



Cardinal Pole Catholic School

Cardinal Pole Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

October 2015

website: www.cardinalpole.co.uk

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is hard to believe that half a term has already passed! The school has been busy with Curriculum Evening which was established to share the work that we are doing with your child and to look at ways in which you can support. The evening also enabled us to follow up on the information we had shared on changes to reporting, assessment and progress. I hope that these have been of value. The evening also shared with parents the work of the school on our Virtual Learning Environment (FROG), where, following a phased introduction, you will shortly be able to see for yourself what homework has been set for your child. Although there have been significant improvements in the completion of homework, some concerns do remain and we are presently looking at post school prep time for all students to support them in securing the very best grades they can.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all of the sixth form student who are currently seeking places at university – we have previously been very successful with our applications and were delighted to secure an ALPS grading of 'Outstanding' again this year.

I am pleased to inform you that we have recruited a new Chaplain, Mr Ryan. He joins us on 9th November 2015. I am grateful to Fr. David Evans, our Chair of Governors and Parish Priest at St. Elizabeth's and to Fr. Andrew, from the Parish of Our Lady and St. Joseph, for their continued support during this time of transition.

Our Catholic life is an important part of the work of the school and it was wonderful to see the Year 7 students receiving their Bibles and the sixth form being commissioned as prefects. Our morning Mass each Tuesday at 8am is open to all.

As we prepare for Advent, the school will continue to support our existing charities and we will be looking to support from the school community for Providence Row, Hackney Food Bank and CAFOD.

Finally, we are now making rapid progress towards the building of the extension to house our Learning Support facilities, including a library and some additional classrooms. Students have been invited to contribute to the internal layout of what we hope will be a fantastic resource.

I hope you enjoyed the half term break.

Ms Heffernan - Headteacher

History, Government & Politics



At the start of term the Year 12 Government & Politics students went on a trip to the Houses of Parliament with Hackney's MP, Meg Hillier.

Here we learned what parliament is really about: that the Queen is not actually allowed to have a say in the House of Commons and that you are not actually allowed to sit on the seats in the Houses of Parliament as they are strictly for MPs!

This trip was fundamental to my education and my wider understanding of our political system. Thanks to Mr Egan for organising!

Sarah Abe, 12R

Stem Club

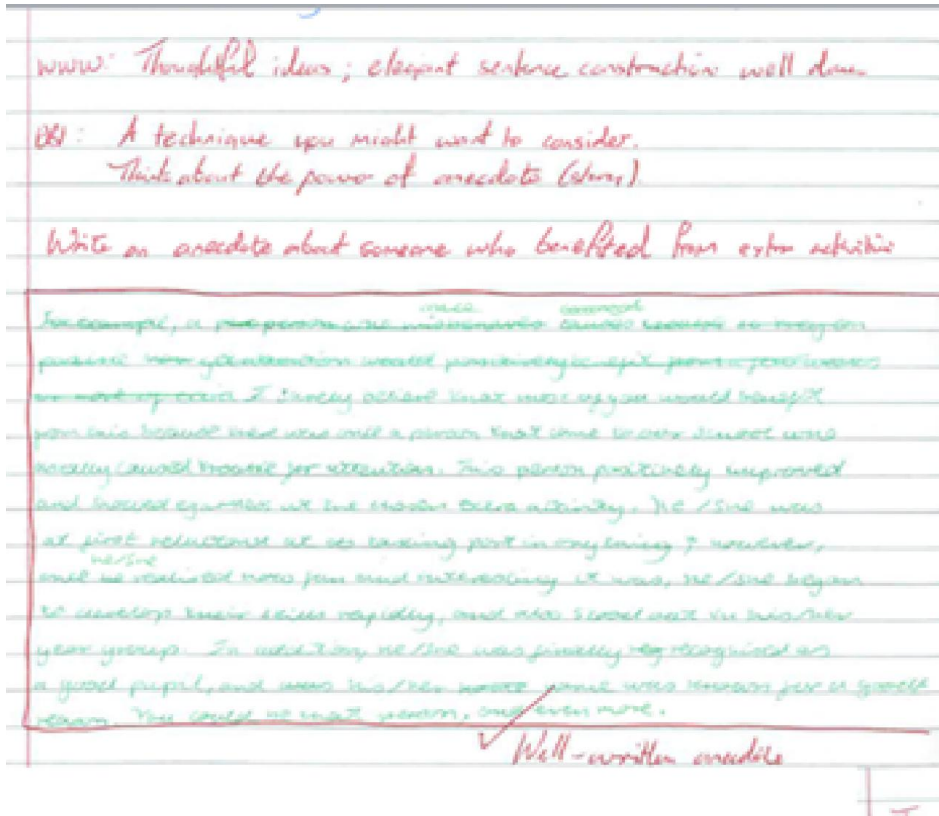
Congratulations to the following students who took part in the Hydrogel Global Challenge (a global experiment with hydrogels) in Stem Club.

