



# Pitsford School

THE PITSFORD POST

Friday 27th March 2020

# Welcome from Dr Walker....

Hello Parents and I hope this Pitsford Post finds you and your family healthy, well and safe. We have decided to keep publishing through the enforced closure as a good way to keep you up-to-date on what is going on in school and also as a forum for us all to share ideas which might keep us busy and sane as we stay locked up safe from the pestilence. To that end, below, I am going to share with you some books, TV and film so that you can judge me and sneer at my immature tastes. We'll invite you to send in tips as well and we will publish for the benefit of all!

Before that, I'd like to summarise the madness of 20th March 2020. As you know, with very little notice, we all had to close that day and it was a rushed and crazy time. Thankfully we had been planning towards it (even though we were constantly assured by the Government that we would not be closed...) so we were kinda ready and we will be ship-shape come the new term. Nonetheless, the day itself was a painful one for our students who love being in school, and especially for our Year 11s and Year 13s who were building up to a major milestone in their lives and academic existences. There were a lot of tears on the day (of sadness from the students, joy from the teachers. I am only joking, obviously) and as I said to everyone to whom I spoke: 'this is not the end, it is not even goodbye, it is see you soon.' When we reopen we will have a proper send off for all our students and even when sent off (as it were) they will remain part of the Pitsford Family. Like the Hotel California, you can check out but you can never leave.

And that brings me culturally to my recommendations. Over the coming weeks, I'll theme this, but I will start today with my all-time favourites, so treat them how you want. My favourite ever book is 'A Confederacy of Dunces' by John Kennedy Toole: a magnificent, hilarious book about a failed Medieval historian who could not find a job teaching at university and retreated home. As a failed Medieval historian myself, who could not secure a teaching post, and went home, some friends have ungenerously assumed I see myself in the lead. I don't! But

it is great. Honest.

As a terrible teacher, I do not have much to recommend in terms of reading for children, but I would always say that anyone aged 7-70 (as the author himself said it) should read Tintin by Hergé. As the author Tom McCarthy argued very persuasively, Tintin is world literature on a similar level to Flaubert and it is ever so reachable for everyone, it is exciting and there is a great dog. My favourite character, just like yours is Captain Haddock. 'Natch.

My favourite TV show of all time - and it is not for the children - is 'Mad Men': profound, engrossing, full of life, joy and sadness, depth of acting and aching cool, I think it is a perfect jewel of art. Really something. If I was to advise for children, I am a big fan of pure fun without much educational merit (don't tell the parents or Governors), so I come back time and again to the Looney Tunes cartoons put out by Warners: Bugs Bunny remains my ultimate hero, and the quality of animation, comedy and high culture in terms of music and allusions, makes these perfect gems a magnificent watch. There are also interesting ways of watching them from a historical perspective, history fans, as they are in dialogue with the ages that produced them. The doctorate I should have written and Mel Blanc was a genius.

There is so much film out there I do not know where to start. My favourite ever is 'Annie Hall' by Woody Allen which is as perfect a thing that has ever been created by human hands: hilarious, inventive, moving and magnificent. More approachable, and perhaps more family friendly, there is a lot to be said for classic popcorn films. 'Raiders of the Lost Ark', 'Flash Gordon', Star Wars IV, V and VI, Ghostbusters, yadda yadda yadda.

I will go back now to running the school - take care, let us know what you are reading, watching or listening to, and speak soon. If you would like to send us your photos of what you have been doing at home or any ideas you have that we can post on the on the website, social media or include in the next Pitsford Post, please email: [office@pitsfordschool.com](mailto:office@pitsfordschool.com).

## - Junior Easter Egg Hunt -

On the last day of term, the KS1 and EYFS children went on a very exciting Easter egg hunt looking for plastic Easter eggs which all had clues inside. Each clue was a letter which spelt out something... As a reward for all their hard work, the Easter Bunny left some chocolate for the winners!



