



**We are  
Lyng Hall  
13.02.26**



## Festivals

### What can we learn about our school community?

This week, we have interviewed Miss Gilbert about her favourite festival. Her favourite festival is Easter. She said she loves it because she loves chocolate, egg hunts and spring is in the air. On that day, she starts off with an easter egg hunt in the morning, then goes on a walk with her family and dog to a farm and finishes her day off with a traditional Sunday dinner. Easter is celebrated at the end of March or the start of April.

**By Lissy Kelly and Iris Manole, 7RK**

#### **Interview with Miss Williams:**

This week, we have interviewed Miss Williams about festivals. We have asked multiple questions about this topic. This is what she said.

*What is your favourite festival?*

'Notting Hill Carnival'

*Why is this your favourite festival?*

'This festival expresses Caribbean culture, and I love watching the performances'

*Where do you celebrate this?*

'In London'

*What clothes do you wear?*

'I wear traditional vibrant, bright clothing yet they are still comfortable'

*Who do you celebrate with?*

'Friends and Family'

*What type of food do you eat?*

'Caribbean food like rice bowls or Jerk chicken,

Thank you to Miss Williams for letting us to interview them, we have enjoyed learning more.

**By Hanna Pawlowicz and Helianah Chizororo, 7RK**

**Thank you to Lyng Hall teachers for allowing us journalists to interview you in your spare time – we have more interviews which will be incoming in the next edition. Stay tuned to find out what teacher will be interviewed next...**

#### ***What do you truly know about Easter?***



#### ***History of the Carnival:***





## STEM Day

By Holly Masterson, Elian Mohammed and Umar Ali

**STEM** day was a great experience, as it helped us explore different types of engineering and hobbies where engineering could be an element. This means that having a hobby could be reincarnated into a full-time job, while still entirely having fun.

At the start of the day, we were welcomed with choosing a trio to work with during our activities. In the first activity we were introduced to programming our robots to making a song, then we then had to guess which song was coded. This was a good way to test our knowledge on coding before they taught us the basics.

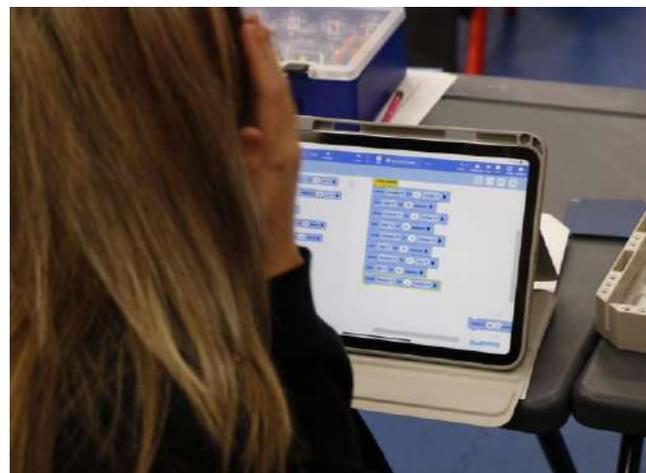
Next, we were given coloured paper and a platform for the robot. We were told to make a maze for the robot, while still making it the fastest and most efficient. This taught us to keep the maze easy but also maintain a creative structure. We had to calculate how long the platform was so we could programme this onto our iPad's.

After break we did an activity where we had to fix broken codes. This meant programming the broken code and then seeing where it goes wrong and fixing it this way. Doing this meant that we had to concentrate on the robot's movement and learn how to adapt its mistakes. It helped us experience the essence of being an engineer and the cycle of creation.

Then, during the afternoon we had a project where we designed our own AI business, creating a logo, slogan and description on what it is. This helped us develop our designing skills but also our planning and originality. It taught us the background structure of being an engineer.

We believe that the STEM Day was a great opportunity and helped us explore the different styles in engineering. Workshops such as this one, allow students to explore a unique type of learning that they may not ever do in normal lessons.

Overall, this was a once in a lifetime experience and we hope that we can encounter it again in the future.





# STEM Day

By Holly Masterson, Elian Mohammed and Umar Ali

We would like to make a special thank you to The Smallpeice Trust and the support of the A-level STEM ambassadors who enabled this opportunity for our students. It is partnerships like this which make our school environment a rich learning space.



