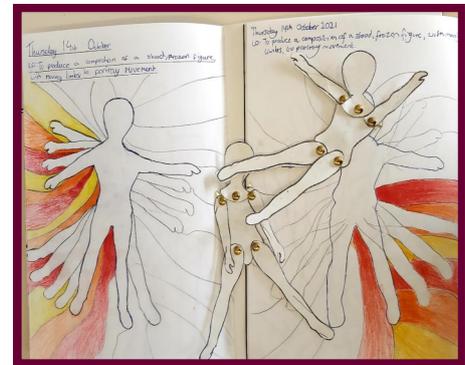


What a fab week in school. Strong attendance, pupils working hard and teachers delivering inspiring and creative lessons. The usual madness in the science department (please take this in the right spirit!) with Mrs Etheridge turning whole bottles of water upside down above pupils' heads, with only a table tennis ball between the pupils and an instant shower. I unknowingly took part in this

In English lessons pupils are pulling together final pieces of written work in various genres. Year 5: Who Let the Gods Out? Pupils writing their own Greek Myth. 5MB gave a great description of Zeus - part myth, part contemporary. Year 6: Clockwork by Pullman. Pupils are writing their own ghost story based on a section of the text. Some of the descriptions used to convey emotion and environment sent a shiver down my spine. Year 7: Pupils are studying Holes. Having already written a court report, pupils are now tasked with writing a non-chronological report featuring a poisonous pigeon in Moors Valley - I will make sure I read the finished article! Year 8 are reading Woman in Black and are currently writing their own character description. This is a dark and moody book that has provoked some fabulous descriptions. I wish, when I was a pupil, my English lessons featured texts and writing presented in this way.

All art projects are coming along very nicely. The quiet hum of pupils working for extended periods of time. The creative subjects really allow that time to develop ideas and work individually. Across design technology, pupil design and research ideas are starting to turn into real items whilst developing key skills. I have seen some impressive driving skills on the sewing machines, knife skills in food and excellent soldering techniques in product design.



In core subjects we have received the end of year external assessments for our outgoing year 8 cohort. The results when benchmarked against year 5 entry data is phenomenal, across all groups in English and maths. A huge well done to pupils and staff. This builds on the internal information we hold across all year groups that celebrates the progress pupils are making in their learning when there were plenty of reasons for this not to be the case.

As I mentioned last week, Mr Brenton took his year 7 girls to Winton and Glenmoor for a football fixture. They lost 7-3, but I am pleased to say that after a tough start and losing by four goals by half-time, they matched Winton and Glenmoor in the second half. Meeting the team at the door when they arrived back at EMS you would have thought they'd won the game! Work hard, play hard and smile!



Currently, we are without either of our school crossing staff and the local authority has been unable to send replacements. We will continue to be a presence and speak to the pupils about this. You may wish to change plans or crossing routes. To date, I am pleased to say pupils have been responsible when travelling to and from school.

Enjoy a lovely weekend,

Mr Christopher