

Inter-Form Reading Competition

Last week, the first inter-form reading event of the year was hosted for all year groups. Tutor representatives participated in teams of three to answer questions about the specific book they read for the competition, many of which demanded a high level of engagement with the text and real attention to detail. In addition, they also took part in a quick-fire reading knowledge round which proved highly competitive!

This was the third time the competition had been staged and I was once again delighted with the level of participation, especially as many of the students involved claimed to not be regular readers but had opted to represent their tutors and really engaged with the event, even buying their own copies of the books in some instances!

A really positive atmosphere was created in the room with all teams determined to try their best and win for their form.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1 st	7D-BI	7D-KL	9D-HR	10A-RL	11-BL
2 nd	7A-SJ	8D-CN	9D-MJ	10D-JW	11-CF
3 rd	7N-KT	8N-EL	9A-VB	10N-DB	11-PM
4 th	7N-CH	8N-CD	9N-FL	10D-PC	11-TC
5 th	7A-JK	8A-SB	9N-KD		
6 th	7D-AA	8A-PB			

Well done to all those who took part and especially to those students who have not previously taken part in the competition.

Mrs Warriner
School improvement Leader



Food Technology

If you have any cake or sweet tins you no longer need could you please bring them in for Food Technology.

Mrs Laycock
Food Technology

Finance Notices

1. Sharp el-531 calculators available via ParentPay
2. TLA school tie and replacement locker key now available via ParentPay
3. Year 10 and 11 Science Revision guides - available via ParentPay
4. Ski Trip February 2019 - Fourth instalment **NOW OVERDUE**
5. Year 8 French Residential Trip - Second instalment **NOW OVERDUE**
6. Music Tuition Fees Spring Term - Payments due by ParentPay by 7 January
7. Mersea Camp - First instalment - **NOW OVERDUE**
8. Year 10 Ypres and the Somme - First instalment **NOW OVERDUE**
9. **Please make sure that dinner money payments are up to date using ParentPay, our online payment system. Any queries please contact Main Office.**

The Griffin

Year 8 and 9 Science Ambassadors

On the 7th December a group of ten students from Years 8 and 9 attended a Science Ambassadors training day in Chelmsford. The event was run by the Institute of Physics and introduced students to some of the physics involved in surviving in space.

There were some fun investigations throughout the day but the favourite activity was modelling, (with the aid of a dolls head, shaving foam and vacuum pump), what would happen to your head without a space helmet. Now we just need to build a rocket!

Mrs Moffitt
Science Teacher

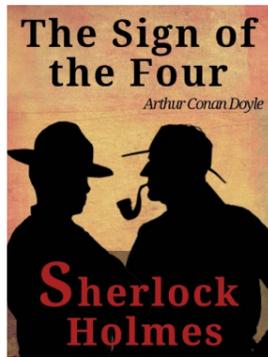


Homework Recording

I am pleased to announce that from Monday 7th January 2019, teachers will be using the website www.go4schools.co.uk to record the homework set in class. This replaces the use of the ShowMyHomework website. Students and their parents/carers can login to Go4Schools in the same way as they would to check their rewards and achievement. (If you need help with this please email enquiries@tla.essex.sch.uk and mark your message for the attention of Mr McKenzie). This will allow students to access information about homework, rewards and achievement all through one straightforward site. Once logged in, below the student's timetable, there is a section for homework. This will contain details of the homework that has been set. Go4schools have now launched a free app which is available for all smart devices and can be downloaded from the relevant App store. From 7th January, students and parents/carers will be able to download this app and login with their normal Go4Schools' login. This will make accessing details about homework even easier.

Teachers will continue to ask students to use their planner in class to record the homework and Go4Schools will be used to supplement this. It will allow parents/carers access to the worksheets and/or associated resources for the homework. Homework forms a fundamental part to our students' study. We believe that students who develop good working habits at home enable themselves to build on the great work that they do in school. This combination allows students the best chance of reaching their full potential. Please support your son/daughter by monitoring the quality of work they produce and helping them to check they are on track to meet all homework deadlines.

