

## Autumn at Heritage



# Championing books over screens

Independent Day School for Girls & Boys, 4-16

A copy of the banner, recently installed on the front of the school building.

## What's on in the Library?

Mrs Pilkington

It has been another busy month in the library! In addition to our regular Library/Reading lessons for UP-Year 9, Year 3-8 enjoy Library lunches, with Mrs Pilkington reading a story to the whole year group. A new Senior Library Club has been launched who meet weekly, to write reviews and explore the library database. They have also created the Library Club Advent Calendar which shows the club's recommended reads - two books a day will be revealed in December! The senior collection of books is also under review. There is a focus group of pupils from Year 7-9 working on this who contribute their views, whilst staff add their specialist knowledge.

The Year 7 Pupil Librarians are also in full swing helping in the library. Maisie, Isabella, Godfrey and Betsy give up their Thursday lunchtime to enter books on the library catalogue, tidy the shelves and keep on top of the black box!! Their help is invaluable, and they have proved themselves a dedicated group.

Interestingly, boys borrow more books than girls - we currently have 102 girls and 95 boys in the school. Since September 1,559 books have been borrowed from the library which goes to show the high value we all place on reading at Heritage.



## The Joy of Reading

Mrs Strachan

*'Now, what I want is, facts. Teach these boys and girls nothing but facts. Facts alone are wanted in life.'*

So begins Dickens' *Hard Times*, a novel criticising the mode of education that promotes facts over everything else. The rigid and domineering character Mr Gradgrind, that drives this Utilitarian philosophy, finally has his downfall at the culmination of the novel when he realises the one thing missing all along - the imagination.

Whilst studying this text with Year 11, it has struck me just how contemporary *Hard Times* is. Dickens was deeply concerned about the welfare of children, especially those crushed by the suffocating regime of facts. Instead he wanted to promote the liberating joy of reading which might tap into the imagination and the 'wisdom of the heart'.

It took me some time to learn this lesson myself. However, when I began to realise that novels could take me places, introduce me to people, transport me into worlds weird and wonderful and teach me playful new vocabulary that I began to see the true joys of reading. It has been fantastic to join Heritage in the last year and really see the fruits of putting reading at the centre of all we do.

## War and Peace - A Book Review

Martha Gathercole, Y11

Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace* is a novel set in 19th century Russia when fear gripped its society. Napoleon was pressing through Europe, and Russia was fighting with Prussia to prevent his further expansion. Meanwhile Tolstoy focuses on the prodigal Pierre, who is about to inherit his father's grandiose estate. He marries the beautiful but promiscuous Hélène, which leads to his downfall and subsequent desire for a new life. At the same time Pierre's friend, Andrei, goes to war leaving his pregnant wife behind, but on his return is racked with remorse as she dies in childbirth. Andrei then falls in love with the impetuous Natasha, much to Pierre's dismay. However disaster strikes when Andrei goes back to war and Natasha almost runs away with Hélène's scheming brother Anatole. The situation seems beyond redemption when Andrei is mortally wounded: how will these three troubled individuals find contentment?

This novel is nothing short of epic. Tolstoy encompasses a wide range of themes: love, war, forgiveness, power and fate. His intermittent explorations of different ideas and philosophies add depth to the novel and Tolstoy shows us a deeper insight into life as he traces Pierre's desperate quest for happiness.



## INSPIRE2020

Mrs Robertson

Heritage is thrilled to have had work chosen for this exciting exhibition showing in The Octagon Gallery of The Fitzwilliam Museum, from 10 December 2019 - 22 March 2020.

The museum invited local schools across Cambridgeshire to respond creatively to one painting, *Cupid and Psyche* by Jacopo del Sellaio. Led by Mrs Robertson, Heritage pupils from Year 4 - Year 7 have been inspired by the costumes, the textures, the colours and the figures in the painting to create an amazing array of artwork including miniature pieces of Renaissance furniture to fill a 3D Renaissance bedroom. Using recycled materials, pupils have been making beautiful chairs, beds, wedding chests filled with tiny clay pots, miniature portraits and paintings for the walls depicting details from Sellaio's original painting. (The Heritage bedrooms on display will contain work from across the classes.) We hope that you will go and visit the exhibition to see the imaginative and collective response of so many children to this wonderful painting.



## Classics and Geography Trip to the Bay of Naples

Mr Burden

Stepping off the plane into the balmy climate of the Bay of Naples was a tonic for teenagers and teachers alike. As we drove through the Phlegrean Fields area we passed evidence of considerable seismic activity in the smoking fumaroles and the solemn Lake Avernus (*Aornos* in Greek). Here Aeneas, according to legend, descended to the Underworld.

