

NEWSLETTER



12th October 2020

www.bexleygs.co.uk
**Year 7 Open
Experience Edition**

Welcome to Bexley Grammar School

BGS is such an amazing and caring school; I settled down there almost immediately with the help of all the teachers, older students and my form. At the start - like most other people - I was apprehensive, wondering what the transition from primary school would be like. However, as I entered the school and experienced the caring atmosphere, I knew life at BGS was going to be great!



Everyone is eager to help us out, for instance, when my friends and I got lost going to a class towards the top of the school, many of the older students showed us the way.

The school is huge, with corridors and classrooms everywhere. At the start I walked through the school with my friends and sometimes with my whole form so that if we got lost we could try to find the correct route together! Thankfully, we were also given a map of the school to follow: this helped as it had information about where each class is located.

At the start of the year I was given a timetable. At first the timetable was confusing as it contained the initials of teachers and room numbers I hadn't seen before, however it was explained thoroughly, and now it is very clear and easy to use. Don't worry, it will soon make sense!

The subjects here are exciting and interesting. My favourite subjects so far are the language classes; I have German and Latin, where no English is to be spoken. It is great fun and I feel I learn even more just by working in that environment. The teachers are all lovely and approachable and cover a lot in just one lesson.

It is very different from primary school in terms of lessons and getting around the school; we have six lessons a day now and it is much bigger than primary school. Also, we need to navigate our way from class to class and visit different teachers for each subject.

I love Bexley Grammar School and I don't think that I will ever regret choosing this school for my secondary school; I'm sure you will feel the same!

Hattie Pigott-Denyer



On my first day at BGS, I remember standing in a line of shy and nervous-looking Year 7s like me and thinking, *how am I ever going to fit into this gigantic, strange new school?*

Weeks later, I have already made new friends and I am starting to memorise the crazy floor plan of the school! I am also enjoying the new subjects I have been learning such as German, Latin, Drama and Food Tech. I have made this transition from a shy and nervous-looking new student to a confident and happy Year 7 thanks to the great support offered by Bexley Grammar School. My form tutor (a teacher who

doesn't teach you a subject, but makes sure you and your form (class) are happy in school and on top of your work) has been great with helping us make new friends and deal with a much bigger amount of homework than in primary school.

One of my main worries before starting secondary school was making new friends. What if I couldn't start a conversation with someone? What if I was too nervous to make friends? When I got to the classroom our form tutor introduced us to each other and we spent the morning asking our form tutor questions about what secondary school would be like. That way, our questions were answered and our form tutor got to know what we were anxious about. I made new friends during Academic Monitoring (the lesson we spend with our form tutor each day).

My other main worry was the daunting prospect of learning multiple new subjects, including German, Drama and Latin. *Deutsch ist fantastisch und Herr Street ist sehr gut* (German is fantastic and Mr Street is very good); Drama with Ms Gabriel has been great fun and the same for Latin with Mr Risdon. Learning these new subjects, and more, has not been daunting or too much at all, and they now feel like a regular part of school.

All in all, my first few weeks at BGS have been exciting, informative and challenging. I feel like a proud student of this school and I hope that you go on to find the best school for you (*choose BGS!*) and that your first few weeks of September 2021 are just as great as my experiences of September 2020. Wishing you luck!

Lev Griffin

The transition between primary and secondary school

When I made the transition earlier this year, my old school had prepared me for what it would be like, but it still came as a shock to me. This was because it was nothing like what I had been prepared for. Like most people I was anxiously awaiting my first day with no idea what the day would bring, but once I got to Bexley Grammar, I immediately knew it was the right place for me and after several weeks of being here, I still believe that what I said was entirely true. My teachers of whom I have met are all extremely kind and fun and are excellent at what they do. The school makes me feel so safe and I know that if there is ever an issue there will always be someone at this school that I can talk to about it whether it be Mr Martin, our Director of Studies (DOS) or Miss Fuwa, our Senior Academic Mentor (SAM), or my Form Tutor or English teacher or any other teacher knowing that it is their aim and their priority to look after us all.



Millie Laming



Being in a form group and making new friends

A form group is a group of people of your age and you spend 5 or 6 years together with them. This means that you will spend lots of time with them and so you will make friends with them, but you will also fall out with them. This does not mean that they hate you, only that you have different opinions on things, but I am sure that they will support you forever. My form group is extremely funny, loud and creative and I think they are all amazing people and that I am lucky to have them as a form class because they seem to be really kind and supportive people which is something you need as a trait from people. Over the past few weeks I have managed to help and make friends not only in our form, but also in the other forms and they are also amazing people. Other than just having an amazing form class I also have a fabulous form tutor who cares about us all and has (along with all the other teachers and students) made me feel that this was the right place for me and that I chose the right school to help me progress into a human being who will not only have the degrees they would want because Bexley Grammar got them there but also the kindness and key traits that they taught us to have.

Millie Laming

Looking back, the first day of school was many things... but especially, fulfilled with excitement and apprehension. However, when I said goodbye to my parents and brother at the school gate, I felt very proud. The next thing I knew, we were taken to our form room. There was a seating plan at the board and our form tutor was handing out our planners and a timetable. The timetable tells you the initials of the teacher and what room you have your period lesson.

