent it is on, some say Asia but most say Australasia.

At its narrowest point, the country of **Togo** is only 40km wide, or about the distance from the southernmost point of London to the northernmost point of London. It is roughly the size of Croatia which is home to half as many people, but while Croatia's population is stagnating, Togo's is not, it's booming. A lot of its money comes from phosphate, or bird poo, something many countries love.

Tonga's canton is the same as the Swiss flag, but with the colours reversed, but do not compare the countries, as they have vastly different wealth, size, population, and are 17,000km apart. Tonga has 169 islands, with only 36 inhabited, and one of these is a volcanic island which disappears and reappears. It was the only pacific nation not to be colonized and was one of many countries that had me very interested.

Uluru, or **Ayers Rock**, in **Australia** is 450km away from any major town - that is roughly the distance of London to Dublin. Ayers Rock is not a rock, but a sandstone monolith, and at 863m tall, it is 35 metres taller than the Burj Khalifa. It also is home to the world's 10 most deadly snakes. It also has a fence that is 5614km long, that is as long as the distance from London to New York. It is called the Dingo Fence but it was initially built to stop rabbits. The country's current Prime Minister 'ScoMo'



or Scott Morrison, was actually a child actor and appeared in television commercials. He also must be their most controversial Prime Minister ever. In one year he eradicated COVID and went to Hawaii during the country's worst ever bushfire. The Australian plate is moving due to convection currents faster than anywhere else, at about 7 metres per century, into the island of New Guinea at about 150 km away. Australia also fought a war with the masses of Emus due to overpopulation, but due to their mass, speed, and aggression, the Australian soldiers who declared war on the Emus lost.

Algeria is the largest country in Africa, but only 10% of it is hospitable, or about the size of the UK. It also is the largest country in the world with none of its territory being water. Its hottest ever temperature is an unbearable 51.3C. It is a lovely country.

Angola is the second-largest Portuguese speaking country in the world, behind only Brazil. Its population has increased by 15% in 6 years - if that happened in the UK, our population would be 74 million people, not 68 million people. It is currently building an airport bizarrely called Angola International airport.

Austria has a town called Fugging, and it used to be called F***ing, but it is pronounced fugging, it changed very recently, but the sign kept getting stolen by pranksters, and it has since been stolen. Its chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, is only 34 years old, the youngest head of state in the world.

Azerbaijan has the most mud volcanoes in the world. It hosted the European grand prix in 2016, despite being in the Asian part of Azerbaijan. Baku is the lowest capital in the world, even lower than Amsterdam, and is on the Caspian Sea, the world's largest lake, at the size of Germany or Japan. This is massive and it is 38m below sea level, and despite its name, it is purely a lake.



Nassau makes up 70% of the Bahamas population, or 2% of its land area. Its monarch is Elizabeth II.

Bahrain's Prime Minister, who died in 2020, had been in power for 50 years since 1970. The Bahraini dinar is over twice the value of the Pound Sterling.

The Dominican Republic is the most touristy country in the Caribbean, this mainly owes to the fact its average temperature is 27C. It also has 14 times the GDP per capita of neighbouring country Haiti on Hispanola.

Ecuador means equator in Spanish, as the Equator passes through the country. Chimborazo is about 2 kilometres further from the centre of the Earth than Everest, due to their positions and how Chimborazo is on the equator and Everest is not, and it is about 6260 metres tall. This means Chimborazo is further than Everest, or any other mountain, from the Earth's centre.

97% of **Egyptians** live in close proximity to the Nile river. The Qattara Depression there is twice the size of Lebanon, but is home to 353 people, and is the 2nd deepest point on mainland Africa. There were actually calls to turn it into a lake but this never materialized, this was actually to turn the Sahara desert green. The oldest of the 7 wonders of the world is the Great Pyramid of Giza, which was the tallest building for around 3750 years, and was built at least 4500 years ago, which makes it the oldest wonder of the world and the only one standing. Nile crocodiles can dig deeper than any other animals and the Thunderer of the Nile electric catfish was the first ever observation of electricity by the Ancient Egyptians.

