



**We are  
Lyng Hall  
02.03.26**



## What is the Lunar New Year?

Our student community celebrated the occasion – 7RK

### **The origin of Lunar New Year**

Every year, people celebrate Lunar New Year on a certain day based on the phase of the moon.

### **Do you know why its celebrated?**

Thousands of years ago, a village in China feared a monstrous creature. However, the villagers discover that Nian (the monster) was afraid of loud noises, fire and the colour red. With this information, to protect themselves, they decorated their house with red lanterns, scrolls and set off firecrackers and lit candles. When the monster came to attack it ran away with fear. From the story we celebrate with red clothes, decoration and lanterns to remember the story. We do various activities to get good luck and to remove the evil spirits and bring in the new.

### **This year's festivities:**

This Lunar New Year was the year of the horse, where if you were born in the years 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014 or 2026, your year is the year of the horse! This year was celebrated by focusing on family reunions and red envelopes (hongbao) which contain money and are usually given by family members, elders or friends.

On the 26th of February Lyng Hall welcomed 3 other year 7 Mandarin classes in the Multi- Academy Trust to celebrate Lunar New Year.

It was an amazing experience, and everyone had a great time together. Firstly, we talked about the importance of celebrating Chinese New Year, talking about the people who were born in the year of the horses. We also talked about the food Chinese people eat on this day which consists of:: dumplings (which means to get rid of the old and bring in the new) and noodles (which bring luck).

We learned that this year's zodiac animal was a horse. We have done a lot of activities: making moon cakes, painting face masks, and martial arts. This workshop was extra fun. The hardest was learning a trick where you needed to jump and land in a weird position, a position very similar to the splits.

We would like to thank the teachers involved who made this day possible for us. It is one we will treasure.

**7RK Reporters: Gabriella Adeniyi, Valerie Omoregbee, Nova Mcguigan, Kane Kennedy & Kiruthic Sivanantharajah**



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# Where are you, humanity?

## Poems for Gaza event: UNESCO Ambassadors

Literature is a beautiful form – we all have access to – to bear witness. To bear witness to history. To bear witness to our present. To bear witness for humanity.

We were honoured to be invited by the Coventry Association of International Friendship to participate in the event.

Artistic expression is one of the most powerful forms we have to share testimony – our UNESCO Ambassadors met with The Tudors' Drama company from Dresden, Germany.

On the evening, everyone in the room was challenged to be part of a movement that 'saw,' 'heard' and 'acted.'



FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE  
HILL STREET  
COVENTRY  
CV1 4AN

**PUBLIC READING**  
by The TUDORS

FREE ENTRANCE  
20 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 6.00 PM

**POEMS FOR GAZA**  
BY ANITA BARROWS

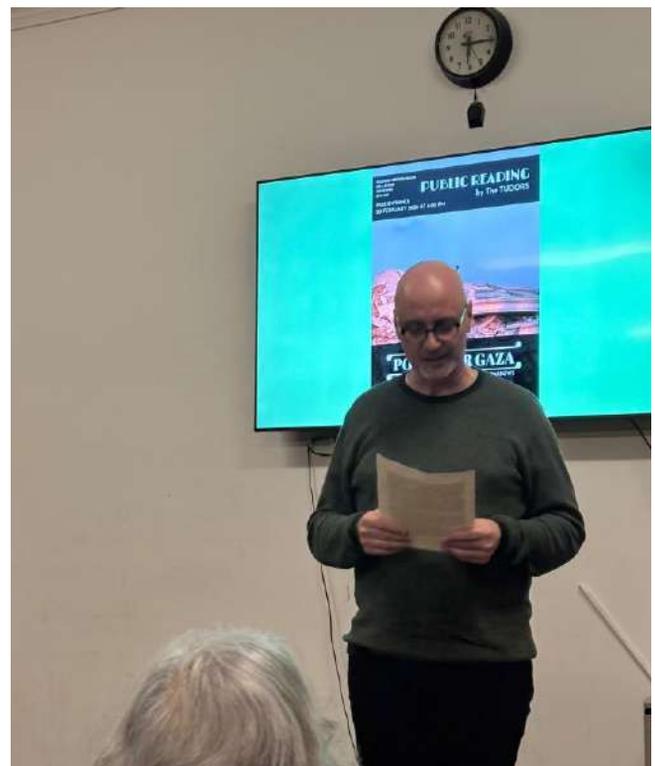
SUPPORTED AND ORGANISED BY  
COVENTRY ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP [caif16@btinternet.com](mailto:caif16@btinternet.com)  
LORD MAYOR OF COVENTRY'S COMMITTEE FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