Actually, the whole school is simple to navigate and the floor plan of the school is not complex – and only G block does not have a sign. You cover most of the possible routes over the first 2 weeks and get used to the different buildings. Even if you are not very orientation skilled, you will be able to get around from one classroom to another (and remember you can always follow another friend, but be cautious which one :-). Gradually, I tried to memorise the school map over a couple of days and then I did not need to use it again. To be honest with you, I have made a couple of mistakes – once I went to L block instead of G block and another time, I got lost in J block. Thankfully, the teachers are very understanding if you are late to your lesson.

At the beginning, you have double form time in the morning instead of your period one and two lessons so you can get to know your tutor and you learn how to navigate around the school swiftly.

I am a very social person and make friends very easily. The person that I am supposed to sit next to was absent for two weeks, but as it turned out, I knew some friends from different life's pathways which made me breathe a sigh of relief. Gradually, with time, I have gotten to know more and more people in my form group with whom I spend lunch times in the canteen trying the tasty food.

The football club is very popular among the students and many of them attend it, including some of my friends. Bexley Grammar School has amazing sports facilities such as football pitches, rugby pitches, tennis courts and a vast school sports hall. During the football training, we are divided into 9 a side teams and then we play mini matches against each other's teams which last around 10 minutes. I normally play in defence, but I have sometimes been placed in midfield as left wing which was a nice change. I have also started to play rugby in the rugby club as I have always enjoyed sports.

Maxim Taflaj





At first, I was worried about going to secondary school, but with Darina, it turned out to be okay, because she always led everyone to classes, even though we often got lost. The school was difficult to navigate (and still is a little bit). I asked for help a few times when I got lost, alone, but most of the time I used to go to classes with someone from my form, sometimes using a map, sometimes not, just so that if we got lost we got lost together. Now I go to classes by myself, I find it quicker that way.

I found the teachers and the people in my form to be very nice people. I speak to my friends outside of school, sometimes about homework, but most of the time about random stuff. I have become friends with Claudia and Lydia and the other girls that came from Uplands Primary school. At break times I sit on the hill next to the Year 8 playground with them, we eat our snacks and check what classes we have next. At lunch, we sit at the table next to the boy's football pitch, eating our lunch, talking about what we eat and playing games with our friends.

Overall, settling into the school and making friends wasn't that difficult at all.

Pauline Meltzer

Extra-curricular clubs

In BGS we do a variety of clubs right now. I attend the Netball Club, the Choir and the Orchestra.

Netball Club

In the Netball club everyone is there by self-opt in. We learn about footwork, positions and wearing bibs. You do learn all these things in P.E but it does take over a term whereas in the Netball club, I guarantee you after just less than three times of going, you will be playing like a pro. All Forms in Year 7 are invited so you will also get to mix with a lot of different people.



Junior Choir

I have just started going to the Junior Choir, so far it's really fun. Mrs Eacott is really nice and we sing lots of fun songs. At the moment, we are singing a song called 'Speechless' from the new Aladdin film, which is sung by Jasmine. The Junior Choir is for both boys and girls and anyone can sign up.

Orchestra

The Orchestra only just officially started and so far all I know is that we will be playing the theme tunes from the 'Avengers', 'Polar Express' and also 'It's Beginning to look a lot like Christmas'.

If you would like to join the Orchestra all you need to have completed is your Grade 2 music exam, or be working towards it. I play the piano and I'm currently at Grade 4, but I've never played in an orchestra before so I'm really excited to hear what it sounds like when we play all together.

Caitlyn Osei-Tutu



A Message from Mr Elphick, Headteacher, to Year 6 Pupils

Hattie, Lev, Millie, Maxim, Pauline and Caitlyn welcomed you to this Virtual Open Experience Special edition of our weekly newsletter because it is students you want to hear from. At Bexley Grammar School, we understand that moving from primary to secondary school can be a daunting experience, but our dedicated, committed staff are here to give you constant support and advice to ensure a smooth transition. The most important things you can do are make new friends, get involved and enjoy yourself!

Starting school this September during the pandemic has been an experience we could never have dreamed of prior to the Coronavirus. Usually, by half term, parents of year 7 would have met tutors twice, once for a 5 minute 'touch base' meeting after a couple of weeks, and once at the Parents' Association BBQ. We would be building up to a music concert in which the whole of year 7 are jammed into the school hall with their parents for a startling performance after only 5 or 6 music lessons. There would have been an extra-curricular 'fair' where new students would have been able to visit stalls telling them all about the activities on offer to year 7 - about two dozen! Our trained year 12 peer mentors would be meeting some of our most vulnerable students for 1-1 chats and every year 7 student would have been paired with a year 8 buddy to support them for the first few weeks. Our programme of countless trips and visits both at home and abroad would have been underway...

