

# MENDEL TIMES

May 2015  
Year 11, number 2

## INTRODUCTION

Dear Students,

As we approach the summer holidays it is always important to take the time to look back at what we have achieved over the school year, and believe me, there have been many highlights.

We are particularly proud of Lotte Bootz 3EG who won the national speaking competition for our TTO department, something we have never won before. The jury was impressed by her speech and her public speaking prowess, which included an impressive ability to answer the difficult questions she was asked.

Before we really can enjoy our summer break we have a few more very important things waiting for us. The results of candidates in the Cambridge exams continues to improve and at the time of writing our fourth year candidates are preparing for and sitting their CAE exams. On Friday the 29th of May the European Platform, also known as

EP, will visit us to evaluate our TTO programme.

In the first week of June the first year students will take part in the English sports day, whilst, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, our 3TTO pupils will receive their Mendelcollege Junior School certificates and make Mendel history by becoming the first group to embark on the IB course in 4TTO.

And last but not least we will welcome our 86 new TTO students for the first time during their introduction programme in June.

Let me conclude by saying that the TTO teachers and I are all very proud of your individual as well as your class achievements. You have shown perseverance, enthusiasm and great sportsmanship.

Enjoy your well-earned summer holidays.

Mrs Doek

## DUTCH CHAMPION JUNIOR SPEAKING CONTEST 2015



## SIX MONTHS

After six months at school, this is what students of 1EGA3 think:

This is a very great school, everybody has a lot of fun. We have good teachers. We get very good lessons, but the most fun sure is Physical Education. Some lessons are a bit boring. But I really like our school. I think we have a

very friendly class and we are all friends.

**Wolf**

How is school so far?

I really enjoy my time at school so far. At the beginning of the year I thought TTO was very hard but you get used to it so fast.

**Jytte**

My time at Mendel is really good! At first I had to get used to the big school and so many people. I expect lots of good years here.

**Michelle**

I like English because Ms Veldhuijzen is just a really good and funny teacher. I also enjoy Maths, Geo, and Bio because it is interesting and easy.

**Joost**

On 11 December 2EA1 made their own Christmas cards for students from a school in Neumarkt, Germany.

In their cards the students gave information about the way we celebrate Christmas in the Netherlands and wrote a season's wish for the German students.

Unfortunately we didn't receive the German cards before the Christmas break, but our students were still very happy to get their card in January.

Here are some stories from the students themselves.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS



Our class, 2EA1, did a post-card exchange. We sent Christmas cards to a class in Germany and they sent cards to us. We told each other about how we celebrate Christmas, what we eat and what kind of presents we would like to get. Some of the German girls even gave their phone number so we can call them and keep in touch. I think it was a very enjoyable exchange.

**Jade**

We made Christmas cards for a German class and sent them to Germany. It was much fun to make the cards. I wrote kind things on my card. Then we got the cards from Germany. I was excited to see what kind of card I had gotten. In Germany they celebrate Christmas with their family and talk about many different things. They also exchange presents. The card that I got was beautiful, it was made by Dilara.

**Sophie**



*'...our students were still very happy...'*



## THE GREAT MENDEL BAKE OFF PART 2

After last year's success a follow-up to Mendel's first TTO baking contest ever was inevitable. The theme, like last year, being British baking, whether it was a true original English product or a more typically Dutch product with an English topping.



After a bit of encouraging over 40 pupil from 1 – 5 TTO participated, a nice mixture of girls and boys. On Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of January all the participants had to hand in their homemade products. The jury (Mr Heijmans, Mr Asses and Mrs Newman) couldn't wait any longer. Everything had to be carefully watched, sniffed and of course tasted. It was very difficult to decide which cake, pie, brownie, muffin, shortbread etc.. was the best, since all products were so beautifully made and so lovingly presented.



After more than 3 hours the jury came to a decision. This year's winner of the challenge cup (the golden rolling pin) and the high tea at Hofje Zonder Zorgen was won by Jade Paus and her British pound cake with rainbow filling. Besides this first price there were also three other winners who were almost just as good.



Hopefully we'll have just as many eager contestants in next year's episode.

