



Newsletter

28th June 2021

The Karen Moore Prize for Creative Writing

There were over 40 entries to this year's competition. Karen Moore and Helen Karakashian from the Droitwich Arts Network (who generously sponsor the prize of £100) judged the first round and they chose four entries to send to Anna Fern, a producer at ITV working specifically to develop new talent in the Drama Department.

Anna, who was once among our students, judged that the best entry came from **Hope Rose**, who is in Year 11. Hope will keep the very lovely trophy for a year as well as receiving a cheque for £100.

The other three finalists are **Mathew Oliver in Year 8**, **Annabel Brannan in Year 9** and **Charlie Hunter in Year 12**. Anna, Karen and Helen all agreed that these were strong entries and deserved recognition. They will each receive a certificate and a £10 gift voucher.

The prizes will be formally presented in due course.

This is Hope's winning entry:

The Beautiful Game: a poem by Hope Rose.

Down, down the number on the scale,
My fingers, my face grow pallid and pale.
The feeling of superficial validation is welcome and warm,
Yet my body is cold, and so I am torn.

On whether to carry on with my irate race to perfection,
The conquest to beauty, the divine resurrection,
Of long-lost confidence in myself,
For if I'm delicate enough who cares about 'health'?

The beautiful game,



As months pass by, I grow weary and thin,
But brittle bones are the price I pay for a life without horrid chagrin,
Of playground taunts,
Who cares if I'm gaunt?

The beautiful game,

Counting, counting calories,
Of toothpaste and butter and bread.
For the mere mention of carbohydrates fills me with dread, repugnant litanies swarming in my head,
If I am getting lighter, then why does every step I take feel like lead?

'Nothing tastes better than skinny feels.' as a wonderful monster once said,
I recite this mantra as I go to bed,
The emptiness in my stomach does not deter me,
But rather it comforts, for if I am idle then I am free.

You see,
It's a twisted euphoria, feeling hungry and ravenous,
A feeling of glorious sorcery,
Abara cadaverous!

The beautiful game,

Green, green tea.

The murky liquid settles in a vacant stomach,



The feeling of phantom fullness providing temporary relief,
For I know it will dissipate soon as I grind down my teeth,
Like a punishment for even hoping for a scintilla of sustenance,
Self-loathing thoughts I hold in abundance.

The beautiful game,

Breaking, breaking break.

The hollow chasm in my heart cemented with chocolate and crisps and cake,
Out of control, spiraling, unmanageable.
As I cram my mouth with anything tangible.

And wait for the merciless guilt to arrive - dripping with mordant mirth.
It's gravity as sharp as dagger's, weight as small as the earth.
Then begins the purge of it all, grotesque and vile,
Until it is nothing more but vomit and bile.

The beautiful game,

Seeing, seeing stars,
As wobbly knees walk a thousand planets,
Mercury, Venus and Mars.
Constellations etched into my torpid shape,
Connecting the sullen rivets of my ribs - wanton mouth agape.

The beautiful game,



I am not the only monster on this ruthless crusade,
The everlasting pilgrimage, the laborious charade.
Forums and chats are filled to the brim,
With girls like me who long to be dainty and slim.

The beautiful game,

I am sick, I am ill, I know this and yet,
I am not occupied with one ounce of regret,
The answers yes!
If you asked me to play once more,
Because if I'm not playing, then what am I living for?

The beautiful,

Beautiful,

Shame.



Stars of the Week

Year 10

Thanks to the efforts of our Year 10 students, the Year 9 Hair and Beauty taster session this week was a great success. **Stevie Andrews**, **Lakeshia Perry**, **Alicia-Mai Bradbury** and **Emily Eversham** did an excellent job in showing the Year 9 students some of the techniques they have learnt. The girls' behaviour, appearance, and communication were exceptional.

The Y10 RSL Music Performance Group all gave their first group performances last week in preparation for their final performances in Y11. This was the first time they had performed to their peers and they did very well, overcoming their nerves and making some outstanding first attempts.

Year 9

Mrs Rees-Boughton praises the excellent effort seen from 9RC and 9LC this week in Maths, whilst learning about Pythagoras' Theorem. **Jimmi Hughes**, **Corey Fincher**, **Nia Christoforou**, **Hermione Bolton-Warner**, **Molly Still**, **Ellie Dawson**, **Kayleigh Jones**, **Holly Bourne**, **Will Matthews** and **Jaxon Tandy** have worked exceptionally hard this week.

Year 8

The past two weeks have been the first chance that members of Year 8 have had to try keyboards in Music this academic year. Congratulations to them for their efforts and progress.

And finally...

This bumblebee was rescued by some students outside the science block. A thirsty fellow by the looks of things!