It was not to be this September. However, despite the loss of all these activities, our new year 7 have settled enthusiastically into our new reality and if Hattie, Lev, Millie, Maxim, Pauline and Caitlyn are anything to go by, they are thoroughly enjoying themselves. We hope to be able to return to something much closer to our previous normal by the time you arrive at BGS in September 2021. We offer so many fantastic opportunities from the very beginning of Year 7 to ensure that you become part of our vibrant and exciting community. Our students make this the outstanding school that it is. Together, with energy, imagination and commitment, with determination, creativity and a willingness to participate, Bexley Grammar School will help you to develop the knowledge and confidence to reach your full potential and succeed in future endeavours.

The link [here](#) will take you to our weekly newsletters which will add flavour to the richness of the experience that we offer.





International Day Friday 25th September

Last Friday (25th September) was International Day at BGS to celebrate European Day of Languages. We took our register in different languages, each day that week and on Friday we dressed up in outfits from different cultures. The canteen was selling international food, all week, including: jerk chicken, sushi and many others. Mrs Rubbera hosted a great international bake off, which was really fun to participate in. Overall, it was a really great week and I'm really excited for next year!

Ellie Cox
Year 7



Bonjour,
Hola, Hallo, Ciao
Cześć, Ahoj, Hej
Здравствуйте,
Hello!

Which language are your teachers speaking?

10THW correctly guessed the nine foreign languages spoken in videos by our members of staff. This was extremely impressive on their part - bravo! So many of our teachers speak languages other than English; some speak four or five languages fluently! Why not ask your form tutor if they speak any other languages?





International Bake-Off

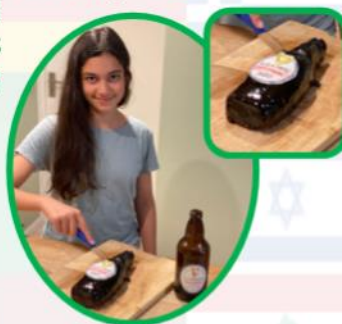
This year we carried out our international bake-off competition virtually with no tasting by the judges (sob, sob!). Students followed recipes from all over the world and sent in pictures and descriptions of their cooking. Presentation was the most important aspect this year! We received so many wonderful photos and were sad not to be able to taste them all. We hope you enjoyed making and eating all the delicious international food.

Mrs Rubbera, MFL KS3 Lead Teacher



Best Overall Bake - Sienna Alwan, Year 7

Sienna baked a beautiful and very realistic looking Guinness cake to celebrate receiving Irish citizenship. Congratulations Sienna!



Excellent Entries



Gulab Jamun
by Ashna Adhikari, Year 7



Sachertorte
by Zoe Handscombe, Year 9



French Meringue
by Samuel Pooley, Year 7



Japanese Gyoza
by Oscar Evans, Year 7

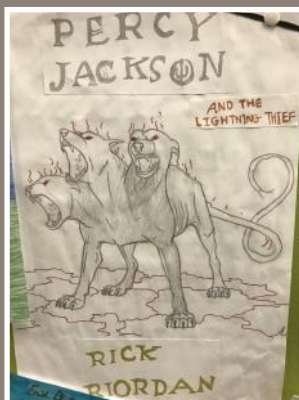


Year 7 Book Cover Project

It has been wonderful to welcome the new Year 7 students and get to know which books they enjoy reading, and to gather their book recommendations for our library. I have also loved looking at their book cover designs, which they worked on over the summer.

Through some feat of engineering involving hundreds of drawing pins, I have managed to fit all of the covers onto my display board. I hope they enjoy seeing their beautiful designs on display. I will also choose a few to frame for our library walls, and I have a noticeboard that needs brightening up, so I will try to keep as many up as possible. Well done Year 7!

Mrs Carey, School Librarian





Science Summer Term Learning

This summer term has seen Year 7 and 8 get very creative with their science home learning. Year 7 have been researching different species and their adaptations. They have also found out about lots of specialised cells, with the aim of completing their diploma task by the end of term. I have been delighted by the diploma tasks already submitted. Students had to make a model of a specialised cell out of recycled material and describe how the features help it to carry out its functions.

Adaptations

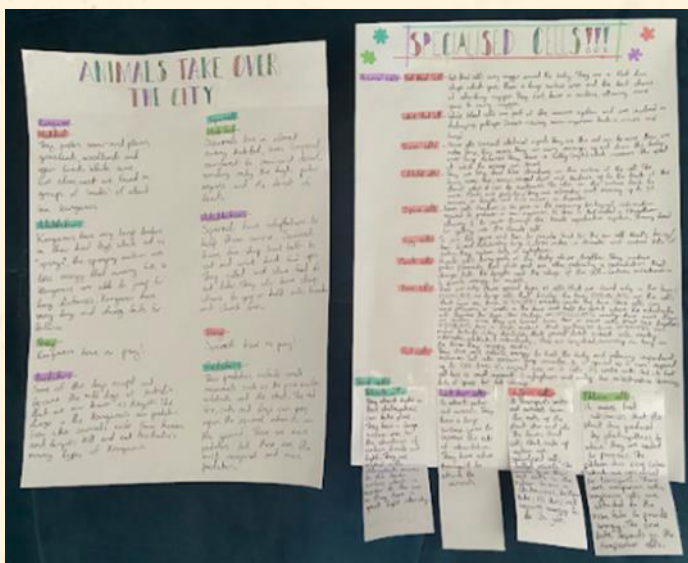
The ways the red panda has adapted is it grew a bushy tail so it can balance on it while climbing trees it can the tail is also long enough to use it as a blanket when it sleeps.

