

15 November 2016

Dear Parents

Congratulations to:

- **Our Y9 Netball team** who came third in the County Championships at the weekend. They played 9 teams winning 7 matches, drawing one and losing only one – their first when they had not really warmed up. Well done to Florence Baxter, Eleanor Collingwood, Olivia Crow, India Firth, Olivia Handley, Lara Lewis, Georgina Oliver (Captain) and Phoebe Sutherland.
- **Ayra Pilani** (11C) who recently won silver and gold medals at the Welsh Airgun Championships in the Women's Junior Air Rifle Class.
- Laura Thackray (8C) who has attained her **Silver Merit Award**.
- The following pupils who have recently achieved their **Bronze Merit Awards**:

Katie Foster (7C)	Chloe Bird (7S)	Libby Stow (7S)	Asha Mettam (8C)
Nicholas Hamilton (7C)	Isabel Chapman (7S)	Sadie Fowler (7T)	Alice Pridgeon (8S)
Daisy Price (7C)	Daniel Evison (7S)	Leila Hall (7T)	

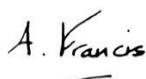
In reconciling our trip accounts there is a reimbursement for all students who paid to go on the off-site activities for the **Sports Festival** in July. We have distributed cheques to pupils today.

Auditions for the Christmas Celebration (on Thursday 8 December), organised by the Middle School Prefects, will take place this **Friday 18 November**, from 4.00 - 5.00 pm in the school hall.

Next week is **Reading Week** and no home learning will be set. Instead, students will be encouraged to read for at least an hour each day. This will provide a great opportunity to either carry out wider reading for subjects or read fiction. Reading regularly enhances students' vocabulary and English skills as well as improving their general knowledge. It is something we encourage everyone to make a part of their daily routine. A few book reviews have been included on the next page – you may find some of these tempt you.

Finally a reminder that **donations** are required for our **Christmas Fayre** on Sunday 4 December (2.00-4.00 pm).

Yours sincerely



Miss A Francis
Headteacher

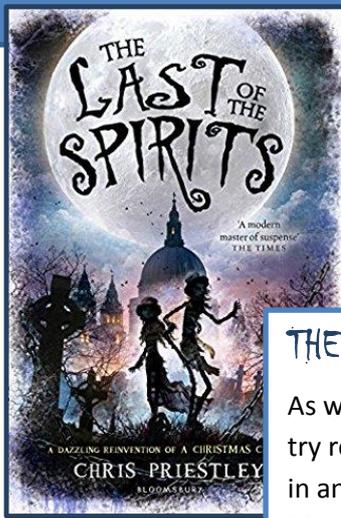


Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday, the senior student leadership team took part in the Remembrance Day Service at St Wilfrid's Church and laid a poppy wreath on the war memorial. We were honoured to take part in this local community event.

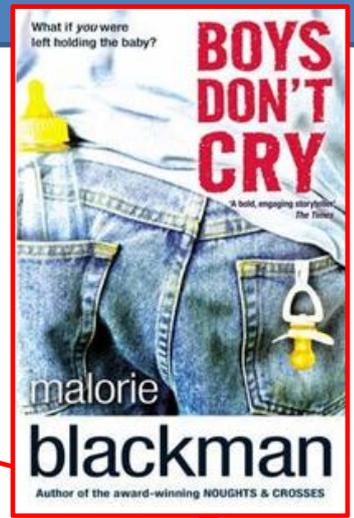


Book Reviews



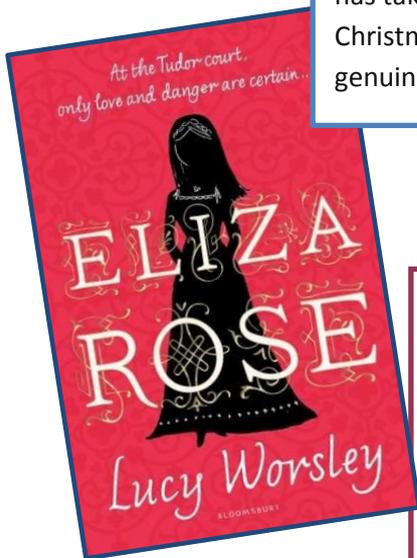
THE LAST OF THE SPIRITS

As we are fast approaching Christmas why not try reading this Gothic ghost story that weaves in and out of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. Sam and Lizzie are cold and hungry. On Christmas Eve they ask a wealthy man for coins to buy food. This man is Scrooge and you can imagine what he says. Sam's heart is hardened by his and Lizzie's life on the streets and now his hate has found a face. They follow Scrooge home, which is how they become caught in Scrooge's ghostly journey. Chris Priestley has this knack for making books feel haunted, like the ghostly wisps are coming of the page and has taken two very minor characters from A Christmas Carol, and woven them into a genuinely thrilling, chilling, utterly gripping tale.



BOYS DON'T CRY

Dante is waiting for the postman. It's 'A' level results day and he has high hopes, but a knock on the door brings an old girlfriend and some news that will change his plans for good. Written from the point of view of two teenage brothers: Dante, who is looking forward to university and a successful career, unexpectedly finds himself faced with the demands of full time single parenthood, and Adam, who is happy to be gay and makes no secret of it, but ultimately suffers from the intolerance of those around him.



ELIZA ROSE

Lucy Worsley, the author, is chief curator at Historic Royal Palaces, and the BBC's star popular historian and presenter of **Britain's Tudor Treasure** amongst many others. In this book she has taken the story of Katherine Howard, the fifth of Henry VIII's wives who was beheaded for adultery after a very short marriage. Eliza Rose is a fictional cousin, who first meets Katherine when she is sent to learn to be a lady whose main aim in life would be to catch a rich husband at court. The author paints a convincing picture of a rebellious young girl who leaves her home. This is a well written story with a great deal of historical atmosphere.

The Weight of Water

This beautiful book is written in verse and captures 13-year-old Kasienska's emotions and experiences perfectly. Although painful in places, this is an ultimately hopeful story. Relevant to us as we have a large Polish community nearby in Boston that often hits the news. When Kasienska's father leaves the family home in Poland in search of a new life, her broken-hearted mother resolves to follow him to England. Kasienska, who is reluctant to leave Poland, finds their shabby new home in Coventry damp and depressing. To make matters worse, Kasienska is constantly made to feel like an outsider in her new school: she is ostracised by the other girls and finds no comfort at home, as her mother spends all her free time determinedly searching the streets of Coventry for her missing husband. The only release Kasienska finds from her problems is through swimming and an important friendship she makes at the pool with a boy called William.

