



JRS Express

The school year seems to be flying past! Schools enter the strangest few months at this time of year as we try to concentrate on the past, present and future (just like Scrooge in A Christmas Carol) with equal focus and importance.

Looking at the past, we focus on our finances in April, just as any other organisation tied to the financial year would. In the present we are focussing on all our students, but particularly Year 11 as they approach their GCSEs. English and maths after school support sessions are well under way to get the very best outcomes for every student that we possibly can. We also need to look to the future. This includes discussing GCSE options with our Year 9 and staffing, timetabling and budgeting the curriculum for all year groups ready for September. Shortly after Easter I expect us to be advertising a few new roles to start in September so if you know anyone in the area looking for part time teaching work - tell them to keep an eye on our website!

This Easter break will see a significant investment in our science department as one of our laboratory areas and another room are refurbished and modernised - to give our outstanding science students the best possible environment in which to learn and be successful.

The work that goes into this is all so worthwhile because of the calibre of young people we have on roll and the support we receive from our families. So let me take this opportunity to thank you and wish you all the very best for the Easter break and we look forward to working with you throughout the summer term.

Peter Blackburn



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FORM ASSEMBLIES AT JRS!

On Thursday mornings every form has continued to take it in turns to lead an assembly. This term, we have been educated, enlightened and edified by the following topics:

BTA: LGBTQ+

THA: School Council

BTE: Holocaust Memorial Day

THE: Let's Connect (Children's Mental Health Week)

BTO: Valentines Day

THO: World Book Day

BTW: The Media

THW: Easter

As you can see, the assembly topics have continued to thoroughly embrace the JRS values:

Be respected
Be resilient
Be valued
Be ready for your future
Be you!

"Let every dawn be to you as the beginning of life." John Ruskin

EN FRANÇAIS



Can you solve the dingbat below and find the French idiom?

COMME

The first three students to give me the correct answer (along with its meaning) will win a prize.

Bonne chance!

Madame Houssaye

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FORM TIME READING

Form time reading has continued at JRS this term with a series of articles chosen by our head students and deputies: Holly, Lillie, Teddie and George. Tutor groups have read and discussed just before and after Christmas articles about whether or not the World Cup should have been held in Qatar; the treatment of women in Iran; the use of Coniston water for speed records and the effects of climate change globally on the health of humans and nature. Prior to Valentine's Day we looked at famous paintings with a romantic theme and the top romantic destinations according to Time Out magazine. Students read materials linked to International Women's day too and we've recently explored how different countries celebrate Easter across the world, including Ukraine, and looked at some famous Easter themed paintings.

To celebrate World Book Day, during the week all forms read the Oscar Wilde fairy tale *The Selfish Giant* and on Thursday March 2nd students read a story called *Examination Day* by Henry Slesar over six lessons. Students were then able to enter a quiz – and Abi C in Year 7 was the lucky winner! In addition to this, students took part in a find a World Book Day logo hunt around the school. Year 7 and Year 8 continue, of course, with their designated Accelerated Reader lessons in school...while Year 9 have started their study of *Macbeth*. During the Year 11 after school revision sessions, we have recently watched the RSC live theatre recording of *The Merchant of Venice* and after completing their study of *Animal Farm*, all of Year 11 are fully aware of the importance being able to read has on how individuals can function in society!

Mr Walker



JRS CAREERS FAIR 24TH JANUARY 2023

January saw the return of the careers fair at JRS. The hall was buzzing during the afternoon, as Years 8 – 11 took it in turns to visit the fair and talk with employers across a range of sectors, as well as Further Education providers and careers advisors. There was a total of 17 stands set up in the school hall, with visitors representing Tourism, the Army, the NHS, Engineering, the Aviation industry, Cumbria County Council and small local businesses.

Our students engaged enthusiastically with the employers and college representatives, once again making us proud and showing how confidently students at JRS can conduct themselves and communicate with visitors and adults. The students felt well prepared for the event and this enabled them to have meaningful conversations about a range of opportunities for their next steps after JRS, or just to understand more about the world of work and the current Labour Market. Parents of Year 10 and 11 students were also invited to visit the Fair after school – many thanks for your support if you managed to attend.

