

National Champions!



A team of rocketeers from Year 9 has recently become UK National Champions in a competition to build and launch rockets with a precious cargo of a raw egg. Regional winners from across the UK competed in an event staged by UKRoC challenging young people to design and build rockets capable of reaching a target height in the region of 770 feet, and safely landing an egg about 45 seconds from the launch. Our team achieved remarkable scores, bettering those of many previous years in spite of this being the first time the school had entered. The competition was extremely tight and the boys were absolutely

delighted to find that they had won! The next stage of the competition involves the team designing a new rocket with more powerful fuel propellant and representing the UK at the Paris Airshow in June competing against teams from USA, Japan and France!

Our Year 9 champions together with Mr Craig Stevens are pictured above with the trophy and certificate.



9th June 2017

DUTY PUPILS

Thank you for all your help:

Samuel, Emma, Scarlett, Erin, Lucy, George, Ella, Dana & Charles (7CWi)

Oscar & Ronnie (7SCm)

Pupil Services

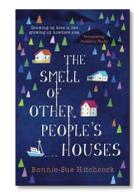
Book of the Week

THE SMELL OF OTHER PEOPLE'S HOUSES
by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock (YA)

Set in Alaska, four stories are wonderfully interwoven, capturing life across four different seasons. Ruth, Dora, Alyce and Hank each have their own concerns and anxieties to contend with in their home lives. As their stories and characters develop, they begin to discover similarities and secrets. The chapters in this story are short, and alternate between the different narratives to keep you hooked!



SHORT-LISTED FOR THE
CARNEGIE MEDAL 2017
WILL IT WIN?



THE PTA HAVE
ADVENTURE ISLAND
TICKETS FOR SALE:

BIG BANDS: £15.00

SEA LIFE TICKETS FOR
£4.00

TINA: 0797 3765320

MICHELLE: 0784 6620554



Calculators are available to
buy from the Maths
Department for £7.00

Headlines by Andy Hodgkinson

Evening

- Thursday 6th July - Year 13 Ball
- Tuesday 11th July - Thursday 13th July - Sixth Form Induction Week
- Friday 21st July - end of term (school finishes at 12.25pm).

TRIPS & VISITS

In the light of the recent terrorist attacks, I wanted to reassure families that we do always review our procedures regularly, and assess any trips or visits, acting in accordance with any relevant advice from Essex Local Authority and/or the Government. For the benefit of new parents, if ever there is a potential issue with a trip needing to be cancelled at late notice, or the possibility of any other concerns, we always use our school website to inform families of urgent last minute information. Thank you.

AND FINALLY

The pot holes are fixed!

WELCOME BACK!

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable break, and good luck to all pupils doing external exams again this half term. As always, we have a number of key dates this half term which are on our website. However, you might like to note the following dates in particular:

- Thursday 15th June - Year 8 Parents' Evening
- Tuesday 20th June - Higher Education Evening
- Wednesday 28th June - Year 11 Prom
- Thursday 29th June Year 6 Induction Evening
- Friday 30th June - Induction Day
- Tuesday 4th July - Year 7 Parents'

ESSEX YOUNG POET OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Have YOU written a good poem this year?
Perhaps in an English lesson?
Or COULD YOU write a good poem and enter
this competition?

Poems can be on any subject (but not
previously published) and must be 32 lines
or less (and fit on one sheet of A4 paper).
Hand in your poems to the LIBRARY before
FRIDAY 7TH JULY.

(Can an SPS pupil win again?
It's down to you!)



Pupil Think Tank



Enjoying our Research!

Luke Woolnough reporting...

As with previous years, the Think Tank has this year brought students together on a regular basis to research aspects of thinking skills, most notably the power and uses of prediction. This is so as to enhance our choices in school and in our day to day lives, by not just guessing answers or jumping fast to conclusions but by pausing more for reflection, increasing our discussion with others and by researching more into topics or questions before deciding on our response or decision. We present our findings to the school as a whole, via display, through a week of assemblies run by our ourselves to a variety of year groups and via tutor time activities.

This year's Think Tank has been driven solely by a committed group of students from our current Year 9. While taking on new members, many of our group elected to stay with us as we have all enjoyed the interesting challenges that being part of the Think Tank presents. With excellent co-operation, emerging confidence and developing research skills the group have proved themselves able to take over from our Sixth Form support team and manage not just the fortnightly meetings, but the assemblies too, by themselves! This really is a credit to the bright bunch that form our team.

We are currently preparing for our assemblies and shall be meeting in earnest every week this month. Previous assemblies have featured: unique quiz questions about our school for which pupils had to predict, reflect on and discuss answers; self-made videos showing us using our thinking skills effectively in a range of everyday scenarios; all members of the group taking turns to present to the assembly audience and much more besides.

The group continue to develop their skills and grow in confidence and are a credit to themselves, their year group and the school.

Thank You Think Tanks!



Some of our Think Tank members

MAN PREDICTS TITANIC SINKING!

In 1898, a prolific short story writer named Morgan Robertson wrote a novella called "Futility, Or The Wreck of the Titan." The book detailed how the largest ship ever made crashed into an iceberg and sank. Sound familiar? The Titanic sank under those exact circumstances 14 years later!



PREDICTION

Hayden Curtis/The Think Tank

Did you know?!

We use prediction to protect the Earth, for example when predicting which meteorites could be a danger to Earth, scientists look through a very powerful telescope and take pictures which, when allied to computer data, allow the scientists to estimate or predict the level of genuine threat!

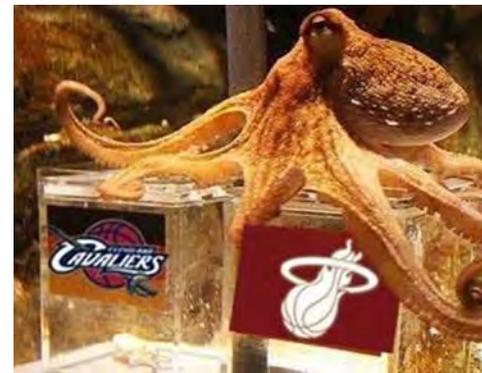


"Famous futurist authors have predicted the atomic bomb, solar sails, radiation therapy and even 3D printing!" **Kai, Year 9**

"Did you know that The Simpsons have predicted future world events accurately on multiple occasions?!"
Bethany, Year 9

"Can anyone predict when robots will take over the world?"

Joe, Year 8



Humans aren't the only animals predicting the future. A "psychic octopus" predicted correctly the outcome of many matches in Germany's 2010 football World Cup and has since predicted on other sports too, such as NBA basketball!