



MONTGOMERY
ACADEMY



Winter 2020



Principal: Mr S. Careless



When I am writing my introduction to the Christmas newsletter I always read the one from the previous year. Twelve months ago, the newsletter celebrated our 60th Anniversary event. Well I think that 2020 will go down as one of the most challenging the school has faced in its history. Who would have known, a year down the line, that students and staff just being in school would be an achievement in itself?

The global population has faced enormous challenges since March, which will forever be etched in our memories. With the first doses of the vaccine being given to the most vulnerable this week, we sincerely hope that this is the beginning of a return to more normal life. When I look back at 2020, my first thought is absolute pride in how the Montgomery Family has faced down challenges and supported each other.



Most of all, we should be immensely proud of our students, who have developed new levels of resilience. Most were out of school for almost six months, yet returned in a positive frame of mind and quickly adapted to wearing face masks in communal areas, being taught in separate blocks, smaller outside spaces for their breaks and a staggered school day. Last year's Year 11 had it tough when their exams were cancelled followed by the fiasco of the summer exam grading, yet the current Year 11 have had it hardest of all.

As I write, four days of the mock exams have been completed and the year group's conduct and application in the exams so far has been flawless. They are still the same students that we sent home in March as Year 10, but the experience they faced has meant that many have come back more mature and focused. This bodes well for next year and I am confident that they will persevere and adapt to whatever happens regarding their exams next summer. Seeing them sat in the Hall taking their exams incredibly seriously has been inspiring to us all.

The transition of Year 7 students to secondary school was equally affected by Covid and again they have risen to the challenge. They have adapted amazingly well to a completely new environment and new ways of learning. Whenever the school has been struggling to stay open this term, a quick walk round to see the great learning going on has given me the boost needed to find solutions to the problems we have faced.

The students are fortunate to have a special staff working at their school. Staff who are vulnerable themselves, or have extremely clinically vulnerable

Seasons GREETINGS

family in their household, have kept coming in to school day after day, even when we have positive cases. They continue to have a smile on their face whilst working under intense pressure, caused by Covid restrictions and covering for absent staff. The school slogan of 'Inspiring Excellence Together' has never been more fitting. The spirit and resilience of our staff should never be questioned.

I would like to use this forum to thank two staff who are retiring at the end of this term. Mrs Watson has taught life skills from within the pastoral team for over 23 years and Mr Elvin has been an integral member of our site supervisor team for over 12 years. They will be sorely missed by their colleagues and the students and we wish them happy retirements, thanking them both for the significant impact they have made here.

Parents have also been tested to the limit over the last 9 months and we thank you for working with us to support your child to continue to learn when they are not in school. Many skills have been learnt in a short space of time in this pandemic and for many parents supporting remote learning has meant much upskilling overnight.

We thank you for trusting in us and continuing to send in your child when we have had positive cases in school.

I have had to have some difficult conversations with parents regarding positive cases and children being identified as close contacts. I thank you for your civility and understanding that this has happened in the majority of secondary schools up and down the country.

As we approach the Christmas break, all of us at Montgomery wish you a very safe and Merry Christmas and hope you get the chance to relax and recover at the end of an exhausting year. Even though restrictions have been lifted for a 5-day period over Christmas, please continue to be cautious when mixing with others.

I am sure that the New Year will bring further hurdles to overcome, but I have no doubt that by supporting each other we will endure and eventually prosper again.

Mr Careless





**Executive Headteacher:
Mr Stephen Cox**

As many of you will know, Mr Bullen ended his role as Executive Headteacher at Montgomery at the end of August to take up a senior role within FCAT. In September of this year I began working at the academy for two days a week as the new Executive Headteacher. I also have a similar role at Garstang Academy and Ribblesdale High School in Clitheroe. Universally, I have had a warm welcome from students and staff alike and have been impressed by what I have seen so far at the school. The response of the academy to the current crisis has been incredible but of course it has given us all many challenges. The way in which most students have adapted to a very difficult situation is a tribute to their families, the staff here at Montgomery and indeed themselves.

One of the things I have noticed this year on the many miles I clock up around Lancashire is the abundance of Christmas lights. We all need a little more brightness at the moment! Of course, Christians believe that candles and lights on the approach to Christmas represent the light of the birth of Jesus and hope. With the roll out of the vaccines for Covid there is indeed light and hope for next year and we can look forward to a return to normality both in school and elsewhere. When this happens, I look forward to meeting many of you at school events. I wish you all a safe and relaxing Christmas and a wonderful 2021.

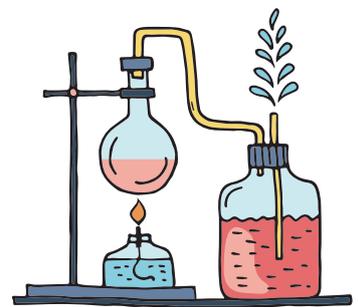
Stephen Cox
Executive Headteacher



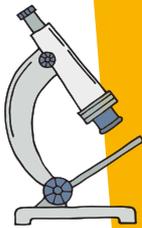
Team Science

Autumn Awesomeness

in 2020-2021



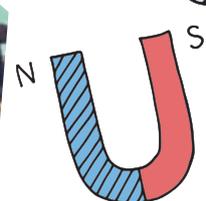
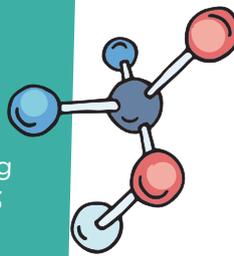
The Science department at Montgomery Academy has enjoyed a very positive and vibrant start to this academic year. Although different in many ways, we have shown immense creativity and innovation in bringing science to life in the different year group bubbles across the school site. The aim has always been to motivate and inspire our students to share our passion for Science and build an inclusive team ethos in the department; a culture that we believe will allow our students to reach their full potential and this has not changed. As well as Year 8 STEAM Club that has continued safely in E-block, we have continued our collaborations with the Institute of Physics, the Ogden Trust and the Royal Society of Chemistry. We have also had a record-breaking term in terms of Seneca engagement and this is helping us build more confident and knowledgeable scientists in every year group.



Year 7s and 8s - May the Force be with you!