WWW.POEMSFORGAZA.COM

PHOTO BY ALI IHMADIANA



When your child was born, I tried  
to read. I did not answer. I  
when she asked, I could  
could destroy your house  
even when the lights were darkened.  
The lights are all darkness now for me  
I did not hug you. I did not hold you.  
I did not hold you. I did not hold you.  
I did not hold you. I did not hold you.  
I did not hold you. I did not hold you.  
I did not hold you. I did not hold you.



Following this experience, we shared the lines that had stayed with us; in sharing these threads we bore witness. Our Y11 peers threaded these words into their own reflection on humanity and became a part of the movement.

## Where are you, humanity?

### Poems for Gaza event: UNESCO Ambassadors

To braid memory into memory, bravely reopening the gloomy hole that aches into my brain. Tearing little pieces, family, hope and place into the last fragment left of my brain. I am not a name. I am a fire burning slowly in the corner of a ravaged lot. What am I doing? What have I become? Anguished by the extreme torture, the cold and emptiness. The world has become a blank canvas, an empty street, nothing - no-one just gone. I am all alone, craving answers, craving communication, "Help" I hear, it sounds like me but I'm alone.

I will carry you with me, I who have nothing else to offer, everything has been stolen. It's like I'm a paint waiting for somebody to pick me, the only thing that is left of me is my voice, my shadow and simply just me.

Fragrant earth beneath the stench of all that has been destroyed. I seem to miss what was once made, finding myself looking out perhaps even reaching out. Can you hear me? Anybody, just anybody. Flashbacks of the warmth yearned, pleaded. I felt the pressure, the pressure to become free again, free from the hatred, free from the loss.

This continuous undertone of loss, grief. The shadows still there, the silence remains, vibrations of the unbearable, outraged earth what once was beautiful.

**Katie Clarke-Viera**

To braid memory into memory, to grind identity and season it with the tropical spice of culture. I sat foolishly before my mother as she spoke of the burning passion that bore me, the sea of dunes I was raised in. Then I smelt it. The sweet aroma of a concoction in a familiar brown pot, the intoxicating sensation, of a past that eluded me. No. A past that I avoided.

I am not a name. I am a fire burning slowly in the corner of a ravaged lot.

A dormant inferno was buried deep into my heart, threaded into my veins, whispering to the void that was the present. I'm a shell of what I used to be, a different being, forged in the suffering heat of industry, tears cascaded down the barren island that was my cheek. As I saw a young, almond painted boy traversing the fragrant streets of home.

I will carry you with me. I who have nothing else to offer. My hand was ignited by the passionate warmth of my former self. Innocent, jovial and pure.

**Emmanuel Dampare**





## Where are you, humanity?

### Poems for Gaza event: UNESCO Ambassadors

To braid memory into memory, the past from the past; the gateway to our mind. A sanctuary orchestrating the rejuvenation of our soul. It's spiritual embodiment is the heritage we carry along with us... through the threads of time.

I am not a name. I am a fire burning slowly in the corner of a ravaged lot. Where is identity now? Our duty to carry their legacies - each and every one of us. An abandoned jewel waiting for its new companion.

I will carry you with me. I who have nothing else to offer. It is the right thing to do simply... because would our ancestors do the same if our roles were reversed? Why must death be the terminus of one's story in this earth; we let this happen because of our ignorance. Is this new earth they fought so hard for deserving of their legacies? For as they stranded them through sloth. Through apathy. Through...nothingness.