Their feet are covered with fur to stop heat loss and to help them climb wet branches. They also use the fur to help them slowly slide down off a branch. They have bone on the inner part of the paw which they use as a thumb and grip tightly to bamboo



Elias Oyebeisi, Year 7

Year 8 have moved on to the topic of Geology. They also have a selection of different tasks to choose from, posters, models and even top trumps cards! Have a look at some of the creations so far.



Leila Stepanova, Year 7



Yu Qi Ong, Year 7





Oluwademilade Samuel-Onette, Year 7



Edward Gearing, Year 7



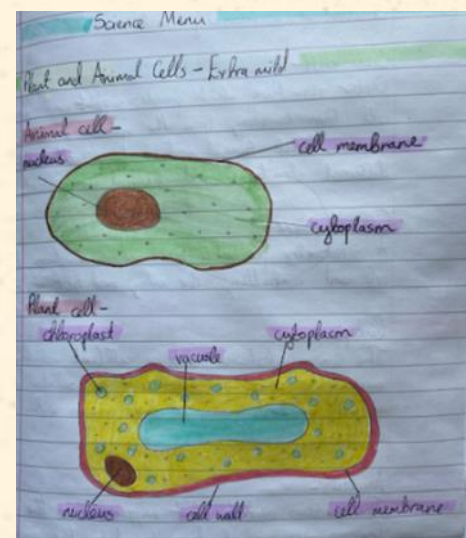
Rajashvi Hamal, Year 7



Leo Leupold, Year 8

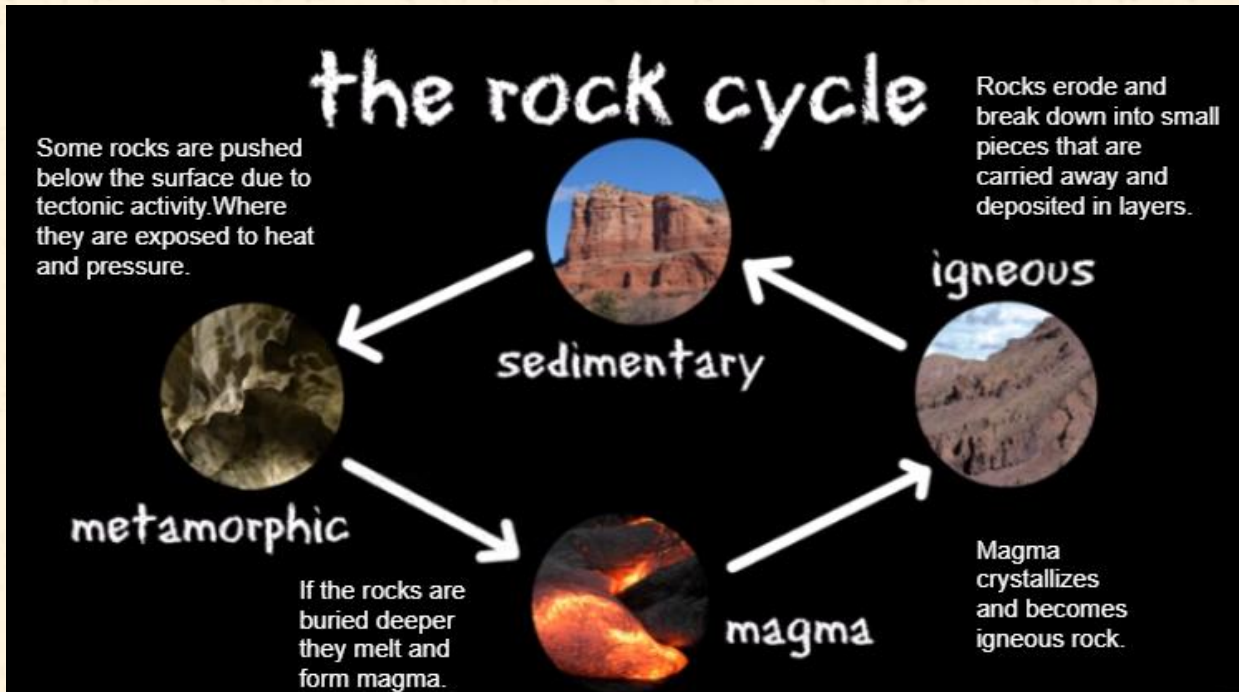


Isobel Stanley, Year 8



Leila Stepanova, Year 7





Lewis Abba, Year 8



David Dobre, Year 8





Isobel Stanley, Year 8



Feruz Ahmadjon, Year 8



Year 7 Art Diploma

'Bob the Birdman' by Mia Millin

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, I began to think of some ideas for my art project with rubbish and old items from my home.

I was inspired by the artist Dahlsen and Leo Sewell, who grew up close to a dump and spent his whole life collecting materials for his amazing sculpture works!

