

Jan 2021

# Wreake Valley Academy & Bradgate Sixth Form



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Newsletter - Lockdown Times Issue 3

## A Message from the Headteacher

During the first Lockdown, the idea of students being educated remotely had a certain amount of novelty value. 12 months later and 3 weeks into Lockdown 3, I think it is fair to say that for everyone, that novelty value has significantly reduced!



The lengths to which families, staff and students are going to, to remain enthusiastic and engaged in the online provision is greatly appreciated though I think we are all looking forward to the point in time when we are able to emerge into whatever the Spring term reality begins to look like.

At school level, we are still waiting (increasingly impatiently) for clarity about this. This week, the planned testing (which has taken a monumental effort to put into place) appears to be being rethought by the DFE. Our testing infrastructure will remain in place but the 'mass testing' vision of a few weeks ago appears to be developing into a more targeted programme of weekly testing for staff and tests for all students (all who have given consent) before the return to onsite provision.

Whatever the eventual outcome, please be reassured that as soon as we know anything, we will communicate with the wider school community. This is the same for the pending decision on examinations this year, the breadth of the examination curriculum for next year and the national expectation for when schools return to normal.

In the meantime, at Wreake we will be recruiting a significant number of new teachers to work at the school. The number of families selecting Wreake as their first choice for a place in Year 7 next year has increased by 70 students and means that we can continue to grow with real confidence over the next few years. Some of the changes planned for the Spring/Summer term will be delayed until September to allow us all to settle back into the school routine (as soon as we are able) but for now, please continue to work together with us as a community and to communicate with school as much as possible.

Thanks all,  
**Tim Marston**

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### A Message from the Deputy Headteacher

This week saw a historic first for staff and students at Wreake Valley as our school gym was turned into a lateral flow testing centre.

All children who are currently coming into school are offered the twice weekly opportunity to be tested. Staff are also offered this twice weekly process.

If your child is coming into school and would like to be tested please ensure you complete the questions on the key worker form and also complete the online consent form.

Here is the link to the [Consent Form](#)

The Testing Team have worked really well together and the students and staff have been really supportive.



*"The first time I was tested it all felt rather weird and it tickled my nose, the second time was much easier as I knew what to expect and how the process went". Year 10 Student*

**Nicola Morland**  
Deputy Headteacher



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### Contacting Us through the Lockdown Period

During the lockdown period our telephone lines will be open from 8.30am – 2.30pm each day, if you need help with anything please call us on 0116 264 1080 or email us at [admin@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:admin@wreake.bepschools.org)

If your child is unwell and not able to work online please notify us in the usual way by emailing [studentabsence@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:studentabsence@wreake.bepschools.org)

If your query is specific to one of your child's subjects you can contact the Head of Department directly on the following emails:

Special Educational Needs Coordinator - Jeanette Knowles.  
[Jknowles@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:Jknowles@wreake.bepschools.org)

Head of English – Genevieve Lovegrove [glovegrove@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:glovegrove@wreake.bepschools.org)

Head of Maths – Carl Atherton [catherton@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:catherton@wreake.bepschools.org)

Head of Science – Nick Rowles [nrowles@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:nrowles@wreake.bepschools.org)

Head of Humanities – Emma Spargo – [espargo@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:espargo@wreake.bepschools.org)

Head of Creative Arts and Technology – Carla Connolly – [cconnolly@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:cconnolly@wreake.bepschools.org)

Head of Languages – Sandra Ward – [sward@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:sward@wreake.bepschools.org)

Head of PE – Faye Sibley – [fsibley@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:fsibley@wreake.bepschools.org)

### Free School Meals

Reminders of the letters and the important updates that we have sent out to parents about how Free School Meals will be provided during the lockdown period can be found on our website <https://www.wvacademy.org/free-school-meals-during-school-closure/>

To apply for Free School Meals see the Leicestershire County Council webpage below. Please scroll to the bottom of the webpage for the application form.