Mr S Essex
Deputy Headteacher



Sherlock Holmes 'The Sign of the Four' Production

The English Department is proud to announce its workshop production of 'Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four', which will be performed after the Christmas break.

'The Sign of the Four', by Arthur Conan Doyle, is one of the main texts studied for the English GCSE at TLA. Most students will need to know the story back-to-front for their Literature exams. To help support with this potentially daunting task, we have put together a dramatic re-write of the book, so that students can experience the adventure **first-hand**, and see the key characters **brought to life** onstage.

23 students across year groups have been working on the production, which includes **stolen treasure**, **forbidden romance** and **mind-blowing detective work**. These students have had the opportunity to creatively engage with the nineteenth-century novella: growing in their literary knowledge while enjoying a theatrical challenge! They have been working incredibly hard, and the play is already taking on exciting shape.

The show will be performed for the students in school-time, and there will also be an opportunity for parents and guests to watch a twilight performance. Coming along would be a great way to support your child's engagement with the English curriculum. It also promises to be a lively and accessible night of drama.

Come and see the world's most famous detective at his dazzling best!

Everyone is very much welcome to come to our production. More details will be shared in due course.

Reading Skills Reward Lunch

On Tuesday, 7D-BI, 8A-SB, 9N-FL and 10D-JW celebrated having the most literacy stars in their year group with a Domino's pizza lunch.

Students across the whole school have been working on improving their oracy skills this term by focusing on activities linked to giving opinions, using verbs correctly and using ambitious vocabulary.

Students have the strategies introduced to them in tutor time on a Friday and then they practise these skills in their lessons over the following two weeks, collecting literacy stars for the activities they complete. The competition concluded with a literacy quiz, where tutor groups worked as a team to score as many points as they could-the ultimate test of their literacy skills and knowledge!

Well done to all students who have collected stars this term and in particular to the four winning groups.

Mrs Warriner
School Improvement Leader



German Christmas Market Trip

On Tuesday 11th December, forty-eight GCSE German students set off bright and early from TLA at 4.30am for the long drive to Altenahr, near Cologne, Germany. After a smooth ferry crossing and a winding drive through Belgium with a stop for lunch, we arrived safely at our hotel in time for dinner. Despite the tiring journey, all of the students were keen to try the incredible range of German food on offer at the 'Hotel zur Post', (including Currywurst and Schnitzel), with many surprising themselves at how much they enjoyed it. After the long journey and filling meal, it was off to bed in preparation for a long day on Tuesday.

Over the course of the next three days, the group took part in a wide range of activities. These included sampling the culinary delights at multiple Christmas markets, ice skating, tobogganing, and a trip to the cinema to see 'The Grinch' (something that Mr Else enjoyed so much he dropped his popcorn all over the floor!)

My personal highlight of the trip was being told on multiple occasions by the hotel manager and staff how fantastically behaved our students were, and how much wonderful German they had spoken, both to waiters at the restaurant, and cleaning staff. They were an absolute credit to TLA, and all the staff who joined us on the trip were incredibly proud of them.

Special thanks go to Mr Else, Mr Marven, Miss Newton and Mr Nugent for their support throughout the week. The trip would not have been the same without them.

The trip was an absolute success, and all students who participated thoroughly enjoyed it!

Miss C Hollingsworth
Lead Teacher of MFL.



Diary Dates	
Monday 7 January	First Day of Spring Term
Friday 11 January	Year 9 Brilliant Club Trip to University of East Anglia
Friday 18 January	Year 11 PPE Exam Results Day
Thursday 24 January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 24 January	Mersea / Peldon buses depart at 3.30
Friday 25 January	Mersea / Peldon buses depart at 4.00
Thursday 31 January	Year 11 Poetry Live
Thursday 7 February	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Friday 8 February	Year 10 Science Live Trip