



Edwinstree Middle School



A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
March 2018

As a Christian school, we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone. As a community, we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.

Thank goodness for spring. After snowmen and snow play all last week, I cannot wait for the first signs of spring and the arrival of the daffodils in the grounds of Edwinstree!

J K Rowling Day at Edwinstree

Our students are given significant and frequent opportunities to lead events within the school. We really believe that our students are capable of greatness, and we wish to capitalise on the independence and determination that they arrive with from their first school. So with that in mind, our students were asked to consider which female British role model would they like to celebrate and why.

Three of our Year 7 students, Sophie, Tabitha and Benji proposed, J K Rowling as our role model for this year and the school agreed. So on the last day of half term, the students at Edwinstree celebrated the famous author in style. Our three intrepid students, with minimal guidance from the Head, created a day answering the following questions:

- How did J K Rowling use her adversity and troubles to create the story of Harry Potter and explore the Christian value of 'endurance'?
- What makes a great 'character' in fiction? Can they become inspired enough to create their own?
- Why are her magical creatures so fascinating?
- What is the science of potions, bubbles and blasts?(Any excuse to explode things is Science is a must!)
- What is J K Rowling's 'Lumos' charity about and why is it so special to her?
- What is their 'wonderful', what makes them unique and special? What can they learn from J K?

The students were divided into the Hogwarts' houses of Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin and worked in tutor groups for the day, Year 5 alongside Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8. We also took the opportunity to dress up in J K Rowling inspired themes. Down below are two Dumbledores and a dementor! No, that is not the Head teacher!



We found out that JK Rowling is truly inspiring, and someone who could teach us about endurance, thankfulness, making the most from awful beginnings and fighting to support the most vulnerable in society: a truly Christian message. If you have not had a chance to hear her Harvard speech, we recommend it, it can be found on YouTube. Next year we return to inspirational men in Britain – any ideas?

Thank you again to the Buntingford Film Society, who continue to support our reward afternoons for our House competition winners. Quin House took time out from school to visit the cinema on Friday 9th March, after successfully winning our 'Service' competition. Having spent four weeks campaigning for a safer exit from school and helping students leave appropriately and calmly, they deserved some fun! Watch out, if you are out and about at 1pm on Friday, it is becoming a tradition to sing hymns when we are marching down to the cinema!

Year 5 September intake

We are really pleased to announce that our initial numbers for Year 5 in September have increased significantly with the school returning to a four class intake. This is positive news and testament to the growing confidence the local community has in the school. We are working hard to continue to improve; we look forward to our visit from Ofsted to confirm our Good status, then onwards and upwards to Outstanding.

World Book Day

We hope you forgive us, but Edwinstree took the opportunity to celebrate World Book Day the day after everyone else. Officially known to us as World Book Day plus one, it didn't stop huge numbers of students taking the opportunity to celebrate their favourite characters by dressing up in costume.



We were delighted to see such a wide variety of characters from a huge range of books. Despite the disruption caused by the Beast from the East, everyone had a wonderful day!

Year 8 Show Racism the Red Card Day

Congratulations to our Year 8 students who worked alongside the 'Show Racism the Red Card' team. Students explored what racism is and how it can appear in modern day society and what we can do to reduce it. On exiting, the professionals stopped to remark on how delightful our students were to teach and how thoughtful their responses were to the day. Their growing maturity shone through during each session.



Volunteer Readers

We are always looking for volunteer readers to help support students with their reading. If you are willing to give up thirty minutes a week, we would love to hear from you. Please be aware that in line with our Safeguarding Policy, all volunteers will be required to undergo a DBS check, prior to working at the school. For further information, please contact the school office on 01763-271446 or via email:

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

We do hope you have a lovely spring, and don't forget if you are in the mood for a singalong, Friday hymns is well worth a visit at Edwinstree. Everyone who has joined us, has had their spirits lifted in time for the weekend. If you would like to visit us, please just email the school office.