

Welcome to the second edition of **Mortimer Moments**. This will be a guide to share the exciting experiences of our Year 7 journey and give you an insight into the interesting topics we are learning.

Curriculum Update

Last term, we studied 'Dare to Scare' as our second topic in Year 7. Read on to discover our 'Beautiful Work' and the variety of thrilling horror texts we explored.



Staff Spotlight

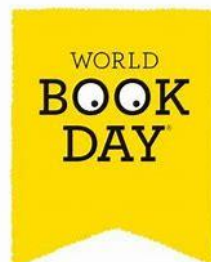
The Press Gang has created a Staff Spotlight. We want to learn more about the educators around us. Come and find out which member of staff we have interviewed in this issue.

Julio Arca Interview

The Press Gang had the exciting opportunity to meet and interview former Sunderland and Middlesbrough footballer Julio Arca. Turn to pages 6 and 7 to find out what The Press Gang asked Arca about his life and career, on and off the pitch.

World Book Day

We celebrated 'World Book Day' on the 7th March 2024. Come and find out about our 'throwback' lesson, where we went back to the very beginning of our love for reading.



You can also learn about some of the brilliant benefits books can have on our minds and health!

Curriculum Update

Our next topic in English was 'Dare to Scare'. Year 7 has looked at a range of exciting texts and explored the conventions of a horror story. Our favourite texts that we have looked at are '*Frankenstein*' by Mary Shelley, '*Dracula*' by Bram Stoker and '*The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*' by Robert Louis Stephenson. We have also created our very own vampires, after class discussion and analysis, by looking at the development of 'vampires' over time in Literature, whilst using our SOAPSAMS techniques to create an engaging piece of writing.


Beautiful Work

Last term's Beautiful Work, Year 7 had to create their own opening, to a horror story, where setting was established, and a character was introduced. They followed the 'Drop, Shift, Zoom In and Zoom Out' structure and continued to use their SOAPSAMS techniques.

From the beginning of the topic, they updated their knowledge trackers on the different 'characters' and 'settings' they discovered. They then used these as inspiration for their own 'Beautiful Work'.



Year 7 Dare to Scare



Name: _____

Teacher:
Throughout the project create a knowledge board for your own horror story. Create your own opening where setting is established and a character is introduced.

Say It:

atmospheric	graphic
repulsion	brutality
motifs	awe
legendary	merciless
ominous	vulnerable

How can SOAPSAMS be used with the horror genre?

How are a range of characters presented in horror writing?

How do writers use sensory description in horror writing?

How do writers use vocabulary and punctuation for effect in horror writing?

The Big Questions

How do writers structure an engaging opening?

How are key horror motifs presented in Dracula?

How do the poets create a sense of fear and tension?

How do writers create effective horror openings?

How do writers use different sentence types for effect in horror writing?



How do poets create a disturbing voice?



Vocabulary Skills

Write the techniques here:

S
O
P
S
A
M
S

Dare to Scare



Can you define and use these 'Say It' words in a sentence?

Word	Know it?	Use it in a sentence:
atmospheric		
repulsion		
motifs		
legendary		
ominous		
graphic		
brutality		
awe		
merciless		
vulnerable		

Find the 'Say It' words:

E	R	I	A	N	R	C	I	D	O	R	I	H	R
U	A	I	M	I	O	A	P	E	E	T	W	C	I
M	I	T	E	E	A	I	M	O	A	C	S	R	L
R	C	A	M	C	R	M	S	O	R	R	S	N	E
G	P	O	O	O	I	C	T	L	T	O	N	U	G
R	E	M	R	A	S	H	I	E	U	I	T	N	E
U	A	I	W	A	P	P	P	L	E	P	F	D	N
G	I	N	C	H	H	V	H	A	E	T	E	S	D
C	L	O	A	P	I	I	I	E	R	S	S	R	A
B	R	U	T	A	L	I	T	Y	R	G	S	S	R
L	T	S	I	L	A	C	S	S	E	I	S	N	Y
A	N	T	Y	O	I	M	S	W	R	N	C	I	R
B	C	R	L	B	Y	T	A	G	Y	I	P	I	E
P	D	V	U	L	N	E	R	A	B	L	E	U	I



Staff Spotlight

Hello and welcome to our second 'Staff Spotlight'. Every term, we will be interviewing a member of staff to get to know more about the people behind our education. In this 'Staff Spotlight', we had the privilege of interviewing our kind and welcoming receptionist, Mrs Pickett (Bev). Here are the questions and answers that aim to give you an insight into Mrs Pickett's life.