have a happy easter

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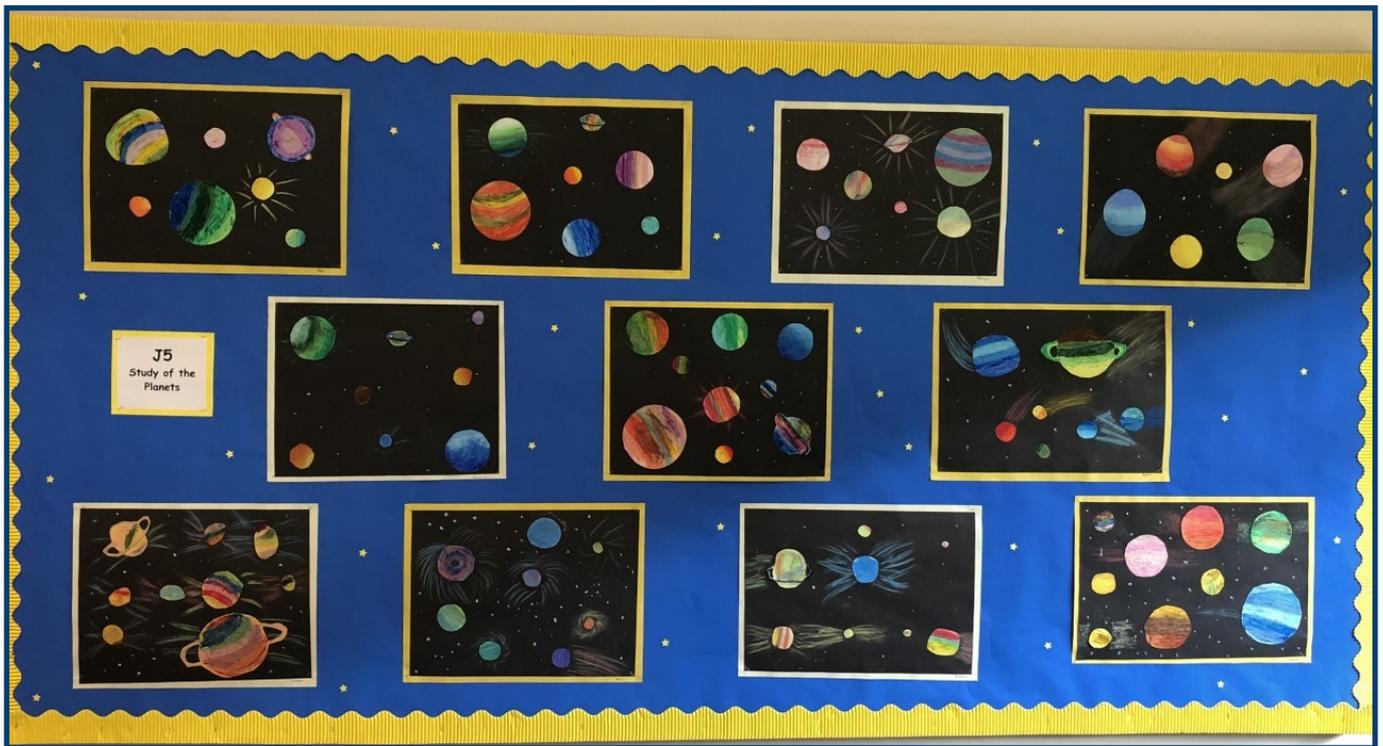
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@Pitsford\_PE

## - Junior School Art -



J5 have brought some colour to our Art Room with their pictures of imaginary galaxies. They have been studying space and the planets as their topic. These pictures are made using pastel and chalk.



J3 have been studying the Italian Artist, Giuseppe Archimboldo who was known for creating portraits from objects such as fruit and vegetables. These beautiful interpretations made by our pupils are proudly on show in the Art Room.

## - J3's Visit to the Stratford Butterfly Farm -



On Tuesday 10th March, J3 visited the Butterfly Farm in Stratford-upon-Avon. When we arrived, it was almost lunchtime. We all had to wash our hands so we could eat our lunch. After lunch, we left our blazers in the shop because it was very hot in the butterfly enclosure. A lot of the butterflies come from tropical rainforests. First, we watched butterflies feeding on fruit scraps. Our guide told us about lots of types of butterflies. He also told us how long they live. They only live about three or four weeks because their wings break. We walked into the next enclosure where the guide told us about how the butterflies make their pupas. He showed us some pupas of butterflies and cocoons of moths. He told us the moths have a cocoon with a pupa inside. Then we walked over to some fruit trees where we saw monarch butterflies. He told us butterflies with bright colours are poisonous. After that, we walked through the rest of the butterfly enclosures and went back into the shop to get our blazers. We looked around and chose what we would like to buy. We were asked some questions about butterflies by the man in the shop. We had learnt a lot of facts. It was a great day out.

By Erin A.



## - J4 visit Sulgrave Manor -

J4 visited Sulgrave Manor, the home of Tudor merchant Lawrence Washington. They learned about the sailors and explorers who would have traded Washington's wool and how their life on a Tudor ship compared to the lives of the Washington family at home. They dressed as Tudor children, experimented with navigational tools and examined historical artefacts.