Our visitors are looking forward to being invited back to JRS, and we are all looking forward to our next careers event in school.

Mrs Tennant
(Careers Lead)



Year 7 trip to Dove Cottage

It was a delight to take all of Year 7 on a trip to Dove Cottage on Monday 27th February. The weather stayed dry and even the odd early daffodil managed to smile on us all.

The whole group were subdivided into 3 smaller groups and were rotated doing different tasks: a trip around Dove Cottage; a visit to the museum; and a walk into the countryside that so inspired both William and Dorothy Wordsworth.

Year 7 used the day for jotting down observations of their surroundings and when we all returned to school they created their own poems- I think Wordsworth and Dorothy would be proud. I know myself and Mrs Ribchester are proud of the work they achieved in such a short space of time- so much so that, some students have entered their poems in a local competition organised by Cumbria Tourism.

Forget a 'host of golden daffodils' it was more like a 'host of golden Year 7s.'

Mrs Wright



TEXTILES

It's been a sensational spring term in textiles thus far as KS4 have been showcasing their skills in sewing, stencilling, screen printing, crochet and various other crafts as they set about the practical parts of their NEA (non-exam assessment). The class have worked with diligence and determination to display an impressive array of skills, techniques, and talents in Textiles.



Meanwhile, Year 10 are in the process of designing and creating denim doorstops as part of their work on sustainability and the 6 R's.



Year 9 have been busy building their confidence and skills in using the sewing machines whilst the year eight students have just started putting together designs and plans for creating keepsakes by making their very own 'terrific toys' from scrap materials.



Should you happen to have any denim jeans, jackets, skirts, shirts, or scrap materials going spare then we'd really appreciate them being sent to school so that we can make use of the materials. Please ask your child to drop off any donations at the school office.

Mrs Phillips

BINGO

The atmosphere was electric on Saturday 28th January when our much anticipated Bingo Night finally returned after a Covid break. The night did not disappoint as a phenomenal £1700 was raised that will go towards extra resources to enhance the pupils' experiences here at John Ruskin School.

Not surprisingly, the John Ruskin School Fundraising Committee has a lot of people to say thank you to. Our main house prizes were exceptional, being donated by: The Coniston Inn, The Drunken Duck, Dove Cottage, The Gondola, The Motor Museum and Cafe Ambio, The Swan Hotel, The Temperance Inn Ambleside, The Yewdale, Zefereellis and a cash prize of £70. If that sounds impressive there were also other local businesses who were happy to support us: Bluebird Cafe, Bottled and Brewed, The Chocolate Factory, Coniston Corporate, Co-op, Green Housekeeper, Hayes, Hawkshead Relish Company, Hills Garage, Just For Ewe, Pure Lakes and Wax Lyrical to name but a few. Our parents and friends of the school also donated many prizes and delicious cakes, with the addition of their time, support and purses...! The night would not have been the same without them.

The quality and generosity of the prizes donated really does mean that our winter blues buster Bingo Night truly is something special!

Perhaps the final thank you goes to our caller for the night, the fantastic Stuart Brakewell who stepped in at short notice and was a very professional bingo caller.

Mrs Wright

"The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it." - John Ruskin



REVIEW ON THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE

BY ELIZABETH WITH QUOTES FROM YEAR 10'S RECENT DRAMA MOCK PAPERS.

On the 5th of January 2023, I visited The Lowry in Salford to watch The Ocean At The End Of The Lane as a live performance with my school. The storyline is based on the novel written by Neil Gaiman but was adapted by Joel Horwood and performed by the National Theatre Company.

This piece of theatre was not like any other performances I've ever seen, it included woodwork framed puppets and other rod puppets that created a massive animal called "the flea". The lighting throughout this show matched perfectly. At moments where it was dangerous, red lights were used. At moments where one character was worried or scared, they would flash. The lights would always match what those specific characters were feeling at that moment. The thing that brought the show together was the stage. It was dark with dull lights to create a scarier atmosphere, and this worked perfectly.

Another thing the National Theatre Company did well was they used body language and emotions to really make the audience feel as though they were in trouble, scared, hurt or any other emotion they were feeling too.