Kaila

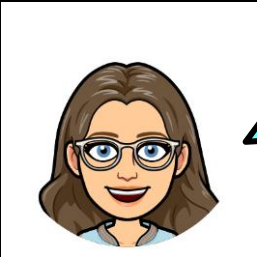


1. How long have you worked at Mortimer?

I have worked at Mortimer for 8 years.

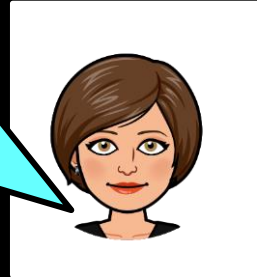


Scarlett

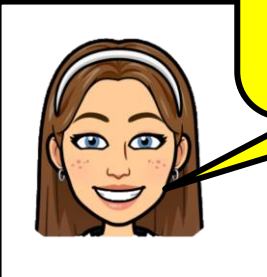


2. What made you want to work at Mortimer?

I wanted to work at Mortimer to be surrounded by so many special people that are supporting the students to give them the best opportunities they can.

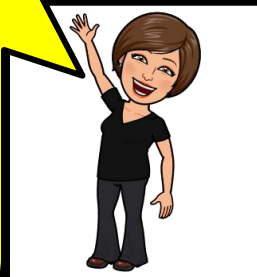


Emilie



3. What is your favourite part about working at Mortimer?

My favourite part about working at Mortimer is having the ability to make a difference. I like to always choose to be kind and like to spread that message through my role here, at the front desk.



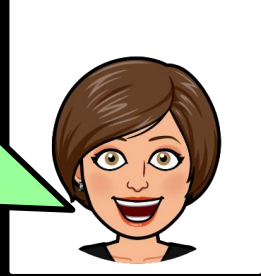
Staff Spotlight

Lily

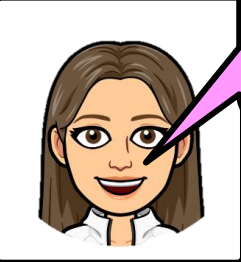


4. Do you have any hobbies?

Yes, I have a few hobbies. My main hobby is my love for gardening and wildlife. I love to feed the hedgehogs and support nature where I can.



Abbie

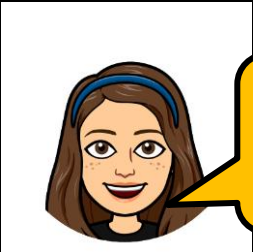


5. What jobs have you had in the past?

I have had quite a few jobs before I arrived here at Mortimer. I worked at the counter of Clinique as my first job. I then worked for South Shields Gazette which was an interesting role. From there, I went to a finance company and then finally I worked for a vet. However, I didn't last long at the vets because I love animals too much and didn't like to see them upset. All of these jobs have allowed me to develop different skills that have made me who I am today.



Ellie

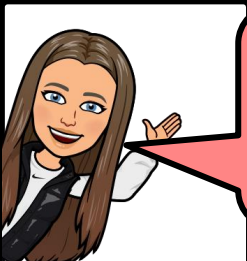


6. What was your favourite lesson at school?

My favourite lesson was chemistry. I loved my teacher!



Isabelle



7. What is your favourite film?

My favourite film is 'Mamma Mia'. I think it is a fantastic film that gives you that 'feel good' factor. The music is brilliant, and you can't help but smile by the end of it.



Staff Spotlight

Bel



8. What is your funniest moment at Mortimer?

I think my funniest moment at Mortimer is when I fell off my chair, right on to the floor, in front of an entire reception full of people. I couldn't stop laughing at myself.