I used various Items from the recycling bin, concentrating on colour, patterns and contrast and am particularly fond of his plastic bag bow tie! I have named him Bob the Birdman as the birds in my garden like to perch on him and he's made from bits and bobs.

I really enjoyed doing this piece and will definitely continue to make art from discarded materials.





Being Trapped by Malou Wagner Poedenphant

I got the idea for my art diploma piece from quarantine, and "being trapped" since we can't leave our homes. This piece shows being stuck and wrapped up in a small place. I used newspaper to cover up my dad and create the project and to make it stick I just used some water.

I wet the tips of the newspaper to make it stick, then for the face I soaked small strands of newspaper completely in water so I could shape them around the nose and head. The face was definitely the biggest challenge because if I didn't wet the paper it wouldn't be able to stick in the strange angles. When I did wet them they became very fragile and started ripping. After a couple of tries I managed to carefully place them on without sticking.

The impact I would like this piece to have on people, is for them to remember these times even after we can go outside again as it's an experience that most likely won't happen again. We need to make the most of it, and be able to create projects relating to it and turn it around in a positive way.

The message behind the piece is the feeling of being trapped in your own house and in an environment you normally wouldn't feel trapped in. The project is showing people that there are others that feel trapped too, or are maybe struggling in these times, and that it's ok. But overall it's replicating the feeling of being trapped or stuck in one place without being able to move.

The advice I would give to other artists doing something similar is don't only think about your struggles, but think about what other people are finding difficulty in these times. Ask others what their struggles in a situation is and try to include that as well as your own opinion.



Snake of Garbage devouring planet Earth by Eddie Gearing

Year 7
Diploma

For my Art diploma, I was inspired by John Dahlson, who makes art from the discarded rubbish he finds on beaches. I also wanted my work to have an ecological message so I decided to make a snake of garbage devouring planet Earth to show how rubbish and waste are consuming the world.



The snake's head took the most time and was the most difficult part of my project. I had to make a cardboard frame and then carefully stick, crushed drink cans to it. The most fun part was painting my sister's netball (returned to her undamaged) to make the Earth. And the easiest part was the snake's body. I just emptied the recycling bins and arranged the rubbish into a long, meandering body going down the garden. I enjoyed making a piece of art so large and was pleased with how it looked when it was finished.



Lockdown Rainbow by Callum Creedy

This ingeniously simple but effective work of Covid 19 related art was created during lockdown by Callum Creedy for his Year 7 Diploma. Using things he had lying around the house, he combined the arrangement techniques used by artists Andy Goldsworthy and John Dahlsen to create a picture visible to any plane or helicopter flying over his garden.



Reading Throne by Matilda Jackson

I got the idea to make a reading chair, actually a throne, to ensure it was bigger than me, when my parents and I were looking for new furniture for our home. I decided to make the structure out of cardboard- from the packaging from our Ikea delivery. I made it from scratch and finished it off with an old book with missing pages for the decoration.

The problem I faced was for the throne to hold my body weight. I resolved this by including 30+ identical triangular prisms throughout the seat in two rows in different directions. This worked because triangles are the strongest shape. I made a huge cuboid out of triangles pushed tightly together and then I made a net to wrap around them- this created a very strong seat.

The impact I would like my piece to make, is that you can make very useful and cool things out of recycled items, even old books (I still use my throne now!).

Some advice I would give is to make sure the structure is strong enough before starting, with lots of sketches and planning. Make sure to score the cardboard on the folds, otherwise the shapes won't be accurate!



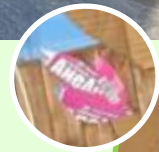
A Tree by Deya Dimitrova

My name is Deya Dimitrova and I am a student in Year 7. For my Year 7 Art Diploma, I created a tree. I worked with used cardboard boxes to construct the tree shape and I used empty ice cream and food boxes to make leaves that I decorated the tree with.

For me, the actual idea of a tree has a meaning behind it: in everyday life, millions of trees are being cut down daily to make human products like paper and cardboard.

As I used cardboard, I had to try out various cutting tools so I could see which one was most effective. However, in this stage, I realised that cardboard is not an easy material to cut and I experienced some difficulties. In the end, I settled with a Stanley knife because it was much more suited for cutting cardboard.

I decided that it would be meaningful to make the tree out of recycled materials as many real, living trees are cut down to make them. The message behind my piece of artwork is that anything can be beautiful, just like nature.



Christopher Fernandes is the creator of this striking work of art

"We were asked by our Art teacher, Mr Gilmore, to create a piece of reusable/ recyclable art for our Year 7 Diploma.

Before and during lockdown, I started to realise that there was a mountain of crisp packets building up. They couldn't be recycled in the normal way (Luckily, my Scout group has a recycling scheme) so I

decided to use them for my art project, to highlight the amount of crisp packets we are consuming, and whether we are doing enough to recycle them in pre-existing schemes. If this is the amount of crisp packets from one family, over a few weeks, then imagine how crisp packets are being thrown away over the whole borough! My Art project was inspired by fireworks as the packets are colourful and the opposite side was based on the sun and rivers. It was quite tricky to tuck the packets around the hinges of the door and to stick them with Blu-Tack. Any advice if you're trying this at home? Don't only eat one flavour of crisp if you want to make it striking!"



