

The Way of the Will

A Message from the Headmaster

Jason Fletcher

The Way of the Will is an idea that Charlotte Mason wrote about often. To her, a child with a 'strong will' is one who has the ability to choose what is right and good over what they desire. She gave plenty of practical advice for parents to help their children in this area, but ultimately believed that it was important to give children opportunities to exercise and strengthen their wills - to get in the habit of doing what is right. 'The passions, the desires, the appetites, are there already, and the will gathers force and vigour only as it is exercised in the repression and direction of these'. Her pre-modern use of the word 'repression' highlights a gap between her time and ours. Our culture values self-expression, even self-indulgence, more than self-mastery. The Way of the Will is more relevant now than ever.

This past half-term and, in fact, the past year has presented our children with many opportunities to exercise and strengthen their wills. Without the usual external scaffolding of the school day supporting them - the carefully structured daily routine, hours of in-person contact with teachers, the encouragement of working alongside peers - they have had to make choices between what they want to be doing and what they ought to be doing; to daily choose things that are hard but right.

Endeavoring to listen to a teacher on a screen, complete work independently, be kind to family members in close quarters, and go outside for

exercise in the wintry weather are just a few of the daily decisions our children face during this time; all of which require an active choice of will.

When we return after half-term, we will have at least two more weeks of Learning at Home. Our children will be faced with these same challenges. Some days will be harder than others, and some will have more failures than successes, but take heart in small victories. My hope is that when we are back at school again - and we can look back at a distance on what has been accomplished - we will see how these lockdown challenges have helped our children to grow. The goal of a life self-directed toward that which is right and good is worth the struggle.

I'd like to express my thanks for all of the hard work of parents and staff who have given of themselves so tirelessly to support Learning at Home over the past six weeks, and to the pupils themselves, for the way they have adapted to and embraced these challenging times.



Debate Spotlight

In January, the Heritage Debate Club placed second in their heat during the English-Speaking Union's Schools' Mace competition – one of the oldest and largest debating competitions for schools in England.

During the competition, Maisie Elliott (Y8) and Livia Lucato-Hadeler (Y9) competed against area teams consisting mainly of Year 10 and 11 pupils from St Benedict's school, The Perse School, and County Upper School, and ended in a very close second only to St Benedict's. Heritage Year 9 pupil and team member Millie Sanghera was also instrumental in preparing for the debate, and was part of the analytical thinking that made the victory possible.

Debate club coach Rachel Mariner, says 'It's been a privilege to watch them wrestle with ideas and articulate their thinking. I really liked seeing their ambition unfold and the hard work and thought that went into serving it.' Livia and Maisie share their thoughts about the experience.

Maisie Elliott



The Mace Cup taught me a lot and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I find debating a way to change the world and tell people about my views, even if it only reaches a few people. I want to change the world for good. Debating is also fun, and I love the team I am on. Livia and Millie are wonderful debaters and we work well as a team. I enjoy our practices and I learn a lot. Rachel is a brilliant teacher: she encourages us and helps us to achieve our potential. Competing against another school felt strange, because we had only practiced against each other but there were several new arguments that we had to address. It was an enriching experience and I would love to do it again. I could not have done it without my team!

Livia Lucato-Hadeler

I loved doing to debate on 14th January 2021. The debate was an amazing experience. Going into the Mace competition I learnt so much. My vocabulary was extended, I also learned how to work closely as a team. Before the debate I was able talk to my partner, Maisie, and we perfected our speeches ready to up against County Upper School, who were sadly unable to attend so thankfully The Perse stepped in and debated us on the same motion that we had prepared. Debating against The Perse was scarier than I imagined, I was really nervous before my debate but while I speaking, I was in my own thoughts and all I had to do was state my points and rebut to proposition's arguments. Being the youngest team by 3-5 years was definitely nerve-racking but it was an amazing experience and win. I recommend debating to everyone.



Birthday Note from a Hero

Anyone who knows Year 5 pupil Annabelle Scarlata knows that she is a big admirer of Sir David Attenborough, the famous natural historian and documentarian. She has watched and been inspired by many of his documentaries about the natural world. A few years ago, Annabelle wrote to Sir David to let him know how much she admires him, and that she wants to do her part to help save the planet. To her surprise, he wrote her a letter in response; a memento that she now keeps next to her bed. Recently, Annabelle celebrated a birthday. Little did she know that her grandmother had written to Sir David, appealing (as only a grandmother can) for a birthday card to her granddaughter, saying it would be the best gift she could receive. Imagine Annabelle's surprise when a photo arrived for her birthday, signed by Sir David himself! As you might guess, this treasured keepsake from her personal hero is now safely preserved in a frame.



Winter Words

Isobel Burden

Infant and Junior Teacher

Each Friday, the Year 4 class and I learn a new winter word during the morning register. Here are some of the words we've learned so far. See if you can work them into your vocabulary too!

