



A Message from Mr Elphick

Dear all,

It is such a strange end to the year, such a contrast to our usual lively final days here in school. We have all deeply missed our end of year events such the school musical, the jazz evening and, of course, Speech Day.

However, there are tremendous positives to take away from what we have learned living with a pandemic. We have all had struggles in our individual circumstances but I've received some lovely communications from parents who, in having to engage with their children more intensely over a long period, have developed new levels in their relationships and their children have developed more independence. Perhaps we have all cared for each other a little more than we did, are a little more thoughtful and slower to judge others. Certainly we have had to take more care and spend more time communicating with each other. I've 'seen' more of my friends from University who are all over the world in the past 3 months than I have in the past 30 years!

I plan to write to parents/carers again next week about what to expect in September, filling in some of the practical details. It will be important for you to share this with your child(ren). The new Years 7 and 12 return on Wednesday 2nd September and the rest of the school joins them on Thursday 3rd September.

In the meantime, thank you for all your support since March. Have a wonderful summer!

Mr Elphick

NEWS LETTER



16th July 2020

www.bexleygs.co.uk
**Bumper Summer
Edition**



Congratulations!

Year 7 Congratulations

I would also like to extend a big thank you to Mrs Spencer who has taken over duties as the year groups Senior Academic Mentor. For the last 8 weeks she has been asking staff to keep nominating pupils who have been consistently producing high quality work whilst in lockdown. I am delighted to say that over half of the year group were put forward and were entered into our prize draw. I conducted the draw myself this weekend and would like to congratulate the following pupils who will each be receiving a Waterstones voucher.

7JEA	Matilda Jackson
7MCA	Jack Cotton
7MGG	Aleksandra Valchanova
7VJA	Jiveen Velayudan
7VJA	Oluwademilade Samuel-Onette

Congratulations once again.

Mr Skinner, Director of Studies, Year 7





Year 7 MFL Song Competition 2020 - Lockdown Special

Every year in MFL, we have an all-singing, all-dancing song competition where each Year 7 form group performs a song in French and German in front of the year group. We have very professional, X-factor style judging to evaluate the quality of language, originality, singing, choreography and overall performance. This year has meant no song competition, sob sob. However, many Year 7s have risen to the challenge of a virtual song competition this year and submitted their video entries to their teachers. They were amazing! We cannot wait to reward these students and celebrate their entries in September.

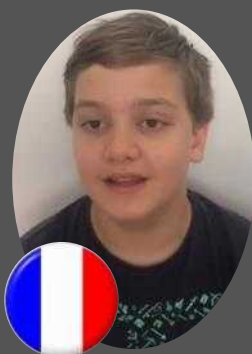


Here are the winners and special mentions:

Excellent entries: Thomas Kerans & Luca Bulavitchi (German)



Best French entry: Edward Gearing
A wonderful rendition of "Il a les yeux bleus - Alain Le Lait" with perfect pronunciation!



Best German entry: Anna Tyukova
"Ich habe einen kleinen papagei", accompanied by a parrot!



Best overall entry: Deya Dimitrova & Matilda Jackson (German)



The girls wrote an original song in German, using everything they had learnt this year. Miss Anderson has confirmed that the German used is highly accurate. There was a rap and some impressive choreography, filmed in various locations with cameos from Matilda's sister and Deya's cat!

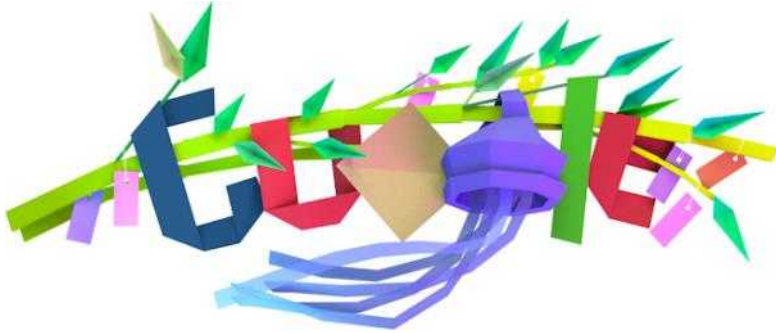
Well done Year 7 - you have blown us away with your creativity!

Mrs Rubbera
KS3 MFL Lead Teacher



Japanese Star Festival during the Lockdown

On the seventh day of the seventh month Japan celebrates a special festival known as Tanabata (meaning "Evening of the 7th"). Inspired by the Chinese Qixi Festival, Tanabata became popular in Japan during the Heian Period (794–1192). Two lovers, Hikoboshi, a humble cow herder and Orihime, the daughter of the Sky King, were separated by the Milky Way and only allowed to meet once a year on 7th July. The story of the two lovers' annual reunion has captured the imagination of lovers for centuries. The characters in the story represent two stars, Vega and Altair. Hence Tanabata is also known as the Star Festival. Google also celebrates Tanabata on Doodle every year and this Tanabata Doodle is only visible in Japan.



On this day people write their wishes on colourful strips of paper known as Tanzaku and hang their Tanzaku on the branches of bamboo trees in the hope they will come true.

As many of us have been reflecting on our hopes for the future during the lockdown, BGS Japanese students decided to write their wishes on colourful Tanzaku at home instead of hanging Tanzaku together in our Japanese classroom.

Here I would like to share some of our students' beautiful wishes with you.



Joshua Hoy, Year 8

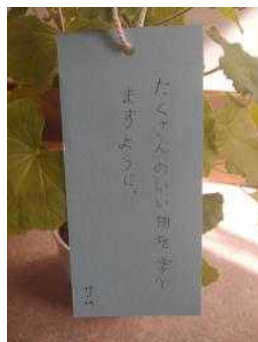


Madeleine Hosier, Year 9
"I would like to go to Japan!"



Max Armstrong-Mouline, Year 10
I wish I could meet my grandmother soon.





Sam Wilson, Year 11
I wish I could learn a lot of good things.



Danny Phan, Year 12
I wish I could study at University this summer.

It has been difficult for many of us to cope with this unprecedented situation and it is understandable for us to become anxious at times. However, these wishes of BGS students make us smile and give us hope for the future.

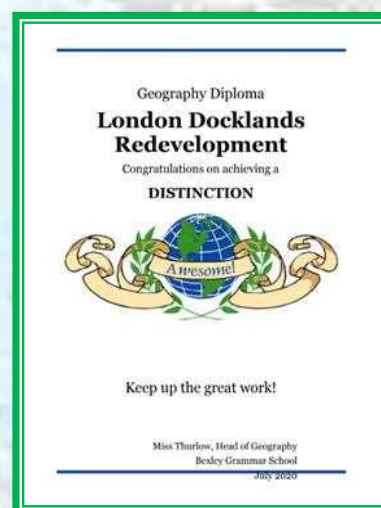
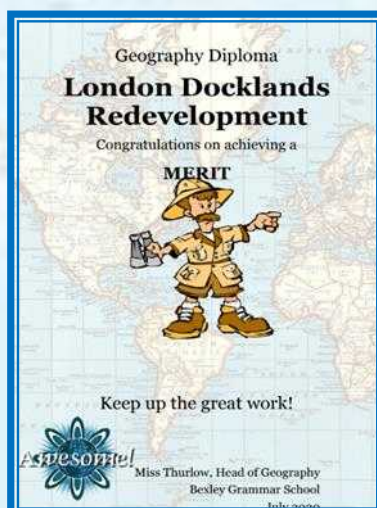
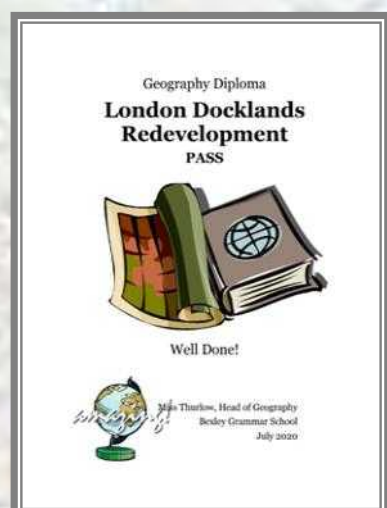
Mrs Everett, Teacher of Japanese and MFL Department



Geography News

Year 7 Geography Diploma Success!

CONGRATULATIONS to all of the Year 7's who have completed their first year in Geography and been awarded the Geography Diploma. Make sure you check your results on your Google Classroom and print your certificate!



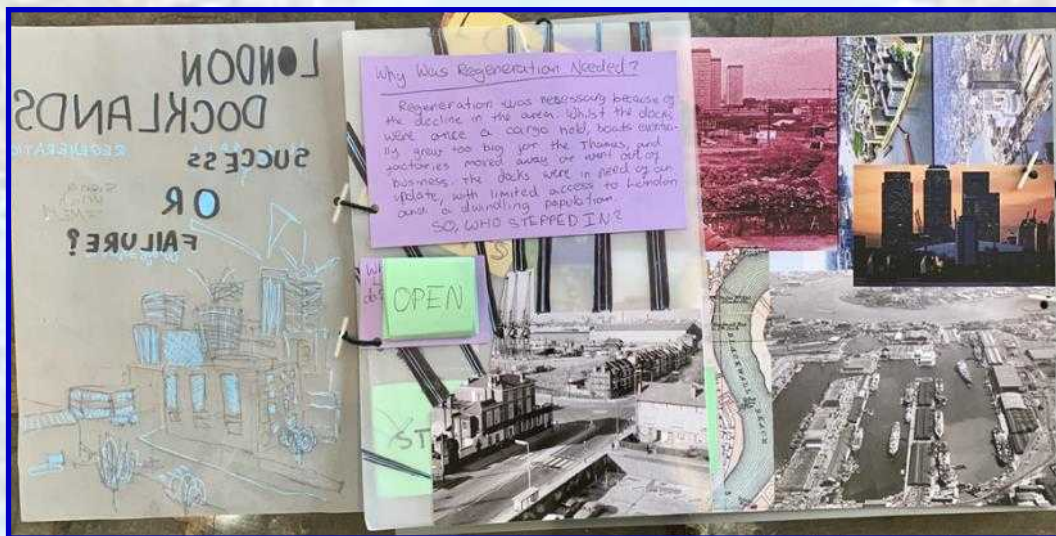


It's been a busy term for Year 7 and they have carried out their Diploma task based on the London Docklands with virtual fieldwork and an investigation to develop their research skills. The whole Geography Department have been hugely impressed with the quality of work produced and want to say a huge WELL DONE on your first year in Geography.