This term our Year 7s have loved studying the topics of forces and particles in M-block. Our Year 8s have started with topics that they missed during the school lock down in March and have enjoyed studying ecology, inheritance and variation and then forces over in E-block. The overlap in the force's topic within our Year 7 and 8 curriculums combined with us teaching outside S-block has meant we have had to be innovative and creative in our teaching. Highlights have included modelling resultant forces using 'Just Dance', investigating Hooke's Law and calculating our own speed using distance and time. We also had a lot of fun making whole class particle models outside in the quad and splashing water around whilst investigating density. All in all, it has been a fantastic first term in KS3 Science across Year 7 and 8 and we cannot wait to get going again in January with Cells and Reproduction in Year 7 and Waves in Year 8. Bring it on!



Year 10s in S-block



Throughout this term, our Year 10s have been fortunate to study within our brand-new science labs in S-block. This has meant that across biology, chemistry and physics they have been able to study scientific content alongside exciting practical investigations and this in turn has brought some much-needed normality back to our science curriculum. With the help of our brilliant science technicians who have upheld the highest covid safety standards, our students have explored photosynthesis practically, exothermic and endothermic reactions and built a variety of series and parallel circuits whilst studying electricity. Each practical is set up for small groups in individual trays, safety goggles are cleaned after each use and alcohol-free sanitiser is used to ensure Bunsen burners can be deployed safely as and when they are needed. Next term, we will continue to offer as many practical activities as possible as our Year 10s study infection and response, our quantitative chemistry unit and atomic structure and radiation.



Seneca in Science & Google Classroom



Initially pioneered by Mr Bradshaw, we have further embedded an exciting and innovative online Science learning programme called Seneca alongside a collaborative social cloud for learning in form of Google Classroom. Seneca is an intelligent learning programme that uses multiple choice micro-quizzes to build knowledge, boost confidence and reduce exam stress. Content is broken down into bite-size chunks and tailored to each user as the platform works out what students know and more importantly where they need to focus more to achieve outstanding results. This revolutionary online learning package is now being used by all year groups and their amazing current progress is shown below:

Year Group	Sessions Completed	Questions Answered	Study Duration
7	11, 920	136, 388	820 hrs 50 mins
8	15, 234	178, 488	1066 hrs 28 mins
9	31, 044	367, 442	1894 hrs 50 mins
10	64, 922	836, 816	3598 hrs 1 min
11	84, 634	1, 088, 510	4579 hrs 33 mins



Our students deserve great praise for completing these Seneca learning sessions. It is clearly having a massively positive impact on student progress in Science and so we look forward to its continued usage and success in 2021.





Philip Harris Lego Competition

In November, Cath Bach who leads our Space Club entered a competition run by Philip Harris Science Supplies. In describing how our Space club set off on a mission to explore an alien planet, we were chosen as winners of a magnificent Lego Mindstorms V3 Robot worth £350. In our application, we let our students describe how they had investigated UV light and made and tested space suits and egg landers. They then went onto test soil collected from the unknown planet and purify Tim Peake's urine. This win is a fantastic achievement for a fantastic club and the new robotic kit has been met with bundles of enthusiasm already by our space club students. We look forward to using the robot a lot more when we return in the spring term.



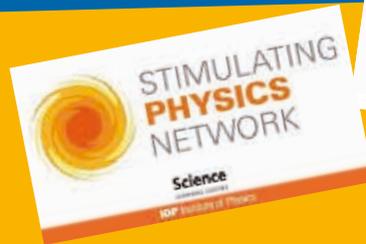
Primary Science Club in the Community

When the pandemic allows this academic year, the Montgomery Science team, led by Miss Healey will continue offering their popular Science club to Year 5 and 6 students at some of the local primary schools in our community. In the summer term 2020, we expanded the programme to include Westminster and Gateway and we now look forward to re-visiting Bispham Endowed and Kinraig primaries as well as bringing Westcliffe on board as soon as the pandemic allows. Students can look forward to making lava lamps, rainbow skittle diffusion plates, magic milk and slime. To keep our primaries in our thoughts, Miss Healey has produced a gigantic Elementree to celebrate the Christmas season and we have sent pictures of this to our local primaries to let them know that we will be back in 2021!

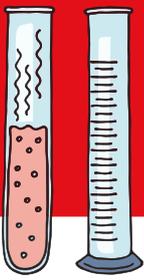
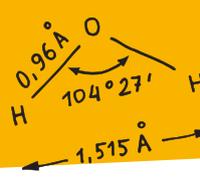
Institute of Physics & Ogden Trust – Building better Physicists.



making physics matter



We are delighted to announce that our 5-year collaboration with the Institute of Physics and its stimulating physics network has continued remotely this year. Mr Woodruff has now completed the Future Physics Leaders Program and is continuing to drive the science department forward as our Lead Physicist, well done indeed! Through the Ogden Trust, we have also been able to take advantage this term of Matthew Tosh's guest appearance at Blackpool Sixth Form where he was running sessions on science careers and different pathways that can lead to a career within the science sector. This was shown remotely to our KS4 learners and evaluation of this session was overwhelmingly positive. It is true that not all scientists wear a white coat and inspiring our students to study science further is something we are greatly passionate about.