For these and more pictures please visit the website <http://www.mendelcollege.nl/fotogalerij/mendel-bake-off>

Mrs Newman



## MENTORUITJE 1EGA3



*'They are on the walls, under your feet, everywhere...'*

Every class can have a little trip to do something fun. We decided to go to Bounz. That is a room full of trampolines, even against the wall! First we didn't know if we could go there, but finally there were enough parents to bring us.

It was very exciting! There were teachers who taught us a few cool things. It felt like ten minutes but it was one hour.

After that we went to the McDonalds. It was delicious!

The whole thing was just great!

### **Marloes**

When we had to think about our mentor trip, Inès came up with Bounz. That was a great idea. We went to Beverwijk by car, be-

cause some classmates organised that.

It was amazing. We bounced, did work-shops, bounced, drank, bounced, bounced and bounced. O, sorry, I forgot to say we bounced. After all the bouncing we went to the Mac. It was delicious and my afternoon was fully complete!

### **Olivier**

For our mentoruitje, as we call it, we went to Bounz. It was fun, tiring and even a little nerve-wracking. Bounz is a place where people go for exercise, but also just for fun. It is filled with trampolines. They are on the walls, under your feet, everywhere except above your head, obviously. It was tons of fun, since first of all

the people who were "teaching" us were super-buff and second of all we played Dodgeball at the end. It was boys against girls, which wasn't really fair since there are 20 boys and only 7 girls in our class, but the teachers were on our team so that was OK.

After that we went to MacDonalds, and I don't need to explain what that was like, because come on: it's MacDonalds!

### **Sasha**

**Mrs Bonn** wishes to thank all parents who drove us back and forth.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CPE CANDIDATES



### STUDIUM GENERALE

Wednesday the fourth of March from 13:30 to 15:30 the TTO classes 3-5 went to the studium generale. First, we had to pick 2 speakers from a list, which we had received beforehand. I chose Anne and Stefan, "Lord of the bagels" and "How to turn off the internet." First I went to Anne and she talked about old English, how it resembles Frisian and how it came to be. She talked also about English writers, Shakespeare for example. Secondly I went to Stefan with his talk on how to turn off the internet. He first explained why he had chosen this title, he had read an interview in which one man explained the other that we would never

be overrun by robots. This is because you can turn them off with one click. The interviewer then asked, grinning: 'but then, how do you turn off the internet?' Secondly Stefan told us a bit how the internet works and the steps it takes for a webpage to be shown on your screen (a lot!) When he was done talking we had to work on our own webpage in html.

#### **Rick 3 TTO**

More on pages 8, 9 and 10.



## JUNIOR SPEAKING CONTEST 2015

It all started when Miss Korstanje told us about the speech we had to make. The person with the best speech would be able to go to the regional rounds of the Junior speaking contest. Of course I wanted to have a high mark, and the idea of participating in the regionals sounded great to me. The theme of the Junior Speaking contest this year was 'Too much of a good thing'. I immediately thought of electrical devices, which are very useful, but they are becoming too much of a good thing. The speeches needed to contain; an introduction, a clear structure, signposting and a conclusion linked to the introduction. We were given marks for all the criteria above and for presentation and relevance. Then Miss Korstanje had to choose three pupils who were able to participate in the Regional Rounds. She chose Madelief, Sjoerd and me. We practiced our speech a couple of times, and got tips from the teachers (Miss Korstanje, Mr Hunter and Mr Asses). Then after a hard decision I was chosen to go to the regional rounds. Lotte was chosen from the third year students to

give her speech.

We went to the regionals with a lot of 'supporters', and I took Iris and Sjoerd from my class. We went to a high school in Noord-Holland, where the regionals took place. There were a lot of second and third year students with all their supporters, so the room was filled with people. I was very nervous before I had to go on stage, but once I was on stage that slowly faded away. After my speech was finished I had to answer questions from the jury panel, which consisted of teachers from that school.

When break was over it was Lotte's turn, and she did really well. She didn't look nervous at all. We had a break again and finally it was time for the award ceremony! And Lotte won!! Everyone was very happy and we had a great time.