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>



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### Student Discussion with the Headteacher continued...

For A-Level students, the school is working with The Elephant Group - a program which gets the top students to the top third of universities in the UK, regardless of the student's background. Work experience and apprentices are still taking place digitally to encourage students to not give up on their ambitions.

The coronavirus pandemic is not the only concern that made headlines - social issues, such as homelessness, climate change, immigration, racial and cultural discrimination, gender inequality and civil rights, were topics that came to light. Through social media, people understood more about society and the faults inside of it. Mr Marston believes that dealing with these issues and debating them is an effective way for students to learn about them. In Mr Marston's previous school, he encouraged students to take part in the global warming protests that promoted climate change mitigation led by Greta Thunberg.

Wreake Valley has signed up to the Marcus Rashford program, providing the essential items that many families don't have. Marcus Rashford famously helped young children to get free school meals after 322 MPs voted against this. He raised £20m to feed school children around the country. As additional support, the school made sure that the families received vouchers instead of receiving the disgraceful free school meal food parcels we have seen in the news today. The school has made sure they receive what they need, even for those who are not eligible for the parcel.

As a last message, it is absolutely vital that as a school, we pull together. If we do so, we will support each other through this. The teachers are so proud of how the students adapted in these tough times and are looking forward to a time where we can see everyone in the classroom again. Everything will be fine; for in every difficulty lies opportunity.

By Sarah Tene, Kiana Bharakhada and Gia Basra (Year 10)



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### Careers

Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership have a website with information and resources for students on the world of work, T Levels and Apprenticeships. Click here to access their website

[https://llep.org.uk/skills/information-resources-for-young-people/?dm\\_i=36DV,145R4,7ZK4S5,4APOS,1](https://llep.org.uk/skills/information-resources-for-young-people/?dm_i=36DV,145R4,7ZK4S5,4APOS,1)

### Interested in a career in the NHS?

This is a really good quiz that you can complete to discover NHS careers and you can explore roles in the NHS that might suit you.

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/FindYourCareer>

If you find any roles that interest you and you want to find out more about qualifications and skill you need please email me:

[gparkinson@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:gparkinson@wreake.bepschools.org)

### LIVE Police Careers Webinar

We have a live Police careers webinar running on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 2pm for all of Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students to access. All the KS4 and KS5 students will have notification of the event via SMHW on Friday morning.

If you would like to get involved here is the link: [LIVE Police Careers Webinar](#)



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## Careers continued ....

### Just 1 Week to Go—UK University Search Virtual Event

The UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Learning Fair is taking place on

**Wednesday 27th January (12:00—18:00)**

It's completely free of charge and it's a fun and easy way to explore over 80 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers. Take part in live interactive webinars, talk to a range of different exhibitors to ask any questions you have about your next steps and visit our virtual Exhibition Hall to check out booths and resources. You can [sign up here](#)

**Mr Geoff Parkinson**  
Aspirations and Careers Coordinator

## Summer 2020 Certificates

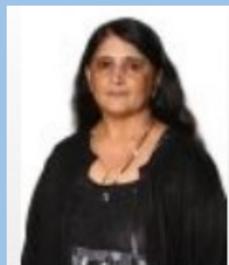
Due to the current lockdown restrictions, we have decided that exam certificates Summer 2020 certificates will not be available for collection until it is safe to do so i.e. when the restrictions are lifted and the schools are allowed to re-open.

As exam certificates are official documents (evidence of your qualifications throughout your lives) and must be kept in a safe place, we are not allowed to post them out to you.

We will notify everyone of how to collect your certificates as soon as we are able to do so.

