

Vale views

Winter 2023

Issued every term to keep you up to date with what's happening in the academy.



Contents

- Dallowgill
- Paris
- Badminton
- Wellbeing Wednesday Activities
- Y9 Lego Robotics Club
- Bebras Challenge
- Brigg Sixth Form Visit
- U13 Girls Indoor Cricket
- Y10 Army Visit
- Author Visit
- Mussels
- Y7 Football
- Remembrance Concert
- Brigg Remembrance Parade
- Cyber North
- Proud Thursday
- Y11 Food Technology
- Y9 Latin Launch
- Charity
- Sparx

- North Star STEAM Event
- Science Mavericks
- First Aid
- Sixth Former For A Day
- Halloween Disco
- Competition Winners
- Christmas Hampers

How to use our Interactive Newsletter

This newsletter has been designed to be interactive, allowing you to directly open external pages and information.

You can click an article title above to read the full story.

Then use the buttons on each page to navigate your way through the newsletter.



Next page



Previous page



Contents

Dallowgill

Year 7 & 8 pupils have been developing skills away from home this term at our amazing Dallowgill Outdoor education Centre. We have enjoyed many walks in the woods, climbed the Greygarth Monument, searched for wildlife, experienced the great outdoors, cooked, made beds, competed in team games and challenges, told stories around the firepit with a hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows! and most excitingly was the first school to plant a variety of trees donated by the woodland trust. One student commented ' This is my first time away from home, but i have really enjoyed it', another said ' I loved the winter walks and spotting the animals'.

Mrs Parkin said, "One of the most rewarding things for me as a teacher was seeing the students giggling around the fire on an evening and when they experienced the views at the top of Greygarth mount- Priceless memories being made!"

Really looking forward to our next trip in July.



Paris

Year 9 Students enjoyed a trip to Paris in mid September.



Badminton

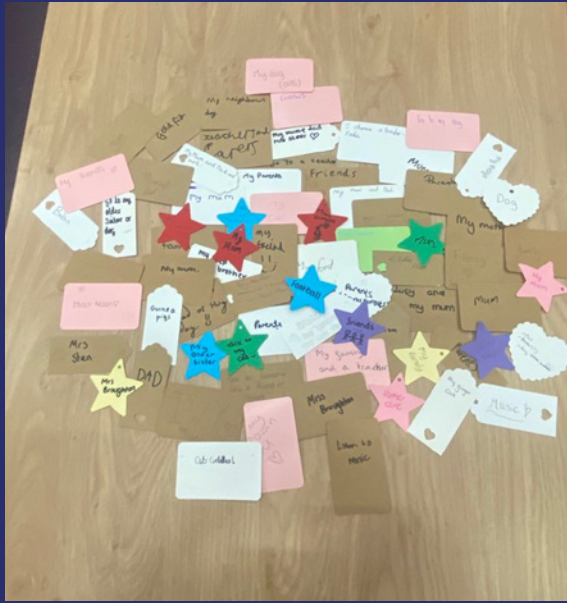
It was fantastic to see the KS4 girls take part in the North Lincs Badminton competition in November. All students performed to a high level, playing some fantastic Badminton. The A team were the winners of the night, and progressed to the finals night on Thursday 23rd November. Their winning streak did not stop as they were undefeated all night finishing 1st. The girls will now represent North Lincolnshire in the next round in Hull in February. Good Luck girls.

The opportunity to play badminton frequently on the fantastic courts at the Vale Academy is enabling the girls to challenge each other on a regular basis.



Wellbeing Wednesday Activities

Every Wednesday we have activities available for all students during lunchtime. This term we have made seed pods, written positive affirmations, raced windy caterpillars, made stress balls, produced a wellbeing garden amongst many other activities.



Bebras Challenge

Y7, 8 and 9 students alongside 365000 students in the country and 3 million worldwide took part in this year's Bebras Challenge. The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organized in over 60 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing.

Each participant answered questions that focus on computational and logical thinking.

Students achieved well again this year with 86 students achieving Distinctions and 80 students achieving Merits. We also had 13 students achieve the coveted gold award placing them in the top 10% of students nationwide giving them the opportunity to take part in The Oxford University Computing Challenge in January 2024.