Data submitted will be viewed by other students around the world.

1. Derecash Anokye 9D
2. Serena Berko 9C
3. Sade Bishop 9C
4. Helena Boateng 9C
5. Precious Falomo 9C
6. Maria Inegbenose
7. Erica Lima Aragao 9C
8. Martha Lokola 9C
9. Aaron Quidly 9C
10. Roshana Roberts 9A
11. Savannah Pham 9C

Miss M Balogun – Science teacher

Marking and Feedback: How to make progress at Cardinal Pole



Red Box Marking

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The class teacher will identify strengths in the answer and an area for development. This will be formed as a question with a red box to enable the student to improve their response.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

Check your child has no empty red boxes! Are they confident with their response? When they are completing their next assignment, remind them which skills they need to focus on developing based on their last response.

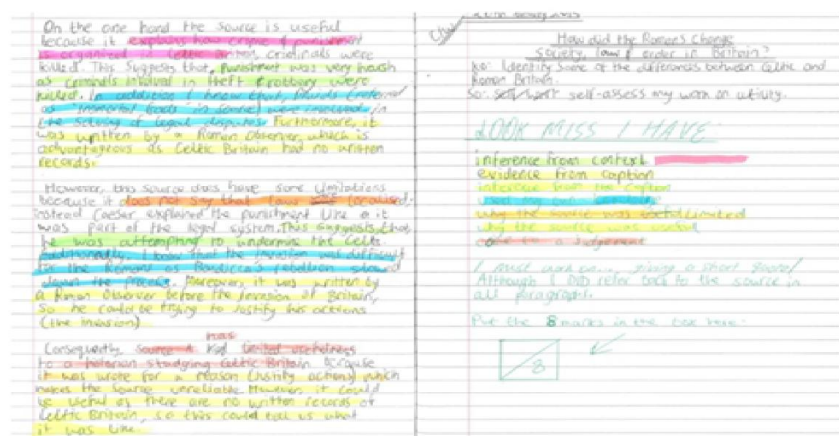
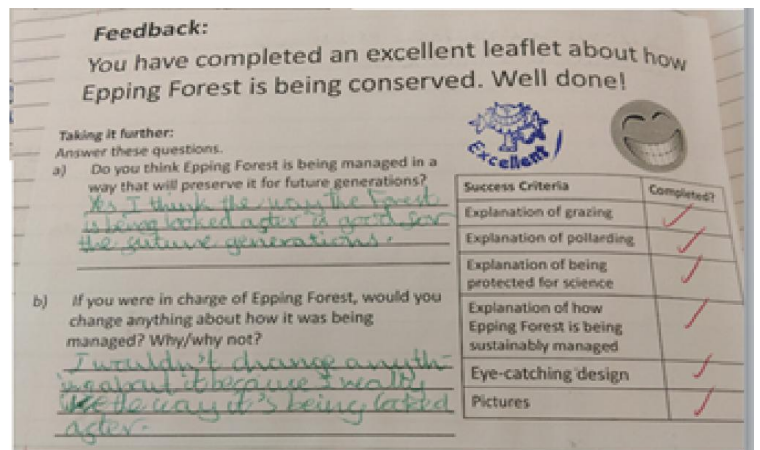
Success Criteria