Many thanks for your understanding and support during these unprecedented times

**Ish Pancholi**  
Exams Officer



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## Student Discussion with the Headteacher 2021

Before the first lockdown in March 2020, the student council interviewed Mr Marston, the new Headteacher of Wreake Valley Academy. It was a pleasure to interview him, finding out more about his background and ideas for the school. Slowly, settling into the school was smooth and everything was going well: attendance increased, inappropriate behaviour improved and the number of exclusions decreased. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit hard, changing our way of life so rapidly, notably in the educational sector. So, we talked to Mr Marston again to get an insight into the new way of learning and to see how the school has changed.

Adopting the current measures was surreal for all of us: wearing masks, keeping a distance from others, washing our hands frequently and staying at home. Students and staff dealt with the changes smoothly, implementing the government guidelines into the school. Everyone slowly adapted to the sudden change well, keeping calm and encouraging others too. However, there was a challenge concerning online schooling, making sure everyone was doing the work successfully and on-time. Mr Marston quickly realised that there was no simple solution as remote learning can never replace the feeling of being in a classroom. To help students, we have a registration activity they complete every week. If there are any concerns, they can ask for a teacher to contact them. Teachers are ready to respond and give advice and guidance for those struggling to cope either with school work or mental health issues which can be really challenging during lockdown measures.

Schools received the information about COVID-19 at the same time as students. Finding out about the cancellation of GCSE and A-Level exams was a shock for everybody, as this has happened for the second year in a row. Last-minute choices made by the government and a lack of communication between authorities and schools was frustrating because they abruptly broke plans that were made.

For students, missing out on education and frequently transitioning from remote learning to in-school learning is challenging. For those going to college and university, the school has programs in place to support them throughout the process.



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Archie Dodd 7SER



Brooke Welsh in year 9 FS baked some healthy banana and apple muffins



Lillie Smith 7LPR



Jake Collins 9MSH



William Carver Sansby 9MSH and his fab muffins.



Charlie Collins 7LPR has done it again.

These calzones looks so scrumptious!



Bethany Bown 7LPR



Elle-Louise Matthews 7SER made some yummy apple and banana muffins.



Lily-Mae Fox 8BL baked a cake



Connor Reed-Bray 9MSH  
Pizza Wheels



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### Bradgate Sixth Form — Week 3

Dear Year 13 students, Parents & Carers

We would like to take this opportunity to say well done for the great commitment and effort you have shown over the last couple of weeks to your studies. Well done!

At this time, we are still not sure what will replace your A Level exams but it is likely there will be some form of assessment. It is therefore really important you continue to complete the work you have been set to the best of your ability and to attend any live lessons you have.

Please remember to contact us if you need any support with anything at all.

The consultation into what replaces exams opened on Friday 15th Jan and lasts for two weeks. As soon as we have the decision on the way forward from the government, we will share it with you and ensure that we support everyone in Year 13 to achieve the best results they can.

You can give your opinion on the consultation and which way you and your parents feel this year's exam results should be awarded, by clicking on the link below. This will take you to the government's consultation page. Halfway down the page there is a link to 'How GCSE, AS and A Level results should be awarded for 2021' this gives the details about the government's suggestions for how the results should be awarded. If you then scroll towards the bottom of the page to the section Ways to Respond, you can click the 'Respond Online' link and submit your response.

Use the link for the consultation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>



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## Bradgate Sixth Form — Week 2

### B6 21 Challenges for 2021

This week we have challenged all Bradgate Sixth Form students to complete 21 challenges for 2021!

We want to challenge our students to do something amazing, something new, and something different in 2021. The challenges set will ensure that students will gain new experiences, a sense of achievement and develop new skills! Students will go head-to-head with the B6 staff Team to see who completes the 21 challenges first.

Year 12 and 13 students have been asked to submit evidence of completed challenges and I look forward to sharing these with you over the next few weeks.