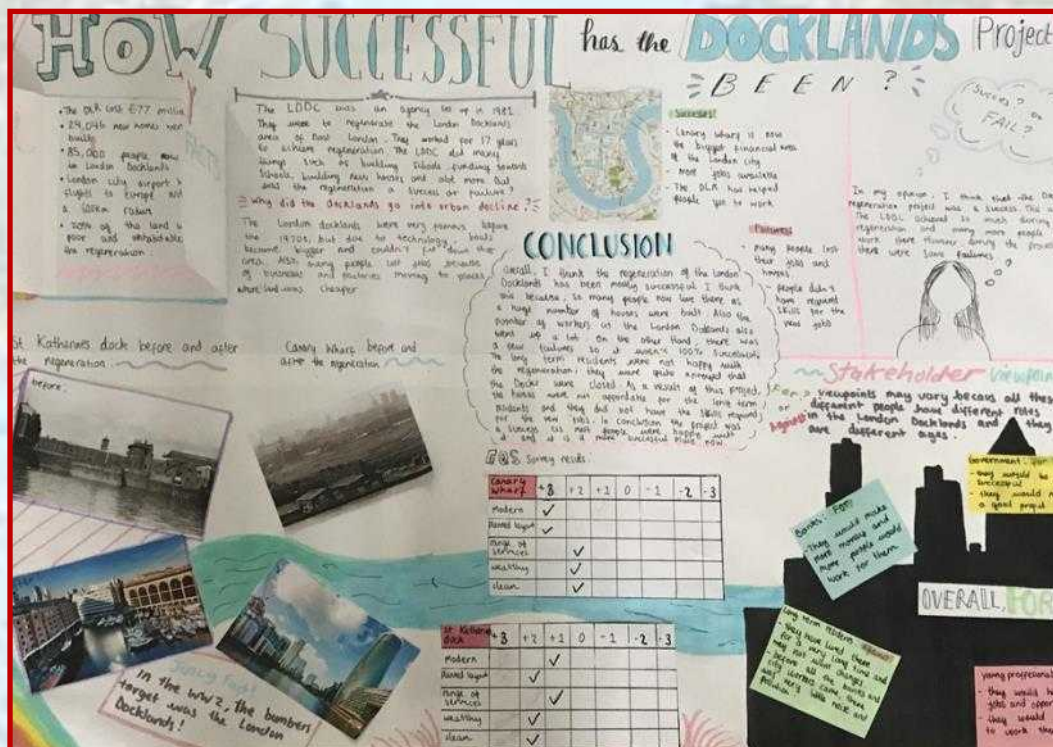
Congratulations!

7MEM Congratulations! 100% PASS rate, which means EVERYONE in 7MEM met the deadline and handed in top notch work :) SUPER CLASS :) Some highlights include:

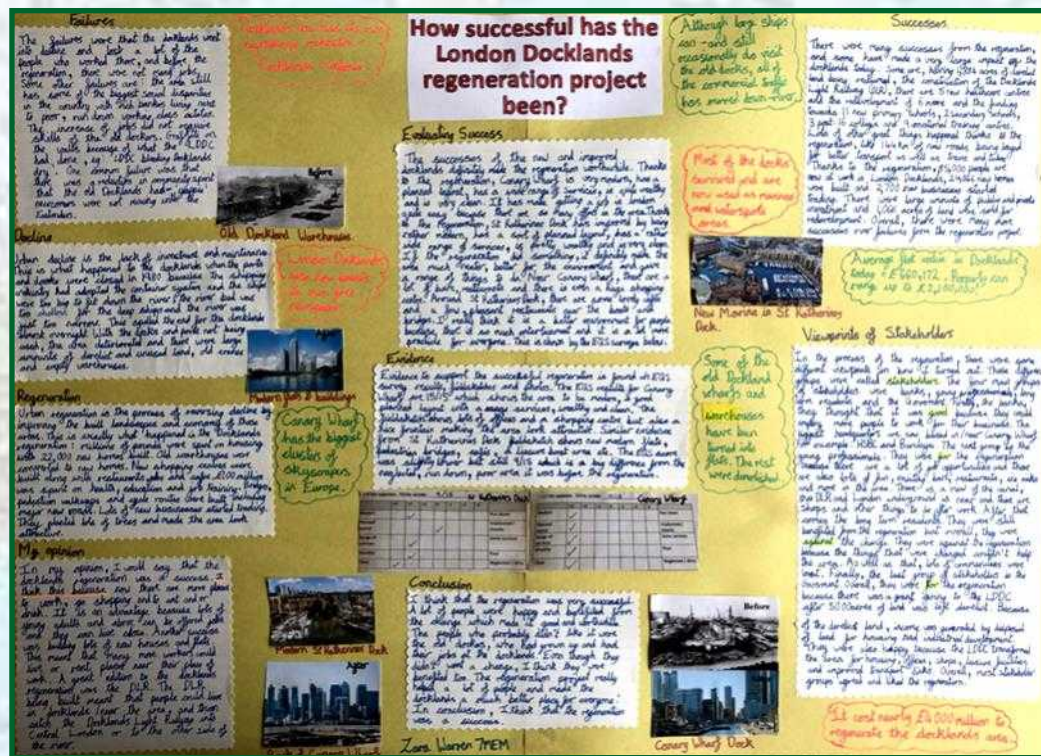
Siena Urlich 7MEM super creative folder full of evidence, including stakeholder opinions and environmental quality surveys.



Olivia Talentaite 7MEM good use of evidence and detailed conclusion.

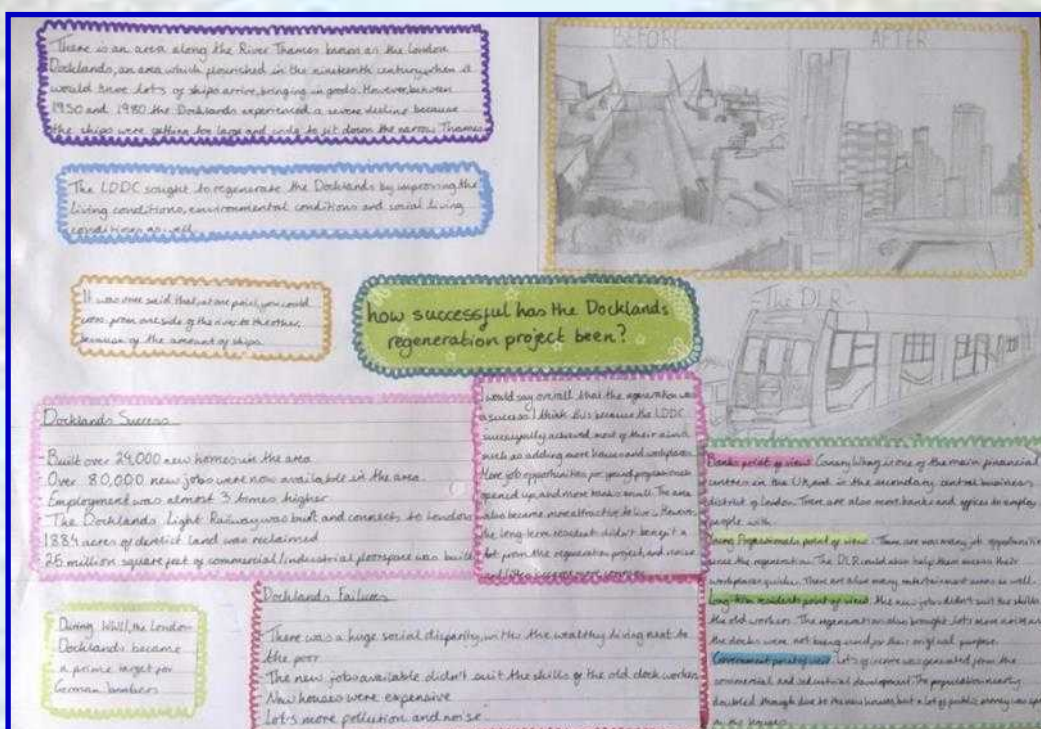


Thorough review of Docklands decline, regeneration and evaluation of the success and failures
Zara Warren, 7MEM.



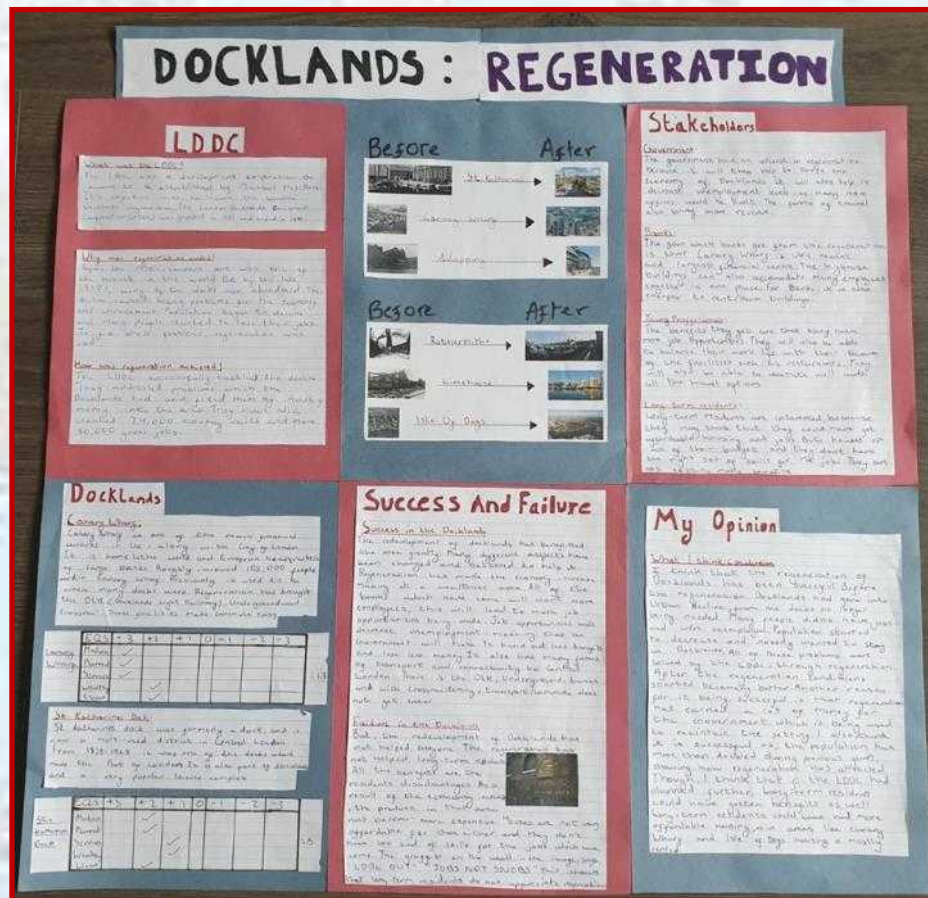
7NSS completed outstanding virtual fieldwork exploring London Docklands using google maps, and included their fieldwork data of field sketches and environmental quality surveys as well as juicy facts in their investigations to produce their Diploma tasks.

