

March 2021

VLC Newsletter



Welcome from the Principal

Welcome to the first newsletter we have done for a while. After a very busy term, I thought it would be nice to share with parents/carers what has been happening across the school.

I would like to start by saying thank you to our brilliant staff team for all their work since Christmas. Unlike most schools, we have been physically open for all students since January. Understandably many staff were worried, given the increased Covid risks, but they have continued to work hard for all of our students and families. We had very high levels of attendance throughout and I would also extend my thanks to parents/carers, as well as the students, for their support with our new routines and measures.

There will be no significant changes to these measures after Easter and we will continue to ask older students to wear face coverings in lessons and around the school. Of course, as the lockdown eases and new national measures are introduced, we will adjust our risk assessment and measures in school accordingly.

We are all hopeful of restrictions easing and I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break. We look forward to welcoming students back on **Monday 19 April**.



Follow us on social media!

We are on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Do follow us to keep up-to-date with what's happening in school.

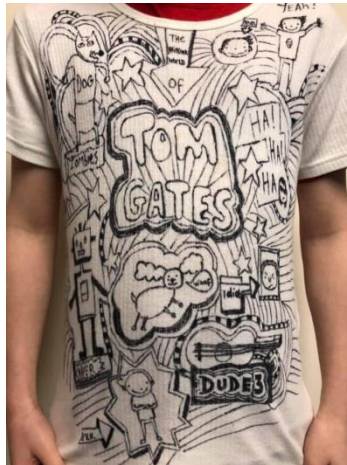
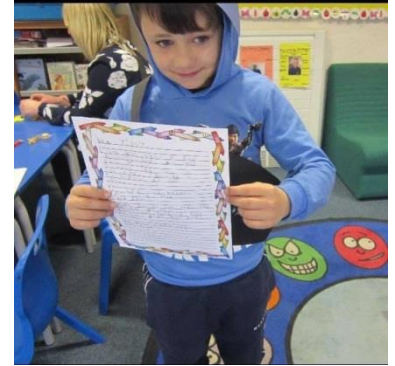


We also have a VLC YouTube account where you can find our end of term videos. If you didn't see VLC staff performing High School Musical, it's not to be missed and is well worth checking out!



VLC celebrates World Book Day

Staff and students celebrated World Book Day in style this year, taking time out of lessons to get dressed up as some of their favourite book characters. The Science and Art teams were very topical with their choice of Dr Beaky plague doctor costumes! Ms Magee the Head of English commented that "everyone looked fabulous and the students responded really positively, enjoying the effort that staff had made."



Science Week

22-26 March



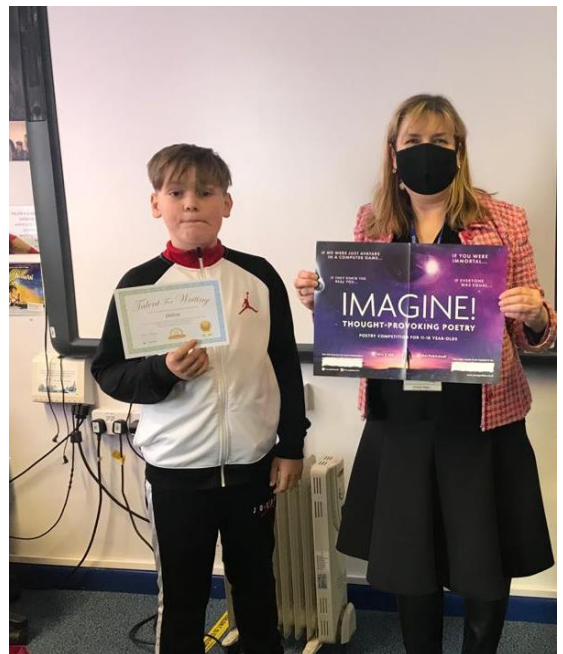
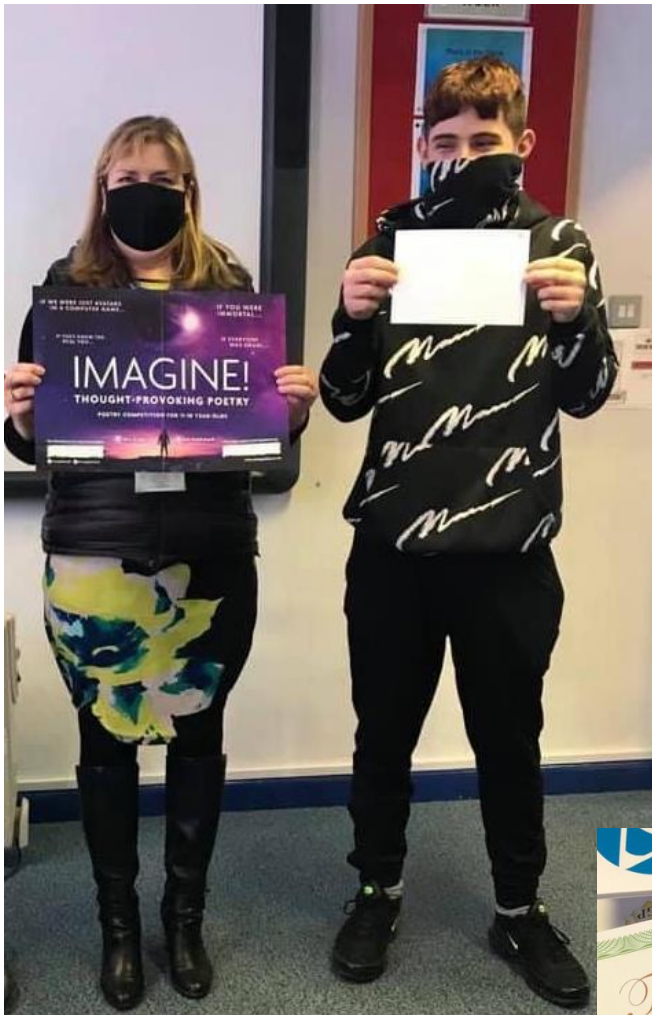
Staff and students across the school enjoyed a range of science activities in lessons. The theme was Food Science, with students having the opportunity to tackle a variety of scientific investigations. There was fruit tasting & sherbert making – which certainly prompted some interesting responses – and fruit based art activities. Y10 students also made water wheels in their lessons.