Spoiler alert!

Near the end, Letty dies. Mrs Hempstock was laid on the floor in shock and her body language told us that she was really upset. She was sitting there in a heap on the floor with her head in her hands and not really moving; This is usually an associated action to do with someone who is upset. Old Mrs Hempstock used her vocal skills to mimic crying in the same scene. As a member of the audience, this made me feel upset for her and brought a tear to my eye.

This was truly a heartfelt show and I would highly recommend watching it!

Elizabeth



'We, as the audience, see the sudden change of expression on Letty's mother's face as she drops her jaw and screams...This stuns the audience, who are now feeling the same emotion as Letty's mother. This immerses the audience into the production.' Evan

'...the boy adds desperation and a sense of grief to his voice by delivering his lines with quick intonation and barely a single pause. This hooks the audience and gets them excited for the play to unfold.' Dex

' In Act 1 there is a pivotal scene, the boy successfully escapes Ursula and runs away, but just as he thinks his plan works, Ursula appears on a harness floating above him.' Robyn

GEOGRAPHY

Year 8 students had an enjoyable morning in the village completing their geography field-work on the land use and different types of shops and businesses in Coniston. All the students worked hard and had a practice at conducting questionnaires to shoppers and business owners. They have been completing follow-up work analysing their results in geography lessons.



Year 7 had a fantastic trip up to the Coppermines and the Ruskin Museum to focus on the local history and geography of our amazing location. We learned how the settlement of Coniston is inextricably linked to the mining industry in the 19th century through following the Coppermines Trail, and the many interesting features that make Coniston a popular tourist destination. Many thanks to the Ruskin Museum who kindly let in local students for free to enhance their learning.



Ms Richards

“Fine art is that in which the hand, the head, and the heart go together.” – John Ruskin



OUTDOOR LEARNING

All of Year 9 had an enjoyable and informative visit to the Mountain Rescue base in preparation for their bronze D of E expedition in July. Students learned about mountain safety, essential navigation skills and what to do in an emergency. Many thanks to Mrs Ribchester and the Coniston Mountain Rescue volunteers who gave up their time for the morning for the benefit of our students. Well done to our Year 9 students for donating a total of £56 towards the mountain rescue following their visit.

Ms Richards



SHOWTIME!



BE OUR GUEST WITH *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.* AT JOHN RUSKIN SCHOOL



A spectacular set of performances from the cast and crew of *Beauty and the Beast Junior* in February certainly made an impact on the whole community. It was fabulous to see students on the stage, showcasing their talent. It was a huge commitment for all involved and the result demonstrated just what can happen when everyone pulls together. Well done to all!

Miss Curbishley



A MESSAGE ABOUT EXAMS AND REVISION

On our return from the Easter Holidays, many of you will be heading into your final weeks of learning before sitting GCSE exams. For Year 11 these will be your final weeks of preparation before the start of the rest of your lives, whereas, for Year 10, this will be your chance to bank your first real grade, as you sit your RE exam. Whatever you are returning to, it is important to return with your minds refreshed and ready to commit yourselves to the final term of the year.

So, how can you make this term more successful? Here are some handy revision tips:

- Work out your deadlines - which piece of work is due first? When are your different exams? (a wall display of this on your bedroom wall is always a good idea);
- Set yourself achievable targets - revise little and often, rotating round the subjects that you study;
- Work out what method of note making works best for you - are you a postit fan? Maybe spider diagrams or bullet points are your thing? Do revision cards get you the best results?
- Consider your favourite colour - you are more likely to remember revision that was done in or on your favourite colour
- Don't leave revision until the last minute, cramming on the morning of your exam will never replace weeks of drip-fed information and practise.

Finally, keep talking to your form tutors and teachers - tell them when you're feeling overwhelmed or in a muddle and they'll do their best to help you work it all out.

Good luck everyone and have a successful term!

Mrs Ribchester



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We hope you all have a happy and healthy holiday and look forward to seeing you all once more in the new term!

**Remember Term starts on
Monday 17th April**

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the Easter issue of the JRS Express.

Please look out for future editions arriving in your inbox at the end of the summer term!