### A summary by Lottie in J4

- "We went on a trip to Sulgrave Manor with Mrs Goode because our topic is The Tudors
- I really enjoyed the day out because we wore Tudor clothes all day and we learned to play some Tudor games like skipping and board games
- We also did some sweeping up and learned how to use compasses to find our way and how to tell the time on a sundial.
- We had a go in the stocks which is how people were punished when they mean to the King or Queen.
- My favourite part was dressing up - they were quite light and comfortable which we weren't expecting"

### Did you know...

Sulgrave Manor was built in 1539 for Lawrence Washington, a direct ancestor of George Washington, the future first President of the United States.



- A sneak peak at what KS1 have been up to -



Walks



Learning at home



Playing instruments!



Life skills



Drawing



Gardening and growing seeds



Arts and Crafts



Climbing trees!



Bouncing!!

## - Keep believing -

I know that trampolining is about going up and down and up again but that also summed up my last weekend. On Sunday 8th March, I had a huge qualifier to ensure my place and to make the trampoline national finals in Birmingham Arena and to make the east midlands team.

My Saturday started out like all the others, me attending my early training session, I was so pleased with my practice routines and felt ultra-confident about the upcoming competition. But disaster struck, I tripped, chasing my dad, joking around as usual, and a sharp pain hit me, right in my wrist. I immediately knew the consequences of this, and we rushed over to the nearest A&E with a suspected broken wrist. I was as nervous as anything waiting for the results of the X-Ray, the doctor walked back in and delivered the good news: It wasn't broken. I was full of relief, and the confidence I had after finishing my session was restored.

I woke up the next morning as sore as anything, my wrist bandaged, bruised and stiff. We embarked on the large journey to Loughborough University. I was thinking to myself in the car of all the things that might happen during the day, riddled with nerves I got out of the car and made my way inside.

The typical competition will allow us a couple of minutes to get used to the trampolines and practice our routines one more time, I hopped on and began my practice. Another setback appeared in the form of another searing pain through my arm, and on the first move too! I thought, how in the world am I going to finish in the position that I need to? I began to doubt my skills when my dad realised and gave me some empowering words of advice. "it's only 30 seconds, I know you can do it, we all know you can, so just go and do your best" I began my routine, the routine that would count, the routine that will get me through. The start was good, all moves good into the final quarter, the pain was immense, but I powered through. I finished perfectly, I was filled with relief and happiness, but that was only 1 out of 2. I began my second routine, this time I focused on my routine and each move after the last. Awesome. I walked slowly over to the scoreboard, SECOND was displayed on the screen, I was so proud of myself. My dad swamped me; I could tell how happy he was. I sprinted back to my mum and sister waiting eagerly to hear the score. I waited for a moment to get my breath back, this was where I was reminded of my flexibility routine and splits. My face went white, I realised that I had to use both hands for it. I felt like all hope had been lost, all that work for nothing. Anyway, I did the routine. I needed at least 70% to qualify for the nationals. I waited with the worry clouding my mind. 80%, was the number the judge told me, and I was overjoyed, ecstatic. I hope to be writing one of these if I win nationals, but I can only hope.

By Cameron E



## - Goodbye to our Leavers -

A premature but temporary farewell to our awesome Year 11 – a little depleted in numbers! We wish you well in the coming months. Stay strong and try new things! When the time is right we will celebrate your achievements with you. You are so much more than an exam result!



Saying goodbye to this wonderful group of individuals in this strange circumstance that we find ourselves in. But this is our Pitsford family and they stay our family -always. We will celebrate properly when the time is right, meanwhile, to the class of Upper Sixth: stay strong!



## - House Updates by Mr Stoner -

Just because you aren't at school, doesn't mean that the House Competition has ended... Introducing...

# HOUSE MASTER

Weekly challenges that you can do at home and earn house points for your house (and lets be honest, Wake and Robinson are in dire need of them)

Task #1 - Throw a piece of A4 paper into a waste paper bin - most spectacular wins.

1st place HESKETH (Chris L)

2nd place WAKE (Sam H)

3rd place ROBINSON (Ned B)

There are videos of all the entries at:

<https://pitsfordschool.fireflycloud.net/houses-1/housemaster/task-1>

Task #2 - Make your knee look like a famous person

1st place HESEKTH (Beth P) with Wayne Roo'Knee'

2nd place HESKETH (Libby K) with Donald Trump

The current state in the House Championship is as follows:

1st: Hesketh 1275

2nd: Wake 836

3rd: Robinson 678

Task #3 will start at the end of the Easter holidays...