Great sketching skills for before and after images Charlotte Butler, 7NSS.





Varun Tandulwadikar, 7NSS excellent evaluation of a range of viewpoints and summary of success and failures.



Omar Rabette, 7NSS top collage skills integrating research on London Docklands.



7AMM in total achieved 7 Distinctions for attainment (content and geographical skills), whilst 7MCA were awarded a whopping 14 Distinctions for attainment. This is particularly notable as this diploma has been completely achieved at home during the last weeks of remote learning - fabulous work!

Innovative and informative diploma from Leo Leupold in 7AMM. Leo always produces stunning work - but not only is this creative, it also contains a range of high level geographical skills such as field sketches, EQS, annotated maps and evaluative thinking - superb!

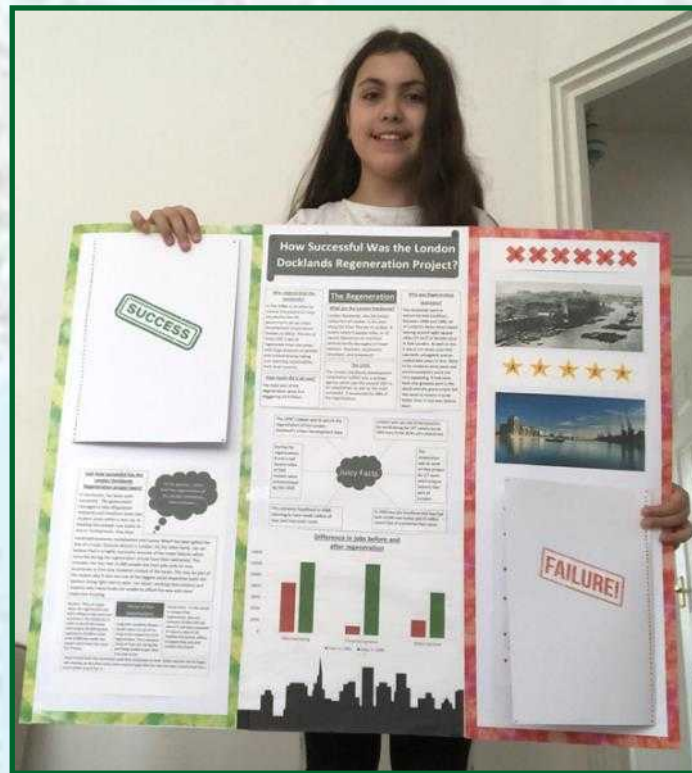


Paul Despabiladeras from 7MCA used colour effectively to create a perfectly executed diploma of Distinction level. I particularly liked the background and how he has overlaid the text effectively (this can be tricky to get correct). Furthermore, he has included his EQS data, juicy facts and a justified conclusion - well done!



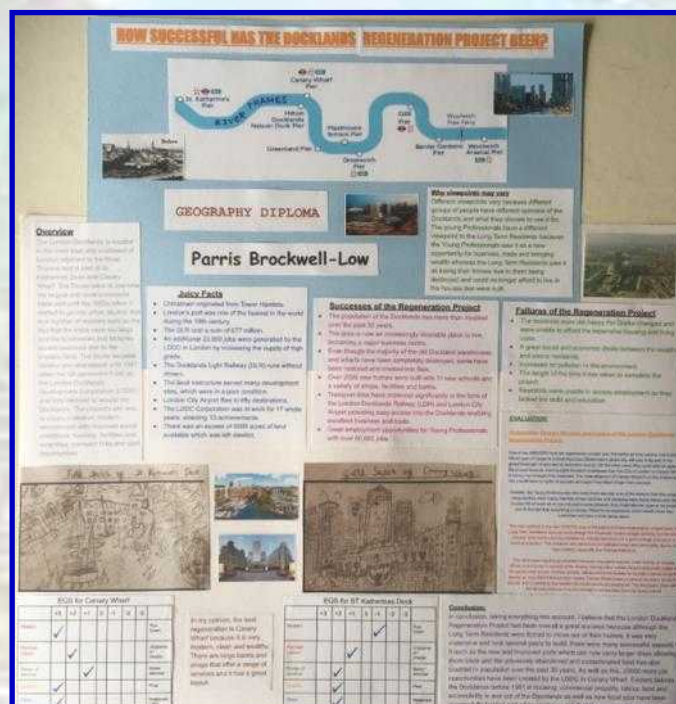


Victoria Karasimova from 7MCA (seen in this photo below) produced a life sized Distinction grade diploma on the Docklands! I love the clean design and clear use of data put into comparative bar graphs, clear successes and failures, as well as a whole mind map for juicy facts! Amazing work Victoria!



7MGG have been awarded an impressive 9 distinctions in the class for the work that has been completed on the London Docklands.

Parris Brockwell Low, 7MGG submitted work included a range of field work, data on his diploma, which I loved especially his field work sketches which are a key skill within the subject.