## The Year of Reading

### Fairytales Genre Workshop with author Beth O'Brien

We were lucky enough to have a visiting author in school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Beth O'Brien (use the code to find her page). We were honoured to welcome Beth to school to deliver a workshop on her debut 'Wolf Siren' – which was published last year. She has a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Birmingham. She delivered two workshops, for KS3 and KS4/5, as a reward for students nominated by their English teachers for excellence.



Beth O'Brien's workshop on *Wolf Siren* was honestly so inspiring. Hearing her talk about how she produced the story and built the characters made writing feel way less scary. I liked how she explained that you don't need the perfect idea, or the perfect first chapter, to start a book, you just have to begin somewhere and let the story grow.

It made me realise that writing isn't about getting everything right straight away, it's about experimenting and letting your imagination run with it. I left the workshop feeling more confident about starting my own book and actually excited to try out some of the tips she shared.

**By Hyelsinta Mshelia**

As a person who was given the honour to be part of this workshop, I wanted to share my experience with you. To meet an author like Beth O'Brien was an incredible opportunity. We got to learn how to adapt and improve our creative writing skills. It was a privilege to have worked with her for I am an admirer of her work, we read *Wolf Siren* in our UKLA Book Club. In its entirety it was an incredible workshop, and I do recommend not only *Wolf Siren* but her new book which is coming out next month *Feather Vane*.

In my own opinion, the school was incredible for making this workshop happen – it was an incredible privilege, not an opportunity you get everyday.

**By Maisie Jenkinson**

The workshop was a big experience; it helped my approach to writing stories - leading us with our imagination. Beth O'Brien proved that even a little bit of imagination can help you achieve great things.

**By Sahasvi Thennakoon**





## The Year of Reading

### Fairytales Genre Workshop with author Beth O'Brien

**Our Y13 students received lovely feedback from Beth, after the workshop, about their completed narratives:**

*"I really love your opening sentence; it sets up such a unique story and narrator!"*

*'I will let it consume me first. As the dark consumes the light when the sun sets' – What a beautiful line.*

*'my eye is mistaken for their moon' – another lovely description! You're conjuring up such a fascinating world that the narrator is determined to preserve.*

*'When I empty my palms they are just that – empty'. Your narrator's voice is so strong and distinctive."*

*"Really strong and vivid descriptions in your opening paragraph and the narrative voice captures the horror for the narrator, and also her defiance.*

*Alice grappling with her memories / flashbacks is a captivating way to show the reader what happened to her family."*

*"I really love your descriptions of what it is like for the frog prince in his new form – the feeling of his skin being too tight, muscles writhing like spiders crawling, and the impact on how and what he sees are all described so well and gives the reader such great insight into his life.*

*I love the narrator's voice. It fits his royal lofty position even as he's moving through the world in his frog body."*

I'm one of the particularly lucky pupils to meet the amazing author, Beth O'Brien. This workshop was amazing and Beth was incredibly nice and helpful, teaching us how to make our own story.

In our creative tasks, we looked at how to make our starting point of our own story - this was very fun and exciting. It was like opening a world for me because this author was inspiring. I got a lot of ideas of making my own story and I plan on continuing writing the story. That's how beautiful it was.

I received a bookmark gift from Beth, and I even got to volunteer to debate my own story. It was amazing - I can't stop thinking about this opportunity.

I would like to say thank you to Beth for visiting and helping us with our story. It was a wonderful experience, and I got to work with other students I hadn't before, who like books and fantasy.

**By Ellison Frimpong**





## The Year of Reading

### A Review of Beth O'Brien's *Wolf Siren* by Miss Hagan

*Wolf Siren* is an interpretation of the fairytale classic Little Red Riding Hood that follows the story of a young protagonist, Red. But this reimagining resonates more with the power of the Brothers Grimm – with Red taking charge of her own destiny. Like the Grimm's Red Riding Hood, she is a strong heroine: a young girl who begins to learn about her own legacy. This journey starts when she begins menstruation and powers she didn't know she had, are unlocked. O'Brien uses this natural point in a young girl's life to explore a deeper understanding of self and purpose. Red gradually uncovers details about the women in her family's history and this shapes how she sees her own self.

Her Grandmother disappearing into the woods is the turning point event that prompts Red to question everything. She pieces together fragments of what she has been told but is unsatisfied with the answers. With this questioning tone, the setting O'Brien crafts is perfect. The village space at the edge of the woods is simultaneously claustrophobic and intimate. Red is tempted to cross into the woods; but the weight of those who have been lost to it and the village's judgement of her crossing are heavy burdens to carry.