Y9 Lego Robotics Club

An addition to the Computer Science extra-curricular activities this year is the Y9 Robotics Club. The club supported by DELTA and the aim is to encourage girls to engage in STEM based subjects and stem based future roles (we have limited places so if you are interested you will need to register with Mr Burrin). The club aims to send two teams to this year's First Lego League Competition in March.

Let's get building....



Brigg Sixth Form Visit

This term the Year 12 students have been lucky enough to visit both Hull and Lincoln universities. At Hull they took part in a Higher Education conference where they had the opportunity to tour the campus, consider if HE was for them and take part in a student finance interactive game.

All of the students were praised for their overall attitude and the engagement officer said they were a credit to themselves and their college! Hull University have also supported our Year 13 students with their personal statement writing and given students the opportunity to have mock interviews in preparation for their next steps.

At Lincoln University the students were fortunate enough to be shown around the new medical building, discuss student life with a student ambassador and experience a lecture.

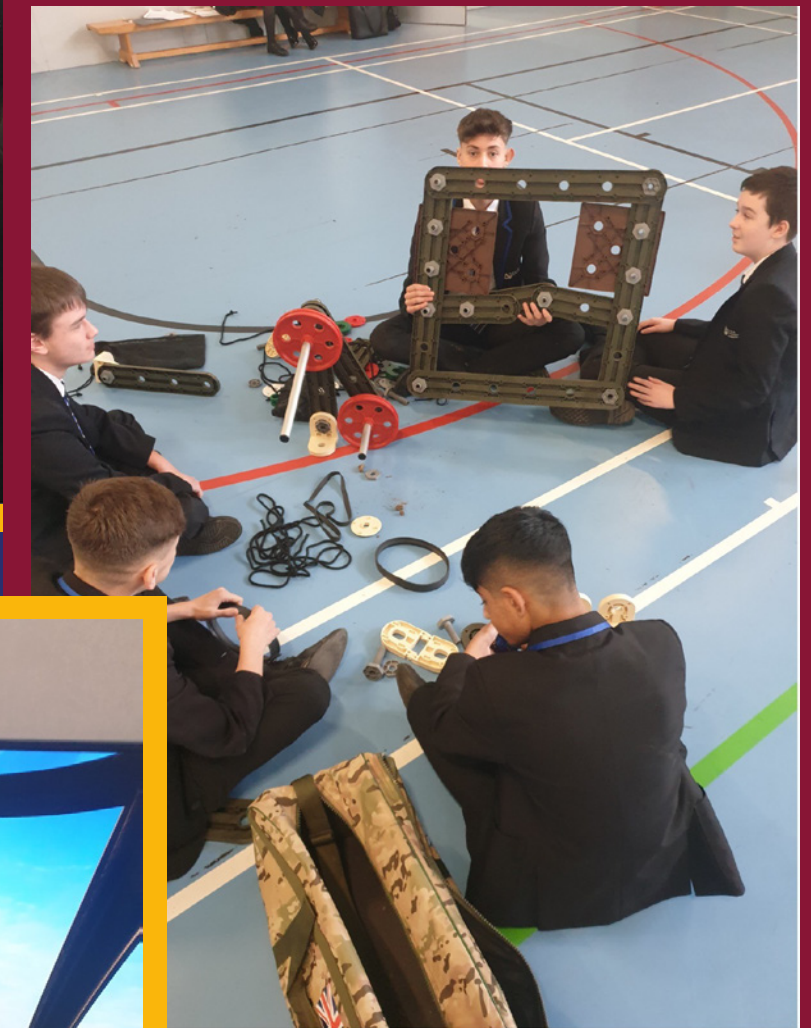


U13 Girls Indoor Cricket

Wrong time of the year for cricket? But it was great to see the U13 girls get involved in an indoor cricket competition for the first time. After receiving some coaching from Lincs Cricket the girls thoroughly enjoyed the competition learning some new skills. The team finished 3rd on the day. The U15 Girls will take part in the same competition on Tuesday 5th December.