(End of Part 1)

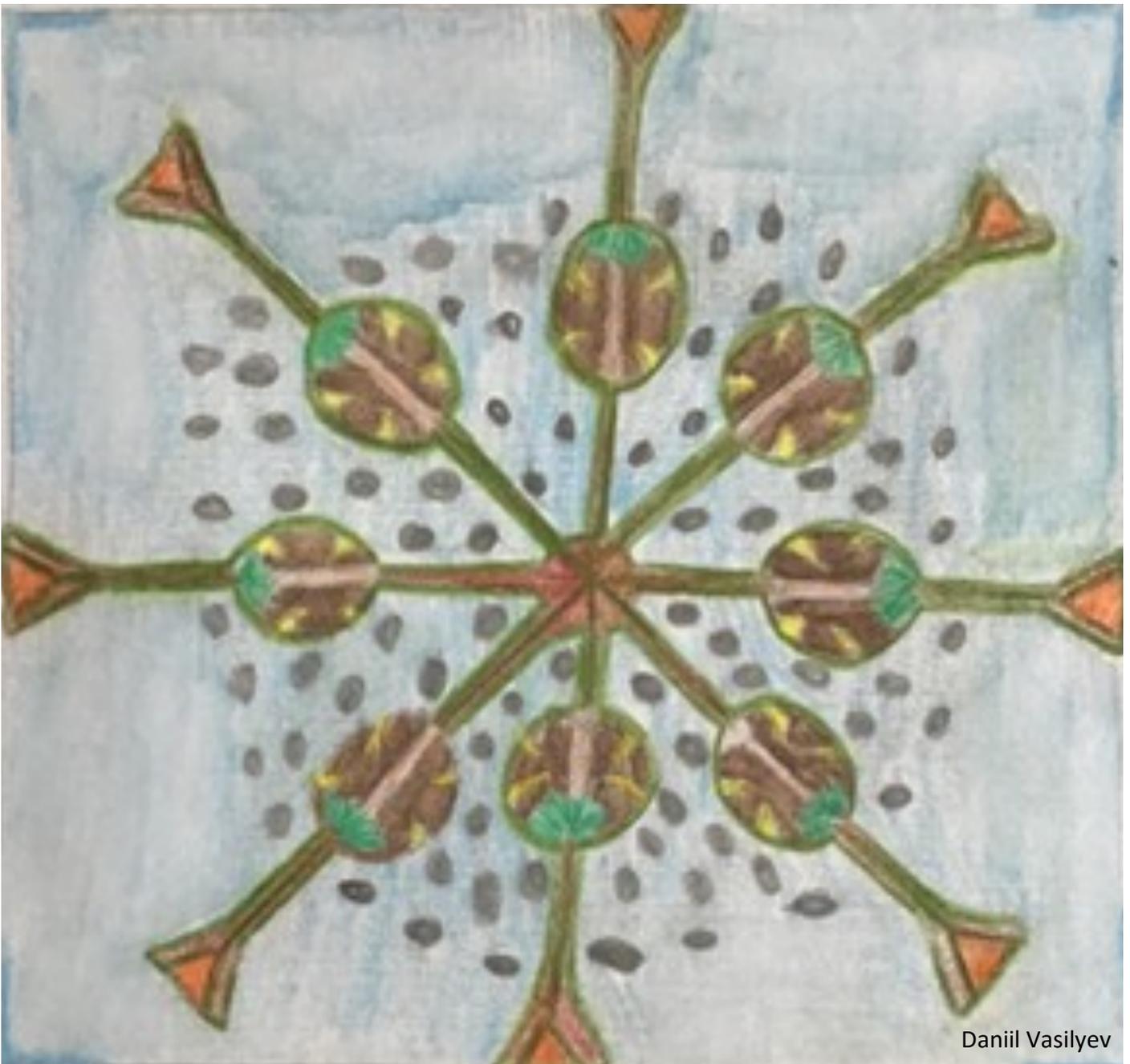


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Art

Year 6 were asked to cut an apple in half and to find anything there that could be used to create a pattern. Here are some lovely examples.