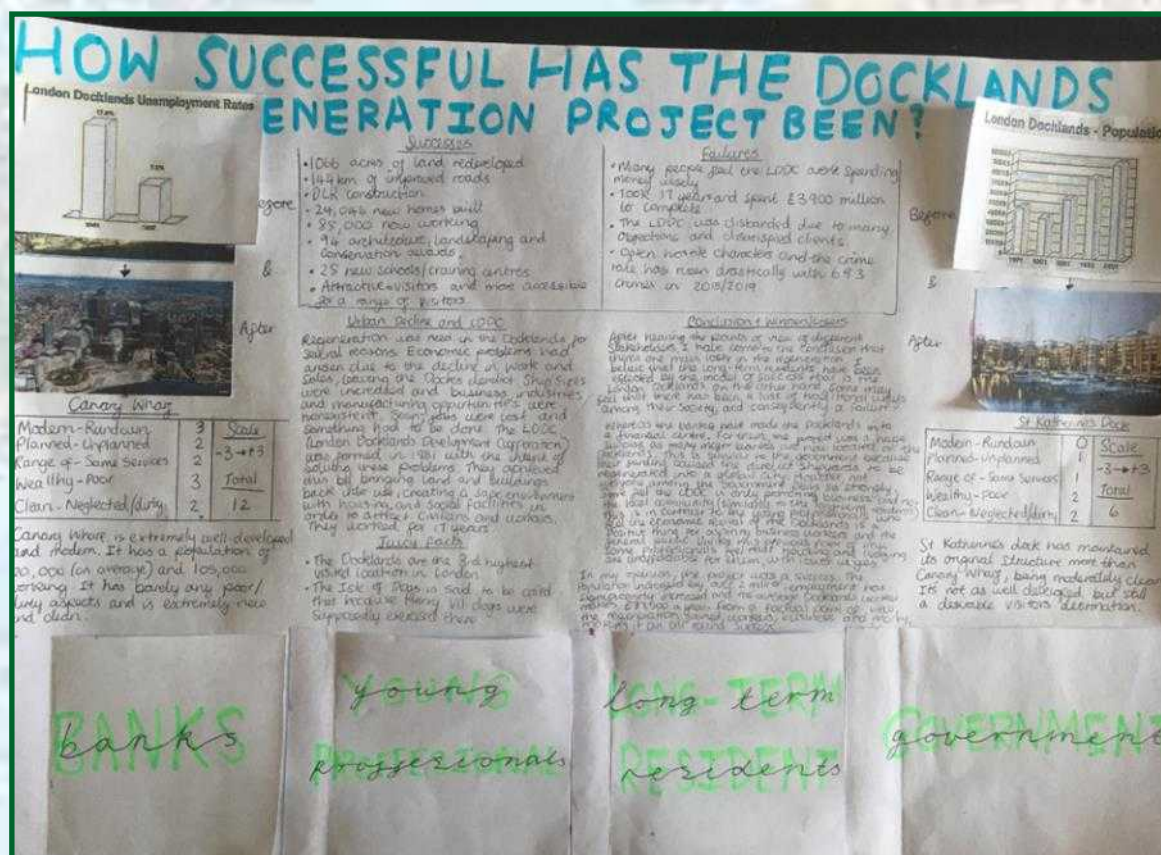




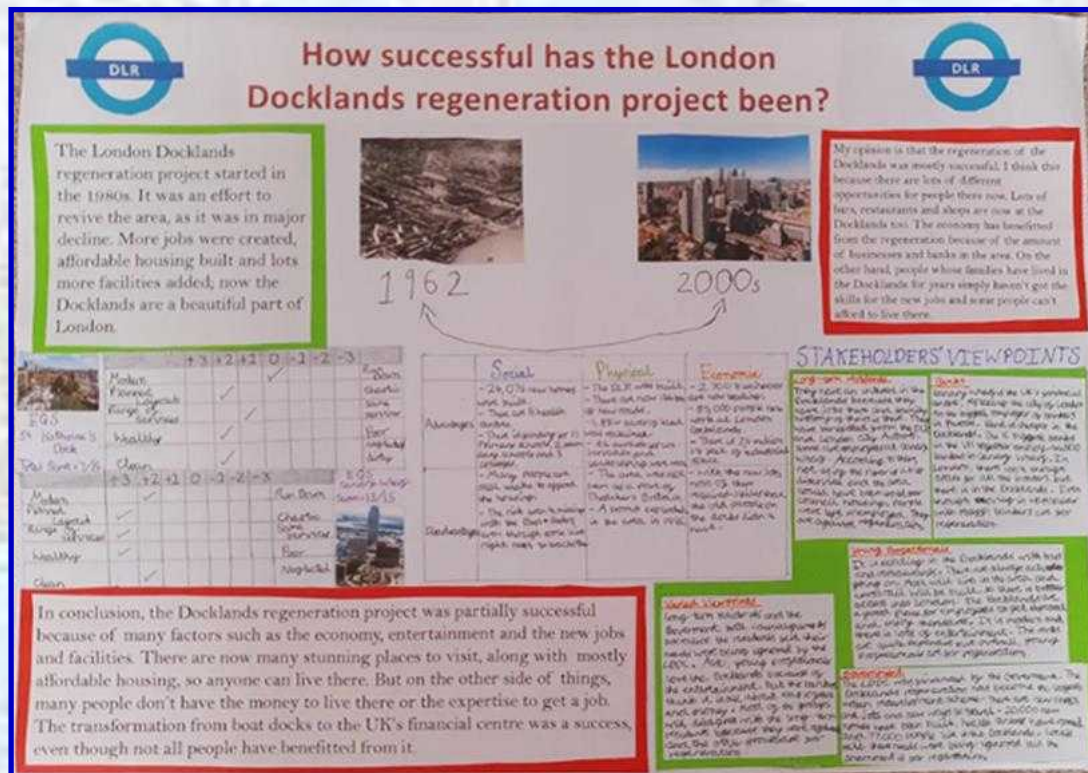
Sam Holt, 7MGG has managed to cover the whole of his wall at home with his diploma, I loved that each section was presented on a different coloured background. Sam also included lots of juicy facts with this work, well done!



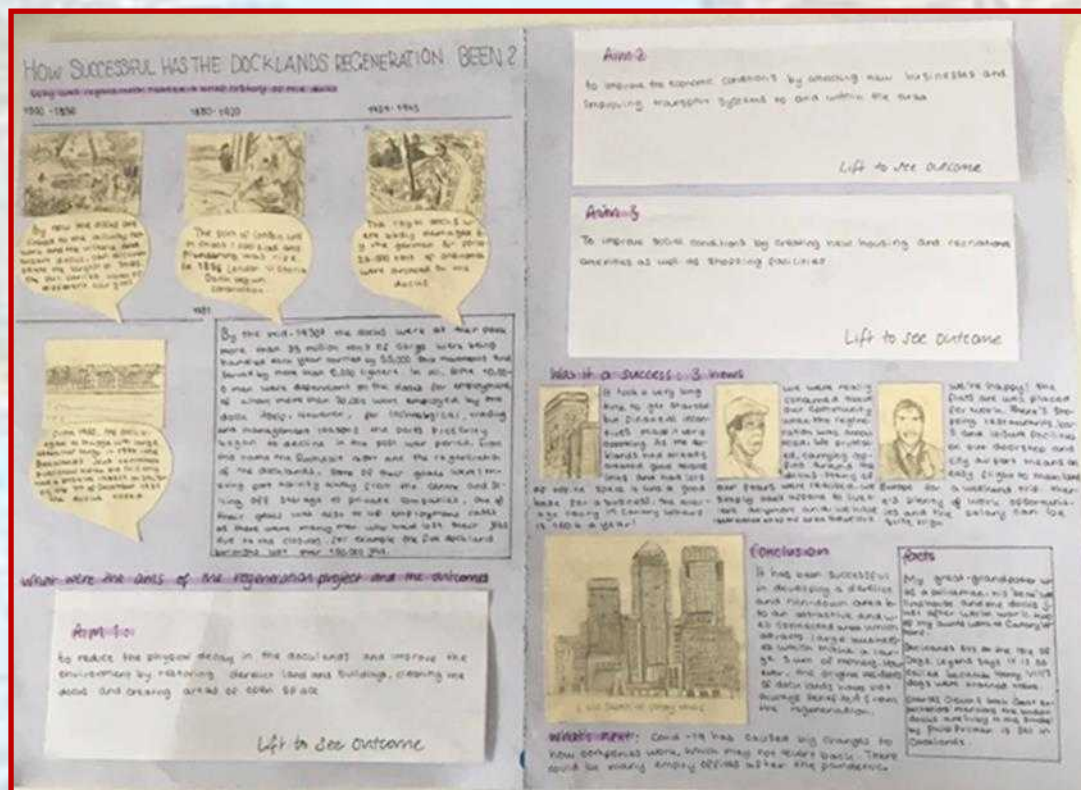
One of my favourites though, has to be the "lift-the flap" design used by Grace Taylor, 7MGG. A clever and effective way to present ideas and save space on her poster. I really liked that under each flap there was a different stakeholders viewpoint and opinion. Excellent creativity!



Zoe Allen, 7VJA A very detailed and well evidenced evaluation of the success of London Docklands regeneration project. Great Geographical skills and language used throughout.



Great suggestive and artistic drawings accompany this project by Toby Geden, 7VJA with some "lift-the-flap" sections which add to the creativity of the project.



A very clean and neat, concise and yet comprehensive presentation by Elijah Crawford, 7VJA.

The London Docklands: Was it a success or was it a failure?

Successes and Failures

The development of the London Docklands

The London Docklands was a busy place where every day, trading ships brought in goods from other countries and were stored in warehouses. As time passed, the ships were too big for the Thames and the factories were moved to other countries. The area was in decline and became derelict.

The London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) was formed in 1981 to regenerate the Docklands. They generated a wide range of economic, environmental and social benefits, including: transportation, new businesses and employment, homes and places for eating and entertainment.

Evaluation

Overall, the London Docklands regeneration project has been a model of success for the city which added transportation, business and restaurants.

The long term residents moved out or some of the positive impacts because the housing was too expensive, the new jobs need skills that they don't have and the docks were closed for ships.

Personally, I think that the London Docklands was a great success and the LDDC did an amazing job in turning the derelict docklands into a thriving city where many people work, live and can have a good time.

Stakeholders

- Bankers**
 - The London Docklands is the financial centre in London.
 - It is now the biggest employers in Canary Wharf.
 - It is also making a lot of profit in the Docklands.
- Young Professionals**
 - There are many businesses in Canary Wharf that are employing job-seekers like us.
 - There are many apartments and a wide variety of places to eat and drink.
- Long-term residents**
 - Transportation is well-developed and us residents can move to different parts of the city.
 - There are many new businesses entering Canary Wharf.
 - The housing is still quite expensive and the docks are deserted.
- Government**
 - We funded the LDDC to ensure the regeneration of the Docklands.
 - We improved jobs, housing and transport in the Docklands which had a great impact.
 - Some residents weren't happy with the changes and there graffiti on buildings.

By: Elijah Crawford 7VJA

Great geographical, evaluation and field sketch skills by Edward Gearing, 7VJA.

How Successful Was The Regeneration of The London Docklands?

Overview of The Docklands Regeneration

The regeneration of the London Docklands was a project funded by the LDDC (London Docklands Development Corporation). Their achievements included:

- £1.85 billion in public sector investment
- £7.7 billion in private sector investment
- 1,000 acres of land sold for redevelopment
- 144 km of new and improved roads
- The construction of the DLR (The Docklands Light Railway)
- 24,041 new houses built
- 25 million square feet of industrial and commercial floorspace built

St Katherine's Dock

Conclusion

I think that the regeneration was successful because it led to the Docklands becoming financially successful. This was enabled due to 25 million feet of industrial / commercial floorspace being built and creating approximately 40,000 new jobs. However, many locals lacked the skills for these new jobs created and therefore remained unemployed. With housing prices rising, many locals were driven out of the area. Although the regeneration was far from perfect, it greatly benefited the area.

Young Professionals

There are four main stakeholders of the London Docklands: the banks, the government, the long-term residents and the young professionals. The banks are in favour of the regeneration, because it has led to the construction of many high rise office buildings, which are much cheaper than low rise buildings. The government are also pro regeneration, as it has produced a new railway (DLR), 40,000 new jobs and 20,000 houses. In addition to this, many new shops and restaurants have been built, with the population rising from 4400 to 77000 during the regeneration. However, long term residents are against the regeneration, because despite the financial benefits, the rise in housing prices has driven many locals out of the area. Residents also disagreed with the demolition of many of the old warehouse buildings as it destroyed the history of the Docklands area. The young professionals are pro-regeneration, as it has produced many employment opportunities for them.

My Opinion

I think the London Docklands regeneration was successful, because it has benefited the area physically, economically and socially. The regeneration has also led to the whole area becoming far more successful, and has helped many docklands areas to go from run down, chaotic and poor to modern, planned and wealthy.