Fragrant earth beneath the stench of all that has been destroyed. Our people do not comprehend its value- too busy on screens. We wish to build a new earth never seen before. For the cost of the 'outdated' one they say, of course. But I tell you that I shan't forget the echoes of my culture.

This continuous undertone of loss: it frightens me to even think of our selfishness. How could the Lord allow this? The newborn earth's crust. The creatures more ancient than civilisations. The sound of steel through flesh. The warring eagles in the sky ravaging cities. But most importantly...: the paradise of endless knowledge

**Julien Quesney**

To braid memory into memory, is the act one embeds their lives and soul into the web of retractive purpose. It is something that can't and shouldn't be lost, as it is what makes us who we are, yet conflict and war rid people in power of such. Our existence being hung on a thread onto the web of our fate. Yet one point still stands.

I am not a name. I am a fire burning slowly in the corner of a ravaged lot. An essence of being gradually growing dimmer and dimmer, carrying the latent fuel of humanity. But it is now my turn.

I will carry you with me, I who have nothing else to offer in the empty vacuum of solitude. In the vast, empty void contained in the souls of the corrupt; on the grim and desolate land of the pitiful; and in the shallow depths of the greedy, I shall keep burning to replenish most of the core essence that keeps them human, the core essence that ride of selfish ambition and replaces with selfless commitment.

Fragrant earth beneath the stench of all that has been destroyed, is still a green flower standing amongst the grey wasteland. A green flower that will not be rid of for the actions men do to men. A symbolic last stand against injustice, as I still burn vibrant within.

The continuous undertone of loss is the consequence of not having me; not having hope. And it is not of their cowardly doing, but of men stripping it out, beneath their tongue. What was once a linear evolution to our blessed race is now shattered as the webs of fate have been cut, leaving that clinging thread of our existence to fall into the empty void of desolation. So I ask of the wicked in power and the once latent flame in their petrified hearts; where are you, humanity?

**Michael Adonu**



# Community Cohesion Project 2026

## Facilitator training with Bluecoat School

### Invitation for Students: Coventry Community Cohesion Conference

This session has been designed for young people and will be delivered by young people. This conference will give students the opportunity to explore issues of community cohesion, fairness, belonging and harmony in Coventry and to develop ideas that could lead to practical change. The focus will be on social responsibility, understanding difference and the role that young people can play in contributing to a cohesive and fair city.

**Balbir Sohal** *on behalf of*  
Coventry Lord Mayor's Committee  
For Peace and Reconciliation

**Manjeet Pangli**  
Prevent and Cohesion Lead  
Coventry City Council

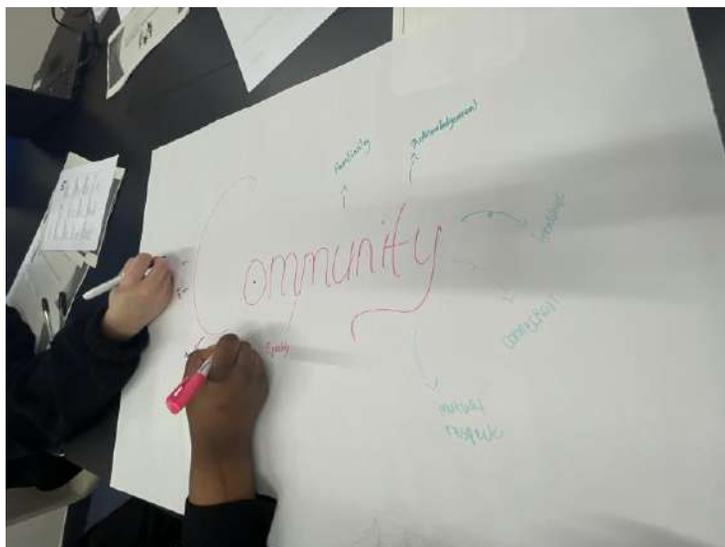
I visited Blue Coat School and met new students through fun activities. We played bingo, which helped us talk to different people and get to know each other. It was a great way to break the ice and make new friends.

We then worked in groups to discuss about being a community and the definition of cohesion. We learned that working together as a community needs teamwork, communication, and respect, which helps everyone feel included.