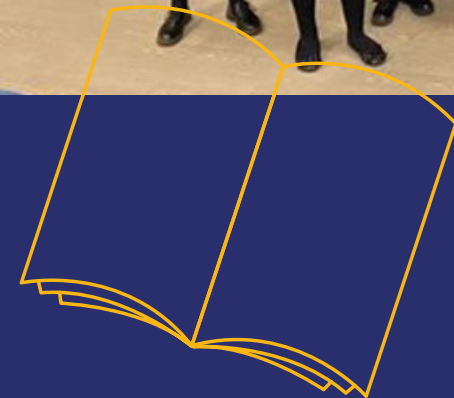


Y10 Army Visit



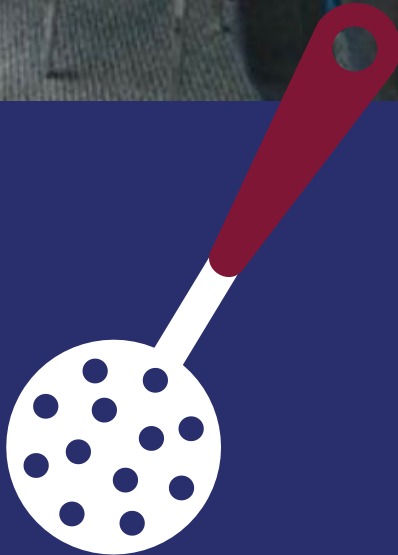
Author Visit

The Vale was delighted to welcome Patrice Lawrence on Friday 17th November. Her novel 'Needle' has been a huge success and it was wonderful to hear her speak so passionately about her writing. Emma Wilkinson from North Lincolnshire Council escorted Patrice to The Vale where she delivered a talk to the whole of Year 9. The students thoroughly enjoyed listening to Patrice Lawrence talk about her ideas and the inspirations for her stories. They were motivated by her enthusiasm and success. We were overjoyed to reward our most avid readers with copies of 'Needle' that Patrice signed for each student. We have a few spare signed copies that we look forward to rewarding competition winners within the next half term!



Mussels

We took delivery of 8kg of rope-grown mussels which were donated by @OffshoreShell packed by @RTShellfish. Our students really enjoyed learning how to prepare and cook them. They tasted great!!



Y7 Football

A wonderful start to the season for the year 7 football team. The year 7 football team are developing into a fantastic group of players who are competing in a range of competitions. We look forward to returning to Scunthorpe Schools football in February but in the mean time we are enjoying our journey in the English Schools cup. Having recently beaten Maltby Academy, Hull City scouts were in attendance to watch us thrash Oasis Academy Wintringham 4 - 0, before playing Hymers College in the last 32.



Remembrance Concert

Boys choir singing "Abide with me" at St Lawrence's Church



Brigg Remembrance Parade

North Lincolnshire fell silent on Sunday, November 11 to mark the Armistice which ended hostilities in the First World War.

In Brigg, the parade met up on Station Road at 9.25am and marched to St John's Church. After the service, the parade moved to the town's war memorial for the Sounding of the Calls and a two minutes' silence.

It was fantastic to see so many of our students supporting this event.



Cyber North

In November The Vale Computer Science department took nine year 9 students to the Education Exchange to take part in this year's Cyber North competition.