Winning students have their work published!

Four students from Phase 2 will see their work published in a Young Writers collection 'Imagine – Word Weavers'. Dillon, Rio, Codie and Reece were all inspired by the Young Writers' Imagine! poetry competition. The boys' winning poems were selected from over 9,000 entries for their originality, creativity and use of language.

Miss Magee, the Head of English, said "I am incredibly proud of their work, it's amazing to think that their poems will now be kept in the National Library Archives forever!"




COVID-19 Self Testing


A reminder that all students aged 11 and over can have Lateral Flow Test kits to complete at home. If you have a pack, you can continue to do the tests over the Easter break as well. Results should be reported to the government website; <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>, as well as the school.

If anyone tests positive at home they should then book a PCR test to confirm the result.

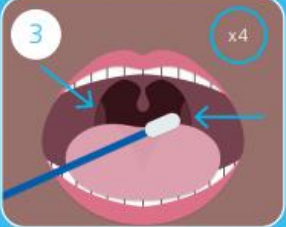
Doing your test

- 


1

Blow your nose, wash and dry/sanitise your hands again. Remove the swab being careful not to touch the soft part.
- 


2

Open your mouth wide and use a mirror to locate your tonsils (or where they used to be).
- 


3

Do this firmly 4 times on each side. Use a mirror to help you do this correctly.
- 

4

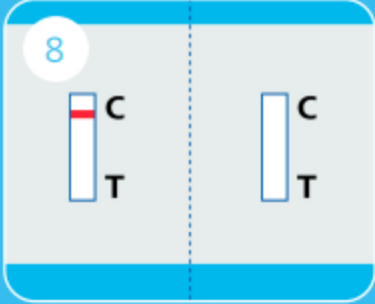
Remove the swab carefully without touching your teeth, tongue or gums.
- 

5

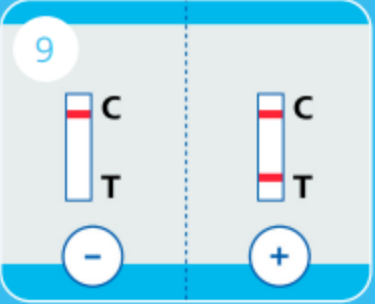
Insert the same swab inside your nostril until you feel resistance, making sure you don't touch any other part of your face.
- 

6

Roll the swab firmly around the inside of the nostril, making 10 complete circles.

- 

8

Within 10 mins, you should see a line at 'C'. If C line is not visible within 30 mins, the test is invalid.
- 

9

If after 30 minutes you still have only one line, your result is negative. If you have two lines, then your result is positive.

Y11 Information

We know that this term has been especially difficult for many Y11 students, with so much uncertainty about how results will be decided.

What is happening, and when?



Guidance for students and parents/carers can be found here <https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf>. We want to reassure you and students that work completed this term can make a difference and so attendance is crucial. Our plans for the term ahead with Y11 are:

Week	What will be happening
19.4.21	Revision of previous topics Teaching to prepare students for assessments
26.4.21	Revision of previously taught topics Assessments will start to be completed in class
3.5.21	Revision of previously taught topics Further assessments in lesson time
10.5.21	Final assessments
17.5.21	Catch up on assessments Portfolios of evidence completed
24.5.21	Catch up on assessments Complete portfolios/evidence

After the half term, we will be amending students' timetables to ease their transition into post-16 and their next step plans. Once we have some clearer guidance and plans are confirmed, we will of course be in touch.

GCSE results day is earlier this year and will be on **Thursday 12 August**. Again we will confirm plans for that day at a later date. Information about what could happen after results day are included below.