Apricity: The warmth of the sun on a winter's day. This is one of Robert MacFarlane's Words of the Day. He is a local Cambridge author and logophile.

Cat-ice: Ice from which the water has receded, leaving air-bubble patterns and a thickness which could only support a light-footed cat. This is a term found in Arthur Ransome's 'Winter Holiday'.

Fern frost: The beautiful window patterns formed by frost when the outside is freezing but the inside is warm and humid.

Hoar frost: From the Old English for old man, this is the 'hairy frost' formed when water vapour hits an object which is already frozen and ice crystals form immediately.

Primaveral: The very first days of Spring.

Snow-broth: A Shakespearean word for melted snow; he used it as well as 'cold-blooded' for someone's temperament.



We're living in a dystopia!

Evelyn Strachan

Year 9-11 English Teacher, Head of English

Technology is taking over our lives, our time outdoors is being limited, and the government have an unusual amount of control over us. Sound familiar? Sounds like a dystopia!

As we were cast back into another lockdown in January it seemed fitting that our Year 9 class were going to be studying some dystopian literature this half-term. This genre has become very popular in Young Adult fiction in recent years, with many of our student body enjoying the

'Divergent' series and 'The Hunger Games' trilogy. Our plan was to dip into some of the classic American and English dystopian texts of the 20th century that have influenced them, and as we have been reading it has been difficult not to see the strange parallels with our current situation.

Having read Ray Bradbury's 'Fahrenheit 451' I asked the class to write a magazine article in response, but also to reflect on what aspects of today's society might seem dystopian. I wanted to share with you some of their work.

If you are afraid, you are not alone. With new and stricter laws being enforced every day and more risk of being infected everyone should be scared. Our lives have a dark cloud over them and we need to stand united to take it down. Forget about me, myself and I and remember we and us. In these dystopian days let us remember to switch on the light, help each other and hope for lighter days ahead.

Roads, paths, shops, libraries are all empty. No one is socialising anymore. We are forced to stay in our houses. It is against the law to meet up with anyone. If you do, you would be fined £500! Here is an interview with Tony Jackson, a shop keeper: 'Wow, I can't believe how weird our world is, how dystopian it is even this interview is strange. I'm wearing a mask and gloves and staying two meters away from everyone.' Yes Tony Jackson, our world is very odd.

The government is forcing us to stay indoors and follow their rules. It has taken months for everything to spiral so out of control as it is now. The violence. The disasters. The viruses. The failure of leadership. The rising lunacy in ordinary citizens. We have entered an era of desperation - like the ones we have read about our whole lives.

With coronavirus, climate change and modern technology shaping our future; us humans don't know what 'ordinary' is. How can we differentiate between the days? Monday feels just like Friday and so does Saturday feel like any other day. It's not just coronavirus locking us down, it's also modern technology sucking us in. Controlling our lives today by feeding our minds with fake news, and lies versus reality.

Look at our world now. Everyone forced inside to protect themselves from a disease that has been spreading rapidly. This time the bad guy is a virus and there is no good guy to save us all.

Dystopian literature has always been written to shine a light on the society we now live in, to question how we live and what we live for. I hope that our study and discussion over these texts has prompted such reflection. Maybe this unique time we are living in now will inspire some of our students to be writers in the future.

Extracurricular Clubs Continue

Extracurricular clubs and activities are alive and well, even during this time of lockdown.

- Senior Christian Union: This half term the CU has been asking the question, 'What is God really like?' as they read and discuss the book of Exodus. Around a dozen pupils from all Senior years take part regularly, and all are welcome!
- Senior Chess Club: Mr Appleyard sets up online matches for players of all abilities who are looking to sharpen their game and have some fun.
- Senior Photography Club: Mr Hulett, a photographer with years of experience, is focusing on the basics to help budding photographers improve the quality of their photos, looking at lighting and composition amongst other things.
- Online Choir: Through the magic of technology, Mrs Zurcher has made it possible for singers to join together online to make beautiful music.
- Strava Club: To encourage outdoor physical activity away from our desks and computer screens, Mrs Pluke is encouraging staff, along with pupils aged 13 and over, to share their endeavors with each other using Strava, a free mobile phone fitness tracker.

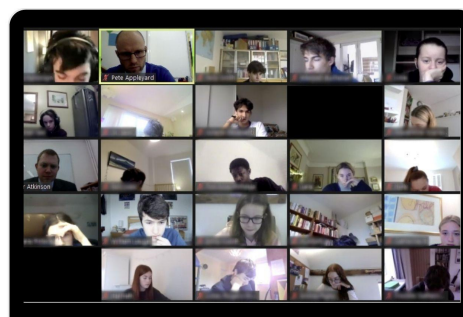
Strava Club Helps Pupils and Staff Get Moving