## - Somewhere over the rainbow -

Pictures of rainbows have been springing up in windows all over the country and some of our students have been joining in the effort to "spread hope". We would love to continue sharing your creations for everyone to see and enjoy. You can either email us at [office@pitsfordschool.com](mailto:office@pitsfordschool.com) or share online using #RainbowsForNightingale

Don't forget to tag us @PitsfordSchool!



## - Mrs Kirk's (Optional but Kind) Bread Making Task -

This is my second holiday task for you: to bake some bread...and if possible find a way to share some joy through doing it - this could be by spending time baking with a younger brother or sister, by providing food for your family, or giving the bread to a neighbour who might really appreciate the thought.

### INSTRUCTIONS

Sieve 500g of strong bread flour into a mixing bowl

Add 7g of yeast

Make a well in the middle and 3 table spoons of olive oil, 2 tea spoons of salt and mix.

Then add 300ml of water until it is well mixed and tip onto a lightly floured surface to create a large dough ball - knead for about 10 minutes.

Put the dough in a glass bowl and cover with a clean tea towel. Leave it to rise in a warm place.

After an hour take it and bash the air out. See pictures below and then knead the dough again for another 10 minutes and when you are happy with the shape and consistency put it back in the warm place but this time placed on a grease proof baking tray covered by a tea towel and leave to rise again for another hour. When the dough has risen to roughly twice its original size, it is ready.

Scour a cross on the surface of the dough - this will allow it to crack in a controlled way when it rises even more in the oven.

Place in the oven at 220 degrees celsius for 25 mins. Take it out: you will know it is ready because if you tap the bottom of the bread it will sound hollow!

PS: If you do want a video - see Firefly for a close up of dough bashing! Very therapeutic after you have been locked in the house for too long!!!!



**COOK EAT ENJOY!**

## - Match Reports -

On Tuesday 3rd March, the Under 16 netball team played against Wellingborough School. It was a fantastic start to the half term and the final score was 10-4 to us. The team played an outstanding game and there was a huge improvement shown by all players from our previous matches. Well done to all involved and especially to Charlotte who was voted Player of the Match by the opposing team.

By Tianna C.

On the 27th February the U15 netball team visited Lyncroft school. The girls played two different teams from Lyncroft. The first match was 6-6 at half time but the Pitsford girls made a comeback in the second half and won the match 11-7. They rotated their positions throughout the match and many girls had a go at multiple positions on the court while those not playing were cheering from the side. The second match was also a success for Pitsford as they already had a lead at half time and managed to extend this during the second half. The final score for this match was 17-10 to Pitsford. Once again, the girls had a great team spirit and everybody was Involved to help the team their second victory of the day. Both Lyncroft teams selected Hannah G-S as their player of the match.

The U15 netball team recently played in their county tournament on the 3rd March. The team was made up of seven year 10 girls and two year 9 girls who stepped up to help give the team the best chance and this meant they were able to have two subs at all times and could rotate on and off. The team played six matches of eight minutes each in order to get as many points as possible. They unfortunately lost their first match against Manor School by only one point but managed to redeem themselves by winning the other five matches in this stage of the tournament and this meant they went through to the semi-finals. This consisted of the best four teams out of the fourteen who were playing in both pools. They faced Corby Business Academy and put up a good fight against them but could not secure a win in this match and the final score was 5-2 to CBA. This meant that Pitsford had to face Manor once again for a chance to win third place. This was another match of great play from the girls, but the opposition played well as before and won the game 5-1. This left Pitsford in fourth place in the tournament and although they did not make it through to the next round of the competition, they should all be very proud of their teamwork and skill on the court as the day saw some impressive play from all of the girls.

Final reports by Adele C.



## - And Finally -

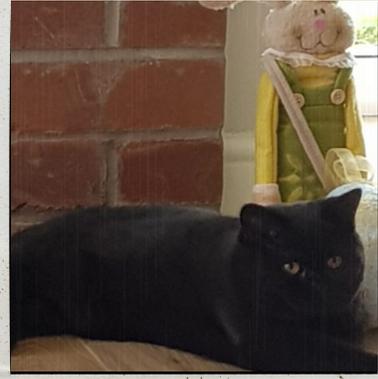
...something a bit lighter-hearted to finish this edition of the Pitsford Post.

Here are some Pitsfordian pets for your perusal!





*'Willow'*



*'Teddy'*



*Beatriz and Juliette's  
chickens*



*'teddy'*



*'Min'*



*George and Biscuit the guinea pig!*