**Class Schedule**

1. Vocab Bingo (15 mins)
2. Opening Activity (10 mins)
3. Read extract (10 mins)
4. Comprehension questions (15 mins)
5. Read through new vocab (10 mins)

**Vocabulary Bingo!**

* Spot check on definitions, antonyms and synonyms of last week’s words (use the words in sentences)

**Opening Activity**

*Match the word to the definition!*

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| 1. Hoax 2. Insane 3. Ramble 4. Robust 5. Tranquil 6. Provoke 7. Revive 8. Lenient 9. Condemn 10. Sanitary | 1. Free from disturbance; calm 2. Talk or write at length in a confused way 3. Restore to life or consciousness; give strength 4. Hygienic and clean 5. A humorous or malicious deception 6. Make someone react emotionally (usually in a strong or unpleasant way) 7. More merciful or tolerant than expected 8. Characterised my madness 9. Strong and healthy; vigorous 10. Express complete disapproval of something |

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens – The Haberdasher’s Aske’s Boys’ School 2010

*In this adapted extract from Chapter 1 of ‘A Christmas Carol’ by Charles Dickens, the reader is introduced to the character of Scrooge…*

Oh! But he was a **tight-fisted** hand at the **grindstone**, Scrooge! Hard and sharp as **flint**, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an **oyster**. The cold within him froze his old features, **nipped** his pointed nose, **shrivelled** his cheek, stiffened his **gait**; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out **shrewdly** in his **grating** voice. A frost was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his **wiry** chin.

Once upon a time, on Christmas Eve - old Scrooge sat busy in his countinghouse. It was cold, **bleak**, biting weather: foggy too: and he could hear the people in the court outside, go **wheezing** up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them. The city clocks had only just struck three, but it was quite dark already: it had not been light all day: and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices. The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole, and was so **dense** outside, that although the street was the narrowest, the houses opposite were **phantoms**.

The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open that he might keep his eye upon his **clerk**, who in a **dismal** little cell beyond, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't **replenish** it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room. The clerk put on his white scarf, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of a strong imagination, he failed.

“A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!'' cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew.

“Bah!'' said Scrooge, “Humbug!''

He had so heated himself with **rapid** walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was red and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.

“Don't be cross, uncle,'' said the nephew.

“What else can I be,'' replied Scrooge, “when I live in such a world of fools! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money? If I could work my will, every idiot who goes about with “Merry Christmas'' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a **stake** of holly through his heart!''

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Summarise the extract in a few sentences.
2. On what day and at what time does this story take place?
3. From the first paragraph, what do we learn about Scrooge’s physical appearance?
4. What does Scrooge think should happen to people who celebrate Christmas?
5. Why do you think the writer describes Scrooge’s clerk as working in “a dismal little cell”?
6. Look at lines 16-22. What does the reader learn about the characters of Scrooge and his clerk in this paragraph, and the conditions in which they work?
7. Look at lines 26-28. How is the description of Scrooge’s nephew used as a contrast to the description of Scrooge in paragraph 1?
8. Explain how Dickens creates atmosphere in paragraph 2 of this extract.

**Vocabulary**

* *Define each word, put it into one of four categories (noun, adjective, verb or adverb) and, where applicable, note down a synonym or antonym.*

1. Tight-fisted –
2. Grindstone – a wheel of stone used to sharpen metal objects
3. Flint – a hard grey rock used as a tool or weapon, or to create a spark for fire
4. Oyster – an edible, grey shellfish
5. Nip – bite or pinch sharply
6. Shrivelled
7. Gait – the way that a person walks
8. Shrewd
9. Grating – sound harsh and unpleasant
10. Wiry – resembling wire in form and texture
11. Bleak
12. Wheezing
13. Dense – closely compacted in substance or (of a person) stupid
14. Phantoms
15. Clerk – a person employed in an office or bank to keep records or accounts
16. Dismal – causing a mood of gloom or depression
17. Replenish – fill something up again
18. Rapid
19. Stake – a strong wooden or metal post
20. Holly – an evergreen shrub with prickly dark green leaves and red berries, usually seen at Christmas

**Homework**

* Revise the vocabulary we have learned today and fill in the blanks.
* Write a modern reimagining of the Scrooge story. What would Scrooge’s job be today? Use ten words from the vocab list from today.