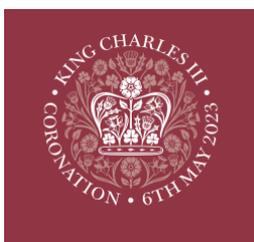


Although the weather seems to be doing its best to convince us that it is not May, the bank holidays are making the month pass fairly swiftly. Mary is the month of our Lady and as a school we reflect on this and particularly now that we are part of the Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Trust we hope to strengthen those links and ask Mary to guide and support all our endeavours and guide us through our challenges.

*We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

Have a blessed and happy Bank Holiday weekend.



A Prayer for our new King, Charles III



O God, to whom every human power is subject, grant to your servant our sovereign Charles success in the exercise of his high office, so that, always revering you and striving to please you, he may constantly secure and preserve for the people entrusted to his care the freedom that comes from civil peace. - rough our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

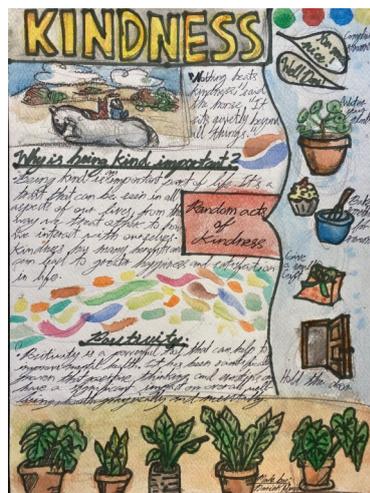
Amen

PSHE and Citizenship

Year 7 have been learning in PSHE and Citizenship about how to stay safe and well e.g. as a pedestrian, cyclist, in water, in the sun and from harmful substances. Last lesson students loved using the key information to teach each other in a memorable way, as shown here.



Here is an example of a recent Year 9 homework challenge. One of the key skills Year 9s are working on is Creativity and Darien Almojuela put this into practice by creating a piece to inspire others to be kind. This is just one of the brilliant tasks he completed.



Mrs Cobbold

A Plea for Help

A group of our Sixth Form are collecting art and craft supplies for the Ukrainians in Dereham.

We have been in contact with a trustee at the Dereham Centre and they have asked us for arts and craft supplies .

We are asking parents and students if they can collect or have any spare of the following supplies :

Paints, paint brushes, paint palettes, canvases, card, Glue, glue sticks, glue guns, glitter glue, double sided sticky pads, stickers, decoupage pictures, scissors, pom poms, pipe cleaners, hole punch, ribbon .

If you can bring the supplies to the School Chapel and the deadline is the Friday 19th May

Thank you in advance , year 12



SCIENCE NEWS

Year 12 Biology students went to the Zoo



They didn't quite stay all day (Friday April 21), but the trip was of immense educational value. Zoos can be somewhat controversial – they house animals (and plants) that are away from their normal geographical habitats. For example, what are African White Rhinos doing in Essex? But modern-day zoos perform vital functions in the areas of conservation and preservation and these were the themes of the day.

Teacher of Biology Mr Sousa and 6th Form Administrator Mrs Slater organised this trip to Colchester Zoo as part of the zoo's educational program. Arriving at 10.30am and departing at 2.30pm, the program for the day was in two parts: on arrival we were taken to the zoo's Kalahari Theatre where we were given a 60 minute talk by one of the zoo's educators, Lee, on the subject of "Conservation". We learned that this is not as simple as it sounds. According to geological fossil records there have been 5 "mass extinctions" in the history of our planet, when the majority of species on Earth have died out entirely due to natural causes – for example, volcanic activity, extreme climate change or even asteroid impact. It is now widely thought that we are in a period of the 6th mass extinction and that we are to blame!

Since the Industrial Revolution, human activity has had an increasingly profound and harmful effect on habitats worldwide – air, land and sea. Many species of plants and animals have become extinct as a result of this, the best-known historical example probably being the Dodo of Mauritius that died out in the late 17th century. However, such extinctions have continued to the present-day, one of the most recent being the Baiji – Chinese River Dolphin. Last seen in the wild in 2004, it is now thought to be extinct due to the damming of the Yangtze River to obtain hydroelectric power. When planning such large-scale projects, we must pay more attention to how we can achieve our aims while still conserving the ecosystems concerned.

Another focus was on how species are being hunted and killed to the point of extinction either for sport, or more usually, for profit – the poaching trade. The Black Rhinoceros used to roam central and southern Africa in their thousands, but now they are critically endangered. Some sub-species, such as the Western Black Rhinoceros are already classified as extinct. When, by weight, the horn of a Rhinoceros can be worth more than twice that of gold or platinum, it is easy to see how lucrative the poaching trade can be. However, we learned that eliminating poachers is not as simple as just stopping the individuals who kill the animals. There is a chain in the supply that stretches from impoverished families who can be coerced into the killing and transportation, right through to the end users who are often driven by deeply-held cultural beliefs and traditions. We must tackle the issue at every stage through education.

With the help of a range of national and international organisations, all in careful cooperation under the auspices of IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature), there is hope for the future of endangered species, habitats and ecosystems; especially for the more than 100 species that are currently critically endangered. By understanding how we can balance our own needs with the need to conserve and preserve our planet's fragile ecology, we may cease and even repair the damage we are currently doing. Following the presentation, the students were free to explore the zoo's 60 acres and get to see as many of the 160+ species on show as they had time for, both indoors and out. A veritable A-to-Z of the animal world, literally – from Aardvark to Zebra with cheetahs, elephants, hyenas, iguanas, monkeys, ostriches, tigers, wallabies, and more, along the way!

The zoo is home to many rare and endangered species and has an active breeding program. It also has its own charity, Action for the Wild, that since 2005



has been donating to a broad spectrum of conservation projects worldwide. Most notable has been the work to set up the 6,000 hectare UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. Working to rehabilitate the land which was previously managed as separate cattle farms to return it to a healthy state and to release native animal species back onto the reserve, many species have been released - these include zebra, nyala, giraffe, red hartebeest, blesbok, waterbuck, common reedbuck, blue wildebeest and ostrich.

National Numeracy Day

Number Heroes Competition

It is National Numeracy Day on 17th May 2023. As part of this, National Numeracy are running a Number Heroes competition for students in Year 7 and 8 and SEND students in all year groups.

To enter the competition, you need to draw a picture or illustration of you using numbers in your dream job or hobby for a chance to win prizes for yourself and school with a value of up to £1000!

Think about what your dream job or hobby would be and think about/research how you will need to use numbers in that job/hobby. Create a picture to show this and submit it to your Maths teacher by the closing date of Friday 26th May to be in with a chance of winning the competition.

Best of luck!

Mrs Eastwood