I definitely want to take part again next year, because it was truly enjoyable and most of the speeches were very interesting. It was an experience I'll never forget.

**Yada 2TTO**

---

*'It was an experience I'll never forget.'*

---





## AND THE WINNER IS...

The Junior Speaking Contest is a contest in which TTO students compete through public speaking. Every student has to write a speech based on the theme of the year. This year's theme was 'too much of a good thing'. I was allowed to represent the Mendel college in the regional rounds in Alphen a/d Rijn with my speech 'prosperity vs happiness'. To my surprise I became first out of the ten third year contestants. We (my supporters and I) were all very happy. The price was an invitation for a workshop on public speaking and being able to participate in the national final of the Junior Speaking Contest 2015.

For the final I had to make my speech a little bit longer. On the last few days before the final we did a lot of practising. On Wednesday the fifteenth of April, we headed off to Amersfoort. The final was held in the Lieve Vrouw theatre in the city centre of Amersfoort. Around three o'clock it was my turn perform my speech. Although there were two hundred people watching and my teachers put quite a bit of pressure on me, I did not feel very nervous

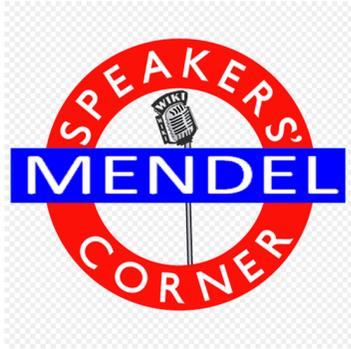
and I really enjoyed doing my speech. After doing my speech, I had to answer a few questions from the question panel.

After a long hot day it was finally time for the award ceremony. It was really hard for the judges to decide who would be the winner because all the speeches were impressive. The judges decided that structure would be one of the most important things they were looking for in our speeches. My speech turned out to be the most structured speech of all, credits to Mr. Asses, meaning that I had won the Junior Speaking Contest! When I heard that I was the winner, I was amazingly happy and found it hard to believe. A lot of certificates, flowers and dictionaries were given to me and Mr. Asses got a certificate as well. After the ceremony (and the photoshoot), we celebrated the achievement with a drink on the market square in Amersfoort. Participating in the Junior Speaking Contest was a great experience that I will never forget!

**Lotte 3TTO**



## STUDIUM GENERALE MARCH 2015



There is no clear official definition of what constituted a *Studium Generale*. The term *Studium Generale* first appeared at the beginning of the 13th century, out of customary usage, and

simply meant a place where students from everywhere were welcome (not merely those of the local district or region).

In the course of the 13th century, the term gradually acquired a more precise (but still unofficial) meaning as a place that (1) received students from all places, (2) that it taught not only the Arts, but had at least one of the higher faculties (that is, Theology, Law or

Medicine) and (3) that a significant part of the teaching was done by masters.

Today *Studium Generale* is primarily used within a European university context as a description for lectures, seminars and other activities which aim at providing academic foundations for students and the general public. They are in line with the humanistic roots of the traditional universities to reach outside of their boundaries and provide a general education.

Therefore a group of nine former TTO students were invited to reach outside of their boundaries and educate our 3, 4 and 5 TTO classes.

J. Heijmans

**Speaker:** Anne Irene Vos

**Title:** Lord of the Bagels, the English language through the ages

**Summary:** Language is fun and she made us love it. In this mini-course we had a closer look at the history of the English lan-

guage. She showed some of its peculiarities and give some inside information on how it is structured. This magical mystery tour will took us from Chaucer to Lord of the Rings and back again!



---

*'...even the smallest mishap can lead to conviction.'*

---



**Speaker:** Stefan Hugtenburg

**Title:** How do you turn off the Internet?

**Summary:** Today's future is largely found on the Internet, where companies place their advertisement and others make millions of dollars from innovative and creative ideas. As a result, the ability to understand how the Internet works and how you can build your

own websites is becoming more and more important. And learning how to build your own website can be done in only one way, by simply doing it yourself. In this lecture we first learned something about the way the Web works and how websites are built, after which we built our very own website in HTML (a web programming language).