The Strava Club has seen participation among pupils from every permitted year group, along with four staff members. Cara Gatiss (Y11) has rocketed to the top of the leaderboard, despite Mrs Pluke's attempts to catch her by braving freezing temperatures, floods and the Beast from the East. Also active in the club are seasoned triathletes Maxwell Buchanan (Y11), Holly Webb (Y11), and Nathaniel Scarlata (Y10), with Tobiloba Anifalaje (Y11) posting some early morning runs before school even starts. Emilie Lowe and Lukas Rogers-Steinsson are representing Years 8 and 9, respectively, and rumour has it that Silas Wright (Y8) is chomping at the bit to join when he turns 13 next month. In addition to Mrs Pluke, Mrs Buchanan, Mrs Lowe and Mrs Scarlata have also added some friendly staff rivalry to the mix (despite Mrs Scarlata's assertion that she is not competitive). Staff and pupils looking for additional motivation to get out on the road – especially when curling up in front of the TV sounds much more appealing – can join at any time:

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/heritateschool>

Intermediate Maths Challenge

44 pupils from Years 9 through 11 recently took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The challenge was completed online, but Mr Appleyard and Mr Atkinson were available on Zoom to invigilate and resolve any issues. Well done to all of the pupils who participated.



Year 8s Practice Royal ♥ Correspondence

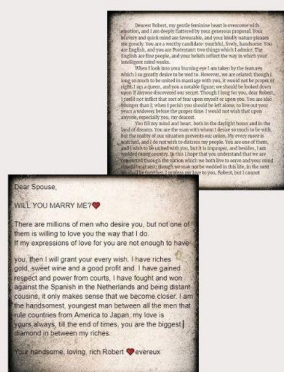
Year 8 got creative when learning about Queen Elizabeth I, as part of their study of the Tudors. One group of pupils were assigned the role of one of Elizabeth's suitors: Philip II, Francis Duke of Alencon, Charles II, Prince Eric of Sweden, Robert Dudley and Robert Devereux.

They each wrote a letter to Elizabeth, doing their best to woo her, while another group were asked to write Elizabeth's response to their assigned suitors.

The pupils tackled the assignment with a spirit of fun, peppering over-the-top romantic language with historical fact.

During a Zoom session, each pair then read their letters to each other, to the great amusement of their classmates. Mrs Wren herself thoroughly enjoyed the exchange between each of the characters, saying, 'I think the interactions were the best part – it almost made me forget we were not in school.' Also, some of our Year 8s may have a future in writing historical romance!

Elizabeth to Robert Dudley: 'Your previous marriage to dear Amy Robsart is another matter that may create an issue. I remember the happy occasion of your wedding so very well, yet she unfortunately was killed in 1560 when she slipped down a flight of stairs. In fact, she died at a rather convenient time, just as rumours had begun to fly about you annulling your marriage to her in order for you to wed myself instead. 'Twas so convenient, you must allow me to admit, that some became suspicious, perhaps guessing that there had been foul play at work. Do not think for a moment that I believe it, Robert!'



Robert Devereaux to Elizabeth: 'If my expressions of love for you are not enough to have you, then I will grant your every wish. I have riches, gold, sweet wine and a good profit. I have gained respect and power from courts, I have fought and won against the Spanish in the Netherlands and being distant cousins, it only makes sense that we become closer. I am the hatchling, youngest man between all the men that rule countries from America to Japan. My love is yours always, till the end of times, you are the biggest diamond in between my riches.'



Elizabeth to Robert Devereaux: 'When I look into your burning eye I am taken by the features which I so greatly desire to be wed to. However, we are related; though I long so much to be united in marriage with you, it would not be proper or right. I am a queen, and you a notable figure; we should be looked down upon if anyone discovered our secret.'



Year 6 Haiku

These haiku poems written by Year 6 are lovely to read, and together make a beautiful collage.

Squirrels occupy trees
as birds migrate to warm lands
hearts and homes are warm

crisp snow on the ground
sun shines on frosty landscape
what a special scene.

The grass is so green
All the flowers are sprouting
Winter has now left.

A damp, green garden.
Feeding off the dripping rain -
Waiting for the spring

Best friend You Could Have
Trotting Along Beside You
Caring about you ,Dogs

Horse galloping fast,
Over the hills, like the wind
Through the lush green grass

Swimming gracefully
underneath the crashing waves
What a tranquil life

Thick fur, white as snow
nose like velvet, shaggy mane
See you soon pony.

The rain never stops
Icicles are everywhere
Drafts control the streets

Lovely grey squirrel
bounces through broken branches
Hungry for acorns

The blossoming plant,
always vibrant shines
with a deep full breeze.

Summer is has started
The days are getting longer
It is very warm

The waves are nearing,

There is time, it is time,

Now come, we can surge.

winter cold mountains

resting in the night sky
the clear rivers shining

Sharp, cold air slaps me
Snowy, icy, frosty. Sleek.
All the trees are bare

Rain glistens on grass
Like crystals sent from the sky
Smell soil in the air

Look at the river
Through a snow covered valley
Soon the ice will thaw

Misty breeze outside / Always cold brother
Condensation on windows
Nice and warm inside