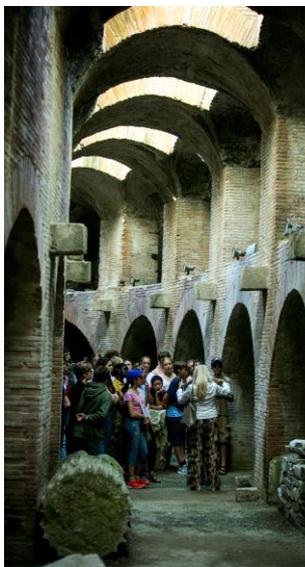


Piscina Mirabilis

Our first stop, appropriately, was Cumae, where Aeneas himself made landfall in Italy. Here we visited The Sibyl's Cave where he is said to have consulted the priestess of Apollo. The cave miraculously survives, 16 feet high and 376 feet long. We then climbed to the top of the hill to see the ruins of the temple of Apollo and admire the view. Behind us and over to our left loomed the mighty Vesuvius.

Our next stop was the wonderful Piscina Mirabilis. A huge water cistern, built in Augustan times as the terminus of the great Aqua Augusta, the astonishing aqueduct ran a full sixty miles from the hills, all around the Bay, feeding cities such as Pompeii as it went.

After a well-earned lunch we proceeded to the amphitheatre at Pozzuoli, the third largest in the Roman Empire. We were able to walk around underneath the arena floor, seeing where the animals were kept and how they were hauled up using special lifts. We imagined what it would have been like for the gladiators waiting to fight in the darkness before suddenly emerging, blinking, into the bright sunlight.



Underneath the arena floor of the Amphitheatre, Pozzuoli

The following day we climbed to the summit of Vesuvius, enjoying glorious views over the Bay of Naples. After a delicious restaurant lunch just outside Pompeii, we entered the famous site, starting in the amphitheatre (the first stone one built in Italy) before making our way along the *via dell' Abbondanza*. It was amazing to walk on real Roman paving slabs, stepping stones and drainage systems. We proceeded to the Stabian Bath where we saw the different rooms of the baths and a hypocaust system, the Great Theatre with perfectly semi-circular, raked seating and excellent acoustics, and the Forum with its grand array of temples, basilica and markets, before taking in the famous detailed plaster-casts of victims of the eruption, frozen in time at the very moment they died with the clothes they were wearing clearly visible. We also visited the magnificent Forum Baths.



Abbondanza Street, Pompeii



The Great Theatre, Pompeii



The Forum Baths, Pompeii

We left the hills behind and drove south over the plains to Paestum where three stunning Greek temples dating from c.500 BC survive in a remarkable state of preservation, together with the ruins of the later Roman town.

Our final day was a return to sight-seeing of the most exquisite order.



**Stabian Baths, Palaestra**

In the morning we visited the site of ancient Herculaneum. In the houses here we were amazed to see wooden partitions and beds still surviving as well as a number of inscriptions and paintings in a remarkably good state of preservation. Particularly moving were the skeletons that were found huddled in the boathouses down by the shore waiting for escape. These victims died instantly from a super-heated pyroclastic flow.

Before we made our way to the airport we had a wonderful hour and a half visiting the Archaeological Museum in Naples. Amongst other treasures we saw some amazing Roman sculptures. We also saw the famous mosaics from the House of the Faun, including the monumental mosaic of the battle between Alexander the Great and Darius at the Battle of Issus (333 BC), composed of a million tesserae (mosaic pieces)!

A big thank you to the pupils for the way in which they enjoyed the trip, which in turn made it enjoyable for staff. Our grateful thanks also to Mr. Hulett for doing so much and for taking such wonderful photos; and a particularly big 'thank you' to Mrs. Hulett. Without her enthusiasm, hard work and excellent organisation over a number of months, this trip would never have got off the ground.

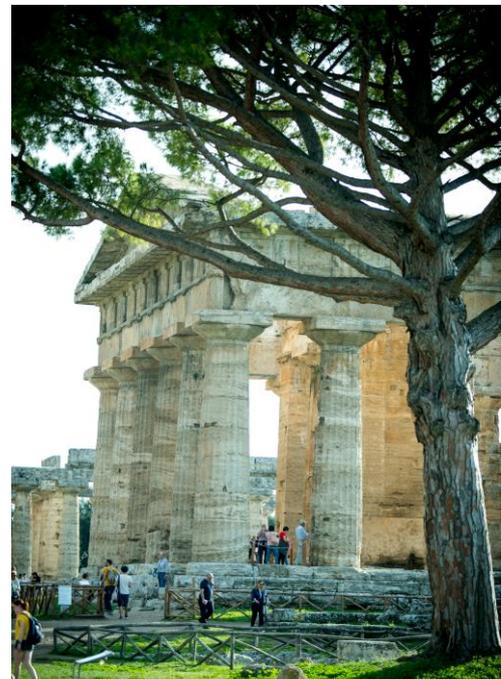
To read Mr Burden's article in full please go to:  
<https://heritageschool.myschoolportal.co.uk/page/201>



**Mr Burden**



**Mr & Mrs Hulett**



**Temple of Hera**



**The Club House of the Augustalies, Herculaneum**

## Much Ado About Nothing

Mrs Dingley

As the strains of Widor's Toccata thundered through Panton Hall, Year 8 embarked on the performance of their lives. Taking on Shakespeare's classic comedy, 'Much Ado About Nothing' was a demanding challenge, with some characters having to learn pages of 400-year-old English wit.



