

YOUR CLASS CHALLENGE



Do you want to be in with a chance of qualifying for the **An Post Brain Busters National Final?**

Complete these puzzles in your copybook and share with your teacher.



Hennessy's Haunted House

Hennessy's House hides in the densely ivy-smothered woods on the outskirts of your county. As it is one of the oldest boarding schools in Ireland, tours are given daily and your teacher decides to bring your class, showing what life was like in schools in the past.

This imposing grey granite building, built in 1881 by John Hennessy, was mysteriously closed and abandoned in 1981, when a series of strange and spooky incidents took place at the school. Some pupils reported seeing books flying across the library when there was no one else in the room. One teacher even told a story about hearing a peculiar noise while sitting in the library. At first she thought it was the wind but as she listened carefully, she could hear the strange ghostly whispering of 'open, treasure, open'. It was all too much, so the pupils were all returned to their homes, the teachers found new jobs and the school was closed.

As you walk up the avenue you notice how creepy the building looks, covered in ivy, just like the woods surrounding it. The large wooden door opens and you are led in by a guide who explains the history of the house and then leaves you to explore the house.

When you wander into the library, you knock over an old wooden chest sitting on a table and the lid swings open. Immediately you hear the door lock behind you. You scramble to unlock the door but as hard as you try, you can't open it. Suddenly you hear a loud thud behind you, as you turn around, you see a red velvet-covered back book fall to the ground. You pick up the book and as you do, a piece of paper drifts from the book to the floor.

PUZZLES



Can you solve these three puzzles to find the treasure and make it out of the room?



1. Financial Puzzle

"My chest you have opened, no treasure inside, so in this house you must find, the treasure I hide."

Suddenly a message slowly appears, word by word, through the dust on the table beside you:

"My parents told me to save regularly when I was a child so I managed to save €10.50 every month for 20 years. I saved the same amount twice a month for another 5 years. How much money would I have in my treasure chest now?"



2. Numeracy Puzzle

Without warning a second book flies across the room, and opens on a page with a handwritten note.

"To leave this room and my treasure find, open the door which is a multiple of 44. For all other doors are traps you see – so make your selection carefully! A final note – take your time, do not choose a number with a final digit which is prime."



You see that each door has a number above it. Can you find the right door?



3. Literacy Puzzle

You suddenly hear a door at the back of the room unlock. With no other way to leave the library, you take a brave step through the door and hear a whisper:

"You want to leave, I see
Oh how lonely I will be...
Before you go, write a letter for me
Asking for more company!"

Write a short letter to the editor of the local newspaper, inviting more people to visit Hennessy's Haunted House. Think about who might enjoy a visit, why they should go, what they might see and how to escape. Try not to make it too scary... it seems like this is a friendly ghost!

Remember, your letter should have a greeting and a closing sentence.



DEADLINE:
Wednesday,
November 17th,
2021