**Speaker:** Tirza Chessa

**Title:** The Functioning of the European Union

**Summary:** Have you ever wondered what the European Union is all about and what influence the European Union has in our daily lives? Then you should have followed this presentation! The aim of this presentation was to provide us with some

knowledge on the basics of European Union. This included an overview of European integration (the evolution of the EU as we know it today) as well as an explanation of the different European institutions, their particular role and their interaction with each other. We also discussed the impact of the EU in our daily lives by examining some concrete examples.



**Speaker:** Sammy Does

**Title:** Fraud: How to commit and how to convict.

**Summary:** We learned the basics of fraud and discussed with other students what we thought is the best way to get away with fraud. We

found out how a chief financial officer committed fraud and made over 60 million euros before getting caught. And discovered how even the smallest mishap can lead to a conviction.

**Speaker:** Bob Hoogenes

**Title:** Reality and objectivity: *An interactive approach.*

**Summary:** The concept of factual knowledge is one that changes dramatically during your 'scientific maturation' process while attending university. Even when studying at a science or 'beta' faculty and even when studying one of the disciplines that require tons of 'factual' knowledge (medicine) you will slowly come to realise that objectivity, or

what is 'known to be true by using science' is a more problematic concept that you could have ever imagined during your Mendelcollege years. It is with this experience that he came here to ruin our minds a little earlier. He wanted to challenge our perception of reality and took the idea of what we now still call 'fact' to the test using examples from his studies in medicine and philosophy and asked what we thought was real or true.



**Speaker:** Pim Otte

**Title:** Train networks: Mathematics from the cold war era.

**Summary:** During the cold war, both the Russians and the Americans had a lot of time to prepare their strategy in

the case that war would break out. In his talk we heard about two problems surrounding the Russian train network and attempted to solve one (or both) of them.

**Speaker:** Harm-Jan Tamminga

**Title:** Business Management in the current times.

**Summary:** A key to achieving success is to assemble a strong and stable management team."~ Vivek Wadhwa

The current economic situation is still very depressing, and it will be for the coming years...unless business managers know how to deal with it and can turn the tide. The role of business managers is getting bigger and bigger. This presentation gave a short impression of what business management is about, and was most of all fun and interactive.



---

*'What really matters is you...'*

---



**Speakers:** Ilse van Ipenburg and Merlijn Knol

**Title:** We travel not to escape life but for Life not to escape us.

**Summary:** Traveling involves meeting the world around you. However, it are not just the places that you see and the activities you do that matter. What really matters is you and your development.

As a large part of our education takes place in school- and university buildings, we believe that traveling and studying abroad will take you places.

Traveling is the best investment you can make in your life, as it will teach you to focus on who you want to be, rather than on what you want to be.



## HIGH TEA AT MA BROWN'S

The first year TTO students are almost at the end of this exciting first year. But back in the very beginning the surprises kept coming. When everyone in the second year of TTO flew off to York in the UK leaving the rest behind we could have been mad or even sad, but instead we spent our time doing other things nice, mainly observing the English ritual of 'High Tea'.



Together with Mrs Doek, Miss Veldhuizen and Mrs Pluis (plus Joanna, Nienke and Olivier naturally) we biked our way to the centre of Haarlem to Ma Brown's Tea Room. Mrs Pluis was greatly relieved that nobody crashed on their bicycle and all in all we were very proud – spirits were high.

Upon arrival at Ma Brown's, we were all seated at long tables that were set, but no food was in sight.



First we listened while the owner explained to us about the elements of High Tea, and details about the traditional steps of pouring and serving. We had the whole tea room for ourselves so it was very much a private party where we could relax and enjoy.



After what seemed like ages, the tea and the tiered plates of delightful consumptions were served. Once again, the teachers beamed with pride because our kids had excellent table manners! There was some light conversation, but mostly the enthusiastic mastication of sandwiches, scones, cakes and more. Both hearty and sweet, it all washed down with pots and pots of English tea.