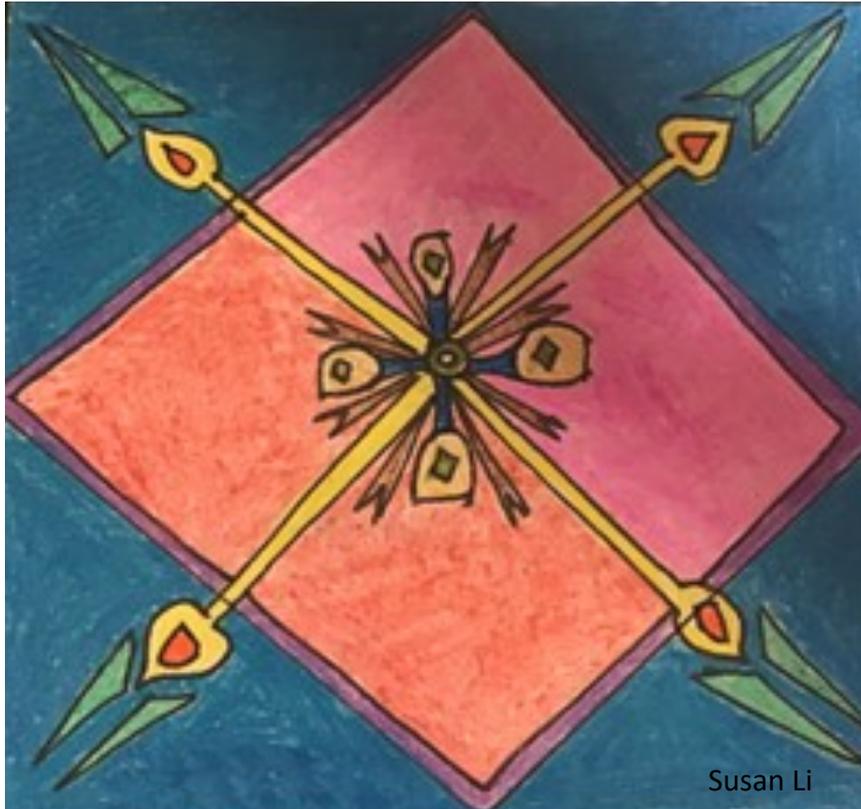


Daniil Vasilyev



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Susan Li



Mia Lipkin

Touch-typing Provision Champions

The students below have accomplished the most modules in our touch-typing course last week:



**Maxim
Mydlar**



**Isabella
Corney**



**Mia
Lipkin**

Well done to the Champions of the week!

Can  beat their scores?

Those of you who forgot to re-start your touch-typing practice this term, please ensure that you do so next week.

The TTRS students earn pupil points for practising their touch-typing skills:

- +1 (up to 3 modules)
- +2 (up to 6 modules)
- +3 (up to 9 modules)
- Extra merits for **10+** modules in one day.

Keep up the great work everyone!



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Y6 & 7

**Snow/Sun selfies during
lockdown :)**





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Growth Mindset

This week is about our virtual students, **Anna, Davyd and Volodymyr**, who have made amazing contributions to the lesson based on the topic of procrastination. Their mature comments about why people procrastinate and how we can become more organised really impressed me and made me feel very lucky to be their teacher.

Well done Anna, Davyd and Volodymyr!



Thank you for your constant support,
Miss Florea



7 Ways to Overcome Procrastination

by @inner_drive | www.innerdrive.co.uk

- 1 Do the Task for Just a few Minutes**
Use the Zierganick effect – once you start something your brain remains alert until you finish it.
- 2 Do the Hard Tasks First**
Doing the hard tasks while your brain is still fresh means you are less likely to give up on them or procrastinate.
- 3 Believe in Your Ability**
You can do it, just implement the skills and strategies you have learnt to self-regulate.
- 4 Manage your environment**
Control it don't let it control you. Get rid of distractions especially that lovely beguiling phone of yours.
- 5 Set yourself Short Deadlines**
Impending deadlines get you going. So go ahead set yourself short deadlines.
- 6 Model Success**
Who do you know that has done this task well? What did they do? Copy what they did.
- 7 Make the Task Harder**
Sounds counterintuitive but it can make the task more interesting.

