

# ST AUGUSTINE'S

## C E H I G H S C H O O L

**LENT TERM**  
Newsletter



We want all of our community to have equal opportunities to experience life in all its fulness (John 10: 10). We encourage all community members to “be the best we can be” in every aspect of their lives as we grow in, and reflect on, the Christian virtues of Faith, Hope and Love (1Corinthians 13).

## THANK YOU - A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents & Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support over this half term. Your involvement and engagement are crucial to our success as a school community, and we appreciate the time and effort you dedicate to working with us. We are proud of the enthusiasm that our students have shown this half term and we recognise the vital role that parents/carers have played in supporting them.

As we look ahead to next term, we remain committed to providing the highest standard of education and support for our students. We have Easter Revision classes planned for our Year 11 and Year 13 students and we wish them all well as they go into their final term before sitting formal examinations in the summer. We will continue to work closely with our parents/

carers to ensure that we meet the needs of all of our students and that they have the best possible experience at our school. Once again, thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working with you next term.

Thank you

Rachel Kelly  
Head of Secondary School

## CULTURAL DAY 2023

Our Charity Committee hosted our second Cultural Day to huge success on 17th March. Designed to tie in with St Patrick's Day and Comic Relief, the day itself really was a feast for the eyes with so many fantastic outfits and culinary delights. The day started with an exciting presentation, led by our Year 9 students who talked about their cultures and background with real enthusiasm. Led by Rwan in A9, all students presented beautifully and were commended by all who saw them. The day continued with a vast array of stalls, inviting



students to sample different snacks, learn about different countries, including Sri Lanka, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon and Bangladesh. There were quizzes to test our students' knowledge and a fantastic playlist to entertain us all! Our Music Department added some music of their own at lunchtime, before we all packed away for another year!

Our students commented on the fact that they really "relished the chance to share, experience and celebrate their different backgrounds", as well as "learn much more about each other, coming together in a really positive way." Our sixth form students were simply outstanding at encouraging and educating their younger peers to get involved, and we look forward to continuing to develop Cultural Day in the coming years.



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Nasrien, Ali, Amaan and Royan, worked with Miss Carney to present an assembly to celebrate International Women's Day, on the theme of 'Embracing Equity'. The students made the decision to focus on female role models, but from the perspective of famous men, such as Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela and Marcus Rashford, alongside our wonderful male teachers who also contributed their thoughts and ideas.

We also celebrated the work of the Suffragists and Suffragettes, alongside the achievements of the UK's first female doctor and Mayor, Dr Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. Amaan spoke with passion about the role of equity and equality in faith, whilst Nasrien has hosted an International Women's Day poetry competition, with winners to be announced after the Easter break. Well done to all!



## SNAKES ALIVE!

On the Monday of British Science Week, Becky and Dan from Snakes Alive came to visit us. All Year 7s and as many Year 9s as possible were invited and were taught about snakes, other reptiles and even cockroaches!

Students had an opportunity to touch and even to hold the snakes and reptiles and it was a fantastic day for everyone. It is an excellent chance to learn about how the animals behave in the wild, experience something they would not normally get an opportunity to do, and to find out about the rescue work the team do to help abandoned pets.





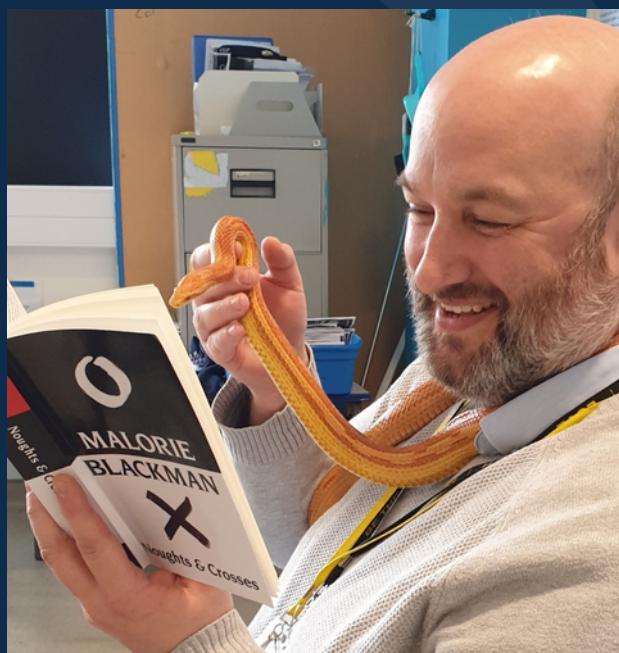


## WORLD BOOK MONTH

Ms Sedley, our Literacy Coordinator, arranged a range of activities to celebrate World Book Month. We know that a love of reading is a huge predictor of success, so we did everything we could to spread that love throughout the school and community.

We welcomed young students from our primary school to be read to by some of our Year 9 students, and the little ones loved hearing the older students read to them.

In addition, each department recommended their favourite books to our own students. The month was capped off with a Pop-Up Bookshop where all students in Year 7 were able to pick out a book that they received for free.



Mr Goodwin reading from his favourite book during the Snakes Alive event

they endeavour to adapt animal enclosures to meet the needs of the species before using the new walk-through to observe and take notes on the behaviour of the colobus monkeys using ipads. The findings of the study will be used by ZSL to complement their daily work.



## STEPHEN KELMAN VISIT

Stephen Kelman, the author of the GCSE text Pigeon English, visited the school on 7th March 2023. He gave a talk about the book and answered questions prepared by our students.

Year 9 student Rebekah Ephrem had this to say about the visit:

"I enjoyed learning about how Kelman developed his characters and got a better understanding of how to write about their lives as he lived in a similar environment. This made it easier for him to portray them in his book. His inclusion of modern-day issues, such as violence and crime, makes the book more relatable and interesting. It was fascinating to hear about the motivations behind his decision to write the book and how Damilola Taylor's story compelled him."



## TRIP TO LONDON ZOO

A group of year 10 students were invited to ZSL (London Zoo) to work with their senior learning officer conducting a study on the behaviour of the Colobus monkeys in their new iconic Snowdon Aviary.

Students listened to a lecture on ZSL scientists on how



## YEAR 10 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS!

Our Year 10 football team defeated King Solomon Academy in an exciting match that went all the way to penalties. Coach Rob Devenney had this to say about his team:

"We worked incredibly hard throughout the campaign; it wasn't always straightforward, but we persevered through the tough times and flourished through the good times. I am so proud to work alongside so many talented and hard-working players! Onto Year 11, where we aim to go for three consecutive titles!"