Exploring this sense of boundary further, the author takes advantage of key tropes in a fairy-tale; we are specifically invited to explore the different layers of a villain. We question the existence of the fence: who are we really protecting ourselves against? Who is the wolf? Who is the predator? The writer plays with this idea of disguise and false images. Amplified through Red's representation – relying on colour, movement and memory to see. In this way she offers a unique voice in discerning whether Grandmother is in wolf's clothing, or the other way around.

At different stages of the narrative, our conclusion about who the 'wolf' is, who the 'villain' is, who the 'saviour' is, changes. Our expectations are subverted time and time again, as O'Brien originally reimagines a landscape experienced with her disability. This sensitive perspective prompts our compassion for Red as she skirts around the edges of this society, endeavouring to find her own way.

It is also interesting to note the use of the word 'Siren'. The call of the siren holds connotations of being lured, tempted. This attitude is observed in the figure of the mother, who remains resistant to her daughter's change. She holds on to so much fear about the 'call' that Red is experiencing. The destiny of a siren's call is a fatal one – this tension threads itself through the whole narrative. The author re-frames the classic fairytale as a 'coming of age' tale – gifting young readers with a feisty, empowered heroine, who dares to be more than society expects.

Beyond the tale of the heroine, lies a deeper exploration of what it means to be ostracised. There is a 'witch-trial' quality to the hunting mentality of the village's character. An atmosphere that resonates with imagery of places like Salem. This conceptualisation of being targeted for a part of your being is explored through several different characters. Each live on the edges of what is deemed accepted by the major stakeholders in the village. But O'Brien draws these figures together and invites us to question the morality of these judgments. There are some climactic moments that expose the motives that can drive, or inhibit, our humanity.

*Wolf Siren* masterfully weaves threads of the fairytale classic, immersing us in a world which challenges our interpretation of the environment and the 'wolves' in our community. The fierce protagonist captures your heart and takes you on a journey into the woods in a way you've never experienced before. The author creates a beautifully crafted fairytale for a new generation.

**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2026 Fiction 11-14 Years**

**Online review available on Just Imagine website –  
use the QR code to find more recommendations**





## The Year of Reading

*7RK bring you their top picks for this week...*

### *Percy Jackson*

Today, we will be reviewing a book series that is also a tv show. **Percy Jackson!** The Percy Jackson series is authored by Rick Riordan. Let's talk about some of the main characters; Walker Scobell as Percy, Leah Jeffries as Annabeth Chase, and Aryan Simhadri, as Percy's best friend, Grover Underwood.



Percy Jackson is a very exceptional book I would rate this a 10 out of 10! We hope this book review makes you want to pick up a book and continue reading!

Nova: "I would recommend Percy Jackson to anyone interested in Greek Mythology. My favourite character is Nico Di Angelo because he is emo."

Gabriella: "I would recommend this book because it has exceptional characters."

Valerie: "I would recommend this book because it's I C O N I C and A M A Z I N G. My favourite character is Annabeth Chase because she's an icon!

So, recommend this to anyone who loves reading books. Love this!

**By Gabriella Adeniyi, Valerie Omoregbee Obasuyi, Nova McGuigan, 7RK**

### *Demon Slayer*

Demon slayer is part of a Manga series of books - an interesting story where a boy named Tanjiro was living in the mountains with his family. One day, he went to sell coal, but when he was going back to his house he was stopped by a man who said:

***"Demons roam at night, stay the night or demons will devour you."***

The next morning, he walked up the colossal mountain back to his humble home. As he turned the corner, he saw a horrific sight. What follows is a darkness that he must face, and challenges he must overcome, to save his family.

Our favourite characters are Giyu, Muichiro and Inosuke because of their personality. For example, at times Giyu can be depressed but other times majestic. Muichiro killed one of the 12 Kizuki by himself and Inosuke is a goober always pronouncing people's name wrong.



Olivor's favourite is the infinity castle ark. Mohammed's is the sunrise countdown ark. We would rate this book a solid 10 out of 10 because it's very entertaining. If you like action filled books this is the pick for you. But it is not for the faint of heart, be prepared to experience your fair share of horror.

**By Mohammed – Zaem Hussain Syed and Olivor Jones, 7RK**

# Feeling the Mythological Magic

*An Introduction by Lissy Kelly 7RK*



## **Odysseus and his nostos ('homecoming'): A Classics' Workshop by University of Warwick students**

This Tuesday, we participated in a Greek mythology workshop. Students from Warwick University gave us bags which included items that showed specific episodes of Odysseus' journey. When we opened the bags, we were filled with tension and we were surprised. In the bags, there was pigs, photos and quotes which showed the ninth stop. In another bag, there was a boat, some tears, 2 quotes and a map. In one last bag, there was a bow and arrow, a loom, lyrics to a song and another map.