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Students are given a checklist of what they need to include in their answer
- They and/or the teacher can then check off the skills they have shown in their response

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

- Go through success criteria with your child when they have finished a piece of work and ask them to identify where they have shown the skills before handing it in.
- When they are completing their next assignment, remind them which skills they need to focus on developing based on their last response.



'Look, Miss/Sir I can...'

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Students highlight the different parts of their answer to show the different skills on display.
- They then give a key to show what they are doing and what they need to do next time.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

- Ask your child to identify what each colour means and explain how they have shown the skill.
- When they are completing their next assignment, remind them which skills they need to focus on developing based on their last response.



Accelerated Reader™

As part of our literacy initiative all students in year 7 and 8 take part in the Accelerated Reader programme. Below is a basic guide to how Accelerated Reader works.

Accelerated Reading is a computer based program which monitors a child's independent reading practise, both in comprehension and reading skills. The student takes a test three times a year, which gives a reading level. The Accelerated Reader program allows them to pick a book of their own choice, within that level, and allows them to read the book at their own pace.

Throughout the year students take quizzes on the books they are reading (An ideal score is 85% or above). The teacher will get feedback based on the quiz results. As the child gets better at reading their levels will go up as their reading improves. The books are colour coded so that they can identify their reading band.

Books are available in the school library, but students are also able to use their own book and can check if they are on Accelerated Reader by looking at AR Book finder on the following link <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

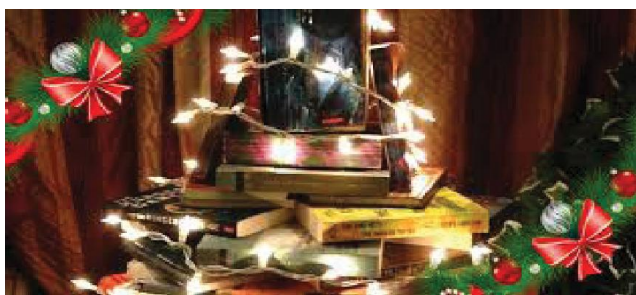
Our expectation is that each pupil finishes a book in two weeks (at least 20 minutes reading a day should enable them to do this).

If you have any questions about Accelerated Reader you can contact me at the school.

Ms Keeling - School Librarian


Half price Book Fair 10th - 17th December 2015

Do not miss the opportunity to get your early Christmas presents at our Half Price Book Fair to be held in December.



There will be a great selection to choose from at not to be missed prices!

Book Club!