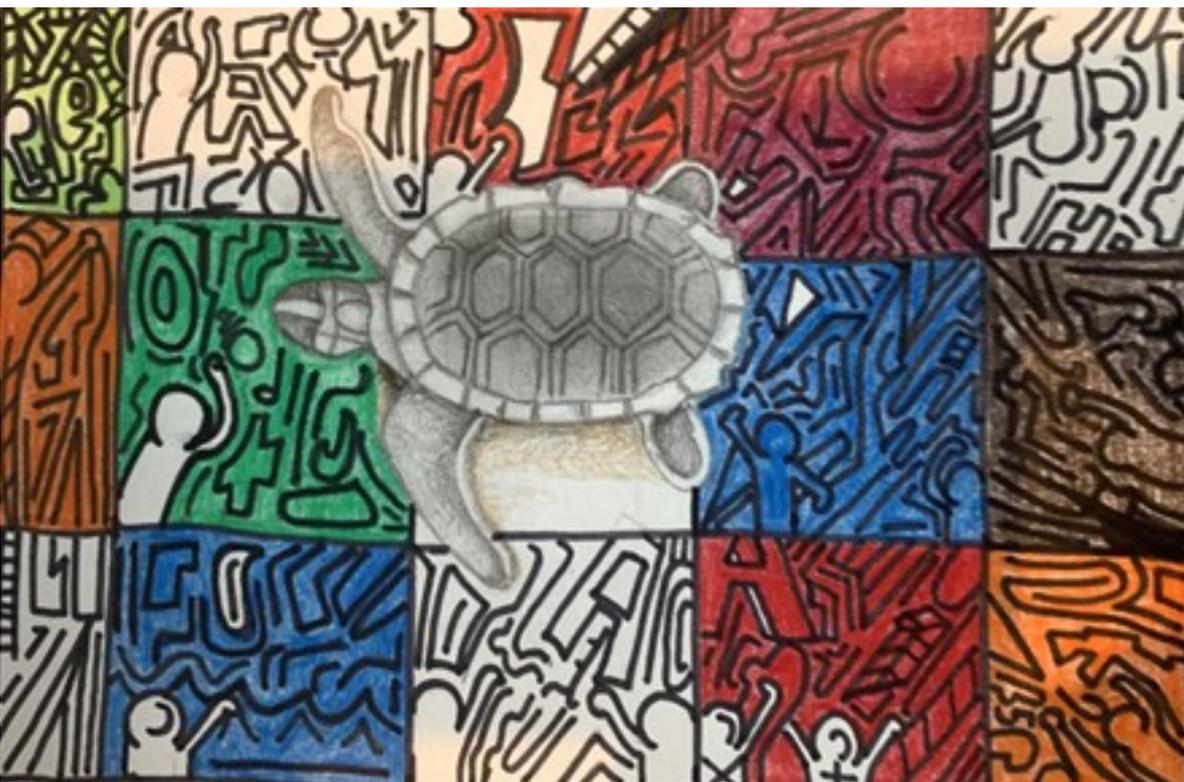


Art

Year 9 are continuing to study Keith Haring. They were given a picture of either a crocodile or a turtle and were asked to create something interesting. They did!



Clockwise:
Lana Tuite
Toni Jegede
Jessy Fryer-
Jacobs





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Here the task for Year 9 was to design an anti-Covid piece. Quite an achievement to make something beautiful out of something horrid!