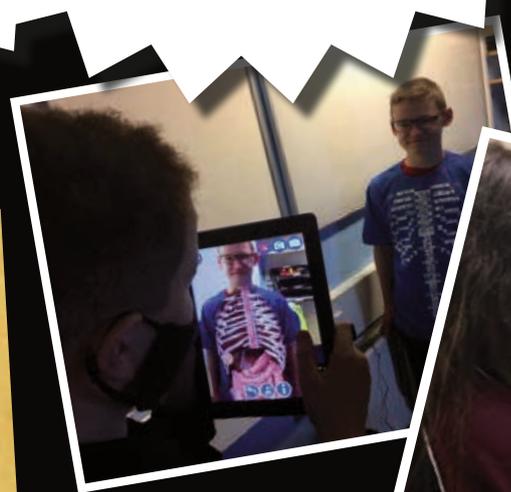
Montgomery STEAM CLUB

SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • ARTS • MATH

Mrs Bach



Mr Byrne

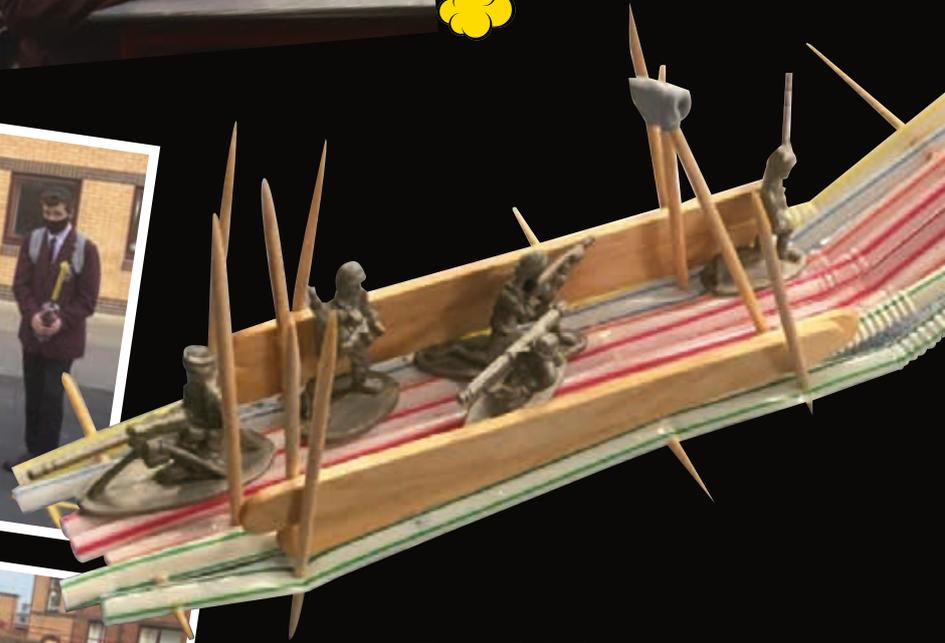
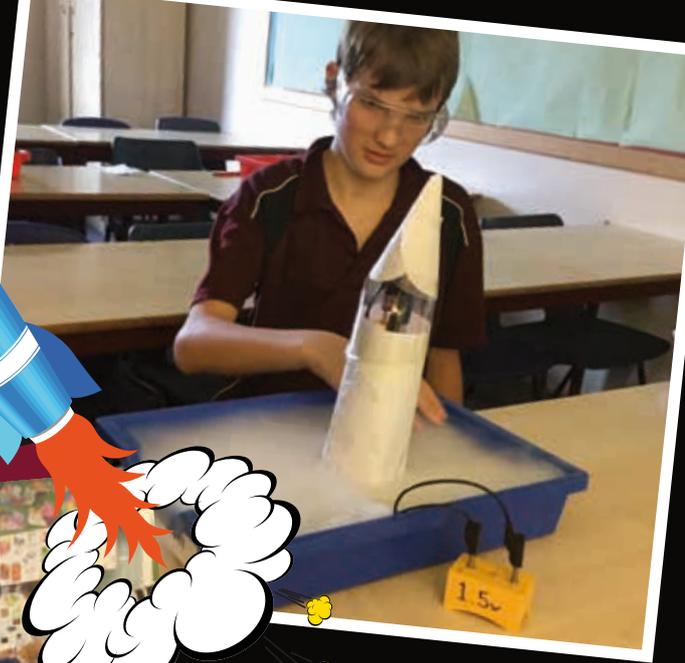


HERBARIUM SPECIMEN #452B
MANDRAGORA OFFICINARIUM
MANDRAKE
[IMMATURE]
CAUTION
APPROACH ONLY WITH ADEQUATE EAR PROTECTION!
SCREAM IS NOT YET LETHAL, BUT MAY CAUSE EXTENDED PERIODS OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS.
PROPERTY OF HUGHARTS SCHOOL OF WITCRAFT AND PIZARREY

With the best will in the world, schools all around the country have really struggled to run their regular extra-curriculum Clubs, and our SSC is no different.

We have managed to provide limited provision by running two individual clubs in their year group 'Bubbles' with separate equipment for each year 7 and 8 student. We are extremely grateful for the support and encouragement of our Senior Leadership Team, Year Heads and as always, our Science Department. Thank you!





Dunkirk Evacuation

We followed the Science! We looked at the evacuation by constructing straw boats and calculating how many toy soldiers they could transport. More importantly could the craft actually float in a sink full of water in the Art Department?

SINCE RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER WE HAVE MADE...
Air Rockets * Egglanders * Working Lighthouses * Mandrakes * Lava Lamps * Cartesian Divers
Dunkirk Evacuation * Pumpkins & Periscopes * British Bird Migration * Birdfeeders



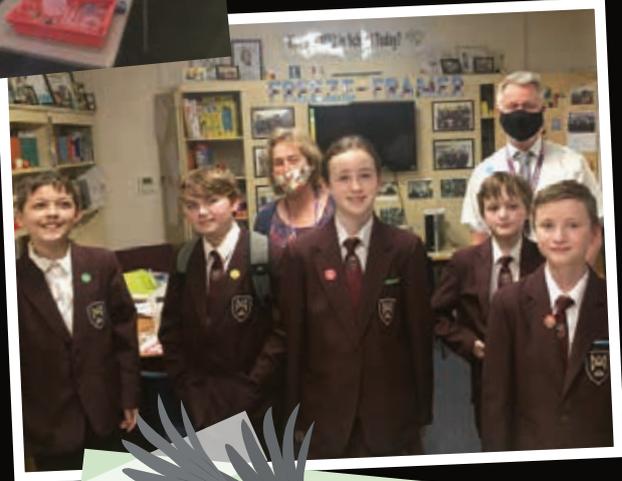


Pumpkins & Trench Periscopes



Student feedback for our Cartesian Divers/ Lava Lamp session:

- ✓ **Trinity:** 10/10. 'It was really fun!'
- ✓ **Sam:** 10/10. 'It was interesting because I have never used dyes before!'
- ✓ **Logan:** 10/10. 'This was my first STEAM Club and I will come again because I enjoyed it and learned about dyes that I never knew about.'
- ✓ **Drew:** 'Definitely 10/10 because the Lava lamps were like making a Coca Cola recipe!'
- ✓ **Joshua:** 8/10. 'It was definitely fun using the various dyes and also working with Drew.'
- ✓ **Josh:** 'Seeing the Lava lamp bubble up and all the reactions was my favourite part! 10/10'
- ✓ **Liam:** 10/10. 'Mixing the colours of the dyes and making patterns was so good - it was like making a universe!!!'