This impressive piece of improvised architecture was created by Lucy Avis Clarke

"I was originally going to attempt to make a recyclable model made out of egg cartons, and I had been saving up the boxes, but I decided to reread the brief and it turned out that the work of art had to be the same size, or bigger than you. It also had to be made from recycled or reusable materials. I decided to have a look around our garage to see what kind of things I could use. I spotted an old metal bed frame and that's where my idea originated. I realised that I could use parts of it for the basic structure and that I could also try to weave fabric in and out of the bars to create what acted as walls and a back.

A couple of times, I ran out of fabric to use, but after further searches around the house I managed to find more - including old duvet covers.

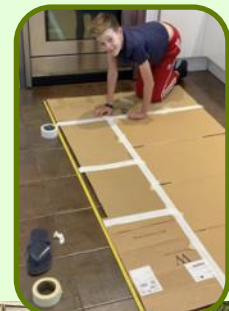
If anyone else wanted to do a project similar to this, I'd suggest making sure you had plenty of material before starting, and I'd also say try to work in good weather! It really helped that it was sunny and warm when I was working on it."



Giant Flip Flop by Samuel Holt

My Art Diploma was to create an environmentally friendly work of art. We had to choose an artist (from an option of three) to be inspired from. The three artists are:

1. Christo and Jean Claud. Their most famous works are due to their wrapping techniques. This is essentially when they would wrap up landmarks around the world with a variety of fabrics and tissues.
2. Andy Goldsworthy. He is a British environmental artist and architect. In most of his work he uses 100% natural materials (such as leaves, twigs and mostly stones).
3. John Dahlsen. John uses a range of materials from plastics to cardboard. His most popular work is 'Thousands of Flip Flops' (also known as Absolut Dahlsen). He used quite a lot of flip-flops and sandals to create a gargantuan Absolut Vodka bottle.



The artist that inspired me the most was John Dahlsen. This is because you can create anything from his ideas by just using something in your house. This is also something great to be inspired from as well because in these troubling times, we can't really go to places like a DIY shop to purchase items.

It was an early morning when I thought to myself of John Dahlsen's "Thousands of Flip-Flops" work. This gave me an idea. What if we could flip to the opposite of Dahlsen's design. "How about I create a massive flip flop out of lots and lots of bottles" of course only one half of this statement came to reality; which



was the first. Using lots of bottles would be really challenging to put it in the shape of a flip flop. So instead I decided to reuse cardboard and plastics to make it look even more realistic.

Every piece of art has a name. I eventually came across the name "Ymir's Sandals" Time for a little history lesson! Ymir (in Norse Mythology) was the first being to have ever existed. He was a large giant that was made from the depths of Muspelheim (a realm of fire) and Niflheim (a realm of ice). When the Gods appeared they splayed Ymir. His skull turned into space, his bones into the sky, his sweat and blood into the ocean and (most importantly) his feet into the tallest of mountains. This is a metaphor for my massive sandals. This basically means that they hold up the mountains (meaning that they're really big flip flops or just really strong ones).

I collected old and discarded cardboard and other materials. I flattened large sections of the cardboard and taped them together. I measured a flip flop and scaled up the flip flop size to a 7:1 ratio.



Year 7 Art Diploma

One of the most important things about being creative on a regular basis, is it trains our minds to solve problems, and to find new ways of doing things. Creativity is like a muscle, the more we use it, the easier it becomes to recognise new possibilities and solutions, and to realise new relationships between seemingly unrelated things. Because creativity is such a critical life skill, you will find it right at the heart of C.A.S. from Year 7, to our Sixth Form. It is never too late to start being creative.

Our Year 7s have shown exemplary resourcefulness in their Diploma projects, and proven that even the restrictions of lockdown are no match for a mind armed with creativity.

Mr E Gilmore, Art & Design Department



Modern Foreign Languages

Year 7 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!



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

What's happening in Geography?

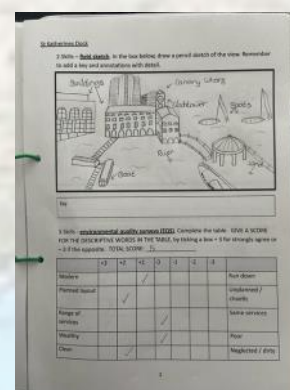
Virtual Fieldwork Week

As part of the Geography departments Virtual Fieldwork Week Year 7 carried out their London Docklands investigation which will form the basis of their Geography Diploma task through virtual fieldwork. So from the comfort of their own homes and with the use of technology Year 7 were able to virtually escape and explore London.



We started off with a helicopter flight across London to see the area of study and then visited our two main locations to compare the regeneration of St. Katherine's Dock and Canary Wharf. At each site students explored on foot or from the air using Google maps and record data as field sketches and environmental surveys. These were new geographical skills and students have worked hard to master these.