Clockwise:
Arjun Lavender
Jessy Fryer-
Jacobs
Tom Hallam

Active In Lockdown – Pupil Focus

This week we are focusing on three female pupils from the lower school who have exemplified staying active during lockdown and have set a tremendous example to the rest of the school. All three girls, **Susan Li** from Year 6, **Georgie Cox** from Year 7 and **Isabella Calvert-Bull** of Year 8, have been prolific contributors to their house's totals, as well producing consistently high standards in lesson activities, be they live workouts or skill or dance challenges. Here's what the girls had to say about keeping fit in lockdown:

Isabella Calvert-Bull, Year 8

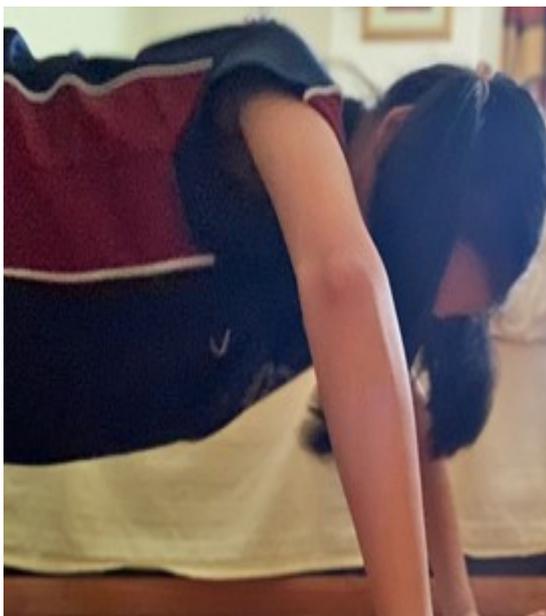


“During lockdown, I have done a couple of activities, including PE and gymnastics. For PE, we do things like: Dance, cross country and live workouts, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Monday evening and Saturday morning I have an online gymnastics class. I also go for either a walk or a small run every evening from Monday to Thursday with my brother, au pair and sometimes our dog. On the Weekends, my parents, my brother and I go and walk the dog. Usually, we try to change where we walk, so that we get a change of scenery, and sometimes my brother and I cycle, or I roller skate. I quite enjoy getting some fresh air after being inside most of the day and I think it is important to stay fit and healthy, especially during lockdown, even if it is just a walk every day for some fresh air.”



Sports report

Susan Li, Year 6



"I normally join the club on Strava, record when I'm walking in the park or at home. I also do some dancing in my free time, to make my body feel powerful and stretched. But why do I like it so much? Because dancing improves the condition of your heart and lungs, helps to manage weight and increase aerobic fitness. I've been practicing some yoga as well, I hope you can try some nice exercises like head to toe, both leg raise pose or plank pose. As you can see, of course, I enjoyed my days a lot, even in lockdown, and wish you could try as many sports as possible."

Georgie Cox, Year 7



"In this lockdown I have definitely missed going into school and doing workouts and fun activities with my friends. However, there have been a couple of fun things I liked doing online such as doing live workouts at home, doing different P.E. challenges, and making dances and filming them. But those have just been in school time. In my own time I like going to the park and playing football with my dad and brother, going out on runs and recording them on Strava and taking my dog Patsy out on a walk. I have to say, the online P.E. has definitely been a fun and different experience because it's different every week. Sometimes the teachers tell us what we have to do then let us do it in our own time, and sometimes we do P.E. live. We have done so many topics like boxing, running, dance and fitness. Overall, I liked online P.E, but I can't wait to get back into school!"

Skill Challenges Update

Over the past few weeks some of the pupils have been sending their entries in for the skill challenges that each member of the PE team has set. The closing date for entries into this competition – and the winners will be receiving prizes – is Wednesday 3rd March. Here are the current leaders:

Mr Rider's Netball & Basketball Challenge

1. **Isabella Calvert-Bull** (Year 8)
2. **Rory Grosvenor** (Year 7)
3. **Samara Mayers** (Year 8)

Miss Boyce's Dance Challenge

1. **Isabella Calvert-Bull** (Year 8)
2. **Fritzi Jacklovsky** (Year 6)
3. **Nora Masciaro** (Year 6)
4. **Maxim Mydlar** (Year 8)