London Docklands Skyline

Environmental Quality Survey of St Katherine's Dock

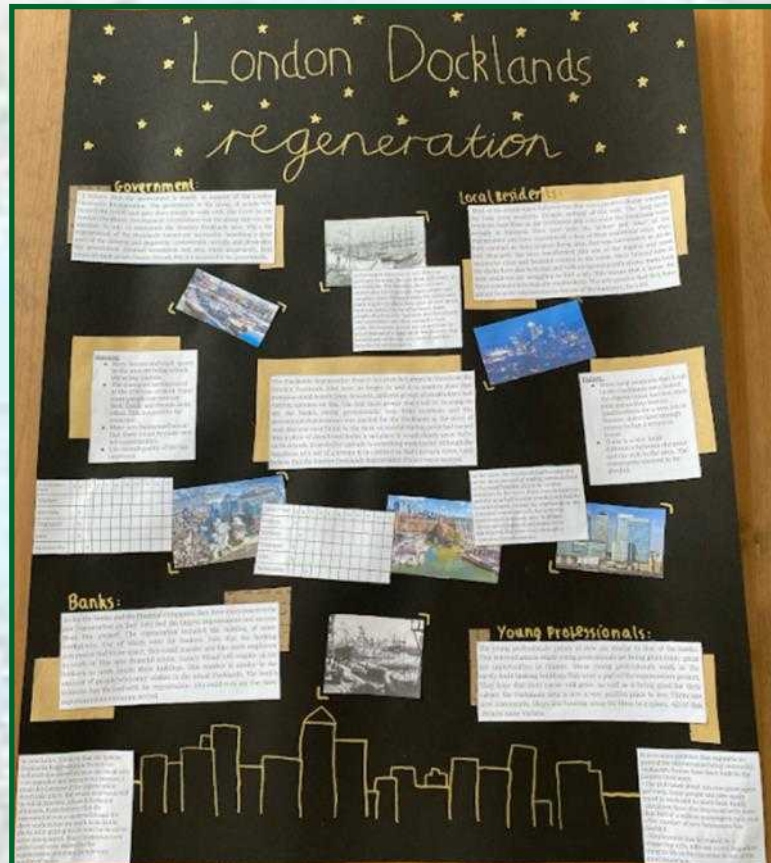
	5	4	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3
Modern									
Planned layout									
Range of services									
Woody/ Clean									

St Katherine's Dock

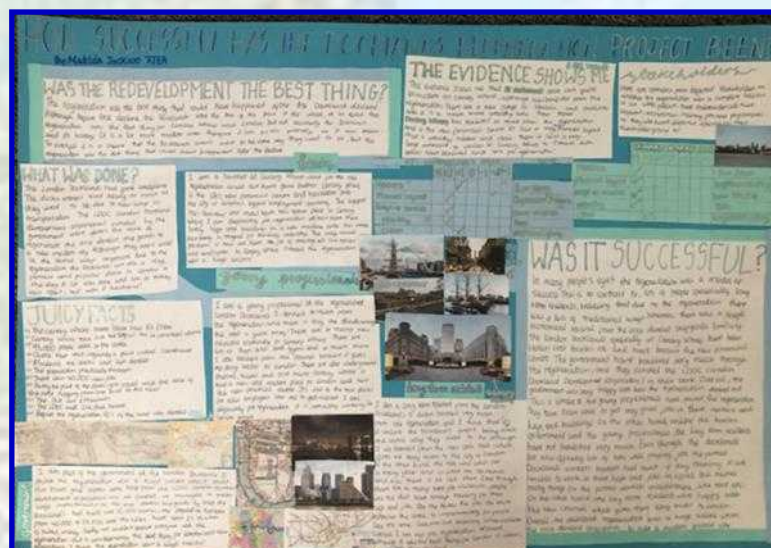


Other special mentions for creativity, geographical and presentation skills go to the following students from 7VJA: David Budau, Anis Houmani, Leila Stepanova and Ruth Yehualashet. Overall, 17 students from 7VJA achieved Distinctions for their Geography Diplomas. Well done everyone!

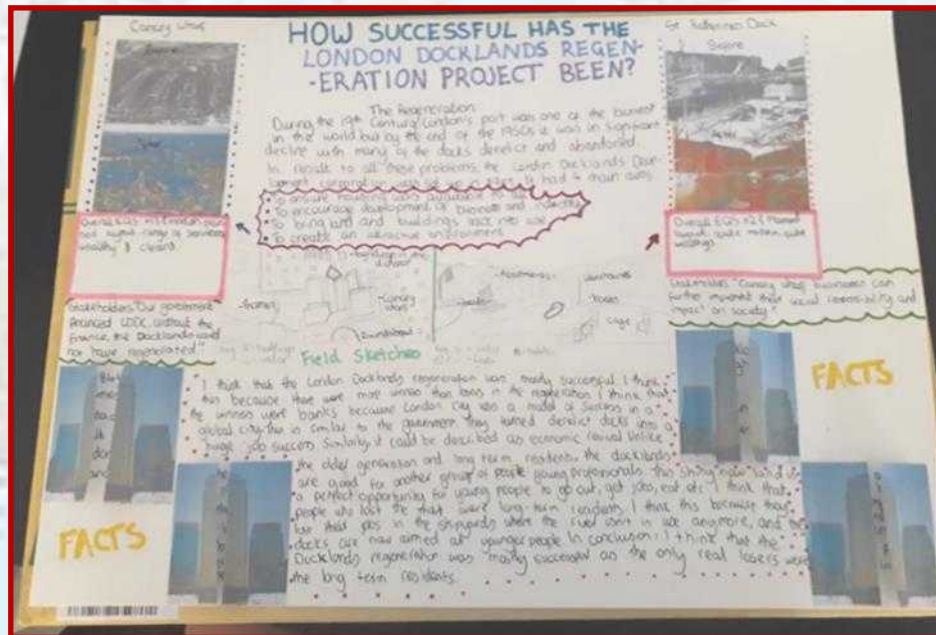
A very well presented project by Deya Dimitrova, 7JEA. Great Geographical skills used throughout with detailed evaluations of different stakeholders perspectives.



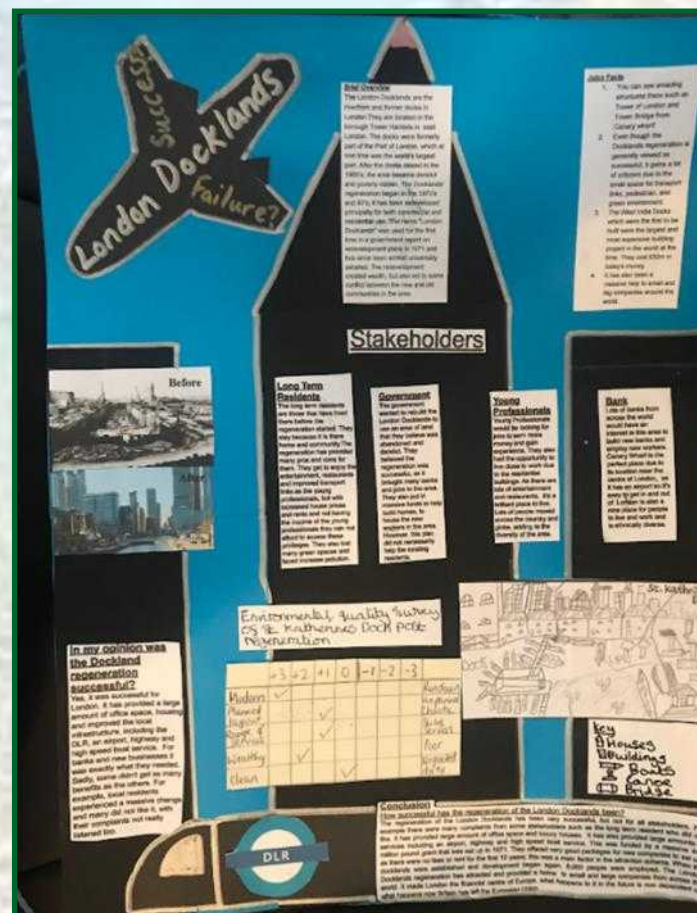
A very detailed and evidence based evaluation of the success of London Docklands Regeneration project by Matilda Jackson, 7JEA.



Another very detailed project and creative use of “lift-the-flap” technique by Lou Annarumma, 7JEA.



Ethan Hardie, 7JEA used a very creative background for his detailed project, by representing the skyline of the famous Canary Wharf. Great evaluation skills are used to express different stakeholders' points of view towards the regeneration project.





Other special mentions for creativity, geographical and presentation skills go to the following students from 7JEA: Deji Akinsuyi, Samuel Grady, Adam Khodeir, Leanne Lee, Jan Sawczuk and Tenzin Yeshi. Overall, 21 students from 7JEA achieved Distinctions for their Geography Diplomas. Amazing work, everyone!

Well done Year 7

No one is too small to make a difference

Miss Ashman has spent a large amount of time reading in lockdown and a highlight of her lockdown reading has been **Greta Thunbergs No One Is Too Small To Make A Difference**. For me, this extremely small 'book' (it's actually a collection of her speeches of 2019) packs a mighty punch. It took me less than 1 hour to read but has had a profound impact on me.

Here are some extracts of both *poignant and rousing quotes* from the book. If you find yourself with a spare couple of pounds and some time for a book that will provoke and spark debate then I highly recommend this book!

Want some extra
inspirational geography
in your life over the
summer?
if so...read on!



"The climate crisis is both the easiest and the hardest issue we have ever faced. The easiest because we know what we must do. We must stop the emissions of greenhouse gases. The hardest because our current economies are still totally dependant on burning fossil fuels...in order to create economic growth."

Greta Thunberg
London, April 2019

"The bigger your carbon
footprint – the bigger your
moral duty.
The bigger your platform – the
bigger your responsibility."

Greta Thunberg
Switzerland, January 2019

"Where celebrities, film and pop stars who have stood up against all injustices will not stand up for our environment and for climate justice because that would inflict on their right to fly around the world visiting their favourite restaurants, beaches and yoga retreats."

Greta Thunberg
Berlin, March 2019

"Around the year 2030...we will be in a position where we set off an irreversible chain reaction beyond human control, that will most likely lead to the end of our civilization as we know it."

Greta Thunberg
London, April 2019

"And when I say that I want you to panic, I mean that we need to treat the crisis as a crisis. When your house is on fire you don't sit down and talk about how nice you can rebuild it once you put out the fire. If your house is on fire you run outside and make sure that everyone is out while you call the fire department. That requires some level of panic."

Greta Thunberg
Stockholm, February 2019





Well done to all our Geographers and happy summer

We are looking forward to seeing all you Geographers back in September. Well Done during remote learning to all our students - amazing levels of effort and enthusiasm and huge progress made, we are proud of you. Year 10s and 12s, it's been a pleasure to have you in for lessons and to test your geographical knowledge and skills which you have worked hard to develop.