Students in Year 7 & 8 are invited to join us for guided reading in room F203

Wed, Thu, Fri
8.30 - 8.50 am

AND

Wed, Thu
3.10 - 3.30 pm

Every week starting **Wednesday 21/10/15**

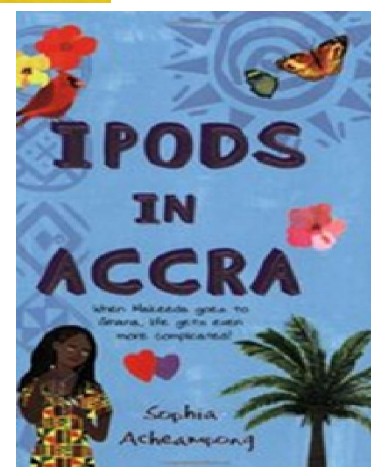
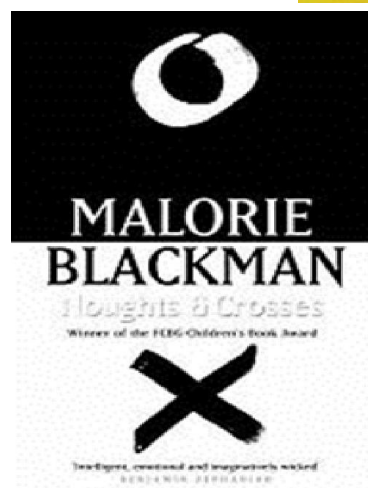
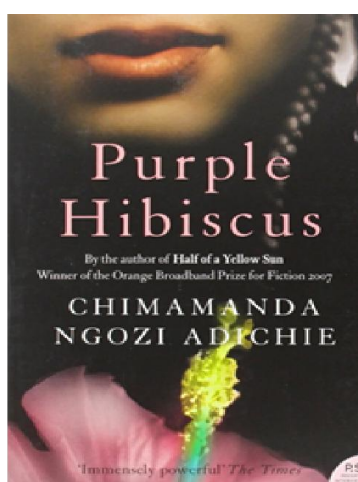
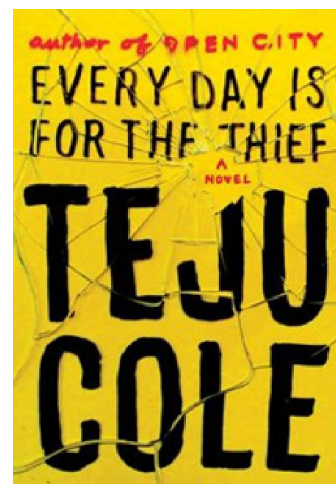
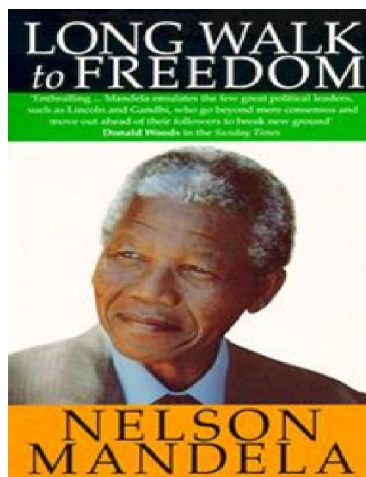
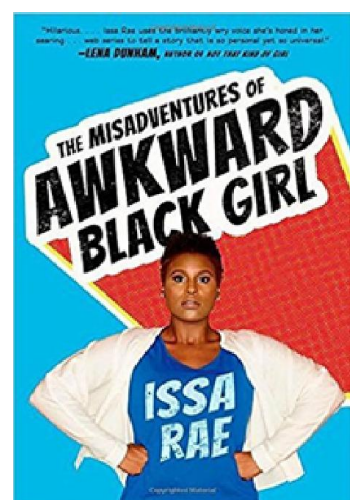
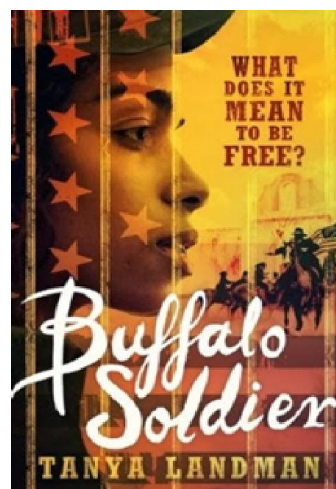
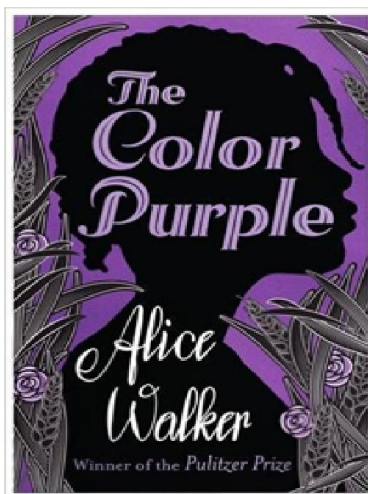
No need to sign up:
1. Go to registration
2. Let your form tutor know that you are attending the book club
3. Go to F203