Erin



9. Who is your favourite music artist?

That is a difficult question because I love so many different musicians. I love Adele. I think she has a wonderful voice and is very entertaining. I also love Ed Sheeran and Sam Smith. I think they're both brilliant song writers and have wonderful voices. I also can't leave out Luther Vandross. His music just makes you want to dance.



Cameron



10. What is your favourite colour?

My favourite colour is green.



Thank you for reading!

Watch out for our next edition of 'Mortimer Moments' to find out who is going to be featured next on our 'Staff Spotlight'.



Julio Arca Interview

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The Press Gang had the exciting opportunity to meet and interview former football player Julio Arca. Read on to find out about Arca's interesting life on and off the pitch.

1. What inspired you to pursue a career in football, and how did you get started?

Answer - I started playing football from the age of 4. I was playing out on the streets of Argentina and my father was into football also.

2. If you could choose one dream player, both past and present, to play for your team, who would it be and why?

Answer - My dream player would have to be Lionel Messi. I love the style of football he plays and think it would be great to play alongside him.

3. If there is any team in the world you could have played for, who would it have been?

Answer - If I could have a chance at playing for any team in the world, I would choose Barcelona. They are a fantastic club with a lot of history.

4. Football is known for its passionate fanbase. Can you share an interaction or experience with fans that has left a lasting impression on you?

Answer - One of the last good impressions I had playing football was in Wembley Stadium. There were 18,000 people watching from South Shields. To top it off, we won the cup!





Julio Arca Interview

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5. What is the proudest moment in your career ?

Answer - My proudest moment as a footballer was winning a trophy when I played for Sunderland and winning a cup with Argentina Under 21s.

6. How many goals did you score in your career? Can you remember what your record was for the most goals in a match?

Answer - 1 in a single match and between 40-50 in my career.

7. We know that you are a legend to people in the North East of England, but what is your favourite thing about the North East?

Answer - My favourite thing about the North East is the people. Everyone is so friendly! I also think there are some beautiful places to visit. It is my second home.

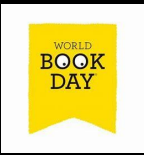
8. If you did not become a footballer, what job would you have liked to do and why?

Answer - I would have probably worked in a bank like my dad did.

9. Who is the best player you have played against in your career?

Answer - The best player I have played against is Cristiano Ronaldo. This is followed by David Beckham and Alan Shearer.





World Book Day

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On Thursday 7th March 2024, Mortimer Community College celebrated World Book Day. We explored the many benefits to reading and shared discussions on our favourite books now and in our early childhoods.



Team English dressed as characters from *Alice in Wonderland*. Can you guess the characters?



What is 'World Book Day'?



Every year, around the world, book lovers come together to celebrate 'World Book Day'. This day is a time to celebrate authors, illustrators, books and the joy of reading. From the avid to the occasional reader, people of all ages and backgrounds join in the festivities to honour the books that have an impact on our lives.

How did Mortimer celebrate 'World Book Day' ?

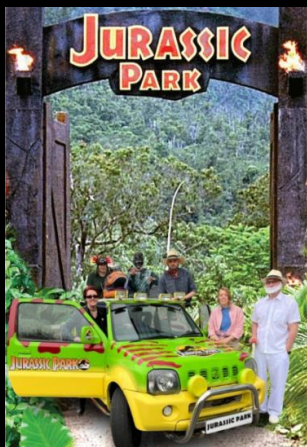


Within our English lessons, year 7 participated in a throwback to our early childhoods. We discussed our favourite books to read when we were younger and the significance behind them.

We were introduced to the idea of a 'subtext' and re-read classic books by looking at them through an analytical lens.

Did you know that Paddington Bear is a fable about migration or that 'The Grinch that Stole Christmas' is a critique of consumerism? We really enjoyed discussing our views on our favourite books and we think you would too!

Why don't you consider your favourite childhood books and reflect upon their deeper meanings?



The Teaching and Learning Team dressed as characters from *Jurassic Park*. Can you guess the characters?

The Benefits of Reading



- Reading can develop your vocabulary.
- Reading can reduce your stress levels.
- Reading can improve your concentration and focus.
- Reading exposes us to different cultures and experiences.
- Reading enhances our creativity.