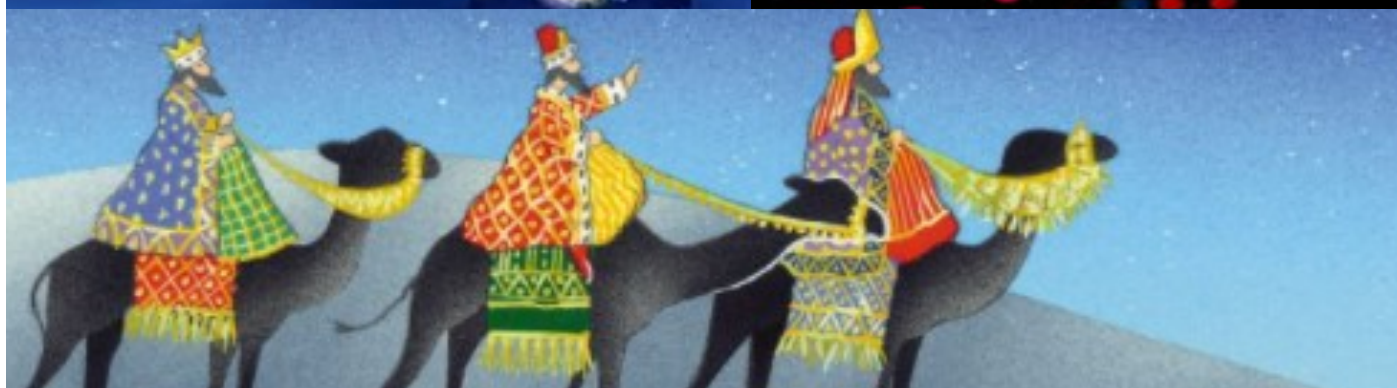


# *De La Salle Download*



Christmas Edition 2020



## CAFOD ASSEMBLY - October 2020

CAFOD held their national assembly in October for Primary and Secondary schools up and down the country. Three of our students took part and read the bidding prayers.

Mr. D. Mongan - School Chaplain



**Lord, in your mercy**  
**R/ Hear our prayer**



**Lord, in your mercy**  
**R/ Hear our prayer**



**Lord, in your mercy**  
**R/ Hear our prayer**



**LET US PRAY**

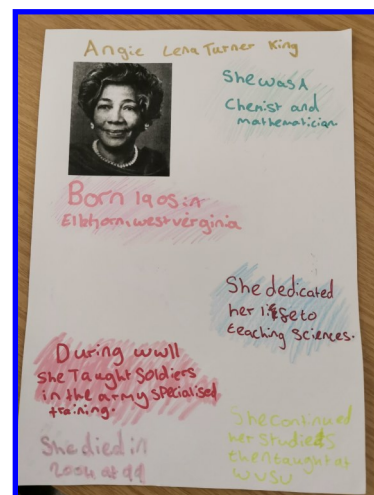
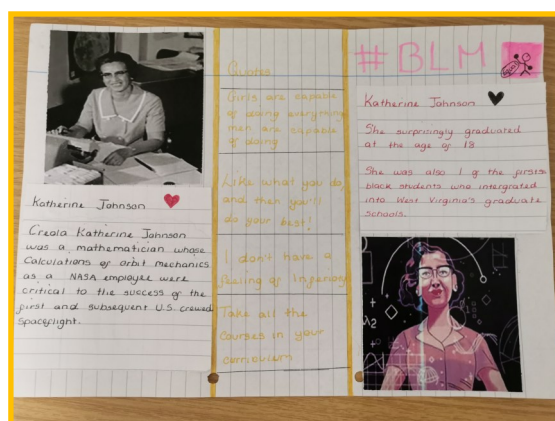
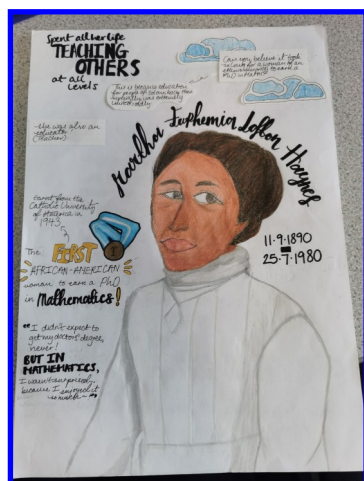
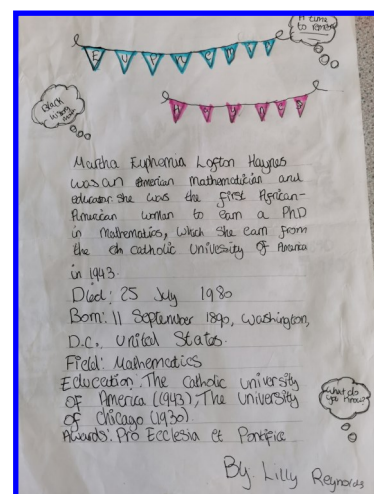
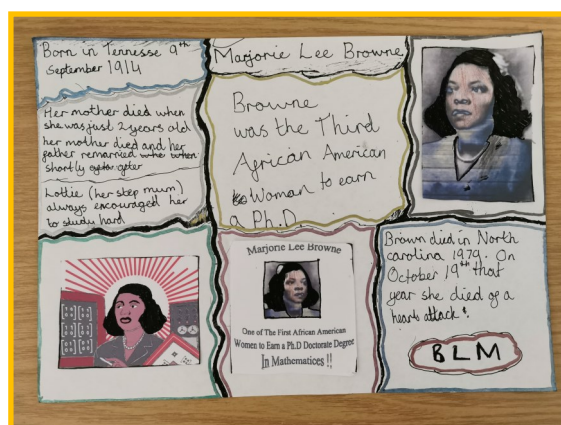
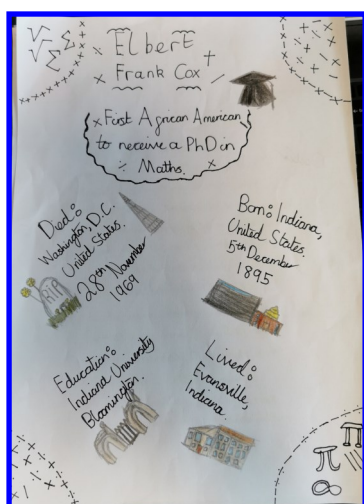