Birdfeeders! Made with Bird seed, peanut, butter, lard, pumpkin seeds, corn, flakes, and suet pellets with mealworm

Crisp Donation

Helping the homeless people in Blackpool...

Following a request seen online, students have been donating their empty crisp packets to help homeless people in Blackpool. Over a three week period students have donated hundreds of empty crisp packets. It takes around 150 packets of crisps to make a full waterproof blanket which would cover their sleeping bags during the colder months, once washed the packets of crisps are cut open and then ironed together to make the blanket. The donation boxes were overflowing with donations we think is about 400 crisp packets. Many thanks to everyone who donated their bags, especially the house captains who encouraged others to donate the crisp packets!



Photo Credit

Ben, James, Harry, Sam, Szymon, Liam & Jacob



**Brian House**
Children's Hospice

Mr Hayes from the SSC during the month of November cycled and ran everyday to the distance of 220 miles helping to raise over **£500.00** to Brian House.

**WELL
DONE!**

MONTGOMERY LEGO EDUCATION PROGRAMME



Sessions consist of a maximum of three students.
Each week different roles are allocated to them.

THE ENGINEER

The **Engineer** gives the instructions to the Supplier and also to the **Builder**.



THE SUPPLIER

The **Supplier** finds the Lego bricks as described by the **Engineer** and gives them to the **Builder**.



THE BUILDER

The **Builder** follows the verbal instructions given by the **Engineer** and puts the bricks together!



LEGO® Education Hygiene Guidelines

We choose high-quality materials for our LEGO® and DUPLO® elements to give children the safest and best learning experience possible. To support teachers in following the latest local guidance on cleaning & disinfecting classrooms and learning materials, we've developed the following guidelines.



Obviously, anything involving Lego will automatically include fun and a range of practical activities!



STARTER TASK:

Aidan, Oliver and Riley use Lego Picturika cards to encourage memory retention.

Underpinning all of this is the belief that sessions are about developing communication and interaction, cognition and learning, and developing positive relationships with peers. Using Lego in any educational setting also helps utilise any sensory and/or physical need.

A **BIG** thank you to **THANK YOU!**

To all staff who gave us their Lego cards from Sainsburys. We really appreciate it. We completed two albums, used spare cards for our own version of Picturika! And also at break, play a game that they can be used for.

'Thank you very much!' also goes out to the Morton family who have given us some brilliant sets from the Lego 'Friends' range. These are extremely popular with our students from all year groups.

Also to our 'Internet' friends - Tim Gough, Ruth Hayes and Emma Kennedy from 'Relax with Bricks' who have also given us lovely Lego sets!

AT MONTGOMERY ACADEMY

READING MATTERS



Here at Montgomery Academy, Reading Matters!

In these uncertain times, reading is the perfect pastime to not only escape the stresses, strains and sometimes scary media coverage of COVID 19 but also from a more positive perspective we have been given the gift of time.

Time we can spend with our families and time we can all spend reading.

As the nights draw early and the weather becomes colder, reading can provide a refuge for readers by supporting children's mental health well-being as they plan for their futures through the medium of books.

Here at Montgomery Academy, Reading Matters!

This academic year has seen a very different library and reading service because NO virus will stop us supporting our students with improving their reading. Already we have seen record numbers of words being read by our students but there is, as always, room for more.

Our Library and Literacy team have dedicated their time and efforts working tirelessly to ensure that all students have been given books which have been carefully selected based on individual reading abilities. This information was provided by our Accelerated Reading Star Tests, which were completed in the first half term by all Key Stage 3 Students.



With the increased usage of global delivery services, from Amazon to Dominoes, Morrisons to JD, our Library and Literacy team decided to set up our delivery service with 'Did Somebody Say Just Read?' This delivery service works in the same way as our more famous companies in that students can select their favourite books just like they select a Pizza or trainers. Once they have made their on-line books, our team will then deliver them directly to their classroom. The students can then read their chosen books at their leisure before logging onto the school website and completing their Accelerated Reading Quiz which is all done at home.

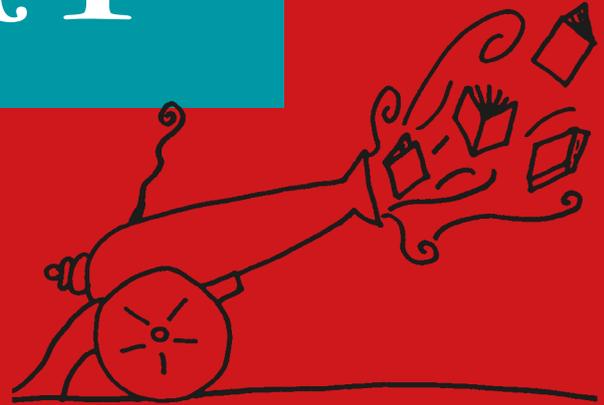
So far, this academic year our students have read 12,806,766 words, successfully completed 370 on line quizzes and we have 2 word millionaires, Libby and Myles. Well done! However, despite these current successes the data this year is disappointing if we compare the data to last year's. As a school, we understand that these unsettling and uncertain times have had a negative impact, we will continue to work hard to increase our student reading engagement. Which is where we need your support and encouragement to 'Get our students reading at home' and at the same time increase their chances of future successes particularly in their future GCSEs and chosen career paths.

We hope you have a peaceful, safe and healthy Christmas and look forward to supporting your children with their reading in 2021, From Montgomery Academy Library and Literacy Team.



LITERARY

CANON



FIRES MAGNIFICENTLY IN TERM ONE

So, we come to the end of the first term of the Montgomery Literary Canon...and, despite a number of COVID related challenges we have reached Christmas having successfully read an additional book to every child in year 7,8,9 and 10!

Whether this has been at the start, or the end of the day, it has been fantastic to see whole classes of children reading with their teachers. We must not underestimate the impact of this exposure to new stories, new contexts and new styles will have on the education of these young people.

We are hopeful that many of these students will now be inspired to read some similar books and further improve their reading skills and cultural capital.

A big thank you to everyone who has played a part in this; I know that we will go from strength to strength and look forward to seeing our canon fire it's second, even better shot, in term too.

Suggested additional reading is detailed below.

