

# The Seagull



Issue 679 Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Next week is Week 2

All Enquiries: 020 8270 6222  
Email: [headteacher@jorichardson.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@jorichardson.org.uk)

Website: [www.jorichardson.org.uk](http://www.jorichardson.org.uk)  
Twitter: @JRCS\_School 



## HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

### Welcome back/uniform

It has been a busy week since we returned from the half term break, but students have settled back into the swing of things at school very well.

As the weather turns colder, a reminder that students should not be wearing hoodies anywhere in the school building. Winter coats are permitted on Main Street, but students will be asked to take these off anywhere else inside the school building.

Please also continue to support our uniform policy by ensuring your son or daughter is wearing appropriate school shoes and no jewellery, piercings or nail varnish.

### Year 11 Progress Evening – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 3:45pm - 6:30pm

We look forward to welcoming Year 11 students and their parents/carers into school next Wednesday evening.

Please check your son or daughter's appointment times carefully, as the year group has been divided into the following times to allow for appropriate social distancing:

- J side: 3:45pm - 5:00pm
- R side: 5:15pm - 6:30pm

This is such an important event for your son or daughter to attend. It is their opportunity to discuss how they are progressing across all subjects and what their next steps must be in preparing for success at GCSE next Summer. Students will also receive the results from the mock exams they sat before half term.

### ACHIEVE days

We had a fantastic two days just before half term, taking part in a range of trips and

activities. ACHIEVE days are such a central part of our school, and a vital part of our students' extra-curricular enrichment. Special thanks to every member of JRCS staff who go above and beyond to support our ACHIEVE days twice yearly; huge thanks also to our trip leaders who organised the trips for each year group.

### Sixth Form Open Evening

It was great to see so many of our Year 11 students and their parents/carers attending our Sixth Form Open Evening this week, and a pleasure to discuss potential options for Key Stage 5 with you all. I hope you found the evening informative and helpful in starting to think about life after GCSEs.

We have an excellent team of Sixth Form teachers at JRCS and an impressive track record of supporting students through their chosen qualifications. Please see the Sixth Form section of the JRCS website and our prospectus for further information. If you have any queries regarding entry to Sixth Form or any of the courses we offer, your son or daughter should contact the Sixth Form team in school.

### COP26

This week has seen world leaders taking part in the landmark COP26 Climate Change conference in Glasgow. JRCS students have also been playing their part in protecting the environment by taking part in assemblies and lessons centred around the issue of climate change. Next week, we will be turning the Seagull green in a COP26 special edition, sharing pictures and a round-up of all the activities that have taken place over the course of the fortnight.

The NHS is now offering covid vaccinations to all eligible secondary age students. There will be a vaccination clinic running in school next Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Please note, students will only receive vaccinations if they have full parental consent.

Please read the letter from the Secretary of State in this edition of the Seagull carefully, which provides further information regarding testing and vaccinations.

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting us to stay safe by ensuring your son or daughter brings a mask into school to wear in communal areas. Please continue to carry out lateral flow tests twice a week at home, and to notify us straight away of any positive PCR results.

Ms Keane  
Headteacher



## GENERAL NEWS

## Divine Year 10

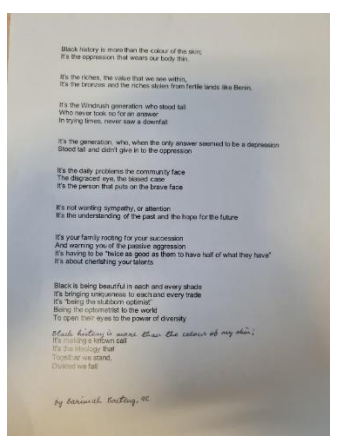
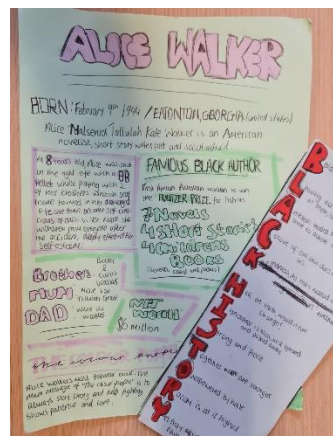
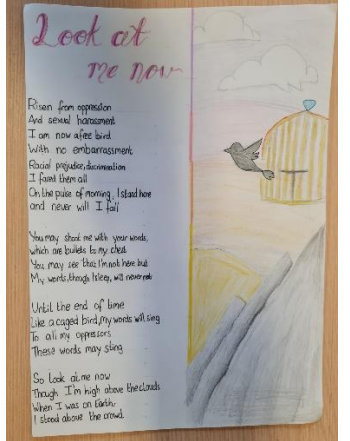
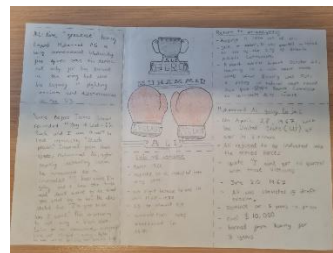
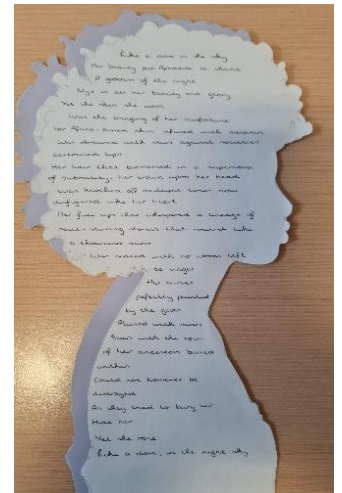
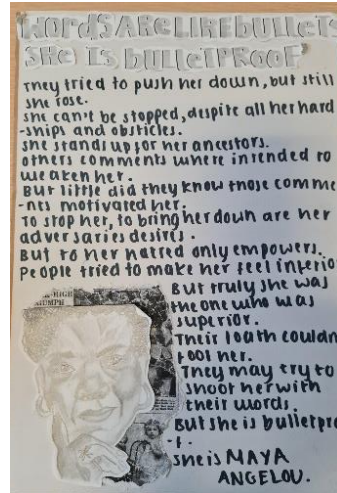