I'm looking forward to the event on the 24th of March because it will be a good chance to try new things and spend time working with other students. I think it will help us build confidence, talk to each other more, and learn how to work better as a team. It will also help us get to know each other and feel more connected.

Overall, it was a positive experience, and I look forward to having a day like that again.

**Temitope Akinmoladun**



# Testimony 360: Holocaust Education Trust

## Vessel of Testimony, Custodian of Truth

### What was involved in the workshop?

"I had an insightful morning with Lyng Hall students, where we had the opportunity to virtually interact with Manfred Goldberg MBE, through the amazing Testimony 360 set up by the Holocaust Educational Trust. With the use of specialist equipment such as VR headsets, students were able to engage directly with Manfred's testimony and learn about his life before, during and after the Holocaust.

This experience was emotional, powerful and deeply thought-provoking. Students were able to ask questions and receive real-time responses, which made the testimony feel personal and immediate. Hearing Manfred speak about his childhood, the impact of persecution, and his resilience in rebuilding his life afterwards helped students to understand the human reality behind historical events.

The session prompted meaningful reflection and mature discussion, with many students expressing how impactful it was to hear a survivor's story in such an immersive way. It was a privilege to take part in such an important educational experience that reinforces the importance of remembrance, empathy and standing up against prejudice in all its forms."

**Ms Kaur**

"The experience was lifechanging, for now I am a part of his story and carry his legacy upon me; for now, I must do what he has done before me and share his journey to others."

His message is like a flame that will never be extinguished; like a light that will never go out, for even though he is gone his soul still lives on throughout all of us, for we carry it within us."

**- Maisie Jenkinson**

"What really warmed my heart is the picture of the peaceful, calm beach, near where they escaped after the death march. The hopeful image will stay in my heart forever."

**- Jan Mohylowski**



# Testimony 360: Holocaust Education Trust

## Vessel of Testimony, Custodian of Truth

Hearing Manfred's story was like putting on glasses for the first time. Gaining a clearer perspective on humanity's malicious acts has revealed the true extent of the atrocities committed during the holocaust. To be a vessel of the sheer scale of human suffering is to understand the darkest capacities of our species. Glaring through these frames, a story was magnified. A story laced with antisemitism, saved by hope. Through these borrowed lenses, I saw what he saw when he described the death walk. These glasses did not distort the world; they revealed what tried to be hidden. They encouraged me to notice the discrimination and the injustice that lingered during the absolute terror.

- Holly Masterson

"Listening to a Holocaust survivor speak is an experience you never really forget. It's one thing to read about the war in a textbook, but it's completely different to hear it of someone who lived through it. It leaves you feeling a mix of sadness for what they lost and total respect for their strength, making you realise how important it is to keep their stories alive. Listening to a Holocaust survivor is an experience that feels simultaneously heavy with the weight of history and luminous with the strength of the human spirit.

The scene on the beach remains the most important to me because it illustrates the resilience of individuals who, despite being on the brink of liberation, continued to endure. Their refusal to break in those final moments shows the strength of the human spirit."

- Kristy Ebihon

"I'm grateful for the world they have created with their sacrifices and now I carry the responsibility of Manfred's memories.

Think of it like this. A spark. A flicker. An ethereal essence that is his story, that now dwells inside of me. The fire slowly burns, its brave flames spreading through the fading images. It's contagious spark glows in every mind and heart. No matter where or when the heat will never die down. Instead, it will produce an ephemeral flare that shows the world what our people burned to."