**YEAR
7**



- The Hunger Games- Suzanne Collins
- Nineteen Eighty-Four- George Orwell
- Robinson Crusoe - Daniel Defoe

**YEAR
8**



- The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 3/4 - Sue Townsend
- The Perks of being a Wallflower- Stephen Chbosky
- Flowers for Algernon- Daniel Keyes
- Wonder- R.J. Palacio

**YEAR
9**



- Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller
- The Bell Jar, Sylvia Plath
- The Catcher in the Rye, JD Salinger
- Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck

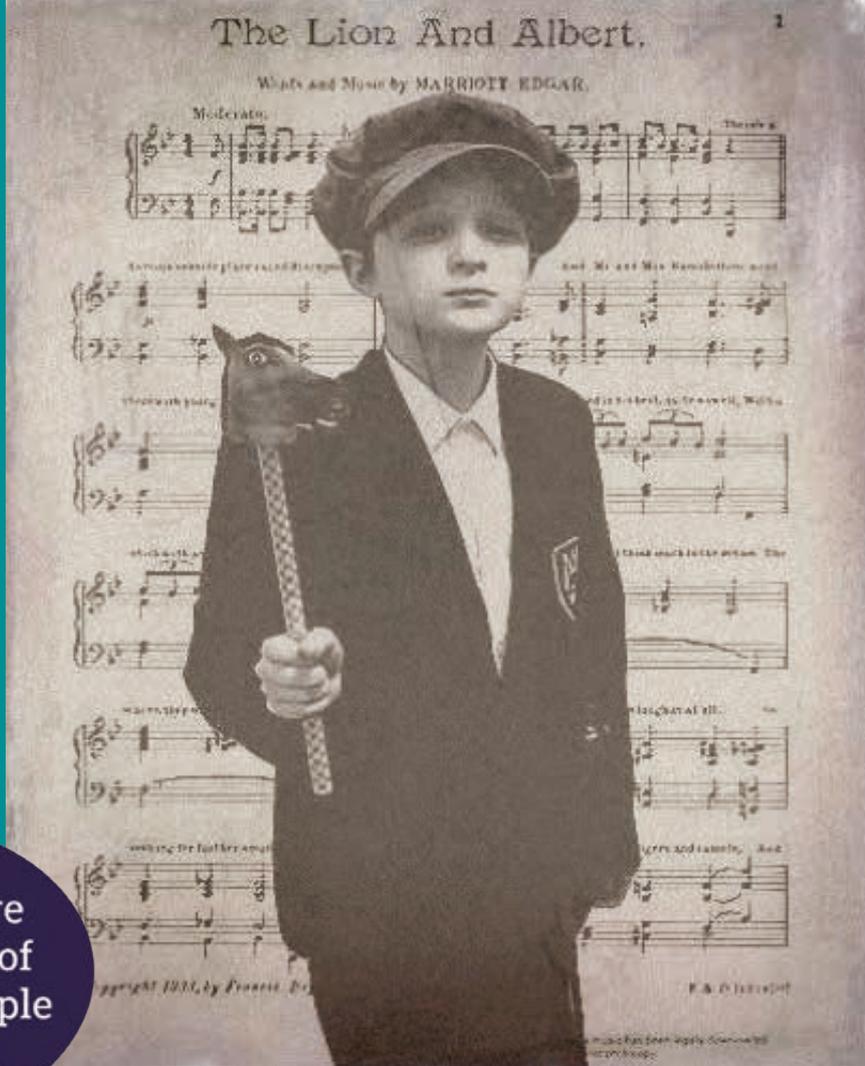
**YEAR
10**



- The Testaments, by Margaret Atwood
- The Power, by Naomi Alderman
- The Bees, by Laline Paull
- Rebecca, by Daphne du Maurier
- Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Bronte
- 1984, by George Orwell
- The Scarlet Letter, by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Poetry Together is simple, open to everyone, and free.

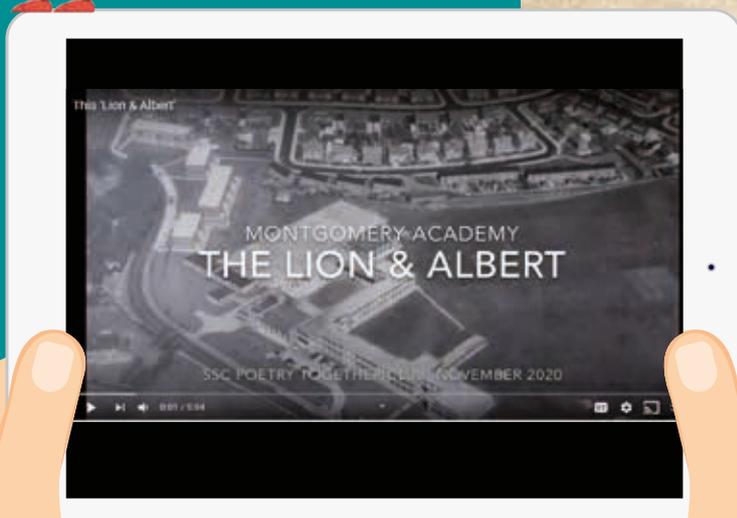
Any school, care home, or group of young or old people can take part.



You may remember that we joined this annual poetry project last November. We found it so inspiring that we've just kept going every week (Even during 'Lockdown!') by forming our own SSC 'Poetry Together' Club!

For this year's project, we teamed up again with Merwood Retirement Home our regular 'Partners in Rhyme'.

<https://youtu.be/dxswnObAmGMDue> to Covid19, we obviously needed to find another way to work together! We decided to record all the verses of 'The Lion and Albert' separately.



<https://youtu.be/dxswnObAmGMDue>



'The video is just fab! What a great poetry choice, and its lovely how students, staff, and care home residents are all participating. Well done for the effort and getting it done in time!! We will celebrate your recital in the coming days on social media, so watch out for it!'

**OLIVE SPYTH
POETRY TOGETHER TEAM**



'Amazing - nearly crying! Leo did really well, as did everyone else. What a lovely thing for him to be part of. Thank you so much.'

LEO'S MUM



'Residents and families have watched the video. The way you have put the clips together is wonderful! We are very grateful for the opportunity to interact in this way. Some residents have Dementia, and often don't interact - we have seen the most moving transformation in our residents - heart-warming.'

The poetry we have been doing since your introduction - WOW, WOW WOW!!!'

**JACKIE
MERWOOD MANAGER**



**POETRY
TOGETHER**

Uniting young and old
through the joy of poetry



GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

GCSE Photography students get snapping!