Here are just some of the challenges set:

- Complete at least one 'Big Question' from Oxplore:
- Take the initiative to learn a new skill such as sign language: <https://www.bslonline.co.uk/courses/bsl-taster-course/> Can you pass the test on colours and animals?
- Complete a digital detox for at least one day a week,
- Your life over 30 days in photographs,
- Read at least one of the recommended books from members of staff at Bradgate Sixth Form,
- Contribute 21 hours to your local community,
- 100% attendance to all B6 Broadcasts on a Friday afternoon.

**Katie Johnson**  
Head of Bradgate Sixth Form



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## The "Covid Kitchen"

Joaquin 8MRE has been working on his baking skills with a 3 way cookie. Joaquin also worked on his decoration skills with these shortbreads! Star baker alert!

Is your mouth watering yet? If so and you wish to give it a go, Joaquin has kindly shared his recipe!

### Ingredients

- 275g Plain Flour
- 1 tsp Bicarbonate of soda
- ½ tsp Salt
- 1 tbspc Cornflour
- 115g Butter
- 55g Caster sugar
- 135g Light Brown Sugar
- 1 Medium Egg
- 1 tsp Vanilla
- 100g Mixed choc chips
- 100g Mini Eggs
- 50g Jelly Bean's
- 50g Terrys Chocolate Orange

1. Preheat oven to 190c/170c fan and line a 30cm x 20cm Tin with greaseproof paper , leave to the side for now .
2. Mix Flour, Cornflour, Bicarb and salt till everything looks combined evenly, leave to the side .
3. In a larger bowl melt the butter add the sugars and whisk for a few minutes till it looks smooth at this point add in the egg and vanilla whisk again till smooth .
4. Add in the dry ingredients and the chocolate chips mix well we used a paddle until a cookie dough is formed .
5. Press mixture in to tin you prepared earlier .
6. Section it out in to 3 equal looking parts . Then add your 3 separate treats we used mini eggs pushing them right in to the mixture . Then jelly beans doing the same thing . Then we broke up some chocolate orange and put that in to the third section .
7. Bake for 18 minutes or until the cookie looks dry. Leave to cool fully before cutting into 4x4 squares.

*Remember if you do make these you will need an adults permission*



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## The "Covid Kitchen"

Rosie Betts 9MSH is getting in her Vitamin C by squeezing some fresh, juicy oranges for her kiwi, orange and pear smoothies.



Toby Dikes in 9FS made a Rabbit pie, which looks like you can sell it in the shops! Excellent work.



Archie Dodd 7SER- Showing off how to prevent physical cross contamination with onion skins not on the board



Excellent work by Tyler Ward 7SER



Rhys in 7SMM made the banana and apple muffins! A yummy way of getting your 5 a day!



Outstanding work by Tyler Ward in 7SER



Archie Dodd's Cheese and Onion pastry



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## PE Decathlon Challenge

**THE ROAD TO TOKYO 2020**  
Decathlon Challenge!

- Javelin** Active Snowball Challenge: With your parent or sibling, scrunch up some old paper to make 10 'snowballs'. Create a divide line using something in your house (e.g. skipping rope). Start with 5 balls each. Time 1 minute. Try and throw the balls into your opponents half. The winner is the person with the least snowballs on their half after 1 minute. Repeat the game!
- Pole Vault** Active Challenge: Play in pairs. Place a target ball a few metres away and crumple 3 balls of paper each. Take it in turns to throw your paper at the target ball. Whoever gets the closest wins. Repeat the game!
- Discus** History Task: Research about the history of the Olympics and create an information booklet
- Shot Put** Dance & Technology Challenge: Choose a song and create a dance routine on your own or with family and friends. Share it with us and your school on social media.
- High Jump** Active Challenge: Crumple a piece of paper. See how many times you can fit it in the air using the palm of your hand. Try to beat your score and play with others. Why not try and keep it up in pairs?
- 100m** Art Task: Design or make an Olympic torch
- Long Jump** Writing Task: Write a poem about the Tokyo Olympic games
- 1500m** Active Challenge: With your parent or sibling, get a balloon and see how many times you can keep it up between you both without it hitting the floor. To make the task harder, why not stand on one leg or come up with your own idea!

