

@ The Cedars



**THE CEDARS
SCHOOL**



THURSDAY 7TH MAY 2020

DEAR PARENTS

I hope you are all keeping well. Music is the theme of this week's bulletin and much of what I wrote last week about beauty in art applies equally to music; in fact some of us find that music is an even more effective gateway to beauty than art.

Cedars Music

Music is a significant area of focus in our plans for development next year. While we await the improved facilities that the new building will bring us, we have decided to move the main music teaching area to the heart of the main building. This will provide larger and more comfortable surroundings in which to rehearse, as well as a more prominent venue for lunchtime recitals.

It is hard to overstate the importance of music within a school. Through curriculum music in Years 7 and 8, we endeavour to lead boys to an appreciation and love of music while simultaneously enhancing their cultural literacy and ensuring that they are well prepared for the GCSE course. Music is above all a practical activity, however, and our aim is for as many boys as possible to take part in making music. Indeed, there is evidence that learning a musical instrument has a 'multiplying' effect on children's lives, helping them to succeed in other endeavours in the same way that reading does. I would therefore urge you to encourage your son to take up an instrument in September if they are not already learning one. At The Cedars we are committed to providing teachers for all instruments so it doesn't matter what they choose to play.

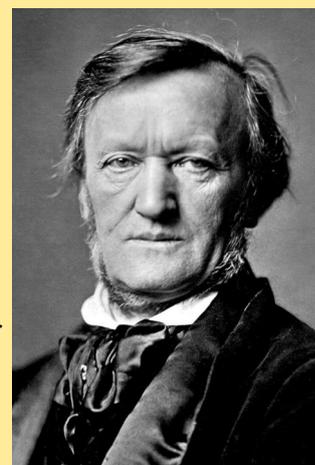
Another dimension to practical music is singing and we currently have three choirs in the school: Cedars Voices, the Schola and the Year 7 Choir. All boys are required to sing during Year 7 and many choose to continue afterwards. There are several opportunities for boys to perform during the school year with evening concerts at least termly as well as lunchtime performances.

'Lockdown' Music

Opportunities for making music with others are rather limited in the current situation but I would like to invite any musicians among our 2020 intake, to record themselves playing a piece to include in the next bulletin.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH RICHARD WAGNER

Wilhelm Richard Wagner, (born May 22, 1813, Leipzig [Germany] — died February 13, 1883, Venice, Italy) was a German dramatic composer and theorist whose operas and music had a revolutionary influence on the course of Western music, either by extension of his discoveries or reaction against them.



Among his major works are: *The Flying Dutchman* (1843), *Tannhäuser* (1845), *Lohengrin* (1850), *Tristan und Isolde* (1865), *Parsifal* (1882), and his great tetralogy, *The Ring of the Nibelung* (1869–76).

Listening: I highly recommend the following links as an introduction to Wagner's style:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqk4bcnBqls>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8k4ID9por6c>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRmCEGHt-Ok>

Dr Bonnici

It needn't be long and don't worry if it is less than perfect; the main thing is to share some music that makes you feel happy, relaxed or energised. If you send it in a suitable format to Mrs Sales at sales@thecedarsschool.org.uk, we'll see if we can squeeze it in next week's edition.

Have a great week,

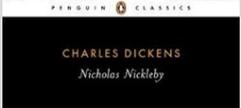
Robert Teague,
Headmaster

I am currently reading...



Nicholas Nickleby by Charles Dickens

I vaguely remember watching and enjoying a BBC adaptation of this third novel of Charles Dickens when I was a child and I have now decided to read it for myself. I am about 2/3 of the way through and it really is a gripping read. In typical Dickens fashion, there are lots of characters and plenty of humour. Teachers often seem to get a bad press in Dickens novels and *Nickleby* is no exception: by the far the most unpleasant character in a hotly contested field is Mr Wackford Squeers, headmaster of Dotheboys School in Yorkshire.



Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is studied for GCSE. If any students are thinking of tackling his writing for the first time, *Nicholas Nickleby* is fine but *Great Expectations* may be a better introduction to his writing. **Mr Teague**

A Little History of the World by E.H. Gombrich

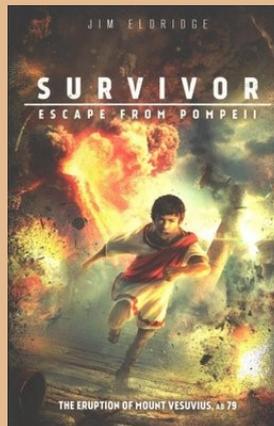
I think this book effortlessly reflects humanity's endeavours over a period of time. Starting with the coarse life of cavemen, it then eases into the times when Greece, Egypt and Phoenicia were the dominant powers. *A Little History of the World* then glides through the Romans, thereafter it shows the Dark Ages – in depth. After that the book splits, diving into the Renaissance era and the Asian historical aspect.

This book is bright and colourful and is an action-packed thriller. However, what I like most about it is that every single war, battle, feud, marriage, and agreement the book tells us about, really took place, in historical times. It is a great work of non-fiction. It details the events of history in order, so it is very informative and builds historical knowledge. For me, the ambitious vocabulary and informative structure conjures an image of how the author thinks and works.

One of the many few things I disliked is how the book doesn't delve deeper into The First World War, The Second World War and The Cold War, as I think these conflicts moulded what Modern Society is today. If these three topics were included, I think *A Little History of the World* would be the perfect book about the history of the world. I think this book displays a real and detailed image of world events, dating from when brutes holding clubs walked the planet, to the German occupation of Alsace-Lorraine.

Escape Pompeii by Jim Eldridge

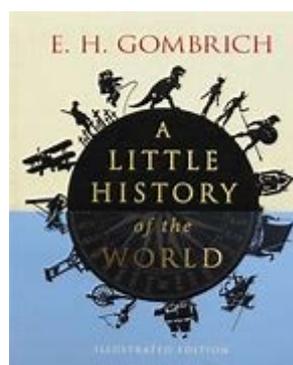
In my opinion, *Escape Pompeii* is a remarkable book and deserves reading from anyone interested in what happened in 79 AD to the people of Pompeii. The book follows a 12-year-old boy that lives with his father in Pompeii who is the only person in the city to not believe in the Gods. In the end Marcus and his father escape the devastating event along with others they found on the way.



I liked the book because it made me feel as if I was there and I somewhat witness the mind-blowing events that happened during the time. The story really gripped me and made me realise how frightening it would have been, especially before all our modern technology, as now we are able to predict up to several months prior to a volcano eruption. My favourite part is when Marcus loses his father and then finds other children in their house who he persuades to follow him to escape. Eventually they give in but then one of them falls in a hole made by the powerful Volcano and Marcus rescues her after nearly falling in himself. As this chapter ended in a cliff-hanger, I couldn't wait to read what happens next.

There wasn't much I disliked about the book as it gripped you with fear and excitement and you just couldn't wait to read to figure out what happened next. To round things up, I think *Escape Pompeii* is an extravagant book and deserves to be read by everyone. I believe it is a fantastic book, especially for those who love adventure and plot twists, and I would rate it an 8 out of 10. This is because although it is a great read, I wouldn't read it more than twice as it would be too predictable.

Ismail Ahmed



I would recommend it to all twelve-year olds, to mid-teenagers. Out of ten stars, I rate *A Little History of the World* 8.8/10.

Luke Milledge