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11 March 2016

Dear Parents

Mark Butterfield



The funeral of Mark Butterfield, one of our pupils who died last week, takes place at Corpus Christi Church, Leeds, at 10.00am on Tuesday 15 March. Mark had been suffering from leukaemia. He was 15 years old. A number of pupils and staff will be attending the Requiem Mass. Prayers for the repose of Mark's soul will be said in school and a service of prayer and reflection will take place at lunchtime on Tuesday.

Mr Butterfield has asked me to convey the family's gratitude for the love and support shown to Mark throughout his time here and especially in these difficult days.

*Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.
(Isaiah 43:1)*

Author Visit

This week pupils in Years 9 and 10 enjoyed a visit from Martyn Bedford, author of award winning books including *Flip* and *Never Ending*. After reading extracts from his latest book, *20 Questions for Gloria*, Martyn spoke about his writing process and of how he has taken inspiration from real life situations. In a question and answer session our pupils were particularly interested in the stimulus that gave rise to his popular first novel, *Flip*. Martyn was impressed by our pupils' knowledge of children's fiction and by their interest in the creative writing process. Copies of Martyn's three novels are available in the library. Our librarian, Miss Burns, still has a small number of signed copies of *20 Questions for Gloria* available to purchase, priced £7.20.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

As I write large numbers of pupils are taking the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation today as part of the school's Lenten programme of prayer and liturgy. Many thanks to local priests who are giving generously of their time to administer the sacrament: Mgr Michael McQuinn, Mgr Philip Moger and Reverend Fathers Sean Crawley (our Priest Chaplain), Tim Wiley, Marc Homsey, Peter Kravos and Micheal Krychiwskyj.

Lent

Lenten services continue at lunchtimes in the school chapel. Mondays are reserved for quiet prayer and reflection. Guided meditation takes place on Tuesdays and The Stations of the Cross, led by Year 10 pupils, on Fridays.

Choose Your Footwear for Catholic Care

We are inviting pupils to *Choose your Footwear for Catholic Care* on Thursday 17 March. Pupils who leave their school shoes at home for the day will be asked to make a donation of £1 to Catholic Care, a charity which provides much support for children and their families in our diocese. Pupils taking part are asked to be mindful of health and safety. No flip flops or high heels, please.



Celebrating Shakespeare

Congratulations to Cindy Moyo, Year 9, on a fine performance on the West End stage this week. She was taking part in the national final of the English Speaking Union's *Performing Shakespeare* competition. The event was held at The Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, as part the national celebrations to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Cindy's performance of Cleopatra's speech on the death of Antony was strongly commended by judges. Special thanks to Mrs Rutherford in helping our pupils to achieve such high standards.

As I write, Year 9 pupils are enjoying a live performance of *Romeo and Juliet* by The Young Shakespeare Company in our school hall. This theatre company has a reputation for clear and accessible interpretations of Shakespeare in which the vitality of the playwright's words is complemented by bold staging and strong characterisation. They are certainly bringing the play alive for a new generation of theatre-goers.



GCSE Examinations

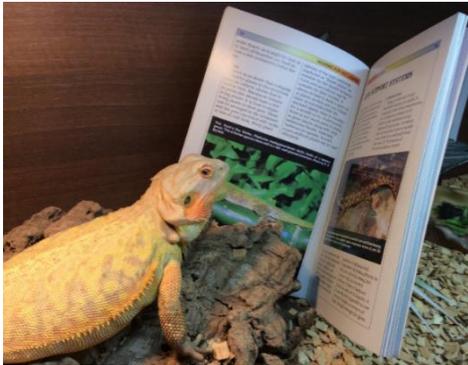
It was pleasing to see so many Year 11 pupils and their parents at our information evening on preparing for GCSE examinations this week. The two information booklets discussed at the meeting have been issued to all Year 11 pupils. Next week Miss Adamson will be distributing a revision guide for the Easter holidays and the timetable of revision classes. The first GCSE paper is scheduled for Monday 16 May (33 school days away). Study leave begins on Friday 27 May. We wish our Year 11 pupils a successful and productive period of preparation over the Easter break. Enquiries about the examination season should be addressed to Miss Adamsom.

End of Term Arrangements Thursday 24 March

School closes for the Easter break on Maundy Thursday, 24 March, at 1.20pm. School buses have been arranged to collect pupils in line with usual practice.

Catch Your Pet Reading

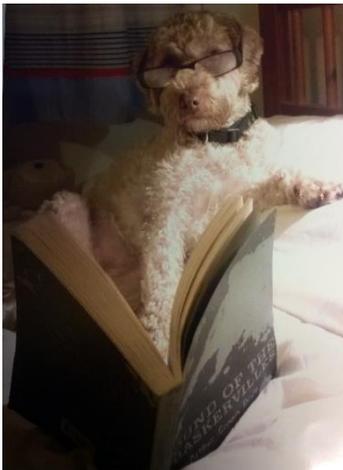
Many thanks to all who took part in our *Catch Your Pet Reading* photo competition. Year 8 pupils won all the prizes:



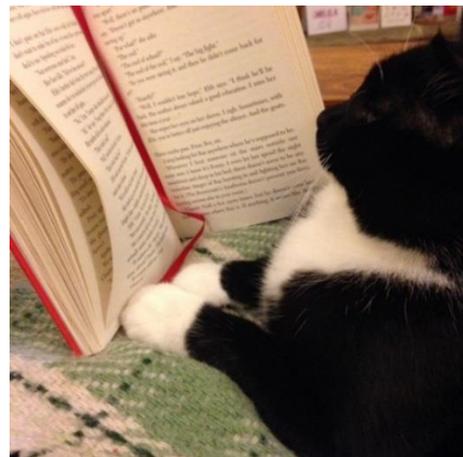
Laser, the bearded dragon, was photographed by his owner Jack Land, Year 8;



Hens Jane, Prudence, Hetty and Sylvia are seen with Tessa Duffy, Year 8;



Poppy the dog, was captured by Cameron Bradbury; Year 8;



Mrs Rutherford's Sir Bobby the cat took the staff prize.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E A Cox'.

E A Cox
Headteacher