

9TH OCTOBER 2020

St. James' School



COMEDY IN THE CLASSROOM

Meirion Yeoman

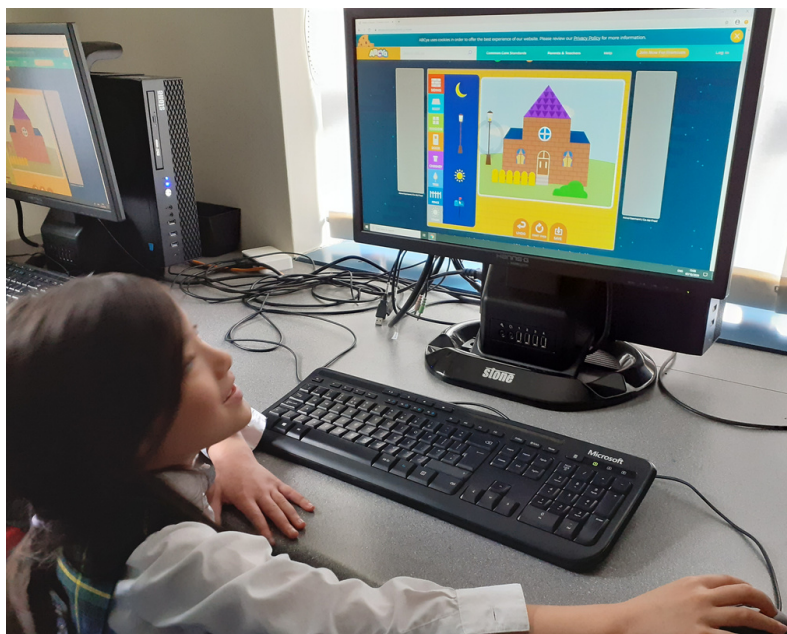
LOOKING BACK IN TIME

Richard Murray

UPCOMING EVENTS

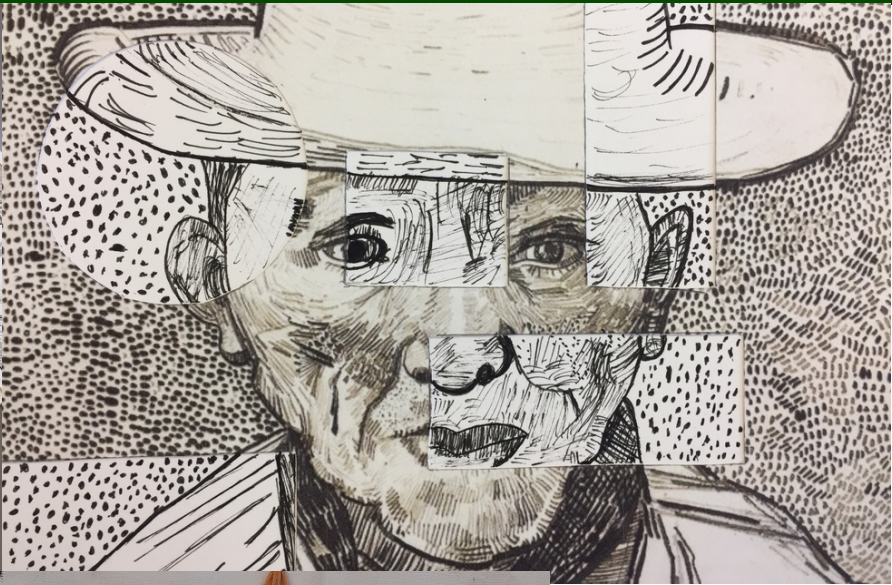
What is happening round the corner?

THIS WEEK IN PHOTOS





Prep & Senior Artwork



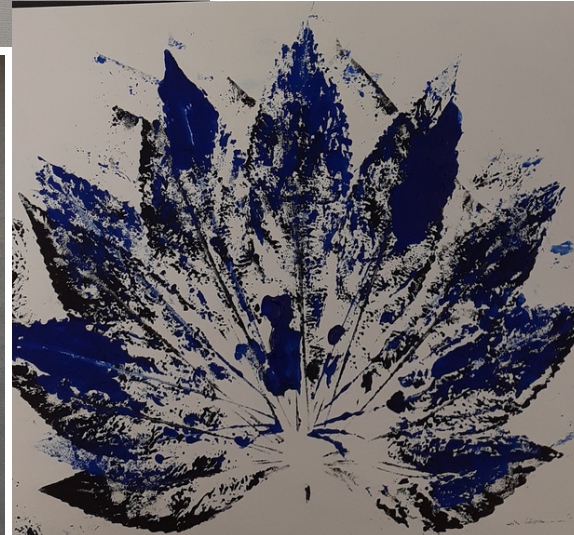
Year 7 Mark Making Portrait in the style of Vincent Van Gogh's Ink Sketches



Year 10 pupil Fine Art GCSE Work



Prep 4 'Day of the Dead' Skeleton Designs





Looking back in time

Headmaster's lesson

This week in my Headmaster's lessons I have been talking to classes about literally looking back in time. Seeing live events with our own eyes that actually happened a long, long, long time ago. Confused? Well, for the answer step outside tonight and look up at the sky...stars.