## Black History Month - October 2020

In English we have highlighted black authors in the library and included some in our teaching of poetry this month



Black Mathematicians - Year 7 designed the following posters in their Maths lessons.



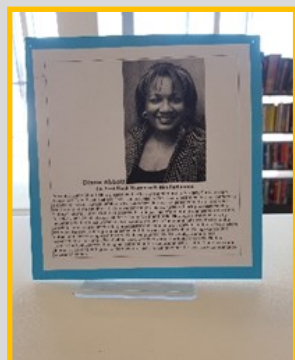
## English Department

The beginning of this academic year has been a busy one for us. September was busy getting to know all of our lovely new Year 7s.

In October, we spent time looking into Black History.

With some of our Year 11s we looked at John Agard, an Afro-Guyanese playwright, poet and children's writer. With some of our Year 8's and 9's we looked at Langston Hughes who was an American poet, social activist, novelist and playwright. He was also one of the earliest innovators of jazz poetry.

We also created a display in the Library with some of our books about black history along with displays about some of the most notable people in black history.



Below is also a little quiz to test you on your black history writers – If you are the first to hand them to Miss Foster when we return, you will receive a prize.

1. This woman was a record breaker for her literature and women writers. She was a slave that learned to read and write from her masters, who also encouraged her to write poetry. Her work was praised by the British and Americans alike during the American Revolutionary War. She was also the first African American woman poet to publish a book. Who was she? Phillis Wheatley, Maya Angelou, Sojourner Truth or Alice Walker?

2. Several African Americans became famous for their autobiographies about their lives as slaves, including Frederick Douglass, who became a leading figure in the abolitionist movement – True or False?

3. This woman is well known for her autobiographies and her poetry. She wrote "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings", which was the story of her life that brought her international attention. What is the pen name of Marguerite Ann Johnson? Is it Malorie Blackman or Maya Angelou?

4. Alice Walker won a Pulitzer Prize for her fiction work. What was the name of the novel Alice Walker wrote, that featured the life of a black woman who was abused by her father and husband? Was it, The Help, The Colour Purple, To Kill a Mockingbird or The Colour Black?

5. Ralph Ellison was a writer and publisher during World War II. He became well known for his writings on the topics of communism and black nationalism. What was Ralph Ellison's novel that was the story of an unnamed African man who could not be seen because people chose not to see him? Was it, The Invisible Man, Flying Home or Shadow and Act?