We are delighted to announce that Divine has been called up to join the England U-15 Football Training Group. Divine joined the other selected players at the England Team's main base at St George's Park during the half-term week. It is a significant achievement which all at JRCS wish him success with and is a reward for his performances with West Ham's Development age groups since he joined JRCS.

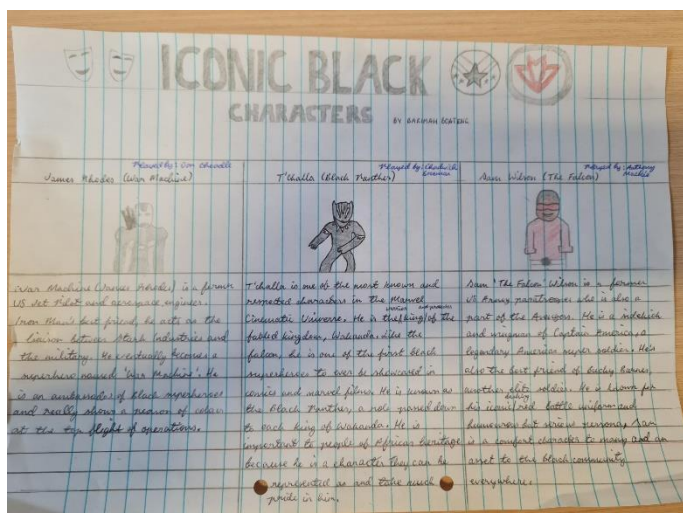
Mr Kersey  
Pastoral Support Assistant

## Black History Month

9J1 English made some brilliant creative responses to Black History Month. Students were given the opportunity to share the skills they learned for creative writing last half-term and respond in any form they wished. They researched different figures to inspire them in their writing. Winners of the class competition include Barimah, who submitted a powerful poem, and Divine, who submitted a beautiful piece of art and a poem.







Miss Smith  
English Department

### Trewern 2021

Students from Years 8 and 9 were lucky enough to go on the school's first residential trip since re-opening after the pandemic. They had an excellent week at Trewern Outdoor Education Centre in Wales and were extremely busy with their daily activities of mountain walking, gorge walking and canoeing.

The students came back tired but rightly pleased with their achievements and overcoming the challenges they faced.



Well Done!

Ms Lynch  
SDD Department

### Under 16 A Netball v All Saints



The under 16 A team had their first competitive match of the season against All Saints. During the first quarter the girls took some time to settle into the flow of the game, however due to some fantastic play from the defence, the ball was over turned numerous times to allow the attack to successfully score. The first half ended 7 – 6 to All Saints.

During the second half the attack stepped up and some excellent balls were fed into the GS, played by Lola. Successful shots were also made by Soraya whose speed and agility made it tricky for the GD to mark. Unfortunately, the match ended 19-15 to All Saints however the girls should be proud of the effort they put in.

Miss Emeny  
PE Department

### New arrival

Congratulations to Miss Green (History Department) on the arrival of her baby daughter, Maeve Isobel born 28/10/21 weighing 7lb 2oz.





Department  
for Education



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT*

*From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0EU*

## **A joint letter to parents of secondary school and college students in England on Covid19 testing and vaccines from the Secretaries of State for Education and for Health and Social Care**

### **11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 COVID-19 AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN ENGLAND**

We know that children and young people have been hugely affected by the pandemic, both in terms of their education and their ability to socialise and participate in activities that benefit them outside of formal education.

We want to thank you as parents and guardians of secondary school and college students for your support over the last eighteen months. We know this time has been difficult for many of you, as well as for the young people you care for.

As students return to the classroom, we would ask for your continued support to make sure your children are able to stay in face-to-face learning, by encouraging them to:

- test themselves for COVID-19 twice a week, and more frequently if they are specifically asked to do so. This way, we can find individuals who have the virus but are not showing symptoms, and stop them from passing it on to others.
- come forward for the COVID-19 vaccine. This is one of the best things young people can do to protect themselves and those around them.