Enjoy the break this summer - whether it's exploring the world from your window, through an Atlas, Google Maps and GeoGuessr or through some fun staycation walks and bike rides. Keep your eyes open on the physical and human geography of our world and continue to think as a Geographer :)

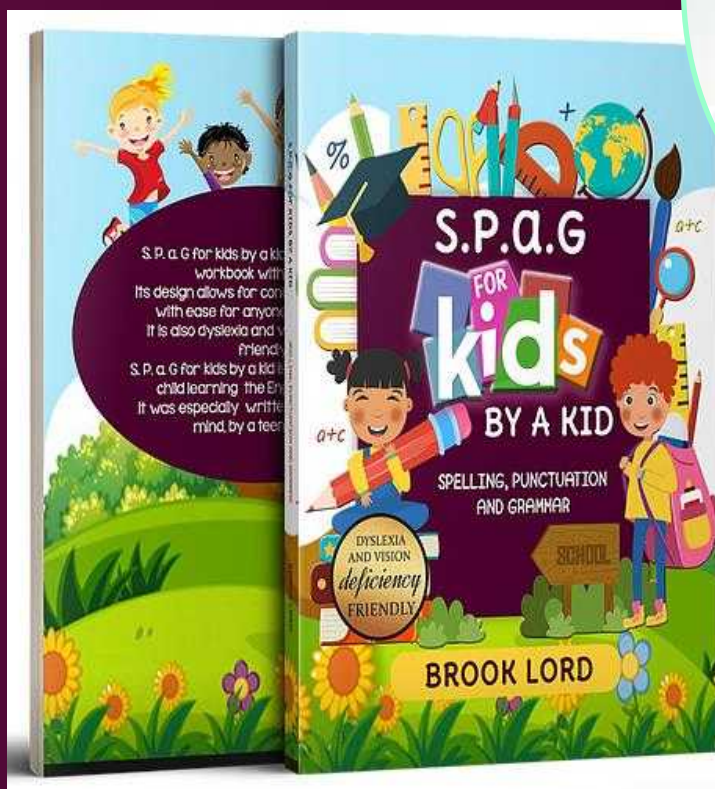
Best wishes **Miss Thurlow, Mrs Belton-Owen, Miss Ashman, Mr Marinuc**

SPaG for kids by a kid ~ Brook Lord

Brook is a budding author who has a burning passion for academia and recently had her first book published. It's a workbook called: SPaG for kids by a kid and is an innovative workbook with a twist! Her initial idea of writing SPaG for kids by a kid, was due to seeing the lack of support available for those with dyslexia and learning deficiencies. She felt this had to change and decided to be the one to make that change. This book would be extremely useful for Year 7s and 8s as it is targeted towards children aged 9-14.

"I hope it will make an impactful change. I aim to write more workbooks and target to those with dyslexia and for them to be vision deficiency friendly, but ultimately workbooks that can be used by anyone! The book is available on my website at a discounted price! To order your copy please click on the link below:"

<https://www.englishforkidsbyakid.com/>.





Jack Petchey Award Winners for April, May & June 2020

Thank you to everyone who sent in their nominations for the three remaining Jack Petchey awards for this term. Reading all the wonderful reasons for why our students should be considered for the awards was an uplifting and very positive experience during these unusual times. It is a shame that only one person per award could be announced as the winner; Mr Elphick struggled to make the final decisions for each of these awards from so many worthy nominations.

Here are the names of the nominees by month:

April 2020 Year 12: Samuel Gee, Kylie Li, Samantha Hayes-Holgate.

May 2020 Year 9: Lily Hewitt, Shakeel Majeed, Natsuki Dell.

June 2020 Key stage 3 (Years 7 & 8): Gracie Gosling, Henry Bush, Davina Gordynska, Alisha Ahmad, Matilda Jackson, Joseph Mutti, Ebube Chukwujekwu, Arvin Zare.



Congratulations to all of our winners!

Each of them will receive their winner's certificate and a pin badge when we return to school in September. They will also receive £250 to be spent in school on something that will benefit either their year group or a specific subject/department.

Congratulations again to Samantha, Shakeel and Gracie - please start thinking about how you would like to spend your money and if you have some ideas already please let me know.

Mrs Snelling
House Leader & Jack Petchey Coordinator

Jack Petchey
April Award Winner
Head's Choice - Year 12



Samantha Hayes Holgate

Samantha Hayes-Holgate was nominated by several of her peers for the Year 12 Jack Petchey award for her efforts in raising awareness for the Black Lives Matter movement recently. Samantha has helped voice the thoughts of the Year 12 cohort and liaised with Mr Elphick on elements such as the curriculum, pastoral care and future improvements to the school through the lens of BAME students. Her contributions to the Black Lives Matter editions of the School Newsletter were insightful and deeply researched, and her commitment to allyship is incredibly admirable.

Congratulations Samantha!



Jack Petchey
May Award Winner
Head's Choice - Year 9



Shakeel Majeed

Shakeel Majeed from 9ERR was nominated for the Jack Petchey award because 'during the quarantine, he's helped the house by running chess tournaments, but he's also just been genuinely helpful to people during the quarantine by checking up on people and such'. He is a very proactive young man and is clearly very thoughtful regarding his friends.

Congratulations Shakeel!



Jack Petchey
June Award Winner
Head's Choice - Key Stage 3



Gracie Gosling 7MCA

her peers for many reasons:

'Gracie is such a kind and supportive friend, she stands up for herself, and still does things that she can enjoy, and tries to help anyone in anyway possible, whether they are teachers or students.'

'Gracie has helped me come out of my shell and has helped me get through lockdown. If it wasn't for her I wouldn't have made as many friends as I have.'

'Despite all of her challenges Gracie has always got a big smile on her face. She helps others in the class and is always looking out for other people and aware of how they are feeling.'

Congratulations Gracie!



Senior Science Society Lecture

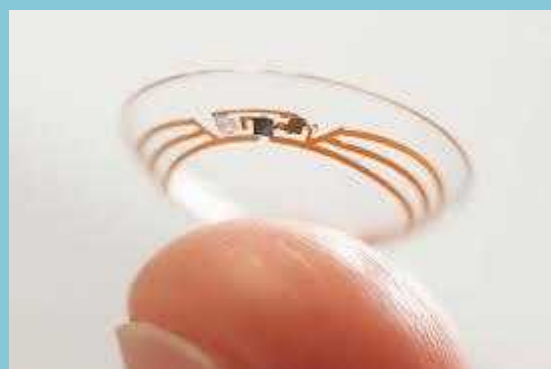
The BGS Senior Science Society is made up of a group of Year 12 students, who come together to learn about and explore scientific topics. We have been busy during lockdown- amongst our book club meetings and STEM discussions, some of our members have come together to create our very first virtual lecture series!

The first topic discussed is 'Microelectronics and Diabetes', where we explore the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in health. The link to the presentation can be found [here](#) (present on your device, audio should play automatically). Make sure you stay tuned for more!

***Charlotte Allen on behalf of
The Senior Science Society***

Can microelectronics inside of contact lenses help diabetics control their blood sugar?

Senior Science Society Lecture 1
Natacha and Charlotte



STEM News

Well, what a weird summer term this has been!

Despite the many challenges of blended and distance learning that the students have faced, they have managed to impress again and again.

Somehow we have still managed to complete all the Year 12 Science Extended Essays, including full days of data collection in school. This is a task that is incredibly difficult, even when you can pop in and see your supervisor during the day. The feeling of getting your EE done and being able to move into Year 13 ready for the next steps is a fantastic one and I urge those of you with little tidying up issues left, not to put these off.

Years 9 and 10 have ploughed on through the curriculum and showed incredible levels of self-motivation and determination. Meeting with Year 10 in these last few weeks has really underscored how incredibly lucky we are here at BGS to have such a capable, hard-working and well supported student body. I predict that a few weeks of revision and catch up in September will get us back on track very quickly.

For the final week of this term, Year 7 and 8 have been set an engineering challenge. There are ten different mini activities, from which they only choose one. I have already started to see some of the fruits of their labours and they do not disappoint! My favourite so far is this [video](#) from Anis Houmani in Year 7.

For those of you looking for something fun to do over the summer holiday, please feel free have a go at these [Engineering @ Home](#) challenges.