Who can forget the horror of the wedding scene, where Claudio (Ben Krause) callously cast aside his would-be bride, Hero (Livia Lucato-Hedeler) in utter humiliation, or the witty banter between Benedick (Edmund Rigby) and Beatrice (Emma Larkum). The Watch, led by the inimitable Dogberry (Lissy Sclater) and Verges (Taylor Thurlby) had everyone in stitches with their nonsensical speeches and horse-play.

Many thanks to the audience, who understood the jokes and laughed in all the right places. Every single member of the class excelled themselves, each playing their part with aplomb, and contributing to an enjoyable evening's entertainment.

## Charlotte Mason on P.E.

Jason Fletcher

*Parents prize the discipline of the playground almost as much as that of the schoolroom; and rightly so - not only for the unequalled physical training that the games afford; but for the "pluck", the "endurance, foresight, strength, and skill", the obedience to law, the deference to authority, the readiness to give place to the best man, the self-reliance, the faithfulness to each other, even in a bad cause...' (The Formation of Character, 1905 p.186)*

So writes Charlotte Mason, highlighting the value of games lessons (what she calls 'the playground') in education. This quotation captures well the values that are championed in our PE department, led by Mr Hulett and Mrs Eastwood..Playing sport is about a lot more than winning. Developing physical fitness and an appreciation of its importance is one of our key objectives, hopefully inspiring our pupils to live physically healthy lives.

Games lessons also naturally reward and train pupils to value hard work; those who put in the effort - who show 'pluck' and 'endurance' and 'self-reliance' - see their skills develop and get so much more out of the sessions, and tend also to perform well. Learning to respect the rules of a game and to play fair is also a critical life lesson, as is learning to be a team player, which involves loyalty to team mates and an ability to value what each can contribute. Compared to all of these benefits from a healthy approach to games, a 'win at all costs' mentality is certainly a travesty! Sport is something we rightly celebrate at Heritage..



## Staying Wild!

Miss Pidgeon



The woodlands are a valuable outdoor learning space and I am certain, that the regular contact pupils have with the natural world and all its intricacies, enhances their health and wellbeing whilst inspiring a curiosity to discover and learn. When outside, I observe increased self-esteem and resilience in pupils. Classes concentrate for longer with a mindfulness and absorption not seen in the classroom. They are creative, make more connections, cooperate and just seem content 'in being'. These powerful experiences not only encourage a responsible long-term environmental behaviour but also feedback positively into their attitudes and work inside the classroom.

Acquiring life-long skills along the way, pupils at Forest School will have the opportunity to light fires, whittle butter knives, build shelters, make bows and arrows, filter water, cook food on the fire, put up a tarp, create beautiful natural art and appreciate the natural environment as it changes through the seasons.

I look forward to many more wild adventures in the years to come... thriving in nature!

## Heritage Community Association

[hca@heritageschool.org.uk](mailto:hca@heritageschool.org.uk)

On a Saturday evening, eighty enthusiastic members of the Heritage community gathered in St Andrew's Street Baptist church hall for an evening of fun, food and dancing. Jonathan Griffiths from the Cambridge University English Country Dance society did a fantastic job of calling the dances, as attendees of all ages reeled and set and dosey-dosed the night away. The bring and share dinner was a great success, and the bagpipes lent a dash of Scottish flavour to the proceedings as well. We left with tired legs and happy memories, and with huge thanks to everyone who helped make the evening such a success. **Doug Leckie**



**Dancing the Night Away!**

## Shopping on-line this Christmas?

Please consider registering with Easy Fundraising before you start shopping to raise funds for Heritage, with no effort and at no cost to you! Just click here: [Easy Fundraising](#)

There are thousands of retailers participating in the Easy Fundraising scheme including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay, Tesco, Sainsburys, Argos, Next, M&S, mobile phone companies and even airlines. Simply log into your Easyfundraising account then follow the link to your retailer. Heritage will automatically receive a donation worth 0.5%, of the value of your purchase. You can also get a reminder - Find and Remind - on your toolbar to alert you when a donation is possible.