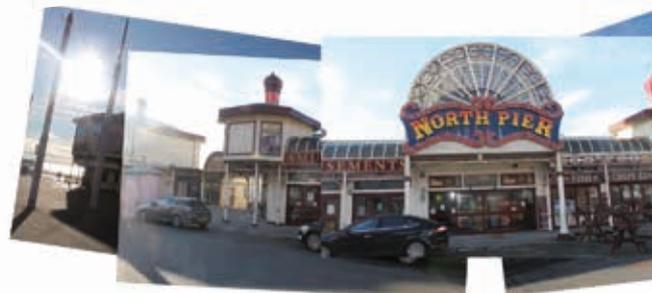
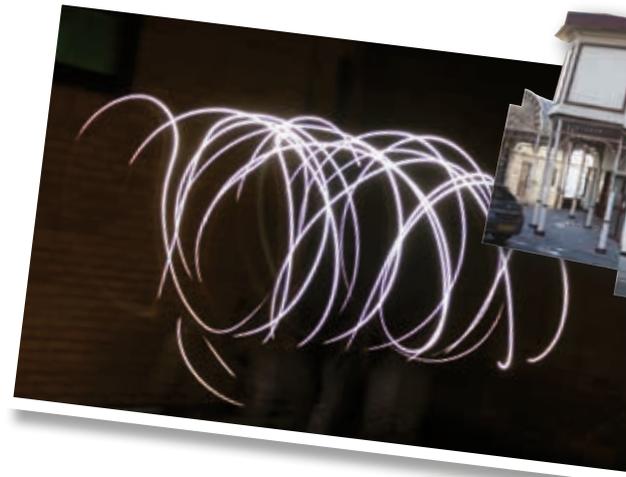
Year 10 and year 11 photography students have returned to school have been busy with their photography!

Year 10's

Year 10's have been practicing shutter speeds and after initially photographing the movement of each other through a range of shutter speeds shutter speeds. Students have since developed their photos to practising a technique called panning and then using much longer shutter speeds on Blackpool Promenade to capture some fantastic shots of Blackpool Tower. This has tested their technical capabilities but has resulted in a fabulous collection of photographs!

Year 11's

Year 11's have started their work on their 'Britishness' photography topic, initially using photos they had taken during lockdown students have developed their photos through editing, using the British born Pop-Art movement as a starting point and then using street photography as their focus. Year 11 students have also met with local street photographer Jill Reidy who talked students through her career and her focus on street photography, she shared her love for seaside towns and talked students through some of the photos from her exhibit 'Seaside towns out of season', before giving some top tips to help them out when out and about in Blackpool. Since the streets of Blackpool are very quiet at the minute students used their opportunity of being out of school and in Blackpool to create 'joiners', a photo collage technique created by English artist and photographer David Hockney.







MONTGOMERY MATHS HOME LEARNING AWARDS HEGARTY HEROES

WHOLE SCHOOL

Since September 2020 there have been a whopping:
228,785 questions attempted
179,510 questions answered correctly
 4203 spent doing maths on the website
 459 hours of help videos watched
 Here are some of our Hearty Heroes:

BOOM YEAR 7



Top Student Award
 Xander 7A1 – 12 hours in total and
 450 questions answered correctly
Most videos watched
 Aidan 7A1 – 3.7 hours of
 videos watched
MemRi Master
 Evie 7B1 – 61 MemRi
 questions answered correctly



YEAR 8

Top Student Award
 Jack 8B3 – 18 hours in total
 and 631 questions answered correctly
Most videos watched
 Blake 8A4 – 2.6 hours of
 videos watched
Question King
 Jack 8A1 – 644 questions
 answered correctly



YEAR 9

Top Student Award
 Katie 9A1 – 25.8 hours in total
 and 556 questions answered correctly
Most videos watched
 Daniela 9A2 – 4.8 hours of videos watched
Question Queen
 Jennavive 9A1 – 1454 questions
 answered correctly

YEAR 10

Top Student Award

Matthew 10B1 – 27.2 hours in total and 4095 questions answered correctly

Most videos watched

Harriet 10A2 – 2.9 hours of videos watched

MemRi Master

Lilia 10A1 – 140 MemRi questions answered



YEAR 11

Top Student Award

Chloe 11B3 – 31.7 hours in total and 1122 questions answered correctly

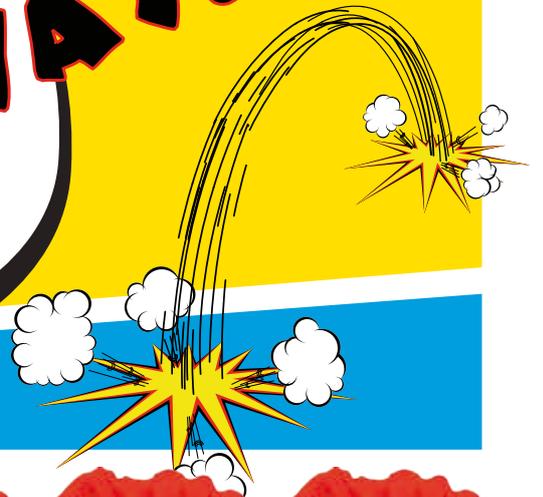
Most videos watched

Taylor 11B4 – 4.9 hours of videos watched

MemRi Master

Yulan 11B1 – 96 MemRi questions answered correctly

YAY!



11 NOVEMBER

REMEMBRANCE DAY

2020 will be remembered for many things, but the “new normal” still included a memorable video piece to serve as our Remembrance Event 2020.

With moving readings from our Head boy and girl and an amazing rendition of “Bring Him Home”, the theme this year focussing on the amazing work of our NHS heroes. This is as well as other super heroes like teachers, delivery drivers, taxi drivers, mums and dads that turned into amazing maths teachers – that “pulling together” under the Covid cloud and looking out for each other during these “never seen before times”. As ever our thoughts during an impeccable period of silence on 11th November here in school also turned to the bravery of our Armed forces past and present

2020 has been many things, it’s been very much business as usual in terms of Remembrance here at Montgomery.