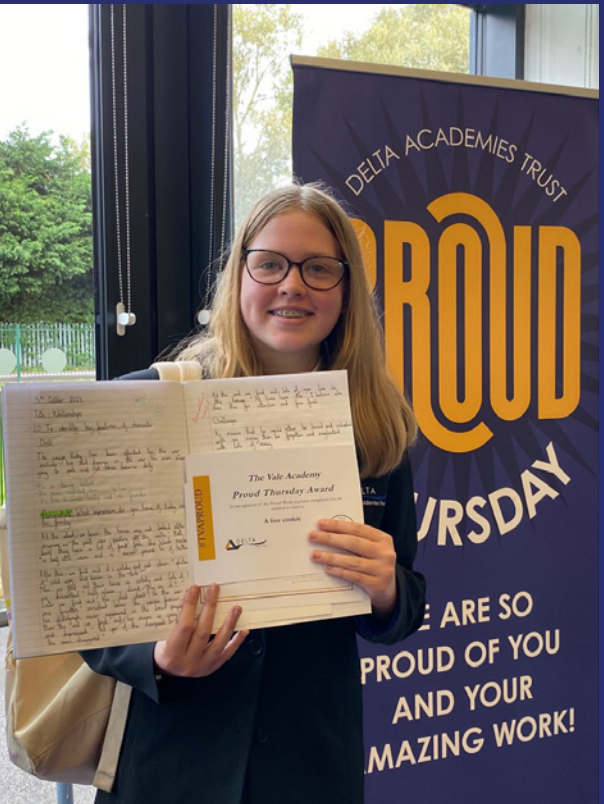
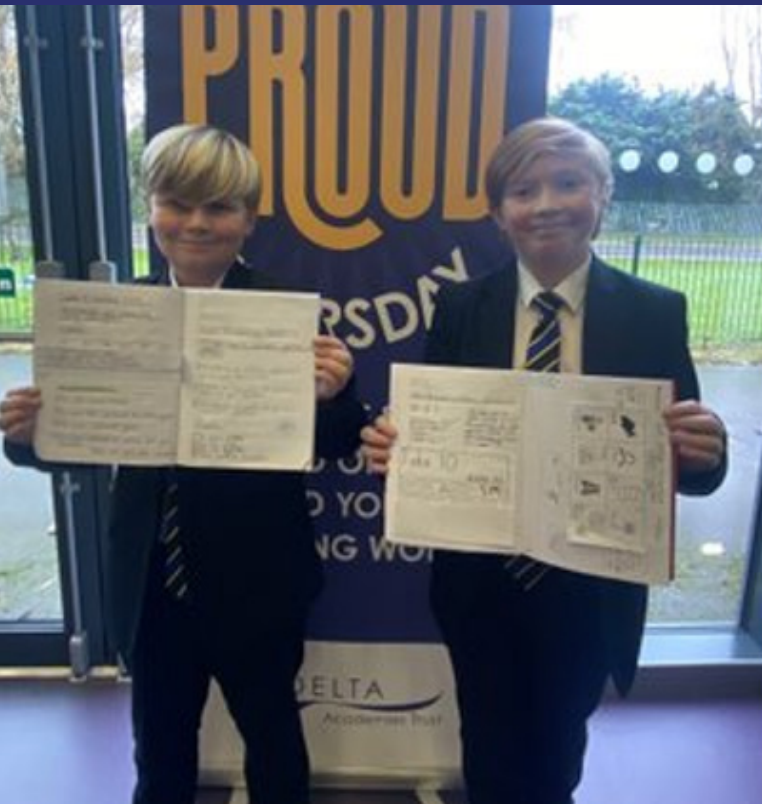
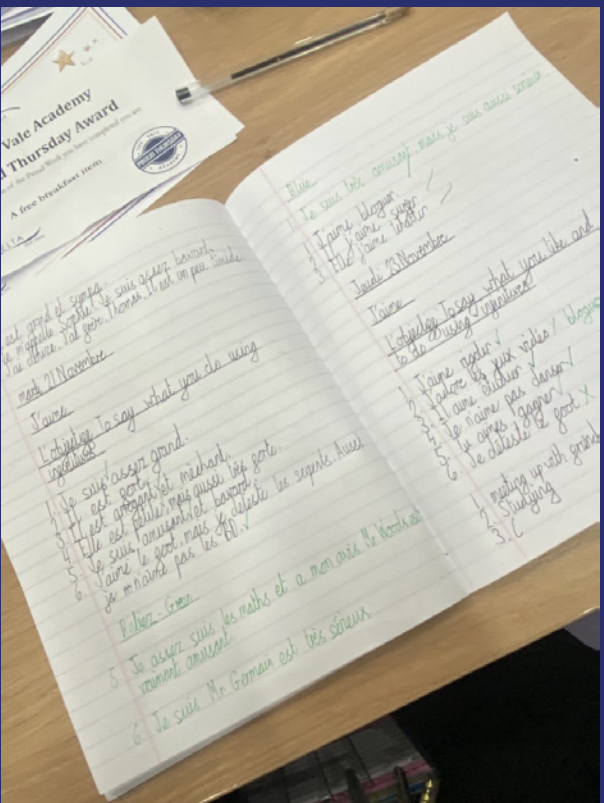
Cyber North is an online security and digital forensics competition supported by GCHQ. With the remit of discovering and encouraging the next generation of cyber security experts. The competition had students interpreting digital clues in order to identify a criminal gang, decrypt their online messages and identify the location of the next attack.

Students worked tirelessly during the day and were able to place 1st and 2nd in two of the 4 rounds successfully foiling the criminal gang.



Proud Thursday

Every Thursday all our students are encouraged to bring a piece of work they are proud of to one of our senior leaders. We are always delighted to see the amazing work students are completing in lessons, as part of extended learning and also learn more about their hobbies and interests outside school.



Y11 Food Technology

Y11 Food Technology students produced a fantastic range of delicious desserts.