As we said our polite goodbyes it was clear to all that the 1TTO High Tea had been a success. There wasn't a single crumb left behind.

## E-TWINNING: LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER

Before the December Holiday season begun, each of the 1TTO classes joined some fellow bi-lingual English speaking contemporaries (kids their own age) at schools in Spain and Denmark. Each school formed six groups where students focused on a particular element of how they celebrate the Holiday's at their house. The idea was to teach each other about our cultures and our traditions. Groups made a presentation with their own text and some supporting photo's. Next they made short films, and lastly they wrote each other Christmas cards. All the work was uploaded onto the TwinSpace where students could see each others work and learn.

E-twinning is a fully loaded electronic platform which was developed by the European Platform and gives schools a safe and closed electronic environment where multi-national projects facilitate learning. It was the first experience for 1EGA1, 1EGA2 and 1EGA3 with working in a TwinSpace. It wasn't always smooth going because many have little experience with such a tool, but together we figured it all out.

## SHEAKSPEARE PROJECT

We had two project days about Shakespeare. The first day found all kind of information about him. We watched the film Romeo and Juliet from Shakespeare and answered some questions. We needed to work in pairs and made a Shakespeare poster. The Shakespeare poster was filled with information about his life and work and some pictures. We learned some things about a sonnet and did some exercises about them. After the exercises we made one



ourselves.

The next day we drew pictures about our sonnet. Next we went to the auditorium. First they asked us some questions, after that we did warming up exercises, then they split us up into two groups and finally we started to work on our presentation. In the evening we and some other classes needed to perform in front of the parents.

I think it was a lot of fun.

**Inés 1TTO**

*'...first graders work well and have good ideas.'*



I thought making your own poster was the most enjoyable part of the first day, because I was paired up with Isa, ( 1ega2 ) who was really kind. We had a lot of fun making the poster because we found really funny pictures of Shakespeare on the internet.

I liked the acting part of day 2 the most. Preparing for the performance was fun to do, because you could have a say in who you wanted to be and how you could make it more interesting and funnier.

The theatre evening went really well, only my group forgot to do the dance we had planned to do. I do think that

we should have had less text, so that it would have been more interesting and fun to watch, but I did enjoy myself watching the other classes perform.

Altogether, I think the project days were really enjoyable, interesting and fun! I learned a lot, and the workshops varied from each other. I only didn't really understand the movie 'Romeo and Juliet', but that didn't matter, because we did not have a project about the movie. I enjoyed myself, and I hope that we will have a new workshop next year!

**Bridget 2TTO**

## MORE SHEAKSPEARE

The first day – Tuesday 24 March:

I liked the poster workshop the most, because it was really interesting and I learnt more about Shakespeare's life. It was also fun to work with the first-graders because they worked well and had good ideas.

The second day – Wednesday 25 March:

I liked the theatre workshop the most because I like acting and being on stage. Mark Norris made the play lots of funny with all sorts of funny lines and sound-effects. Practising was fun because they let you be involved and come up with your own ideas to add to the play.

Theatre-evening:

It was a lot of fun to perform! Although people were very stressed, that was not the case with me! I think all the parents liked the play and I liked the play from 2EG too. I do think that we should have started earlier, but it was still great.

I think it is great that we from TTO have two special project days. Now I know more about Shakespeare. And I learned it in a fun and creative way. I'm looking forward to next year's famous writer

**Iris 2EA1**

## EXCHANGE 3EG HAARLEM—HANNOVER MARCH 2015



## ARTICLE WRITING

After a series of lessons on article writing, the first years of TTO were asked to write an article of their own about

their favourite actor, athlete and or singer. Each class had to choose a winner. This is the winner from 1EGA1.



*'...he was put into jail for one year,...'*



## ROBERT DOWNEY JR: HIS LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Have you ever heard of Iron Man? This article is about the man in the suit, the one and only : Robert Downey jr.

Robert Downey jr has been an actor all his life. He was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1965. When he was five years old he played his first role in his father's film: The Pound. His big breakthrough was with the film: Less than zero (1987). In 1996 he was arrested for taking drugs, and he was put into jail for one year (1999), and subsequently went into rehab. Then he started acting again, and his great comeback came with the television series: Ally McBeal.