## **Hanna and Helianah from 7RK interviewed Iris (7RK) about her experience in the Greek Mythology workshop with the University of Warwick. Here are her thoughts:**

### ***What was your experience like?***

Its was a creative environment and its was very interesting to learn about Odysseus' journey

### ***What was your favourite part?***

Her favourite part was opening the bags that the students handed out.

### ***What did you do?***

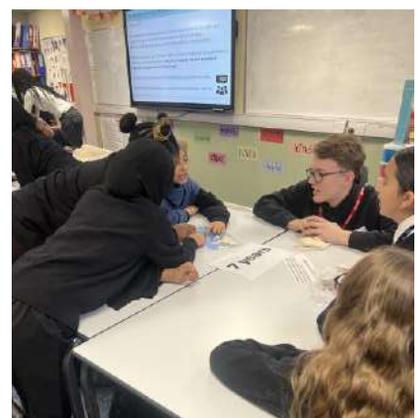
I received items from Odysseus' time at Mount Circe and I did a presentation about what they each symbolise. Specifically, why he was the most determined to return home at that point of his journey.

### ***What did you learn from the workshop?***

I learnt that when Odysseus returned home, to achieve nostos he had to kill all of the 108 suitors who tried to marry his wife and take his land whilst he was away.

### ***How did you feel?***

I felt very curious and excited to learn even more about Greek mythology than I already knew.



***My presentation was about the underworld - the 8th stop in the Odyssey. The main thing about this point in the journey is how Odysseus went to the underworld to see his fate and ask for his way to go home. He saw his mother on his way, and understood the role he had in her death - Hashim 7RK***

***My presentation was about the Phaiacians, the 13th stop in Odysseus' journey home. The main thing I enjoyed about the Greek Mythology Workshop was the fact that I got to present - Kai 7RK***



## It's All Greek to Me

### Women in Mythology By Temitope Akinmoladun

Students from Warwick University recently came to our school to teach us more about Greek mythology, and it was an experience that really brought the ancient stories to life.

We explored the myths in an interactive and engaging way. We focused especially on the story of Medusa, explaining her story, the curse placed upon her, and how her story has been told differently over time. Their enthusiasm made the lessons exciting, and it felt more like a workshop than a regular class.

One of the most interesting parts of the session was our debate whether Medusa was a villain or a victim. Some of us argued that she was a monster, who turned people to stone, and therefore should be seen as a villain. Others pointed out that, in many versions of the myth, she was cursed unfairly and had suffered greatly, which made her more of a victim. Listening to different perspectives challenged our original opinions and encouraged us to think more deeply about the story rather than accepting just one version.

The workshop helped us understand that myths can have more than one side. It also helped us work together, share ideas, and feel more confident in creating our own stories.



#### **Did you know?**

*The right to defend oneself was an important aspect of early Athenian democracy, making trials a public affair.*

*Male Citizens acted as judges and decided the outcome via vote.*

*They voted using **psephoi** - these were hollow or solid rods, marked with an inscription that read 'official ballot'.*