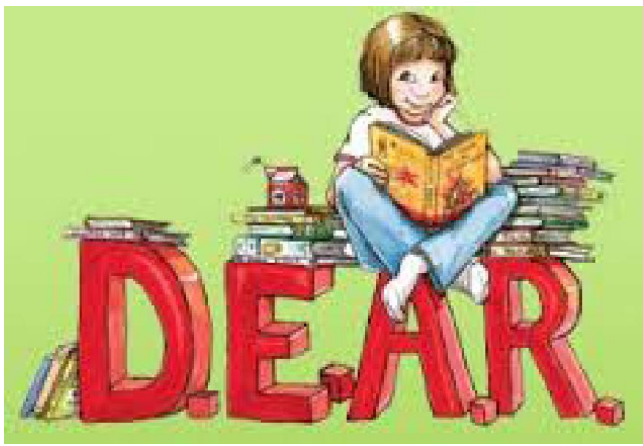
Please see Mrs Winstone in SEN if you have any questions

BLACK HISTORY

Here are some of what our recommended reads were for

Black History Month





Drop Everything And Read

Following the success of 'Drop Everything and Read' last year, it has now become a weekly part of the school timetable, ensuring that the pupils have at least 20 minutes of reading time during lessons a week.

As part of our whole-school focus on improving literacy, we require the pupils to have their own reading books as part of their daily equipment and ask that they are also reading at home as much as possible, ideally for 20 minutes a day.

Reading regularly for pleasure has been shown to improve pupil achievement in every subject. Please support this initiative further at home by reading regularly with your child, discussing books and checking they are regularly quizzing if they are on the Accelerated Reader programme (Year 7 and 8).

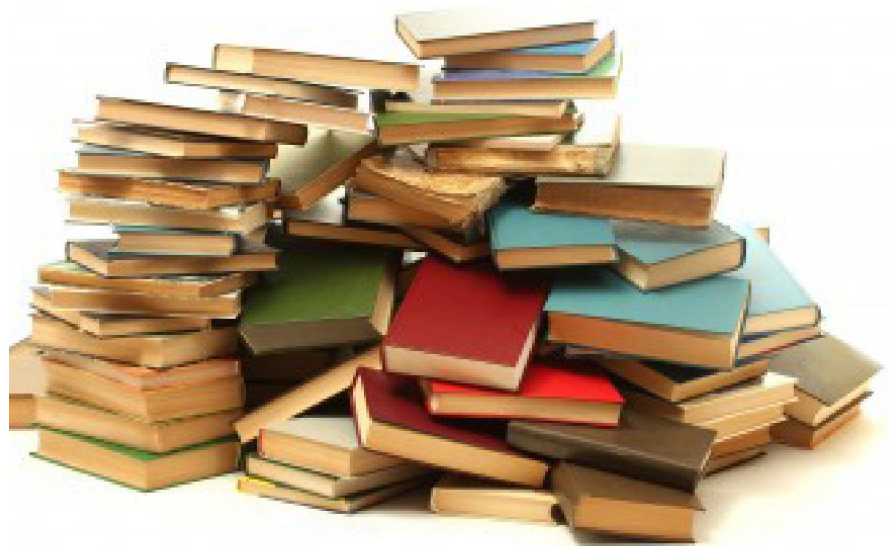
You can also encourage them to use the local library and if you wish to buy books, there are many discounted retailers online such as www.thebookpeople.co.uk. For recommended reads see:

www.booktrust.org.uk
www.goodreads.com
www.fantasticfiction.co.uk
www.librarything.com
www.booksteensandmagazines.com
www.mykindabook.com

DATES FOR DEAR:

Tuesday 3rd November 2015 period 3
Wednesday 11th November 2015 period 4
Thursday 19th November 2015 period 3
Friday 27th November 2015 period 1
Tuesday 8th December 2015 period 7
Wednesday 16th December 2015 period 4

Ms Keeling - School Librarian



Bookbuzz is a reading programme from the Booktrust, which supports schools to encourage reading for pleasure, independent choice and develop a whole school reading culture.