Mr Steward's Rugby Challenge

For the Rugby Challenge I have had a couple of people showing me their skills but not many:

1. **William Downing** (Year 8)
2. **Ben White** (Year 11)
3. **Luke Ahrens** (Year 8)

Mr Kubik's Football Challenge

1. **Jessy Fryer-Jacobs** (Year 9)
2. **Kai Ibrahim** (Year 9)
3. **Jake Gadney** (Year 7)
4. **Miles Sellens-Flack** (Year 8)
5. **Maxim Mydlar** (Year 8)



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Sports report





Land's End to John O'Groats House Challenge



Year 6 & 7

It's so pleasing to see so many of our Year 6 & 7 students keeping up their Strava activity over half term. There were some very impressive two-week totals, not least from **Humphrey Boland** who clocked up an impressive 71km, leading his house (Langham) to 111.93km, the most km achieved from the four houses for this period. **Susan Li** topped the Cavendish rankings with 35.95km ahead of teammates **Rory Grosvenor** (18.52km) and **Harrison Brudenell-Turpie** (17.85km). Once again **Tec Hennebry** leads the way for Devonshire, as does **Arad Muhammadlou** for Wigmore. Well done to all who completed activity over the past two weeks.

House	Total Distance	Top Performers
1 st : Cavendish	431.1km	Susan Li: 35.95km
2 nd : Langham	313.73km	Humphrey Boland: 71.42km
3 rd : Devonshire	207.0km	Tec Hennebry: 36.53km
4 th : Wigmore	157.06km	Arad Mohammadlou: 12.13km

Year 10

A number of year 10 pupils have been working hard over the last couple of weeks to top up their kms for their respective houses. There have been some extremely impressive distances covered by a number of pupils. Cavendish had a huge couple of weeks to cement their place at the top of the leader board, covering 184.21km. But Langham were only a couple of kms behind with 182.29km! Wigmore also covered a respectable 81.07km, whilst Devonshire still seem to have barely moved in two weeks! A big well done to these pupils who covered some excellent distances over the last 2 weeks:



Jake Cossey – 107.39km

Alex Politi – 81.07km

Sylvan Farmer – 71.60km

Kieran Mackintosh - 63.76km

Lucas Alsop – 62.82km

Arthur Hales - 52.52km

A special mention must go to **Kieran Mackintosh** who set himself a personal goal of covering 50km on foot during half term. He did this off his own back, pushing himself to head out most days until he met, and exceeded his target!

House	Total Distance	Top Performers
1st: Cavendish	554.47km	Jake Cossey: 107.39km
2nd: Langham	427.78km	Alex Politi: 81.07km
3rd: Wigmore	392.28km	Kieran Mackintosh: 63.76km
4th: Devonshire	27.63km	Ruben Wiseman: 3.12km

Year 8

Well done to **James Mitcheson**, once again, for topping the Year 8 list over half term. He has consistently been putting in the kilometres and is a tremendous role model for his year group, setting a great example of how to stay active in lockdown.

House	Total Distance	Top Performers
1st: Langham	184.97km	James Mitcheson: 36.54km
2nd: Devonshire	87.47km	Jude Boudry-Ruzgar: 19.62km
3rd: Cavendish	83.3km	Isabella Calvert-Bull 8.53km
4th: Wigmore	28.12km	Samara Mayers: 3.14km



Sports report

Strava totals and best individuals this week for each House: Dev are now in 2nd position with an impressive effort from Jude and Gabriel.