*They were placed in two jars – one casted the vote, the other was discarded.*

*The verdict was then determined by a simple majority.*

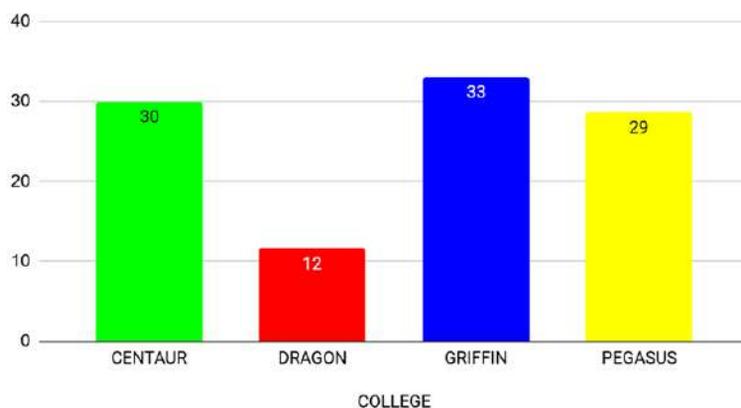


## Update on the College Race

By Kai Jarrett Hashim, Idris-Hassan, Sebastian Barinec and Khalifa Khan 7RK

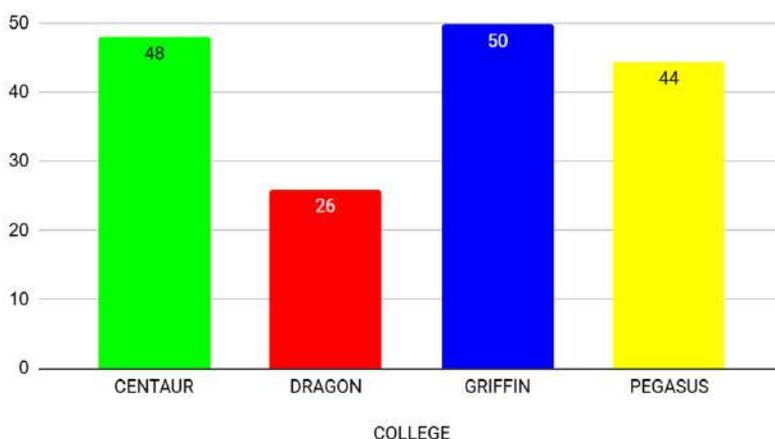
Welcome to last week's college update! In first place, we still have **Griffin**, but they are only up by 3 points with 33 points. With 30 points we have **Cunning Centaur** who have been second for multiple weeks. Just one point behind Centaur we have **Piercing Pegasus** they have 29 points they are right behind the cunning beasts; there is a lot of tension. Last but by no means least, we have the underdogs **Dragon** with just 12 points so they better lock in if they want to win a reward by the end of the year. We will be back next week.

COLLEGE POINTS PER PUPIL



Now let's compare with the points from the previous week:

COLLEGE POINTS PER PUPIL



As usual, **Griffin** maintained their lead. But not too far behind was **Centaur** with just 3 points away from the lead. **Griffin** have been constantly dominating the table the past 6 months. **Centaur** have been chasing the lead but have not once been able to get it. **Pegasus**, with 44 points have been consistently keeping their place in 3rd and **Dragon** staying last the whole year constantly circulating 20-40 points.

We hope you all had a good half term. **Dragon** specifically need to step up their game – although the Y9 Leadership board this week is dominated by **9LH Dragon**.

Let's see where next half term takes us on the leaderboard...



## DID YOU KNOW?

|                       |  |   |  |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|
| <h3>SCHOOL MEALS</h3> | <p>Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you receive certain benefits such as income support. Queries can be directed to Coventry City Council. Tel: 024768337733 or Email: <a href="mailto:freeschoolmeals@coventry.gov.uk">freeschoolmeals@coventry.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Applications can be made through: <a href="http://www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforfreeschoolmeals">http://www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforfreeschoolmeals</a></p>  |   | <p>To purchase food in the school dining room, money must be paid onto ParentPay as we are a cashless school. Login through: <a href="https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/">https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/</a></p> <p>If you experience any problems with this, please contact your child's pastoral year coordinator.</p> |
| <h3>TRAVEL PASS</h3>  | <p>If you live more than 2 miles from the school, your child may be eligible for a free bus pass. For information on how a student would qualify for a pass, please visit: <a href="http://www.coventry.gov.uk/schoolbuspasses">http://www.coventry.gov.uk/schoolbuspasses</a></p> <p>Applications: <a href="http://www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforatravelpass">www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforatravelpass</a></p> <p>Queries: Tel: 02476975445 or Email: <a href="mailto:schooltransport@coventry.gov.uk">schooltransport@coventry.gov.uk</a></p> |   |  |
| <h3>UNIFORM</h3>      | <p>If your child out-grows their blazer but it is still in very good condition, they may be able to swap their blazer for a bigger size, if our stock allows.</p>  | <p>If you are struggling with the cost of items of the uniform, we will do our best to try and help you. Contact your child's pastoral year coordinator in the first instance</p> | <p>We accept uniform donations. Please drop any items that you no longer need or require into school reception.</p>  |

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

w/b 23.02.26 Year 11 & 13 mock exams

26.02.26 MAT MEP Chinese New Year

17.03.26 Year 10 parents evening

14.04.26 Post 16 parents evening

14.03.26 Year 9 vaccinations



- Built on **Respect**
- Driven by **Resilience**
- Defined by **Excellence**