- Elian Mohammed





## College Championship Update

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

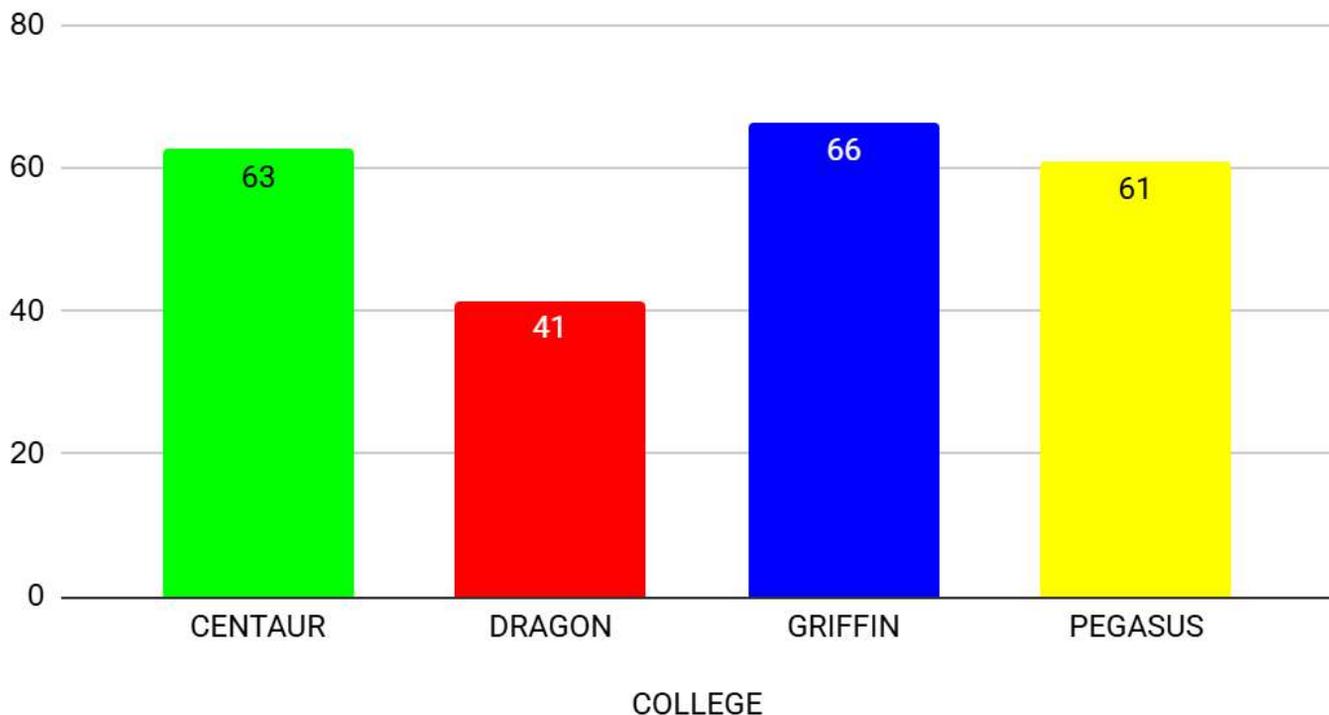
**Deadly Dragon** and **Piercing Pegasus** have a major difference in positive points - a 20-point difference! This is a significant gap that they need to close and will take some serious commitment from all members of the college. They are not proving big competition for the top spot. **Pegasus** - the silent horse - is only 5 points away from the top but **Dragon** have sunk to the depths of the leadership table.

**Griffin** currently leads with 66 points, setting the standard across the colleges still, although not as far ahead as historically. **Centaur** remain a competitive player in the game, with 63 points, only 3 points off the lead, suggesting a tight battle at the top.

Overall, the table shows a close contest between **Griffin**, **Centaur**, and **Pegasus**, with just 5 points separating first and third place. It could be anyone's game. In the first term, **Griffin** dominated, so the change highlights the impact of positive, collective action.

**Dragon** face a significant challenge to close the gap and climb from the bottom position. But who knows – this may be the biggest comeback yet?!

### COLLEGE POINTS PER PUPIL





## DID YOU KNOW?

<b>SCHOOL MEALS</b>	<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/applyforreeschoolmeals">http://www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforreeschoolmeals</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>
<b>TRAVEL PASS</b>	<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>		
<b>UNIFORM</b>	<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

World Book Week Activities – 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March

Year 10 Parents Evening - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Holiday – w/b Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Teacher Training Day – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April

Post 16 Parents Evening – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Year 9 Vaccinations – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April



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