Ms Lusted, STEM Coordinator and Science Department



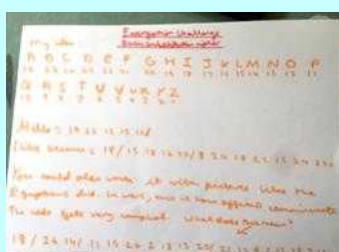
Amber Bhogal, Year 8



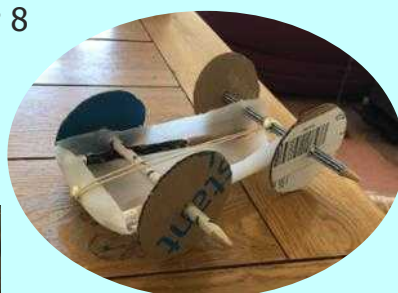
Isobel Stanley, Year 8



Harry Brett, Year 8



Nathaniel Kuhn, Year 8



Jacob Jeffrey, Year 8



Vaibhav Garimella, Year 7



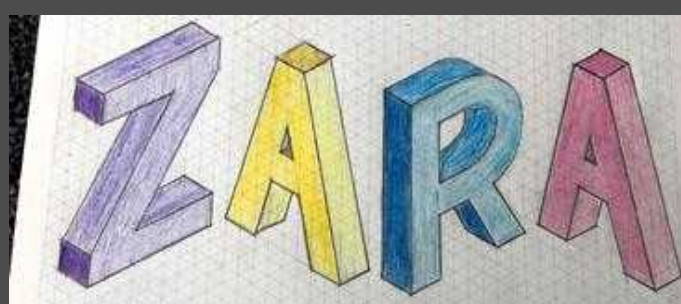
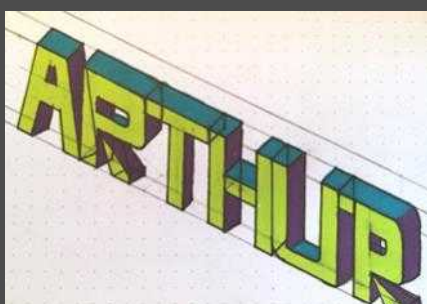
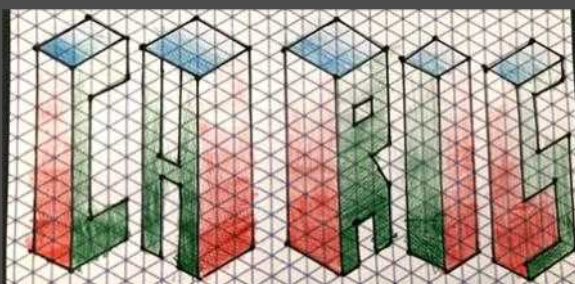
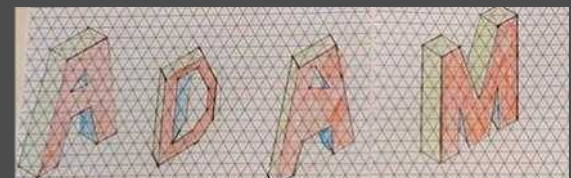
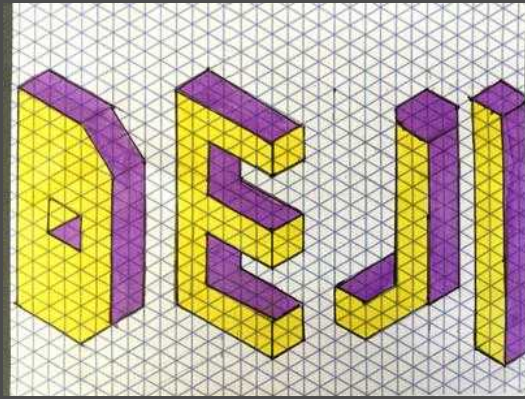
Jayden Chalayil
Year 7



Isometric Lettering

Isometric lettering by Year 7s in DT developing their graphics skills and producing stunning results.

Mrs Williamson, Design Technology Department







Tonight

Summer Soirees

THE ARTS EDITION

Join us for our final concert streamed on YouTube at 6pm, on Thursday 16 July, with a virtual art showing, a drama performance and music.

Watch the Music Department Twitter and Instagram accounts for details on how to access!



@bexleygsmusic



@BexleyGSMusic



MUSIC LESSON APPLICATIONS 2020-2021

Applications for Music Lessons
for 2020 – 2021 are now OPEN!



Click on the link [here](#) to
access the form and terms
and conditions.



We are taking all precautions
to ensure all music lessons
are as safe as possible. If you
have any queries, please
email Mrs Goddard,
Head of Music
(goddard_e@bexleygs.co.uk)



Culture Club Corner

As we reflect at the end of a long term, it's gratifying to look back on all the first class culture that has been made available digitally at the simple click of a mouse! If you haven't had a chance to take advantage of what might be this once in a lifetime chance to watch our greatest creative minds for free online in action, it's not too late. There'll be lots going on over the next few months, I'm sure and here are our own final recommendations.

The National Theatre at Home finishes its virtual offerings with the truly inspiring 'Amadeus' which we took students to see at the National Theatre, live, in January 2018. Charting the rise of rowdy young prodigy, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the play explores his relationship with court composer, Antonio Salieri, who has the power to promote or destroy Mozart's talent. The production explodes with Mozart's irreverence for authority and its costumes and set stunning! Read ex-student Jeevan's review of this breath-taking piece of theatre with its outstanding live orchestral accompaniment, [here](#). Available to view [here](#) from Thursday 16th July to Thursday 23rd July.

Another national institution, The Royal Albert Hall, has been streaming their Royal Albert Home series, featuring a diverse range of musical talents from the Kaiserchiefs and Scouting for Girls to Martha Wainwright and Nitin Sawhney and much more in between! All past live streams have been archived and can be watched on demand [here](#). The Royal Albert Hall has also traditionally been the home of the BBC Proms - a great annual festival of classical music. This year you can find a programme of wonderful music from past festivals and this year [here](#).

We hope you've enjoyed our Culture Club Corner recommendations over the last few months in lockdown. As an English department, we are really proud of our tradition of taking students to see a diverse range of performances over the years. We are missing the opportunity to share those 'live' experiences and to watch as our students are inspired and awestruck by the magic of the arts. Please continue to support the arts where you can and do tell us about anything you have seen and can recommend! Please share your reviews at hanington_l@bexleygs.co.uk.

The English Department



Class of 2019 - 2020 Together we are stronger

October

The Year 7 Girls' Netball Team had an impressive win with a 6-0 win to Harris Academy!



September



Year 9 visited the Volcanoes & Earthquakes gallery at The Natural History Museum and Year 12 Culture Club saw the Musical 'Come From Away' at the Phoenix Theatre.



BGS won the Element Kent, Periodic Table Mural Art Competition and exhibited at the Horsebridge Arts Centre, Whitstable.



The TSBA theme was 'Stand Up and Speak Out' and the group read, reviewed and enjoyed 'Beyond the Wall' by Tanya Landman.



As a community we celebrated 'International Week' and our Year 12 Anthropologists focused on migration during a trip to 'Brick Lane'.



Year 7s performed at the annual BGS Music Concert.



November



Lest We Forget

We remembered on the 11th November and worked without our pens on 13th.



No Pens Day
2019
Wednesday 13th
November



We congratulated Kyle Alexander when he was awarded his 1st International Cap for representing England in the Powerchair Football World Cup.



Our fabulous, hardworking PA hosted the Christmas Fayre.



In Geography, The GOSCAR Awards were launched for 2019-20.

December

Emily Hoang was the winner of the annual BGS Christmas Card Competition.



The Christmas Concert was spectacular and the Christmas production of 'The Ash Girl' was an outstanding success!



The winning entries of the BGS Bake Off Competition.





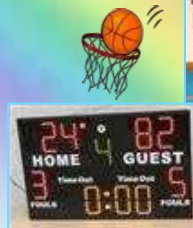
January



BGS Success at the Regional Jack Petchey Pitch Perfect Grand Final.



Year 12 Chemistry students attended the Higher Education Conference at Queen Mary University London.



We excelled in athletics advancing to the regional finals, had another impressive netball success beating Trinity 20-3 and smashed it racking up a massive 82 points in a basketball Kent Cup fixture.



GCSE Students performed at the KS4 Music Showcase.



3 of our students were recognised at the annual Bexley 'Civic Celebration of Achievement'.



We celebrated National Women and Girls in Science Day by attending a conference at Imperial College and also took part in the 1st Cambridge Chemistry Race.

February

At Japanese Club we made origami birds and animals. We also reported on our annual Europa Town Market



Adam was nominated by his Police Cadet leaders and received a Jack Petchey award.





March



Early in March we celebrated World Book Day.



British Science Week - Some of our ideas for a stamp to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the discovery of Antarctica.



The Year 12 Young Enterprise Team were the 'Best in Bexley'! Meanwhile, Year 10 students turned £120 into a whopping £1790 when they put their Business Studies heads on!



On the 12th March our reading group attended the Trinity Schools Book Awards Ceremony at the City of London School.

LOCKDOWN

On March 23rd, we went into lockdown. For the rest of March and throughout April, May, June & July we worked remotely. However, lockdown didn't stop us, our community spirit was strong, we supported each other and worked hard!



Ravi and his family delivered hampers full of treats to Key Workers



and Emilia helped out in her community by raising money for several charities, including Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospitals.

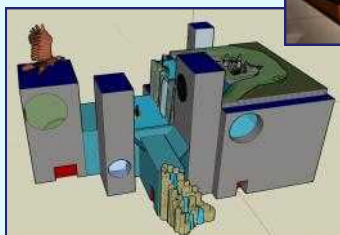


Meanwhile Kiera and her family supported our wonderful NHS.





Students were creative 'thinking outside the box' for the Year 7 Diploma and we definitely had some budding architects too!

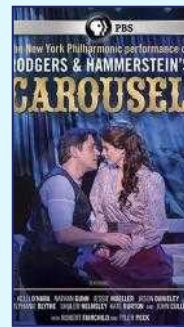


Our baking had an international theme.



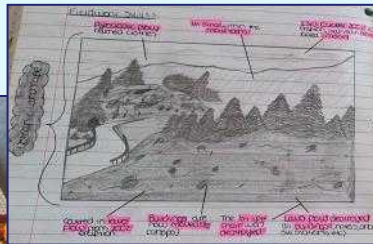
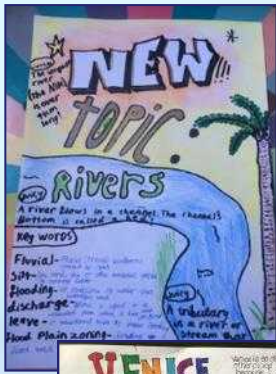


We shared our 'Radio 2 - 500 Words' competition stories and when our production of Twelfth Night was cancelled we had watch party and enjoyed a streamed production from the National Theatre.

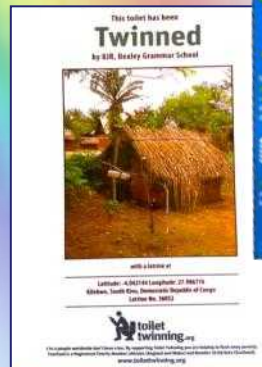
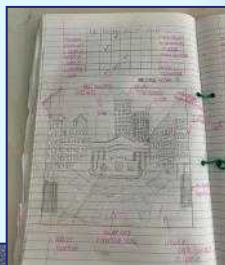
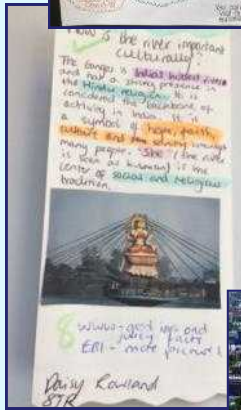
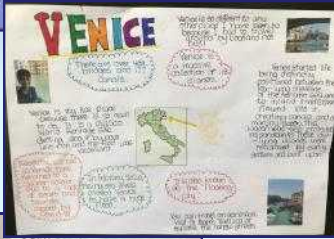


Culture Club treated us to some fantastic streamed productions and shared links to some thought provoking exhibitions. Meanwhile, the Music department invited us to a series of regular Summer Soirees.