Following its success last year, Year 7 and Year 8 pupils will once again be participating in Bookbuzz this term. Pupils will have the opportunity to choose their own book from a list of 17 titles selected by a panel of experts, suitable for ages 11 - 13.

Each pupil will receive a book and bookmark to keep. Pupils will use the Bookbuzz resources and activity sheets provided to promote the enjoyment of reading during registration. They also have access to the website which is packed with a wealth of information, including extracts from the books, a film featuring the Bookbuzz authors, downloadable resources and exclusive competitions. (see link) <http://www.bookbuzz.org.uk/>



National Poetry Week

In celebration of National Poetry Day on 8th October 2015, which was focused on the theme of 'light' – Cardinal Pole has enjoyed a week of poetry, dedicated to both its study and creation. Cardinal Pole is one of a select group of London schools that employs a poet-in-residence whose role is to facilitate poetry writing, and thinking around the subject, encouraging students to express themselves through poetry. This experience greatly benefits the students in terms of their emotional, literacy and academic achievements.

Our 'poetry week' was a multi-faceted experience which involved a variety of activities dedicated to poetry. Notably, our poet-in-residence, Christian Foley, worked across a number of departments (eleven in total) on a 'pop in poet' scheme. This involved his appearance in a class for five minutes and providing an improvised poem on the subject the students were studying: ranging from microbiology to the names of Aztec warriors.

The idea was incredibly successful and has encouraged many students to rethink their attitude to poetry, but also to engage with their own subjects with renewed vigour and curiosity. MFL lessons were treated to poems in French and Spanish. We hope to repeat the 'pop in poet' scheme on a termly basis. Teachers who participated in the project have been overwhelmingly positive in their feedback.

Additionally, students have been contributing to a school poetry competition, writing their own material of what 'Light' means to them, or using the subject as a springboard into their own thoughts; we have already had a large number of entries, and with still two weeks left to the deadline, the volume of entries will be further testament to the creative abilities of Cardinal Pole's student body.

Furthermore, not only students, but staff have been contributing their poetry, or their favourite lines of poetry to a notice board in the staff room and many poetry displays have been put up across the school.

During the week, Christian Foley, accompanied by our very talented 6th Form Poet, Tian Sewell Morgan performed a number of assemblies. The theme for our assemblies was St. Francis and Tian's impressive poem was written especially for the occasion.

Spoken Word Club runs every Wednesday (3.30pm- 5pm) and has been inundated with new members wanting to get into writing.

Christian will be working with local primary schools next half-term, so that Cardinal Pole's new intake next year will have experience in poetry writing, and will fit right into a school that welcomes the arts, creativity and self-expression in all its forms.

Ms J. Keeling - School Librarian

The first time I saw the light
By Tian Sewell Morgan

The first time I saw the light was when I saw a nameless man,
cross-legged on the ground,
Frozen in a frame like a street performer,
He had thin white hair like shimmering feathers
With an Oliver Twist complexion.
Across his legs was the remainder of a sleeping bag
And at his hip was a dog that was limp like the rucksack on my back

It was 8:22 when I left Tesco; I hoped he was still there.
I handed him a Tesco-bag of pick-me-ups because I wanted him to know that he wasn't invisible,
That even though his violin stringed-life story has been
Denied by our cities orchestra, by the time and score of hustle
And bustle, beep-beep-beep and busy-busy-busy of school, work, eat and sleep.
I saw the silent notes of starvation twinkling in his xylophone bones.
He looked up at me, smiled, and said thank you.