**3 TASKS COMPLETED = BRONZE AWARD**  
**6 TASKS COMPLETED = SILVER AWARD**  
**10 TASKS COMPLETED = GOLD AWARD**

**110m Hurdles** Creative Active Challenge: Find a selection of sports equipment/toys and create your own Olympic style game

**400m** Art Task: Create a poster or collage about the Olympic Games and pass it to your class teacher

**Send us a photo or a copy of your challenge!**

**We would LOVE to see what you're up to. Keep in touch and send us what you've been up to...**

fsibley@wreake.bepschools.org OR Admin@wreake.bepschools.org

**GOOD LUCK!!!**

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
With the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in sight we could like to set you a challenge. Complete a selection of these before the Feb half term to win medals and Epraise points! When you have completed one, get your parent or guardian to sign and date the challenge you completed.

TOKYO 2020

**THE BENEFITS OF EXERCISE ON MENTAL HEALTH**  
@BELIEVEPHQ

- REDUCED STRESS LEVELS
- INCREASED ENERGY LEVELS
- REDUCED DEPRESSION
- INCREASED MOOD
- INCREASED WELL BEING
- BOOSTS BRAIN POWER
- INCREASED CONFIDENCE
- IMPROVED SLEEP

**SELF CARE CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS**  
@BelievePHQ

- Achieved between 7-9 hours sleep each night
- Found time to exercise throughout the week
- Stayed hydrated throughout the day
- Practised some relaxation techniques
- Spoke to a friend, family member or teacher about how I am feeling
- Made sure I have eaten 3 healthy meals each day
- Spent time connecting and socialising with friends or family
- Challenged unhelpful beliefs
- Identified how I can use my strengths each day
- Identified 3 good things I have achieved from the day
- Taken time to pause, slow down and breathe



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## Geography Bake Off



Introducing the Geography Bake Off! Each week we want to showcase some of Wreake's wackiest creations, with the best theme; Geography and baking! Either as a family or challenge yourself to an independent bake, try and re-create something Geography based, this could be mountains, volcanoes, rivers, a city-scape or countryside! Think about what you have learnt in recent weeks, or your favourite or most interesting topics: climate change, wild weather or the environment! There's a lot more to Geography than meets the eye, so be inventive! We are looking forward to seeing what you create! Please send in pictures of your bakes

to [lm Wyatt@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:lm Wyatt@wreake.bepschools.org) or [admin@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:admin@wreake.bepschools.org)

**There will be prizes to be won!!**

See pictures of my attempt of a waterfall cake, showing differential erosion (soft rock erodes faster than hard rock- in this case, coffee cake is going to be eaten faster than chocolate cake...). Year 8 have been learning about erosion, and will look at waterfalls in a couple of lessons time! I find baking really relaxing and useful for keeping my mind occupied- even more so during lockdown. Although it would be nice to be able to share a few slices! I'm excited to see what you all

Louise Myatt, Teacher of Humanities and her impressive waterfall cake.

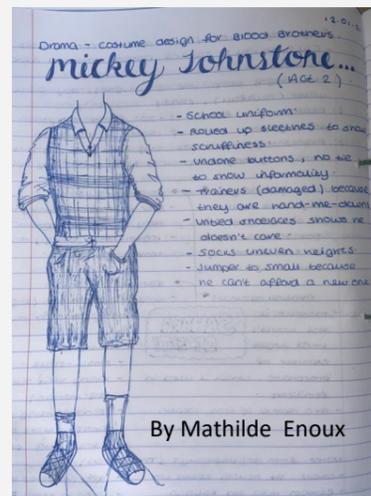


## Creative & Visual Arts

### One Finger at a Time Piano Lessons with Mr Clamp

Every Friday at Noon, Mr Clamp will be running a One finger at a time Piano lessons. Perfect for beginners and enthusiastic amateurs. Students, staff, parents, dogs, cats, parrots all welcome. Every session will be recorded so if you can't make it you'll be able to find the recording after on one drive.