**Miss. A. Foster - HLTA English**



## A virtual author visit from acclaimed author Padraig Kenny

In November, some of our Year 7s got to experience hearing the process of how to create and write monsters from the Irish author. In a Zoom author visit, Padraig explored how he creates the monsters in his books, invited students to create their own monster and also revealed that some of the most frightening monsters in his writing aren't always the most obvious ones. Let's hope he has inspired a few De La Sallians to become writers in the future.

**Mr. K. Compton - Whole School Literacy Coordinator**



## Year 7

What a fantastic transition the year group have made and it has been a real pleasure to see how well they adapted and applied themselves so quickly and have settled into Secondary School life. It was fantastic to see them looking smart in their uniforms with smiles on their faces looking forward to the journey ahead and meeting their new classmates within their form groups.

With these testing times I could not be more proud of how well the year group have applied themselves in class and adhered to the measures in place to keep themselves, their friends and their families safe. They worked exceptionally hard during the first half term and met the many baseline tests with optimism and focus. This provided the opportunity to set the students and help provide a more suitable and comfortable learning environment for them to flourish and fulfil their potential.

However, this meant there would be another transition after finally being settled. Again, I was extremely proud of the way in which they approached this and it was evident to see when visiting lessons, the students were happy and engaged in their learning.

It has been a challenging and unusual start to a new academic year, but as Head of Year 7 I am extremely proud of how our journey has begun and I am full of enthusiasm and hope for the future.

As a group we will continue to be optimistic, maintain a positive attitude and mindset and continue to work together to be the very best version of ourselves.

Best wishes,

**Mr. R. Conway - Head of Year 7**

## Christmas Book Recommendation

Season's greetings to everyone – and as I write this, I am very aware that the festive period will be very different for us all in 2020. Hopefully, we can still keep many traditions and customs – and being given a good book to read has always been part of that for me.

My recommendation this time is for older teenagers. 'The Giver' by Lois Lowry is the first in a series and is a Newberry Medal winner. It follows a boy called Jonas as he approaches adulthood. In his community, all children take part in a ceremony to celebrate transition. Jonas is to become a 'twelver' (he is 16) and about to learn what is planned for him by the Elders in his community. Training and careers are designated by the Elders in Jonas' society, not chosen by children and their carers. Anticipation turns to anxiety when his name isn't called in sequence – and then he learns what is planned for him...

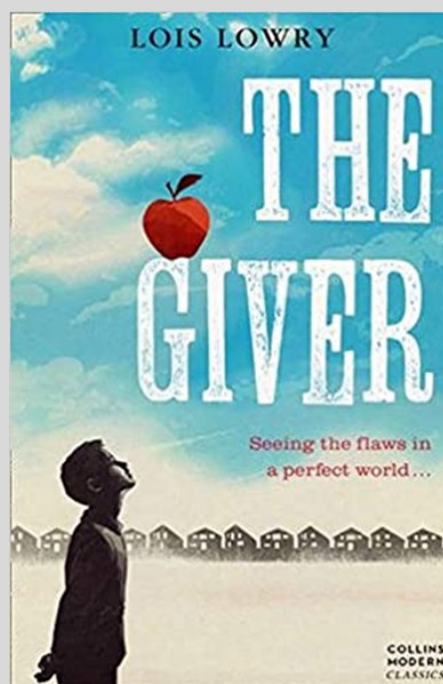
Initially, Jonas' society seems idyllic; a Utopia. Landscapers manicure lawns and gardens, meals are delivered to each family and waste is collected afterwards. Older children are expected to do voluntary work in addition to their studies, and this is enjoyed by both students and recipients of their care. Families seem caring and close; children's feelings and dreams are listened to. This society seems one where pain, hunger and anxiety have been eradicated. But the only book in each house is 'The Book of Rules' and it is expected that each member of the community is aware of and abides by those rules.

When Jonas meets his mentor, the Receiver of Dreams, he is told that he has 'the capacity to see beyond' – a quality which can only be named, but never described. He slowly begins to understand what no one else is allowed to know. He understands what his community has lost – and what he needs. And with that realisation comes the need to take action...

Would you like more good news? There is a wonderful film version, too. Even more good news? The book is the first in a series, so there is more to come if you enjoy this!

