

7 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This week a number of our pupils graduated from the Scholars Programme. This is an opportunity for pupils to work with a PhD researcher to experience university-style learning. This aims to help pupils develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to secure a place at a highly selective university. For the last three months these pupils were tutored by a PhD student from Cranfield University.



I was delighted to be able to meet the pupils and discuss their experience. As part of this programme each pupil had to complete an essay related to the uses of renewable energy. Those essays were graded to the same standard as work produced by an undergraduate.

Any grade achieved is a phenomenal achievement given the assessment criteria and I commend each of the twelve pupils who submitted work.

	Final Grade		Final Grade
Anu Adebayo	1 <sup>st</sup>	Kerry-Anne Hogan	2:2
Rachel Bradbury	1 <sup>st</sup>	Laila Jane Noor	2:1
Isabele Cole	1 <sup>st</sup>	Tia Sandu	2:2
Ryhanna Cummins	1 <sup>st</sup>	Rose Slaney	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Roman Gomez Alamar	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tom Turner	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Jack Haseldine	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mitchell White	1 <sup>st</sup>

I would very much like to thank Mrs Stockton, seen in the photo, for leading this project. I know she is very proud that every pupil able to take up the opportunity completed the programme. What an achievement!

## The Big Ask – A Message From the Children’s Commissioner



Dame Rachel de Souza, Children’s Commissioner for England, is looking to ensure that children are at the heart of the government’s plans for rebuilding after the pandemic. To do this she has launched ‘The Big Ask’ – the largest ever survey of children in England. She wants to know children’s dreams and ambitions, views on education and experiences during the pandemic so that they may be well represented in future plans. More information can be found in this promotional video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHV4b5iwwmk> and the survey can be found here, <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>. Please do encourage your children to get involved.

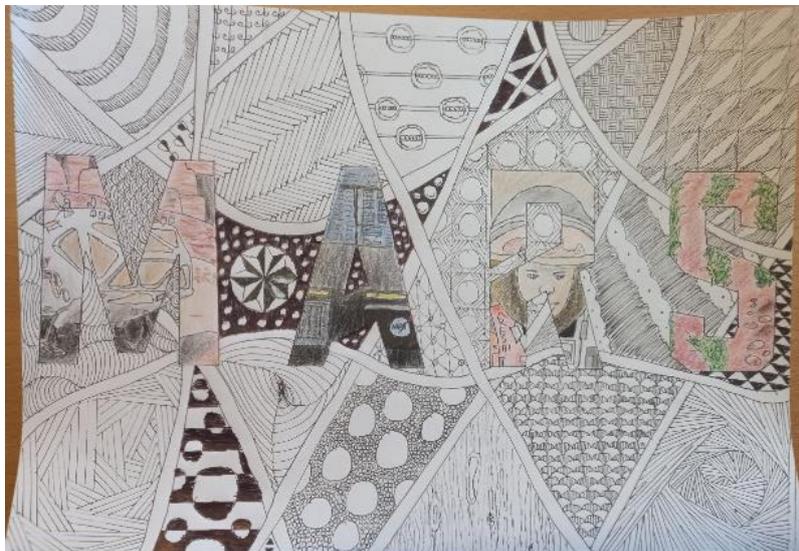
### **Year 9 and 10 Reading Project Competition**

Thank you to all pupils who submitted an item to the competition linked to the books we are reading.

The winner in **Year 10 is Rachel Bradbury in 10JBO** for artwork linked to the book *The Martian*.

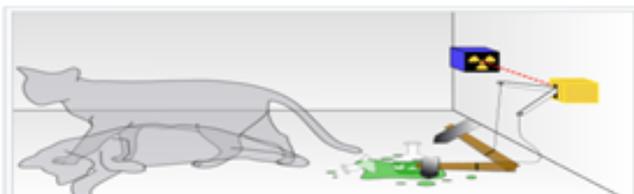
The winner in **Year 9 is Abel Thomas in 9PDO** for his poster about Schrodinger’s cat. This is linked to a joke in the book *We Are All Made of Molecules*.

Both win amazon gift cards – well done!



# Schrodinger's Cat Experiment

Schrodinger's cat is a thought experiment that illustrates a paradox of superposition. In the thought experiment, a hypothetical cat may be considered both alive and dead as a result of being linked to a random subatomic event that may or may not occur .



Schrodinger's cat: a cat, a flask of poison, and a radioactive source are placed in a sealed box. If an internal monitor (e.g. Geiger counter) detects radioactivity (i.e. a single atom decaying), the flask is shattered, releasing the poison, which kills the cat. The Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics implies that after a while, the cat is *simultaneously* alive and dead. Yet, when one looks in the box, one sees the cat *either* alive or dead, not both alive and dead. This poses the question of when exactly quantum superposition ends and reality collapses into one possibility or the other.

This thought experiment was devised by Erwin Schrodinger in 1935, in a discussion with Albert Einstein, to illustrate what Schrodinger saw as a problem. The scene is often highlighted in discussions of some physics classes.

"Schrodinger's Cat" was not a real experiment and therefore did not scientifically prove anything. Schrodinger's Cat is not even part of any scientific theory. Schrodinger's Cat was simply a teaching tool that Schrodinger used to illustrate how some people were misinterpreting Thompson's hypothesis. Schrodinger constructed his imaginary experiment with the cat to demonstrate that simple misinterpretations can lead to absurd results which do not match the real world.

In Schrodinger's experiment, you place a cat in a box with a tiny bit of radioactive substance. When the radioactive substance decays, it triggers a Geiger counter which causes a poison or explosion to be released that kills the cat. The cat ends up both dead and alive at the same time.

Reading is so important as we all know. This project links the therapeutic nature of being read to with building routines, sharing an experience as well as developing language and discussion skills.

## Celebrating success in Science

Each week pupils are nominated as science stars.

In recent weeks the following pupils have been added to the board:

### Year 9

Abi Corrigan  
Holly Minney  
Eleanor Hogben

### Year 10

Louis King  
Amelia Whittington  
Max Braybrook

### Year 11

Lily Orr-Campbell  
Oliwia Motyl  
Nyah Davies



**A huge thank you to Year 11** who have approached the assessments this week with maturity. Mr Kane as Year Leader has shared how very proud he is of all pupils who have shown such positivity and resilience.

And finally, as Ramadan comes to an end we wish Eid Mubarak to those celebrating next week.

## Ramadan and the Festival of Eid in our house 😊

*Ramadan is a time where I can get closer and focus on God. It is a time when Muslims fast so that they can appreciate all the things that they have and also look at those that do not have enough. There is lots of delicious food after sunset. During Eid, my family comes together to celebrate fasting for a month. There is a variety of sweets and food. We get all dressed up for the occasion.*

Y9

Kind regards

*CMcMorn*

Mrs McMorn

Head of School