But why did his smile feel like money,
Why did every fibre of his wrinkling skin was gleam like a vintage pound coin,
The blinding modesty in his crystal blue eyes could replace halos
He looked down at the bag and back up at me, his glimmering eyes coated in tears, as if my spine had sprouted the whitest
of wings.
I wanted him to tell him that his heart is a treasury.
And that even though people can see that you are trapped
In a circus for one. Forced to play a role you don't want to play,
Committing yourself to a performance that you don't believe in,
And special guests like food and place to stay are unreliable and quit on you last minute.

I hope my eyes told him that his gold will never rust.
Walking away, I finally knew what it felt like to be Christian
Because I understood what it meant to have nothing and have everything.
Soon the catatonic man abandoned his spot and a younger face had taken his place.
But the treasury in his heart is cheap; it changes from gold, to iron, to copper, to nothing.



School Encyclopedia Britannica Online



Last year we purchased Online Encyclopedia Britannica to support your child's independent learning. The site can be accessed from home as well as school and is done so through the library site on the FROG platform, accessed through the school website.

Three age-appropriate sections provide a wealth of resources for your child. With three adjustable reading levels, an audio dictionary and a translate function into 800 different languages this site will be invaluable to your child's learning, providing resources for homework and research projects. Pupils will be able to conduct research, complete school assignments, work on special projects, or explore their unique interests.

The site adapts to all devices including tablets, smart phones and computers.

The features include:

Learning games to engage young learners

Thousands of magazine and journal articles directly related to search topics

Merriam-Webster Dictionary with audio pronunciations

My Britannica' to save and share articles, images and videos in a personal account.

90,000 images, videos and audio clips

Subject Browse, from Animals and the Arts, to Science and Maths

129,000 of the Web's Best Sites related to search topics

Biography Browse

How-to documents for creating book reviews, presentations, research papers and science reports

Read-Aloud feature ideal for enabling comprehension for young readers and ELLs

World Atlas

Compare Countries

Primary Sources



Music Department News

In the lead up to Christmas, there are lots of opportunities to get involved in the Music department.

Year 7 singers- a group of year 7 students have begun to meet at lunchtime every Monday with the aim that they will work towards opportunities to perform in school events.

Vocalise- a singing group for year 8 students and over has been set up on Tuesday lunchtimes. This will provide a chance for students across the school to perform in school events and develop a strong emphasis on singing in the department.

Ensembles- The instrumental tutors run lunchtime ensemble groups which give students learning instruments in the school the chance to collaborate and work towards performing group pieces.

6th Form Enrichment- a group of year 12 and 13 students have chosen to develop musical pieces during their enrichment sessions. This enthusiastic group will also be invited to showcase what they have been creating in school events.

Hackney Gala- The Hackney Gala takes place on Thursday 5th November. 2015 This year our senior singers are collaborating with Clapton Girls School and Haggerston School.

Carol Service- Year 7 will be performing at the annual carol service on 16th December 2015.

Winter Concert- On 8th December 2015, our musicians across the school will showcase the pieces they have been working on throughout the term. Family and friends are welcome to attend and celebrate the success of our talented students.

Ms. Thomas - Head of Department, Creative & Performing Arts



Mr Purcell - Head of Department - PE

Inter Form Friday

Our inter form programme is up and running again this year with year 7 boys recently competing in weightlifting.



Each form has a schedule on their notice board so please encourage your child to get involved on Friday's after school

Hackney Sportshall Athletic League



We are again hosting the Hackney league this year and are so far leading the competition in boys/girls in years 7 and 8. Well done to all involved!

School Sports Council



The school sports council is up and running again this year with a girl and boy from each form attending a weekly meeting on Thursday mornings.

The pupils are ambassadors for school sport, promoting the extra curricular programme, inter form competitions and gathering opinions on what activities they would like at school.

Sports Leader - Level 1



A select group of boys and girls in year 10 are currently working hard to achieve their level 1 sports leader this term.

All pupils learn the theory of leading others and then apply this through organising sports activities for their peers and hopefully primary school pupils later in the year