Y9 Latin Launch

This September, we were very proud to announce that we are participating in an innovative and ambitious programme aiming to help thousands of students in England to get on track for high achievement in GCSE Latin.

The Department for Education's Latin Excellence Programme (LEP) supports schools to deliver an evidence-informed Latin curriculum designed to be accessible to all pupils aged 11 to 16. Non-selective state schools from across all regions of England are participating in the programme, which is being delivered by Future Academies.

Students will spend up to two hours a week studying Latin and will have access to a broad range of enrichment activities, including school trips and taster sessions in other classical subjects.

By taking part, pupils will be able to access some of the wider benefits of a classical education, including improved literacy, broadened vocabulary, increased academic resilience and access to empowering knowledge not usually available to state-school students.

Our students enjoyed participating in the official Delta launch of the event at Knottingley.



Charity

Daniel and Vicky Evans have recently walked the 84 miles of Hadrian's Wall during half term from Bowness on Solway in the west, to Wallsend in the east from the 23rd -28th October 2023 to raise awareness and funds for the Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) Trust (reg charity no 1137652 or SCO44535 in Scotland).

Mark, Daniel's dad and Vicky's husband of 23 years, has unfortunately recently been diagnosed with MSA.

In the words of the MSA Trust:

"This is a rare progressive brain condition which causes premature death. It can strike adults randomly and there is no known cure."

The MSA Trust is a charity funded entirely by voluntary donations. The Trust helps people living with MSA, their families and carers. They also fund research into treatment and causes of MSA. More information can be found at msatrust.org.uk

Please support us and our recent challenge by sponsoring us as much as you can spare.



Empowering Learning Through Sparx Maths: A Transformative Experience at The Vale Academy

At The Vale Academy, the journey towards academic excellence in mathematics has taken an unprecedented leap with the integration of Sparx Maths into our curriculum. As we reflect on the past few months, it is evident that Sparx has become an indispensable tool, fostering a love for learning and significantly enhancing engagement among our students.

Since the beginning of the academic year, our students have collectively earned an impressive 250,000 XP on Sparx Maths, a testament to their commitment and enthusiasm for the subject. This digital platform has proven to be a dynamic and interactive resource, creating an environment where students are not just solving problems but actively engaging with mathematical concepts. The gamified approach to learning has captured the attention of our students, turning what might have been perceived as mundane homework into an exciting adventure.

One of the standout features of Sparx Maths is its ability to adapt to individual learners. The platform's personalised learning pathways ensure that students receive tailored assignments that cater to their unique strengths and weaknesses. This adaptability has allowed our students to progress at their own pace, instilling confidence and a sense of accomplishment. The real-time feedback provided by Sparx has also proven invaluable, offering immediate insights into areas that require further attention and reinforcing positive learning outcomes. This information, for example, informs the planning of The Drill, which occurs at the start of every lesson.

A key highlight of our Sparx experience has been the introduction of the weekly tasks and consolidation tasks. Starting from the New Year, our students can look forward to receiving two carefully curated assignments per week every Tuesday, with a deadline for submission the following Monday. This structured approach not only helps in breaking down the learning process into manageable chunks but also encourages regular and consistent engagement with mathematical concepts. The weekly tasks and consolidation sets serve as a bridge between classroom instruction and independent study, fostering a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

Furthermore, we are excited to emphasise the significance of Sparx's XP Boost and Target features. Encouraging our students to undertake these challenges not only adds an element of friendly competition but also acts as a powerful motivator. The XP Boost and Target features provide students with the opportunity to earn additional XP, showcasing their dedication to improving their mathematical skills. By setting personal targets and actively participating in XP Boost, students not only accumulate more XP but also enhance their problem-solving abilities, laying the foundation for long-term success in mathematics.

The positive impact of Sparx Maths extends beyond the realm of academic achievements. We have witnessed a transformation in the way our students approach mathematics, with a newfound curiosity and enthusiasm. The gamified elements, coupled with the platform's adaptability, have created an environment where learning is not just a task but an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

In conclusion, Sparx Maths has become an integral part of our educational journey at The Vale Academy, propelling us towards new heights of excellence in mathematics. As we eagerly anticipate the challenges and tasks that Sparx will bring in the coming weeks, we are confident that our students will continue to thrive and excel, armed with the knowledge that learning can be both enjoyable and impactful. We encourage every student to embrace the opportunities offered by Sparx, participate in XP Boost and Target challenges, and embark on a journey of mathematical discovery that will undoubtedly shape their academic success and future endeavours.