Nowadays, he is most famous for the films: Iron Man, The Avengers (2012), Tropic Thunder (2008) and Sherlock Holmes (2011) . He has played in six films that have each grossed over

\$500 million at the box office world-wide.

Robert Downey jr is an awesome actor, who has had his ups and downs, but still is one of Hollywood's best actors. He has played in some of my favourite films, and that makes him a cool actor.

**Joshua 1TTO**



## EXCHANGE 3EA HAARLEM—ALCALA D'HENARES APRIL 2015

April this year we got a visit from our friends from Spain. We had already been to Alcala d'Henares, which is where they live, and now they came to see how we live here. Even though the weather in Spain is a thousand times better than it is here, we still had a great time with them and we would love to share this with you.

They arrived two hours early on Monday. We weren't expecting them yet but we were happily surprised to see them, which you could read from our reaction as we came running outside to welcome them. It's a strange thing when you have spent a week living with someone and seeing them again after a couple of months. You have to get used to them being around all over again and it can be difficult to connect again right away. Though after some "how are you?" talks everybody seemed to get along quite well.

The differences between them and the Dutchies are immense. First of all, they don't know how to cycle. We had to stop every ten seconds to let them climb back on their bike again... this definitely created some funny situations so of course we have nothing to complain about. Another issue was teaching them to eat. It almost seemed as if they had forgotten how to do this since they barely ate anything we put on the table. They had difficulties to adapt to our culture which created some tension between us and our partners.

Luckily we have a shared love for pizza and so on Thursday we threw a pizza-party at Jules' house. We spent our evening burning pizza boxes on the bonfire and we all had a lovely time.



Of course we didn't only celebrate the existence of pizza, we also did plenty of other nice things. We went to Amsterdam for a day where we took courses in either graffiti, spoken word, or photography. After visiting the van Gogh museum we had some time to go shopping. We have probably seen all souvenir and cheese shops existing in the whole city, so fortunately they didn't go home without clogs and boulders of *Beemster* cheese.



But most of all we got to know them. We learned how to think differently, learned how to deal with someone everyday and not gauge their eyes out even though you hold them dear. We laughed with them, literally fell with them, terrorized the Mac Donalds with them and said goodbye. All things included, we had a great time with them and despite our differences we wouldn't miss it for the world.

**Merel and Joyce 3TTO**

## SHEFFIELD COMENIUS TRIP

It was Fir Vale School in Sheffield (UK) that played host to the latest meeting for the Comenius project. The theme for this meeting was: "Conservation of water usage in our communities."



Students from Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain linked up with Fir Vale during their five day trip to Sheffield. Meije Kleiburg, Koen Vleugels and Yannick Peeters enthusiastically participated, joining Mr Peeters, Mr Potma and Mr Ponjee in the Dutch delegation.

The Sheffield parents welcomed the international students into their homes and the school organised trips to the Magna Centre and the Peak District.



Visiting the Peak District

Each country has now hosted the Comenius Project focussing on key environmental issues. The Sheffield topic was the urgent need to conserve water world-wide. Students presented their solutions at the end of the conference. Good ideas included saving flushing water, adapting devices for reducing water flow and ways of rewarding students for reducing water usage.



Presenting ideas on water conservation

The two-year project will find its conclusion this coming June with a meeting in Madrid.

P. Ponjee

## UPCOMING EVENTS

28-05 National Cricket Challenge  
29-05 EP visitation  
04-06 Team Maths Challenge  
04-06 English Sports Day  
12-06 TTO certificates 3TTO  
30-06 Present diplomas 6 TTO  
06-07 Start summer holiday

17-08 Hip hip hooray, school starts again  
13-10 World Literacy Day  
14-10 World Maths Day

15-10 World Science Day  
01-12 Deadline MENDEL TIMES

August Buitenjan 1TTO  
October York 2TTO  
October Exchange Germany 3TTO  
October Exchange Spain 3TTO  
October London 6TTO  
October Paris 6 TTO  
October Rome 6TTO