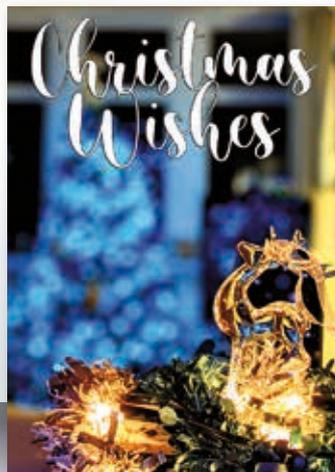
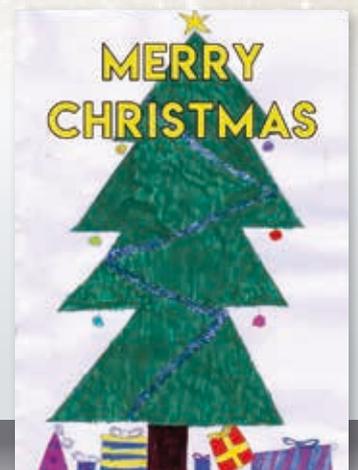
We will Never forget.





Cards for Kindness

This year's Christmas card competition has some extra meaning behind it this year as the winning images will be used to spread kindness of our students across the Fylde coast, and be used on our own Christmas cards to reduce the amount of people in care homes who don't receive any cards over the Christmas period. Age UK have reported figures that show 60 per cent of people living in care homes get no visitors at all.



Cards for Kindness is an initiative originally set up by Lancashire County Council in 2018 and this year's event commencing will start on December 1, in a bid to reduce loneliness by encouraging members of the community to send a card to a local care home. Every tutor group in school have completed a group card which will be sent to care homes across the Fylde Coast to try and spread some kindness this Christmas! Attached are the designs of cards which have been sent to local care homes.



Year 7

2020. A year that will never be forgotten and will go into the history books as the strangest, weirdest and 'quietest'. Yes, there's a couple of superlatives there but really, I don't think there are enough words to describe it. As Year 6s, you finished your primary school in a way that you never dreamed of and then started high school in a way you never dreamed of. That 'thing' we'd never even heard of in March, had taken over normality as we knew it. But we were going to remember 2020 for better reasons: the year you started Montgomery.

That first day when you were all dropped off outside the bike shed gates, I can only imagine what you were feeling: frightened, anxious and strange, yet mixed with excitement and enthusiasm of starting the next journey of your school life. You were soon to be met by Holden&Higgs, the protective enforcers of Year 7; there to serve, protect and uphold you and the corridors and classrooms of M Block. I must admit, it was strange meeting you all on the fire lines, rather than in the comfort of the assembly hall, something we can't do. With the help of all your group tutors, we quickly got you into your right lines, although even now some of you still need to work on your alphabet so you know where you're standing in the fire lines!!!

I think it's fair to say, you settled in fairly quickly and you adapted to the new systems and protocols that were put in place. I think I say 'Hands, Face and Space' quite regularly to remind you of the efforts of keeping each other safe and on the whole, you're very good. I'm sure I give out the least facemasks in year 7 as you're so organised...or is it the thought of spending even more time with me at break???

HHmmmm.

You've had to master different ways of learning and engaging too this year. Google Classroom, Hegarty Maths, Classcharts and of course SENECA. I'm sure I have your logins and passwords firmly etched in my brain and I know some of your surnames better than you!! On a serious note, I think you have coped remarkably well with the online learning that some of you have had to do and there is always plenty of work turned in. It's fantastic that since September, 22,298 ambition points have been earned by you too. Honestly, we have high hopes for you guys. I do also think your parents deserve some recognition too as trying to balance work, family and home learning is no easy feat! Let's hope that next year, some sense or normality resumes.

I'm glad that you have settled in so well and that I have had the opportunity to teach many of you too. I can already see that you are a wonderful group of students. Myself and Mr Higgs obviously talk about you every day and we count ourselves as lucky as having met some delightful young people. We are looking forward to the new year and watching you grow and mature even more. We often say that even on the gloomiest, wettest, coldest days (there are those superlatives again), meeting you in the morning on the gates, we are often greeted with lots of good mornings, infectious smiles and laughter. What more could we want???

A great start to Year 7 guys. 'Holden and Higgs' wish you and your families the happiest and safest of holidays. We'll see you in the new year looking refreshed, dapper (with your face masks) and ready to learn even more. Let's make 2021 an even better year and remember something I say daily to you all: "It costs nothing to be kind."

Best wishes, Miss Holden and Mr Higgs



Year 8



Well... we can finally say we have successfully completed the first school term of 2020 with a few bumps in the road, so to speak.

We've had pupils off at various times, numerous staff members having to isolate and many phone calls in relation to logging into the year 8 google classroom – DOH! However, we have done it! It has been a hard slog but we have succeeded, and I am proud of every single student in year 8.

When actually thinking about the changes and obstacles each student has overcome it is mind-blowing to see how they have adapted and grown. We have had national lockdowns, remote learning (being motivated to do this), the anxiety of returning to school, wearing their face masks, changes to the school day and many bouts of self-isolation. This leads me to one of my favourite quotes by the Icon that is Michael Jordan, "Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it" and this is exactly what we have done as a year group! So well done year 8.

This term, the year 8s have been completing all of their learning in E block. To me, this has been fabulous as it has felt like we have had our own "mini school" inside the biggest school in Blackpool. Fewer disruptions, fewer late to lessons (wandering) and, most of all, more focused learning. Mrs Chapman, Mr McMullen and I have been constantly getting our step count up to ensure that the corridors are clear between lessons and each classroom has a settled and focused learning environment.

The highlights for me as a Progress Manager this term have to be the amount of ambition points the year 8s have received as a year group, totalling over 22,000! WOW! The reading canon sessions are also a highlight of mine as it has been incredible to go around each form and see how engaged the students were while reading the book "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time". We look forward to start "The Diary of Ann Frank" after Christmas. Furthermore, Mr Byrne and Mrs Bach's STEAM and Poetry club has also been a highlight for me, seeing all the remarkable work that our students produce in their own time after school! WELL DONE! Lastly, I must mention my year 8A1 P.E. class! The amount of effort, determination, sweat, blood and tears I see each lesson is phenomenal! The lesson on the mini trampolines being one of my favourite (see picture), even though I could not walk for the next three days!