*Examples of work here from
Lottie Hooton
and Eve Driscoll,
Year 7*



Year 7 reflections on their Virtual Fieldwork

Charlotte Butler - I enjoyed learning this way because I enjoyed drawing the scenery given to us. I also liked the fact that the instructions weren't just written down and they were spoken as well.

Elizabeth Conquest - The setup of the homework was very interesting, it was like the streets of London had come to life during the virtual tour!

Prasiz Gurung - I enjoyed learning this way because the virtual helicopter rides, recorded guidance and the pictures were very helpful and knowledgeable.

Thomas Mayo - I think this was a better way to learn because it was more engaging as we looked around the places, (Google maps) rated them (environmental check) we even drew them in our field sketches so it was more interesting to learn about than a normal lesson.

Mia Millin - It was really fun to switch up how we learned by going on a helicopter ride and getting to do field sketches and surveys. Also, I found our work easier to understand because you used voice messages instead of just text! Geography is even better than it already was!! :D



Ryan Sarkar- I liked the helicopter ride and it was like being in school.

Varun Tandulwadikar - I had lived in Isle of Dogs from when I was in Reception till Year 5. Doing the virtual tour was very enjoyable and brought back memories, as I have been to many of the locations covered in our work this week.

Brendon Tse - I thoroughly enjoyed this task, as it was quite a calm task which I learned a lot about Canary Wharf & St Katherine's Dock. Great.

Michael Wheeler-Ashurst - It was very fun and interactive.

Bilgin Bloom - It was much more involved with the location and the local area and gave a much better picture of what the place is and was like.

Joseph Hall - I personally liked the tables and the helicopter ride as it made the lesson more fun. Thank you.

Behzod Marufov - I like learning this way because the instructions are clear and even have a link to a recording which the teacher sent to explain things verbally.

Jesse Oshogwe - I enjoyed learning this way as it gave me a chance to not only do my work in the books but also do my work online. It gave me the choice to choose the last part of my work and the artistic part was very fun to do.

Celine Pan - I really enjoyed learning about the London Docklands since I found it incredibly interesting to go through the history of how the Docklands came to be today. I loved learning about the early uses of the River Thames, and what happened in places like St Katherine's dock, and even the modern day Canary Wharf.

Anoushka Sarashetti - I enjoyed working this way because the instructions that you have given are quite clear and easy to understand. The feedback is given by voice, which is really helpful to understand.

News from the English Department

BBC Radio 2 ~ 500 Hundred Words First Round Success

Anis Houmani and Hari Rehal achieve a place in the next round!

For the last 10 years BBC Radio 2 have been running 500 Words: a short story competition for young people in order to get them excited about reading and writing.

The idea is simple: you write a story about whatever you like and your story is judged without regard to spelling, punctuation and grammar. There is only one condition: your story has to be 500 words long.

This year we are pleased to announce that Anis Houmani and Hari Rehal have made it into the final 5000 entries which will go on to be judged and eventually whittled down to the last 50. Being one of the final 5000 may not seem like much, but it is when this competition had close to 135,000 entries this year!

Well done to Anis and Hari on this fantastic accomplishment.

Mr Husbands, BGS English Department



BBC Radio 2 ~ 500 Hundred Words

The Big Race

It was the final race of the Formula One season. It was early afternoon and Richard was still sleeping. The evening before, he had sprained his ankle but hadn't told his team. Richard's 14 year old son, Diego, realised his dad wasn't well enough to race and came to a decision - he was going to drive and he was determined to win!

Diego dressed in his dad's racing overalls (he was almost the same size) and slipped on his helmet before sneaking out of the room. He scurried past security and into the paddock before strolling calmly into the team garage. His dad's mechanics were looking excitedly at their screens and Diego greeted them with a nod, just like his dad, before climbing into his dad's car, belting up and pressing the "start" button...

The car rumbled to life like a lion awakening from a lengthy slumber. The team engineers spoke to Diego in his earpiece, asked him to do a couple of gentle laps to warm the tyres and then stop at position five on the starting grid (that's where his dad had qualified yesterday).

Diego did exactly as he was told and was soon comfortable driving the car. After two laps, he brought the car to a halt and signalled to his mechanics that all was well with a quick thumbs up (he had seen his dad do that). Diego breathed a sigh of relief whilst waiting for the other cars to take their positions.

The race lights overhead glowed red and everyone began to rev their engines, creating a thunderous sound. One by one, the lights turned green and Diego took his foot off the brake and the car sped off down the track.

Unfortunately, by the first corner, Diego had dropped a couple of places and was struggling to hold his position for the next few laps. Suddenly, the radio came to life and he heard his dad's engineer: "Richard, take it easy!". Diego calmed down. A few laps later, he closed in on one of the cars that had overtaken him at the start and managed to overtake at the following corner.

Diego then saw a race official waving a yellow flag and heard his radio again: "Incident on next corner!". He saw a cloud of smoke and noticed that three cars had crashed ahead of him and a fourth was stuck in the gravel like a beached whale. That meant he was now second!