I was delighted to hear that some children knew of an important star, Polaris, more commonly known as the North Star. Always sitting in line with the Earth's northern axis, Polaris has been a constant throughout human existence. Sitting some 400 light years away, or 2.4 million billion miles away, what we are seeing, is Polaris some 400 years ago.

To know if it is still there today, set a calendar reminder for 2420 and hand the phone down through your next 5 generations.

"Seeing live events with our own eyes that actually happened a long, long, long time ago. Confused? Well, for the answer step outside tonight and look up at the sky...stars. "

Looking north each evening from North East Lincs we are able to see a number of wonderful constellations: The Big Dipper, Ursea Major, which I think looks more like a saucepan than a giant bear, its smaller relation The Little Dipper, Ursa Minor which contains Polaris itself at the 'end of the pan handle'.

Draco, a dragon, Cassiopeia (w shaped), and impressively in a more north easterly direction another galaxy, the Andromida Nebula.

Looking east, where the moon will be, the planet Mars is visible not far above the horizon, and in the south both Jupiter and Saturn sit side by side low in the sky.

Our conversations about space move to space travel and alien invasions. The massive distances other civilisations would have to travel to get us would mean, hopefully, that they are coming for a greater purpose than colonisation.

The technological advancement necessary should be matched by equally evolved thinking about the evils of war. It is my belief that any visitors would 'come in peace'.

If you are curious to explore the cosmos for yourselves, I recommend using the simulator at <https://stellarium-web.org/>. It is really fun to see how the constellations rotate, to highlight their shapes, and to dream of what lies out there...

"Looking north each evening from North East Lincs we are able to see a number of wonderful constellations"



National Poetry Day Poems

As part of National Poetry Day
Year 8 pupils were challenged to create a
Gothic poem to sit alongside their reading
of Charles Dickens' 'The Haunted Man and
the Ghost's Bargain'.

A Gothic Tale

Two ravens on the church gate,
a love between them as powerful as death.
Both their skulls connecting
with their depression and misery.

As the lightning strikes the gate slowly
Opens, the dead unfolding their weaknesses
to become almighty goths.

As the church bells strike three times
the dead explore the pitiful world.

The world is sad and grieves for his losses,
he wants to die and demolish the sadness
beneath but if that day will ever come
he doesn't know.

The ravens don't shiver, they aren't sly
they simply fall in love and wait to die.

Eliza Buckley

Black

In an anxious frenzy,
I run a little more.
I die a little more.
I scream a little more.

The knife goes in again,
Then it comes out.
Help me, save me
From this hellish nightmare.

They cut me again.
I fall to my knees.
As an unrequited soul
Falls to pieces.

Black surrounds me.
I'm gone.
Never coming back,
So I'll say goodbye.
Goodbye.

Addien Murray

Comedy in the Classroom is no joke

MEIRION YEOMAN

I have somehow gained the unenviable reputation for the being the teller of bad jokes – how totally unfair I hear you cry! I have of course played along with this and as a result, found myself regularly on the receiving end of a barrage of one liners and riddles which the Prep 4 children unleash on me at every opportunity.

This was taken to new levels during the lockdown as every Zoom lesson was extended by shouts of “Mr Yeoman, what’s yellow and sniffs? A banana with a cold!” or “What’s a snake’s favourite subject? Hiss tory!” Another favourite came as “Why was the teacher cross-eyed? They couldn’t control their pupils!”

Fortunately, it turns out that my sense of humour is pretty much primary school level and this meant that I enjoyed these joke telling exchanges with the children immensely and I hope they did too in what was a very stressful time. I apologise if it added to the suffering of the parents at their side!!

There is method in the madness however, as comedy plays with language content, grammar and audience awareness to create laughs and it can be a great asset in the classroom. I love to take every opportunity to use pun and rhyme to enthuse the children such as ‘We’re going to find out about mass and I can’t weight!’ ‘Ruby, your story about the horse is well written but you need to describe its NEIGH bours!’ ‘Tejas, you described the bear furry clearly indeed!’

There is a difference in reaction depending the age of the children, Year 3 & 4 students will usually smile broadly and exclaim “Ah I get that Mr Yeoman, you are a clever man!” The same quip used in Year 6 often receives a loud plea of “Stop Mr Yeoman!”

Nevertheless, a substantial body of research explains why we remember things that make us laugh. Neuroscience research reveals that humour activates the brain's dopamine reward system and cognitive studies show that dopamine is important for both goal orientated motivation and long term memory, while education research shows that correctly used humour can be an effective intervention to improve retention from nursery through to college.

Just look at the Horrible Histories shows where their successful use of humour to teach History is evident in the children every day. Then we could continue about the possible mental health benefits.

So there you have it, there is science behind the silliness and planning in the puns and in these scary times, there have never been more reasons to crack those jokes. What do butterflies study at school? MOTH-ematics! What is the fastest lamb? A lamb – borghini ! Stop groaning – it's all part of the edutainment!

"There is method in the madness however, as comedy plays with language content, grammar and audience awareness to create laughs and it can be a great asset in the classroom."



**"What's Yellow and Sniffs...
A Banana with a cold!"**

LAUGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

12TH OCTOBER TO
16TH OCTOBER
2020

MONDAY 12TH

**PREP 5 BIKEABILITY
TRAINING**

FRIDAY 16TH

**OCTOBER HALF
TERM BEGINS**





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