Email [tclamp@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:tclamp@wreake.bepschools.org) for the link!



By Mathilde Enoux



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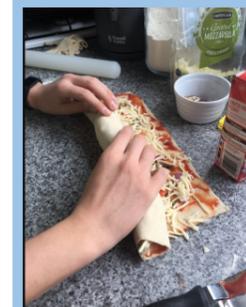
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## The "Covid Kitchen"

This week the "Covid Kitchen" has exploded with our students culinary creativity. Well done everyone! Last weeks recipe to try was "Pizza Wheels" and we have been inundated with examples of students work. We have included as many contributions as we could this week, please continue to share with us your delicious delights.



Evie Baker, 7KHO has some well presented her pizza wheels here!



Finley Steele 9PGV Pizza Wheels



Rebecca Ryves 8BL Cheese Triangle Squares!



Tel: 0116 2641080



Jessica French 7SMM showing off her skills with her Pizza Wheels

Keira Rakhroa Yr9, has completed an excellent example of an evaluation of a traffic light label. Very important when trying to eat healthier!!

This is a recipe for **Honey Teriyaki Prawns**. All of the ingredients in this recipe (apart from the prawns) creates a marinade and a sauce, half of which marinates the prawns and the other half which you put in the frying pan to cook with the prawns. When I tried this, I use a little bit of corn-starch to thicken the sauce. I also made egg fried rice to go with the prawns (there was also a little bit of vegetables too.)

This recipe is high in sugars however the sugar from the honey is not processed. The recipe is also high in salt (which is from the soy sauce.)

Honey Teriyaki Prawns					Nutrition Information Typical Values	
	Fat	Saturates	Total Sugars	Salt	Per 100g	Per portion (184g)
Energy 1039kJ 246kcal	7.6g	0.8g	27g	6.1g	562	1039
12%	11%	4%	30%	102%	133	246
					4.1	7.6
					0.4	0.8
					15	28
					15	27
					<0.5	<0.5
					10	19
					3.3	6.1

of an adult's Reference Intake. Typical values per 100g: Energy 562kJ/133kcal

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### Year 7 Wreake Book Club

If you are struggling to find books to read at home, then log onto the Reading Cloud and reserve books, which we will deliver to you (a Deliveroo service with a Wreake twist!). You can also borrow eBooks and audiobooks for free from the public library service. Remember that you can also access Accelerated Reader at home and continue taking quizzes. Information on how to access Accelerated Reader and the Reading Cloud is on Show My Homework.

#### Borrowbox

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/digital-library-services/ebooks>

#### Library News

Students have been borrowing books by requesting them on Reading Cloud and these are their Top 20 books from 2020.



These are the new books we have added to the library this term and are all available to request on Reading Cloud. If there are books you would like to read that we don't have on our catalogue you can request them by emailing me :- [library@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:library@wreake.bepschools.org)

If you are running out of reading material, many authors are providing free chapters of their books and posting videos of book readings. Tom Palmer has made some of his chapters available here :-

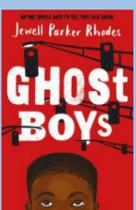
[Free Reads | Tom Palmer](#)

He writes about the two world wars and football and we have many of them in the library.

#### Reading Cloud

<https://u007992.microlibrarian.net/>

Miss Rajput and Mrs Patel



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### English

11P were set work to analyse a poem by the First World War poet Siegfried Sassoon (shown below). We all need a bit more positive emotion in our lives at the moment and one student, James Anderson, thoughtfully implied this in his analysis of the poem with "it helps us understand some of the trauma that the speaker has gone through and his joy now it's over, hopefully this will be relatable one day." Absolutely James. Under the poem you can see the full mini-essay by student Rhona Johnston.