Just then, he heard a familiar voice on the radio. It was his dad - and Diego knew he had been rumbled! He felt a bit sick - but he couldn't stop now as it was the penultimate lap. He heard his dad's voice again. He was telling him to push on as the car ahead was slowing rapidly. Diego knew this was his chance. He pushed the accelerator to the floor and overtook the leading car on the final straight as they approached the chequered flag. Diego knew he had won!

Hari Rehal, Year 7





BBC Radio 2 ~ 500 Hundred Words

Dear Diary

June 28th 1939

Hi, it is I Robert and it is my first time writing in you. I caught my eyes on you while walking down a street and I had to have you, so I stole you. Nazis are currently attacking my home country; Poland, because we are 'Jewish', how pointless, right?

June 30th 1939

Sorry I never wrote in you yesterday, my family and I were busy trying to find a suitable and safe place to go into hiding. My Father has two friends, Richard and I think the other one was Thomas. They were kind towards us and helped find a worthy place to stay in.

July 1st 1939

Finally, after all this time we found a place although it is worse than where we used to live and is kind of stuffy for the three of us. I am not certain how long we have to stay here, but mother said it would not be for too long. I really wish we could go back although it is too risky.

July 3rd 1939

Today at school there was a big attack and many of my schoolmates were taken away as hostages. Luckily I got away, but I have a huge amount of guilt in me; I really do hope they are safe. Anyway, Thomas provided us with some very delicious food today and Richard brought us warm clothes and beds.

July 9th 1939

I was just sitting and I overlooked a soldier until he made a noise, in the distance, reloading his gun. My family tried not to make any noise possible or else we would be found out and taken away. It was the most petrifying day in my life.

July 22nd 1939

I just have news from father saying that both Richard and Thomas were found out and were killed by the Nazis, how cruel! We are not going to eat impressive things anymore and probably survive on just rations, so I will need the energy, night.

September 18th 1939

It has been a tough month and we have been taking turns to get rations, going in the night to find them.

November 3rd 1939

A tall, bulky soldier and a bunch of other comrades saw me in the white light of the moon and they chased me. I scurried away as fast as I could. I'm sure I got away but I cannot be too sure as they have found out where we are.

December 1st 1939

I told my father about the incident and we have been planning to leave the country to Switzerland and have a fresh start in the new year. I have heard the people are nice there and there is no war so we can live normal lives again, finally!

December 31th 1939

Tomorrow is New Year, I cannot wait, we are all packed and already driving towards Switzerland. I am looking forward to it.

January 2nd 1940

We have finally arrived in Switzerland. It's awesome!

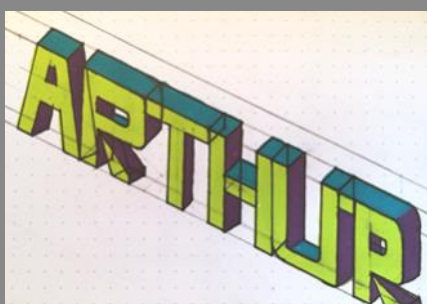
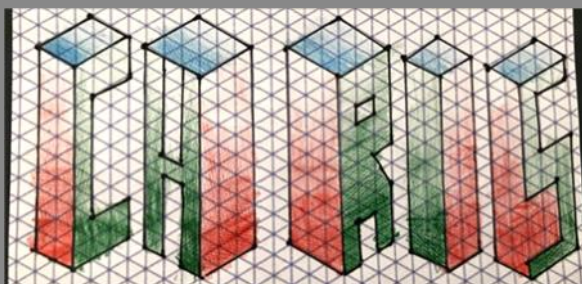
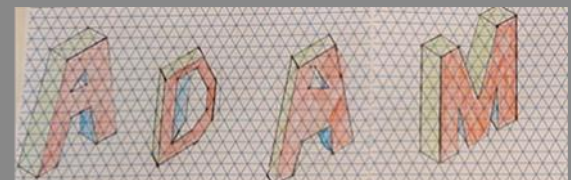
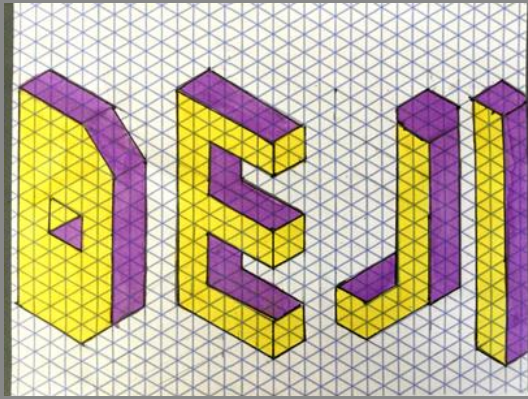
Anis Houmani, Year 7



Design Technology

Isometric Lettering

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





& Our Budding Year 7 Architects

My Year 7 classes were given the assignment of creating a house on the design programme SketchUp. Some designed very creatively whilst others kept their designs more recognisable and comfortable! And I do think we have a few future architects too. Well done to Paul Despabiladeras, Sam Grady, Tarin Houston, Kelly To, Behzod Marufov, Jack Cotton, Alex Anastasov, Jacob Harte.

Mrs Williamson, Design Technology Department