The Geography department took us to places far and wide with virtual field trips. Students told us about their favourite places and we learned about rivers. Bob was the rescued flamingo and Sam received the first 'Top Bob' award for setting up an environmental group. Year 8s also were recognised for all their hard work with the Toilet Twinning scheme!

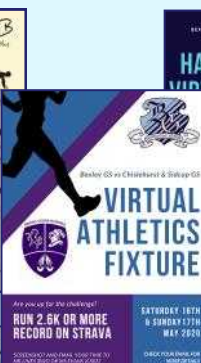


toilet twinning

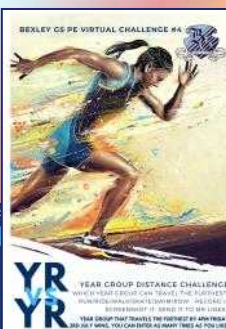
In Science, younger pupils learned about adaptations and looked at Geology, whilst older students discussed 'Medicine in a Pandemic'.

A whole host of online streamed events, including interactive sessions, competitions and challenges were available to feed inquisitive scientific minds!





We were challenged physically and mentally with competitions, quizzes and puzzles.



OVERALL RESULTS:

1st Kärmen	2nd Cullina	3rd Proffers	4th Johnson	5th Wellman	6th Mobbs
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INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Year 7	Kärmen	Cullina	Proffers	Johnson	Wellman	Mobbs
Year 8	Kärmen	Cullina	Proffers	Johnson	Wellman	Mobbs
Year 9	Kärmen	Cullina	Proffers	Johnson	Wellman	Mobbs
Year 10	Kärmen	Cullina	Proffers	Johnson	Wellman	Mobbs
Year 11	Kärmen	Cullina	Proffers	Johnson	Wellman	Mobbs
Year 12	Kärmen	Cullina	Proffers	Johnson	Wellman	Mobbs

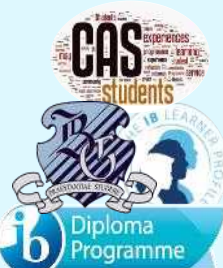
The PE department set up a comprehensive exercise regime for us to follow. They challenged us to a virtual bike ride, virtual House and year group activities and even organised a virtual athletics fixture against Chis & Sid which we won!



QUIZ TIME



There were 2 Special Edition Newsletters, **VE Day** and **Black Lives Matter**.



Our results were excellent from our second fully IB cohort!



Throughout it all we remained positive and full of hope, just like the 'Community Snake of Hope' in neighbouring Danson Park.



News items you may have missed

Bexley Grammar School Creative Writing Competition



COMPETITION RULES:
TO PRODUCE AN ORIGINAL
PIECE OF CREATIVE WRITING

THIS CAN BE IN ANY FORM:

- ◆ A POEM
- ◆ A SHORT STORY
- ◆ A MONOLOGUE
- ◆ A DIARY ENTRY
- ◆ A LETTER
- ◆ A SHORT PLAY!

IT MUST BE NO MORE THAN 500
WORDS AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

COMPETITION THEME:
'ONLY CONNECT'

COMPETITION PRIZE:
A £10 AMAZON VOUCHER
FOR EACH KEY STAGE WINNER
(3, 4 AND 5)!

COMPETITION CLOSING
DATE: FRIDAY 17TH JULY 2020

Competition hand in and queries: gabriel_k@bexleygs.co.uk

*Please put "creative writing competition"
in the title and specify whether you would like to be anonymous!*



Bexley Grammar School's ~ Lockdown Memories



As a community, we are going through a uniquely challenging time. We look back in our lessons at what shaped our world, decisions that were made to rebuild after catastrophic events and what we can learn from history.

There is a real need for us to record how the virus paused our lives and how we faced this most challenging experience.

For each of us it will have brought many different perspectives. Maybe your attention has been drawn to the government's response. Perhaps you have family members who work for the NHS or are key workers elsewhere. Maybe you have been captured by the Black Lives Matter protests, or you were disappointed that you couldn't attend a PRIDE celebration this year.

As a school we are proud to celebrate our diversity, in all its forms. So, if you have a first language other than English it would be wonderful to have pieces submitted reflecting your home language and/or culture.

Year 7s and 8s - please feel free to submit a piece from your 'English Keepsake' task - and of course you can add to it if need be.

Everyone has the right and the opportunity to record their view of the enforced lockdown: this is yours!

You can submit your work on various mediums:

Vocaroo voice message

Video

Visual art

Written format (article/poem/diary etc.)

Please remember parental permission must be obtained for all videos and photographs.

A range of submissions will be displayed around school, in the school magazine or on our website! There will, however, be a central Keepsake Box where all submissions will be stored for prosperity, which is why it is open to **students, parents and teaching and non-teaching staff**.

Please submit your work to Mrs Coller at

Coller_b@bexleygs.co.uk

Or hand it in to the staff room (A box will be placed just inside the door, please knock and wait.)

The deadline for submissions is 5th September 2020.

Thank you

Mrs Coller





A Mindful Moment

6 Tips for Taking Care of Yourself from Every Mind Matters

As we approach the end of the start of the summer holidays, it's important to remember that there are still lots of ways that you can find support for your wellbeing.

1. Go for a walk in nature

A walk in nature has been proven to have long-lasting positive effects on your mood. It can be in your garden or a local park as part of your daily exercise.

2. Change the way that you walk

Try walking in a more relaxed way - lower your shoulders, raise your head up high.

3. Call a friend and laugh together

Laughter is contagious, and it makes you feel better. It might be nice if you could video call them and see their face too.

4. Eat more fruit & vegetables

Studies show happiness and mental health are highest amongst those regularly eating lots of fruit and vegetables.

5. Up your exercise

Even small changes in your activity levels can improve your mood. There are lots of online exercise videos to help you achieve your goals, or the PE department has lots of links for exercise routines too.

6. Wish others well

Research suggests that turning the focus from you onto someone else and wishing them well can help you to feel happier and more connected. The study suggests simply thinking 'I wish you well' whenever you see someone. It might sound trivial, but it's worth a try right?

Advice from Every Mind Matters

(<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters>)

Don't forget that there's also a dedicated section of the [school website](#), where you can find lots of information about external support available during difficult times. One such service is [Kooth](#), which is a free online mental wellbeing community offering counselling, information and forums for young people. We are dealing with a lot of change at the moment, so be kind to yourselves and make sure that you are prioritising your wellbeing.

Year 7 – Mindfulness Session

All of Year 7 had their first introduction to Mindfulness as part of their Wellbeing Day this term. We were all really impressed with how you approached the session, and hope that you found it helpful. Here's a quick reminder of the finger breathing practice that you did during the session. Don't forget to give it a try at home if you start to feel anxious.

Mr Rodrigo, Mrs Spencer & Miss Brand

5 Finger Breathing



1. Stretch one hand out so that you have space between your fingers.

2. Hold up your pointer finger from the other hand.

3. Start at the bottom of your thumb. Use your pointer finger to trace up your thumb as you slowly breathe in through your mouth.

4. When you get to the top of your thumb, slowly breathe out your nose as you trace down the other side.

5. Repeat for all fingers until you have traced your whole hand.



The Return to School - Ideas for Parents

Whether your child has gone back to school yet or not, they may be feeling anxious about what to expect. Looking forward to the best bits can help.

Ask how they're feeling

Even if your child doesn't seem too worried, it's still important to ask how they feel about returning to school.

If they are visibly worried, ask them what they feel anxious about. It's easier for you to support them if they have a particular concern.

Reassure them it's OK to have these worries and praise them for sharing them with you.

Make a plan

Worries and anxious thoughts can happen if your child feels out of control. It helps to find things they can control and start from there:

Can they make the school routine more enjoyable? Try making a morning playlist for walking to school with friends.

Young children might not have seen friends since school closed. Could you arrange a socially distanced meeting beforehand?

How will they get used to the new routine and get enough sleep? Could they practise waking up early for a few days before school starts?

Ask what they will miss from being at home. Are they worried they won't get to spend as much time with you? Reassure them and continue to make time for this once school resumes.

Children who have to get to school by themselves might be nervous if they haven't done this for a long time. Practise the journey with them beforehand, or go with them on the first day back.

Find the positives

After so much time away, hopefully your child will also have things to look forward to. These might include:

Seeing their friends again.

Having renewed independence (taking themselves to and from school).

Their favourite subject and/or teacher.

Getting back into a routine. This makes free time more fun.

Explore coping strategies

Sometimes anxiety can feel overwhelming or even cause panic attacks. There are lots of activities you can try in the emotional wellbeing section of the Action for Children website.

Feel good activities

Suggest they make a list of feel good activities to do when they're having a bad day. They could choose a reward for themselves, too. Or make a soothing box to fill with items they like the look, smell, touch or taste of.

Miss Brand, School Mindfulness Lead





Easyfundraising

Free money for the school when you shop online at absolutely no cost to you.

Thank you to all those who have signed up for the BGS EasyFundraising (320 supporters now). This scheme, at absolutely no cost to you, has now raised £5,111.18 for the school through the Parents' Association.

With the gradual lifting of travel restrictions in the coming weeks and the pull of a tentative holiday booking, this is the perfect time to join the 320 of us who book online with travel agents or airlines. Please take 3 minutes to sign up to support BGS whenever you make a purchase online.

BGS Parents' Association

Sign up at:

**[https://
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/
causes/bexleygrammar](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bexleygrammar)**
click on the pink "Support this Cause" box.

Don't forget to set up
"Donation Reminder"!



Exams News

A little reminder from Exams Office,

GCSE Results for Year 11 will be available for collection from 10am on Thursday 20th August 2020. Social distancing rules will be applied and details will follow soon.

IMPORTANT - If you wish any other person (including family members) to collect your results on your behalf, you **must** give your written authorisation - via email please, to the Examinations Office before results day. Please email Mrs Bono (bono_a@bexleygs.co.uk).

If the results are not collected on Thursday 20th August they will be posted to the address we have on the database for the student unless notified otherwise.

Mrs Bono
Examinations Officer



Please look out for
our BGS Summer
edition Magazine in
your inbox.