**EVERYONE SANG** by Siegfried Sassoon (1919)

*Everyone suddenly burst out singing;  
And I was filled with such delight  
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,  
Winging wildly across the white  
Orchards and dark-green fields; on - on - and out of sight.*

*Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted;  
And beauty came like the setting sun:  
My heart was shaken with tears; and horror  
Drifted away ... O, but Everyone  
Was a bird; and the song was wordless; the singing will never be done.*

Question: Notice that this poem was written in 1919 – what might it be celebrating and how does the speaker convey his happiness?

The poem, 'everyone sang' was written in 1919 which was the year after WW1 ended, and Britain gained victory. The implications are that 'everyone sang' is based on the happiness but also relief at the end of the war.

To convey this feeling of happiness Sassoon creates a tone of overwhelming joy within the first lines of the poem. The plosive sound in the vigorous verb 'burst' suggests that the singing came like an explosion almost like they are overwhelmed with happiness, or even exploding with it. This is emphasised in the phrase 'everyone suddenly burst out singing' by the adverb 'suddenly' as it highlights the spontaneity of the moment.



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### English

Immediately the reader is fully immersed in the poet's thoughts and surroundings, and they become almost one with 'everyone'. This enhances the feeling of togetherness.

As the poem continues the poet maintains the tone of happiness by using a semantic field of pure elation with words such as 'delight' and 'beauty' implying his appreciation of the experience.

Happiness is also shown through a simile, 'such delight as a prisoned bird must find freedom' comparing the people of Britain whilst at war to 'prisoned birds'. The adjective 'prisoned' evokes ideas of being trapped or feeling claustrophobic which contrasts completely with the idea of 'freedom'. The juxtaposition of these ideas emphasises the happiness of the present moment compared to the past struggles. The imagery in the alliterative phrase 'winging wildly' creates the picture in the reader's mind of the birds finally being released back to the 'wild', just as the people have been released from war where they couldn't live happily. This suggests that balance has finally been restored in Britain so they can be happy now.

In the seconds stanza repetition is used in line 'Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted' which has echoes of the first line of the poem. This portrays how 'everyone' acts as one throughout the whole poem which could mirror the idea of how everyone in Britain came together in WW1. This is also suggested in the use of the singular 'voice' as they have one voice together not multiple voices. Their 'voice' is also now 'lifted' as the poem intensifies and so does their song. The more intense, happy atmosphere is also shown by the poet's physical reaction 'My heart was shaken with tears' as they are now affected both emotionally and physically. In addition to this, where in the first stanza the poet compares them to birds with a simile, in the second stanza they have now become birds in the metaphor, 'everyone was a bird'. This transformation highlights the power of the moment because their happiness strengthens, they become more bird-like and act as one. As well as this, the use of birds in the poem creates an image of flocks of birds, moving almost in one body, just as the people in the poem do. This could be to portray how their happiness becomes unanimous.



Jan 2021

# Wreake Valley Academy & Bradgate Sixth Form



## Newsletter - Lockdown Times Issue 3



### Year 7 Wreake Book Club

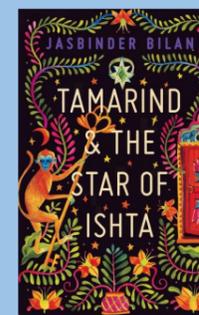
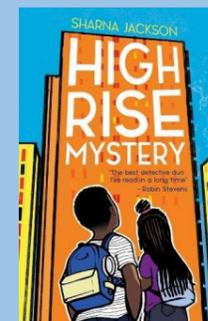
During lockdown, we have moved our lunchtime book club onto Show My Homework, so that we can continue to discuss books and share our love for what we have been reading. We have enjoyed sharing the books we have read through the 'discussion' section on Show My Homework.

Miss Rajput and Mrs Patel have found comfort in escaping into another world through a good book; a well-needed break from our laptop screens!