North Star STEAM Event

Created by Professor Brian Cox CBE and Lord Andrew Mawson OBE in 2012, the amazing Science Summer School programme aimed to make Britain the best place to do science and engineering, by inspiring the UK's next generation of young scientists, engineers and inventors. The day included talks from both Brian Cox and Lord Mawson as well as a variety of hands-on activities all on the cutting edge of science and technology.



Science Mavericks:

In December a select group of Year 9 pupils had the opportunity to meet with other gifted and talented pupils from other Delta schools to undertake a bespoke revision session planned specifically to support students reaching for the higher GCSE grades in science. During the day, students explored high ability concepts across Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

First aid

All of Year 12 and 13 were given the opportunity to take part in a mini-medics course run by Lincs First Aid. They worked in groups to learn valuable lifesaving skills such as how to use a defibrillator, CPR and they all had the opportunity to wear an anti-choking vest to learn how to perform the skill correctly.



Sixth former for a day

Year 11 students experiencing being a 'sixth former' for a day. We hope you enjoyed it – apply now for Sep 2024.



Halloween Disco

Thank you to the Y11 prom committee and Mrs Noon for organising the KS3 Halloween disco – it was a spooktacular evening enjoyed by all.



Competition Winners!

Congratulations to Kristie who won a trip to Orsted for her and her classmates for winning the WIME competition. It was a bit breezy on the helipad of the Wind of Hope support ship for the Hornsea 2 off shore wind farm!

Thanks to Harriet for an inspiring day



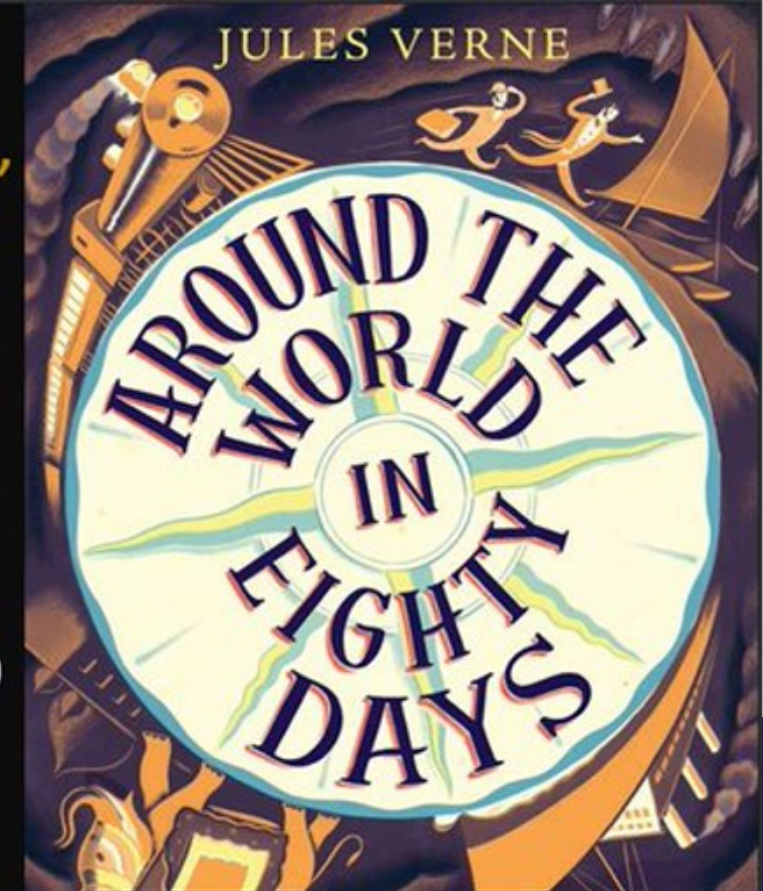
Tickets on sale for: 'Around the World in 80 Days'

Come and support the hard work and talent of your fellow students in our new Christmas production,

'Around the World in 80 Days'

- Tuesday 19th December- 7pm
- Wednesday 20th December- 7pm
- £5- Adults/ £3 concessions (Students/ OAP's)

Tickets must be purchased on MCAS



Christmas Hampers

On Friday 16th December our students helped Brigg Rotary Club to packed 120 Christmas food hampers. The hampers were distributed to residents in our local community.





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