So that's all there is to it! A fabulous start to year 8 and still two more terms to go when we return after the New Year. Enjoy the Christmas break and make sure you all relax, spend time with loved ones and stay safe. Don't forget my favourite saying, "kindness spreads kindness"

Mrs Gilderdale



Year 9

Greetings from Mr Heyes (Year 9 Progress Manager)

What a rewarding, yet challenging term this has been for us all! Now that I am nearing the end of my first full term as Progress Manager I can honestly say that I am grateful for the opportunity to guide the students in the right direction in this very important year. All the students have responded fantastically despite the vast changes we have faced since September.

Normally at this time of year I would be writing about all of the upcoming events that Montgomery Academy's Drama department is due to host but obviously this year is very different to others and so instead, I am especially excited to highlight some of the fantastic achievements we have already seen in the year group despite these challenging times.

As we move forward into the academic year, we will all continue to strive to be the best we can be in everything we do. We will have a positive attitude in our lessons, we will demonstrate respect for those around us and we will behave in a way that makes ourselves and others proud.

Have a wonderful Christmas full of cheer!

Tutor Competitions

Every half term each tutor group competes in the 3 different categories of 'Best Attendance', 'Most Ambition Points' and 'Least Behaviour Points'. Last term the winners of these awards were Miss Mudge's 9A4 and Mrs Harrison's 9B3 tutor group. Well done to those students!

Zero Behaviour Points

The Year 9's clearly know how to impress their teachers as over 16,000 total ambition points have been awarded to the year group since September. What is even more impressive is that over 120 students in Year 9 have received zero behaviour points in their lessons, consistently demonstrating perfect behaviour! Each of these students will receive a well deserved letter of excellence sent home. Well done to those students!

Curriculum Achievement

This year, the year 9's have been working hard to maintain their learning even when self isolating at home. The efforts made by the students mean that we currently hold several records:

For Science, Year 9 have completed the following work on an online resource called Seneca:

- ✓ **23,051 sessions completed**
- ✓ **270,684 questions answered**
- ✓ **1469 hours and 13 minutes completed**

For Maths, the amount of questions answered correctly by the year group on Hegarty Maths is over 26,000! This is an incredible figure which is being led by Miss Mudge's tutor who has answered a total 4,509 questions correctly alone!

We also hold the record for the most logins on Classcharts which is used by the parents and students to see what homework has been set, what ambition points have been given and to track their behaviour.

WELL DONE!

This academic year is a very exciting one for the Year 9 students as it is the year in which they choose their GCSE subjects. Although the key information and dates are yet to be confirmed, it is important to encourage students to at least begin to think about their choices.

As you will be studying your GCSE subjects for a 2-year period it is important consider:

- What subjects are you performing well in?
- What subjects do you enjoy?
- What do you want to do as a career?
- What qualifications do you need for your future plans?





Year 10

It's been a difficult start to the term for Year 10. We've had pupils off at various times and people struggling to get logged on at home. Mr Benson and I have dealt with over one hundred and fifty new password requests, talked students and parents through logging on to Google Classroom and have also been working very hard to keep student and staff morale as high as possible.

Maths

A little like Marmite, it usually falls into the 'love' or 'hate' category. I know there are students who have struggled with completing maths work online, despite the helpful videos on Hegarty Maths. Luckily, the Montgomery Maths Department are full of helpful ideas and have started a homework club which is usually well attended. I have seen, first hand, the face of a student who "totally doesn't get it" turn into the face of one who "finally understands" and it's brilliant to see. Not only does it help students to catch up with 'accidentally' missed homework, but it builds the confidence of those who are striving to get a grasp of certain topics.



Science



We have had a similar experience in Science, with the Seneca homework directive leaping from strength to strength. Even students who are reluctant to complete their work, eventually do so and usually quicker than expected. It is very encouraging to see so many pupils getting their homework done and realising the importance that it carries.

English



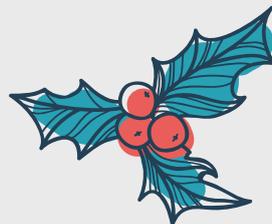
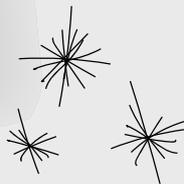
Students have been studying A Christmas Carol in English and, I can only speak for my own classes of course, seem to be engaging very well with the text and the symbolic meanings therein. Pupils seem to be taking in the main moral of the book; to treat people with respect and be kind and generous when you can. I think that is especially important during these trying times.

Personally, I think the new year will bring with it a new sense of hope that the darkest points of the year are past us and that we can move on to the last half of Year 10 with a new optimism, a refreshed will to work and the success that the students deserve.

All that is left to say is a very happy Christmas ("ya filthy animals!") and all the best for the new year. Stay safe and we'll see you in 2021.



Year 11



Year 11 have started their final year in High School, in a new O/T block bubble. I have been very impressed with the level of maturity in which they have gone about their business. Year 11 is always a stressful year in the best of times and this year in particular is proving to be a step beyond that. It's the unknown that is the sticking point... alas we have to soldier on knowing that come June/July time we have done the best we possibly can.

At the time of writing this (02/12/2020) we have spent 8 full weeks in school out of a possible 10, so we haven't done too bad. There are many schools throughout the country who have much more sporadic attendance than us. It is so very important that we continue to do our absolute best to get into school as much as possible and when we are in school to always give our best.

The uncertainty of exams is always with us, will we? won't we? how is it fair? Are they really going to happen? What is Boris playing at? - just some of the questions that I have fielded over the past few weeks. The only answer I can give is that we have to follow the

government guidelines and to date that is, exams ARE going to happen - a little later than usual (3 week delay) but, they are maintaining that they will commence in June 2021.

We have a busy two weeks before the Christmas holidays with our mocks, however when the holidays arrive, try to enjoy some rest time with the family, keep safe and always know that if there is anything at all we can help with just give us a shout.

Take care and God Bless
Mr McArdle and Miss Sharpe





Year 12



Good Luck
Everyone!



Monday 7th December after school saw the start of Year 12 Certificate week. Former students returning back to Montgomery for one last time to collect their GCSE and BTEC certificates. Normally we would have put on a big event – parents, entertainment etc but sadly the COVID situation has seen to that. It didn't diminish the appreciation and smiles from the students, who will all remember their time at Montgomery with lots of happy times.



MERRY
Christmas

WISHING ALL OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND WE LOOK FORWARD
TO THE EXCITING YEAR AHEAD IN 2021.