Like Mrs Patel, Elodie has finished reading the books she got for Christmas, Bethany found **The Boy at the Back of the Classroom** a gripping story, Joe is reading the sixth title in **A Series of Unfortunate Events**, and Miss Rajput has finished reading more verse novels: **Moon Rise** and **Gloves Off** (Miss Rajput has found her love for verse novels after being recommended these by Mrs Patel).

We have a Book Bingo card with 16 slots to fill in and Emma has completed a row already! Well done Emma! Each box, row and full house completed results in generous EPrise points.

We would like more of you to join our book club and welcome new members to take a nice break away from your school work. if you would like to join our book club, please contact either Miss Rajput or Mrs Patel by emailing [nrajput@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:nrajput@wreake.bepschools.org) or [library@wreake.bepschools.org](mailto:library@wreake.bepschools.org)



I am reading A Series Of Unfortunate Events: The Ersatz Elevator. I am looking forward to reading it and I also really enjoyed the first five books of this series.

Joe Beechey



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### Newsletter - Lockdown Times Issue 3

#### English

Daylight. The suns raise sets the tone for the party of the century. Down a street away from the rest of the partygoers, a dark figure stands in the middle of the outcast of merrymakers.

A tall figure. A gentleman distinctive in the crowd, mysterious, interesting. He is submerged in a mass of merrymakers. There was music, dancing, laughter coming in from every side of the flock. He comes across like a cryptic clue that can't be solved. Smothered in black clothing with the smallest hint of red showing his beating heart.

They partied like it was the time to be alive. In the air, there is a burst of sprinkles floating down. Their clothing was all different, vibrant clothing match the mood of the party. They had been partying all day and all night. They were singing all the classics from the top of their lungs until they had nothing left.

As the evening drew to a close, there were a few stragglers trying to carry on. There were drinks bottles, shoes and all sorts lying on the floor. This was the only time you could have ever heard a pin drop.

**By Sophia Bruce**



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## Wreake Valley Academy & Bradgate Sixth Form



### Newsletter - Lockdown Times Issue 3

#### English

Miss Rajput

10S have been using their imagination and getting creative this week. Inspired by A Christmas Carol, below are some excellent descriptions written by Erin Bradshaw and Sophia Bruce.



In the far corner of the room there is a bright fire that directly contrasts with the dark, boring, lifeless room, this could have connotations of happiness trying to come in. From the window the dull light from the dark winter days shone in brightly, highlighting the old man and showing his scraggly grey hair and ghost like figure. He looks worn out from the chains and cashboxes constantly clinging to him.

The room looks ancient and dusty. This suggests it is either been abandoned, or it has not been cleaned for a while. The fact that the man is pale faced suggests that the room is quite cold even though there is a fire. The dull atmosphere suggests that the situation is quite serious or that the man is quite lonely. The man looks ghost-like and unhappy. The chains look painful to carry which suggests he is being punished for something.

You can hear the sharp crackling noises of the bright fire. The sounds of the crisp winter air blowing in the wind can be heard through the window. There are the loud heavy rattles of the chains moving every few minutes, every time the pale faced man uncomfortably moves. The fire shines through the whole room like a statement. This could also show that there can be light in even the darkest situations.

The smell of the dusty old carpet filled the room. The smoke from the fire drifted through the room filling every corner. The damp stale corners trapped the smoke and there was nowhere for the vile old smell to leave as the cold dusty windows were closed. The damp dusty parts of the room show that there may be its abandoned or its is not taken care of because it does not look very homely. With their only being one chair and no furniture and no personal touches.

When you breathe in you can taste the damp staleness of the wretched room. Also, the vile taste of toxic smoke and mould mixed heightened your senses and would make you feel ill. The harsh smells interact with the rank taste of the room making the whole place seem vile and tragic.

**By Erin Bradshaw**