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and hope you all manage to enjoy yourselves, despite the situation we find ourselves in. And here's to a very, very different year in 2021!

**Mrs. A. Smith - One to One English Tutor**



## Mathematics Department

There is a prize for the first person in each year group to return their completed puzzle to Mrs Curtis via the school email: [info@dlsbasildon.org](mailto:info@dlsbasildon.org), prizes will be given out in the New Year.

**Mrs. E. Cutis - HLTA Mathematics**

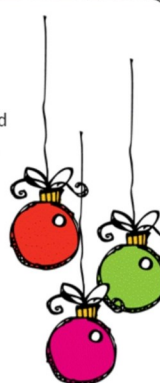
### Snow Friends

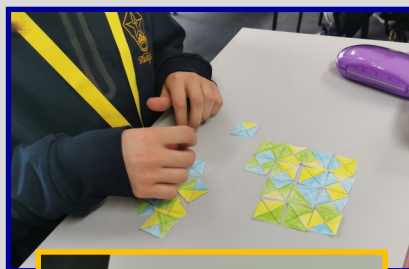
The Snowmen and Snowwomen are comparing their heights.  
Frosty, Snow White, Jack Frost and Snow Flake are lining up in order from shortest to tallest.  
Frosty is not the tallest or the shortest.  
Snow White is taller than Jack Frost and Snow Flake.  
Jack Frost is shorter than Frosty.  
Jack Frost is not the shortest.  
In what order are they standing?



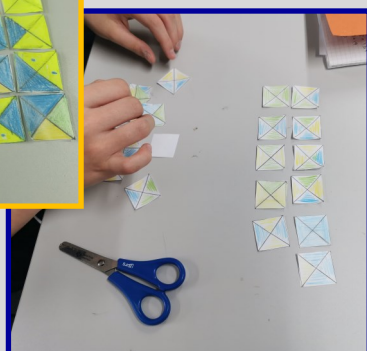
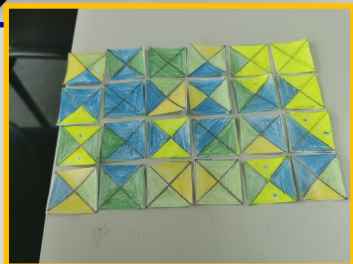
### Decorations

Henry and Liza are decorating the Christmas tree.  
Henry took half of the decorations out of the box and put them on the tree. Liza took half of the remaining decorations and put them on the tree.  
Then there were 3 decorations left.  
How many decorations were in the box to begin?





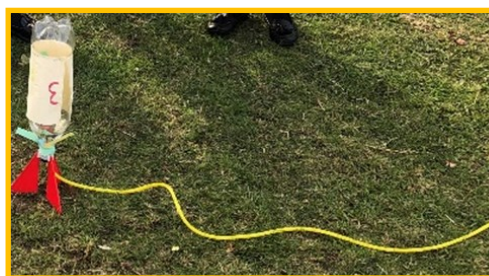
**Here Year 7 students are developing their problem solving skills with MacMahon puzzle challenges**



## Science Club

Science Club ran after school before half term with Year 7 class 'bubbles' being offered the chance to have a taste of Science Club in action! We had great science fun making and firing rockets in the school grounds. Thank you to all those Year 7s who attended and participated so well. As soon as government restrictions allow, Science Club will be back again, starting with groups of students who missed out last half term! Once class bubbles become Year group bubbles we will be up and running every week and all Year 7 are invited. We hope to offer Science Club up to Year 8 later in the Year.

**Dr Keown & Ms Kelsey Science Department**



## Student Services

### **Reporting an Absence**

Please call the absence line on **01268 822994** leaving your child's full name, form and reason for the absence. Contact is required each day of your child's absence, this is part of the Attendance Policy. Alternatively, please call the school on 01268 281234 and use option 1 (Not 2 Student Services). There is an answering service on this phone. Please leave a message, if you wish for us to call you back please include this in the message. Calls may not be answered before 9am. Please **do not** use the info email address to leave absence information. You can also email: [attendance@dlsbasildon.org](mailto:attendance@dlsbasildon.org) to report your child's absence.

Absence during term time for holiday will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any absence in term time must be applied for in advance.

### **Contact Details**

Please ensure all your contact details are kept up to date.

**Mrs Carlane-Smith - Student Services Manager**