We know that students have missed a lot of time in school and college since the pandemic started, and that there is no substitute for face-to-face learning. Keeping students in the classroom in the coming months is therefore a Government priority, both for their immediate and longer-term wellbeing.

We know that some of you will be concerned about the health risks to the young people you care for. We want to reassure you that the evidence shows that young people remain at very low risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

However, we need to continue to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Young people who get ill will need to miss school or college, and may spread it to others. That is why we are encouraging you all to support your children to get vaccinated and to continue to test regularly. This will help to detect cases early, reduce spread, and keep students in education.

### **Vaccination**

Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme for children aged 12-15 years has now started. Thousands of young people across the country have already taken the opportunity to receive their vaccine. If your child is 12-15 years old, a consent form and information leaflet from the [NHS](#) will be sent home allowing you to provide consent for your child to receive their vaccination at school.

We remind you that 16- and 17-year-olds can book their vaccination through the [National Booking Service](#) or find a convenient [walk-in](#) site. Please do help your 16- and 17-year-olds to book a vaccination if they have not already done so. We would also encourage you to book a vaccination for yourself if you have not done so already, or if you have missed a second dose.

## Testing

We ask that you support and encourage your children to test twice a week at home, every week, with Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. This will help us reduce the transmission of COVID-19 among our children. Please report and upload test results [online](#), even if they are negative or void, as this allows us to understand the virus and take additional action when needed.

In addition to regular twice weekly testing:

- Children displaying the symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate and [get a PCR test](#).
- Children who receive a positive LFD result should isolate and book a PCR test to confirm their result.
- Children who are identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace should take a PCR test and continue to go to school while they wait for their result.
- In response to potential outbreaks, your school, college or local health team may advise additional testing. For example, if your child is identified as a close contact, they may be asked to take daily LFDs, while they wait for their PCR result. In this scenario, they should continue to attend school as long as their LFD results remain negative.

Additionally, please encourage your child to [follow guidance on wearing face coverings](#) in crowded spaces with people they don't know well, for example on school transport.

We know that many of you will have questions or concerns about this, and we understand that. The NHS website ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) is an excellent source of advice, which we hope will be able to answer many of your questions about testing or vaccination. If not, you can call the 119 service who should be able to help with questions on testing. When you get a vaccination consent form for your child, it will include details of how you can ask further questions of your local teams.

Thank you again for your support.



**RT HON NADHIM ZAHAWI MP**



**RT HON SAJID JAVID MP**



## **Here are some frequently answered questions for parents, from Dr Mary Ramsay, Head of Immunisation at the UK Health Security Agency**

### **Why do young people aged 12 to 15 years need to get the vaccine?**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection is typically mild in most young people, but it can be very unpleasant for some and one dose of the vaccine will provide good protection against severe illness and hospitalisation.

Vaccinating 12 to 15 year olds also helps reduce the need for young people to have time off school and reduces the risk of spread of COVID-19 within schools. The vaccine will protect young people from COVID-19 and reduce disruption to education, which is good for their welfare and mental health.

### **Why did the JCVI say young people didn't need the vaccine?**

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) looked at the direct health benefits of vaccines, and in the case of 12 to 15 year olds, they said that there was only a small advantage for young people in getting a dose of the vaccine.

The Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) took into account the extra health benefits from avoiding children missing education and concluded that there were public health grounds to recommend vaccinating 12 to 15 year olds. The UK CMOs' advice sets out their reasoning here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-15-years-against-covid-19>

### **My child has already had COVID-19 - should they still get the vaccine?**

Yes, they should be vaccinated regardless of whether they have already had a COVID-19 infection because:

- research has not yet shown how long people who have had COVID-19 are protected from getting it again after they recover
- vaccination helps to boost your protection, even if you've already had COVID-19

### **Has the vaccine been given to 12 to 15 year olds in other countries?**

Trials in thousands of children have shown that the vaccine works very well in this age group. The vaccine has since been given to millions of 12 to 15 year olds in a number of countries, including 8 million in the United States. Data from these countries show that the vaccine has a good safety record.

## **Key questions on the children and young people's COVID-19 vaccination programme (continued)**

### **Does the COVID-19 vaccine cause heart problems in young people?**

Worldwide, there have been very rare cases of inflammation of the heart called myocarditis or pericarditis reported after COVID-19 vaccines. Most of these young people felt better following rest and simple treatments. These cases have been seen mostly in younger males and mainly occurred within a few days of the second dose; it is extremely rare after the first dose of the vaccine.

### **Is the vaccine safe for children with allergies or other medical conditions?**

There are very few children or young people who cannot receive the vaccine. If in doubt, young people and their parents or carers should check with the school immunisation team or consult their GP or specialist clinician.

### **I have seen fake stories on social media about the vaccine**

You may have come across false or misleading information about the virus or the vaccine. It is important that you get your information from trusted sources such as:

### **The children's programme information**

The parents' guide is on the link below with the guidance for schools: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools>

Here is the leaflet for the children and parents: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people>

Further information can be found here: [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccine-children](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccine-children).