Langham – 184.97 km **James Mitcheson** 36.54 km
 Devonshire – 87.47 km **Jude Boudry-Ruzgar** 19.62 km
 Cavendish – 83.3 km **Isabella Calvert-Bull** 8.53 km
 Wigmore – 28.12 km **Samara Mayers** 3.14 km

Year 9

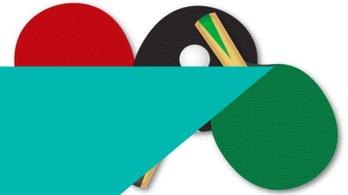
House	Total Distance	Top Performers
1 st : Devonshire	394.51km	Huxley Nayak: 32.76km
2 nd : Cavendish	319.73km	Lawton Ballbach: 75.46km
3 rd : Langham	200.24km	Tom Hallam: 14.56km
4 th : Wigmore	159.44km	James Eadally: 59.10km

There was a significant move from Wigmore House over half term, with **James Eadally** totalling nearly 60 kilometres. Langham house are now within their sights if they can keep this work rate up. Lawton Ballbach also put in a great effort with 75.46km. However, Devonshire are still maintaining their lead over Cavendish thanks to consistent performers like **Huxley** and **Ryder Nayak**.



CLUBS	
Monday	
12:50—13:40	Y6-11 Table Tennis Club, PPS Hall
12:50—13:40	Y6-8 Drama Club, Drama Studio
12:50—13:40	Y6-8 Book Club
12:50—13:40	Advanced Arabic, Ms Elshelmani, G41
12:50—13:40	Y11 GCSE Art Club, Ms Osborne, HH12 (invitation only)
13:15—13:45	KS3 Science Journal & Book Club, H1
Tuesday	
12:50—13:35	Senior Weights Club (Y9-11), PPS Changeroom
12:50—13:45	GCSE French, Mr Lalande, G41
12:50—13:45	PPS Choir, Mr Hill & Miss Boyle, GPS
13:00—13:45	Cyber Discovery (age 13+), Mr White, H1
13:15—13:45	KS3 STEM Club, Ms Robinson, H1
15:45—16:45	Y11 Science Revision (Physics), H1
15:45—16:45	Y11 Science Revision (Chemistry), H1
15:50—17:00	Art Club, H10 & H11
Wednesday	
12:50—13:40	Y6-11 Fitness Training, PPS Hall
12:50—13:40	GCSE Computer Science, Mr Hill, G41
12:55—13:40	Maths Puzzles, Mr Hill, G41
13:00—13:45	Russian Club, Ms Zalesny, H1
13:10—13:45	Y11 Science Revision (Physics), H1
15:45—16:30	KS3 Maths Club (Y6-9), G33
15:45—16:30	GCSE Statistics & Additional Mathematics, Mr Hill, G41
15:45—16:30	Arabic Club, Mrs Elshelmani, G41
16:00—17:00	Fencing, PPS Hall, changing rooms 15:45
Thursday	
12:50—13:40	Y6-11 Dance Club, H11
12:50—13:40	Y8-11 Creative Writing, Ms Baig/Ms O'Donnell
12:50—13:40	Mandarin Club, Ms Huang, PPS Hall
13:10—13:45	Y11 Science Revision (Chemistry), H1
15:45—16:30	KS4 Maths Club (Y10-11), G33
15:45—16:45	KS2/3 Design Technology Club, Mr Bradford, B1
15:50—17:00	Art Club, H10 & H11

12:50-13:45	Chamber Choir - Room 1 - Miss Boyle
Friday	
12:50—13:50	GCSE Art Club, Miss Dever, H11
12:50—13:40	Y6-11 Table Tennis Club, PPS Hall
12:50—13:40	Digital Theatre & Club, Drama Studio
12:50—13:40	GCSE Spanish, Ms Magniez, G32
12:50—13:45	Vocal Ensemble, Ms Ryder, R1
12:55—13:40	UKMT Maths Challenge practice, G41
13:10—13:45	Y11 Science Revision (Biology), H1



Look out for updated
Club & Enrichment
info

TERM DATES	
Monday 4 January	
<i>Mon 15 Feb – Fri 19 Feb</i>	
Thursday 1 April	
<i>Mon 19 Apr – Fri 23 Apr</i>	
Thursday 22 April	
<i>Mon 3 May (school closed)</i>	
<i>Mon 31 May – Fri 4 June</i>	
Friday 9 July	
Autumn Term 2021	
Term starts	Monday 6 September
<i>Half term</i>	<i>Mon 18 Oct – Fri 29 Oct</i>
End of term	Friday 10 December



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