



*Modern
Foreign
Languages*
NEWSLETTER

Open Day 2021

Achievements, stories &
events of the past year
from the Modern Foreign
Languages Department

NEWS LETTER



12th October 2021

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INTELLECT, EMPATHY &
COURAGE



The Winter Solstice *Dongzhi* Festival 冬至

A brief history of the winter solstice festival in China

Over 2000 years ago, the ancient Chinese scholars observed the changing patterns in our natural world, climates, the turning of seasons and *astronomy*. They divided the year into 24 solar terms. The Winter Solstice is a festival to mark the shortest day of the year. It is the 22nd of the 24 solar terms. It was also the first to be created. It was concluded 2500 years ago that this day was the shortest with the most hours of darkness. It is usually between the 20th and 23rd of December and this year it is on the 21st. It is believed that it first became a solar term/festival in Xi'an 西安. It is now celebrated in preparation for the spring festival.



汤圆 *tang yuan* (Glutinous Rice Balls)

Elkins Rebecca, Year 9

What are the important customs in this festival?

Northerners and Southerners in China would eat two different things. The Northerners would eat dumplings, because of a doctor (Zhang Zhongjing) who used dumpling soup to cure frostbitten ears in winter. Southerners would eat glutinous rice balls or food naturally coloured black because it is believed



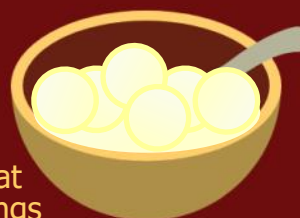
饺子 *jiao zi* (making a dumpling)

that their *Yin* 阴 (negative energy) declines at that time, so they eat black things associated with *Yang* 阳 to gather up positive energy.

Paul Despabiladeras, Year 8

From the activities: making a dumpling/ paper-cut for window decoration/ eating Glutinous Rice Balls; which one was your favourite and why?

I enjoyed making the dumplings, because it was fun to compare the Chinese method of making a dumpling to other traditional methods from other cultures. During the lesson, when Mrs Lu initially told us that we were going to make dumplings, I was quite surprised at the video she showed us had used meat filling. However, in the lesson, Mrs Lu brought special crafting materials to substitute the meat filling, which I thought was extremely creative and was a great way for us to experience the culture of making dumplings





with the dumpling flour wrappers.

Nazar Androshchuk, Year 10

My favourite activity was the paper cutting as it was fun to create the ox out of paper and then be able to see the resemblance to a real ox. I am really pleased with how my ox turned out as I wasn't expecting it to be as good as it was. It really was fun to do and it reminded me of when I used to make paper snowflakes when I was younger and made me realise that the festival isn't that different from things that I celebrate such as Christmas.

Elkins Rebecca, Year 9



冬至

My favourite activity was the tasting of the glutinous rice balls as it was an actual representation of what and how the food tasted, plus I was hungry. It was even more fascinating to see what the glutinous rice balls were like in real life as I had only seen them in the textbooks, but had never tasted it before. This made this activity even more enjoyable and memorable for me.

Maximilian Bartkevych, Year 11

What are the similarities and differences between the Winter solstice festival and Christmas?

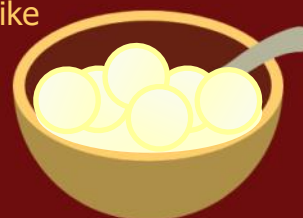
Both Christmas and the winter solstice 冬至 *Dongzhi* Festival happens only once a year. But instead of giving wrapped presents to one another on Christmas, you share dumplings and colourful pieces of arts with each other. Also, Christmas came to be with Jesus being born and the winter solstice 冬至 *Dongzhi* Festival came to be with Zhang Zhongjing, a Chinese doctor.

Ong Yu Qi, Year 8

What is the relationship between learning about a culture and a language?

The relationship between learning about a culture and a language is that the language is reflected in the culture showing how Chinese people talk to each other, how they respect each other and what they believe and celebrate. For example, each Chinese character looks like something in the real world, whether it is a tree or a river, a house or even a person, so each Chinese character represents something.

Marufv Behzod, Year 8





If you learn a language, you should learn the culture as well as you may pick up some colloquial phrases that you can't learn just from a textbook. In addition, learning a culture is good because you can understand the language as in Chinese nearly every character has a meaning and the words and phrases both have a specific meaning which you wouldn't understand just by learning in a classroom.

Yin Mark, Year 11

Before the lesson did you already know about the winter solstice 冬至 *Dongzhi* Festival and if so how did you know about it?

Before the lesson I didn't know about the Winter solstice 冬至 *Dongzhi* Festival because I only knew about the other major ones such as the Moon Festival and Lunar New Year. However, after learning about the Winter Solstice Festival today I now have a better understanding of it so I can teach my friends and also family.

Lawrence Yuen, Year 9

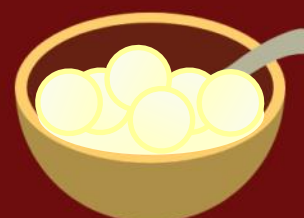
Before the lesson I did not know anything about this festival I figured out what it was about and why people celebrated it. This festival is very important.

Basika Rai, Year 8

冬至



窗花 *chuang hua* (paper-cut for window decoration) the year of OX in 2021



Key Stage 3 MFL Creative Writing Competition

We invited our Year 7-9 students to take part in a creative writing competition in one of the languages they are learning. The theme was "Happiness" to cheer us all up in lockdown. We were overwhelmed with entries and even had entries from all of 7ACR and 8NSS! We received entries in German, French, Italian, Russian and Chinese. The MFL department agonised over the judging and we were all so impressed with how students had used language they had learnt in lessons and applied it to writing beautiful poetry or comic strips. The artwork was also fantastic! The overall winner was Daniel Quinn in 7AJW for his Snoopy comic strip in German. The runners-up were Lou Annarumma in 8JEA for a dual language poem in German and Italian, Matilda Jackson in 8JEA for a German poem and Thomas Everson in 8AMM for a Russian comic strip.

Mrs Rubbera,
KS3 Leader, MFL Department



NEWS LETTER



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Winner: Daniel Quinn



Runner up: Matilda Jackson

Finde das Glück

Sonne ist glücklich
Aber manchmal es ist wolkig
Aber, es gibt immer Glück,
Es ist nie weggegangen
Es gibt regen
Aber auch Regenbogen
Wenn dort ist traurig
Dort ist glücklich
Weil, gibt immer Glück es,
Es ist nie weggegangen

Auch es gibt der kalt Schnee
Aber auch Schneemänner
Dort ist Spaß in alle Problem
So Glück zu
Für mich und du
Weil, gibt immer Glück es,
Es ist nie weggegangen

Matilda Jackson 8JEA

Sonne ist glücklich
Aber manchmal es ist zu heiß
Weil wo dort Spaß in alle Problem ist,
Dort ist ein Problem in alle Spaß
Aber, gibt immer Glück es,
Es ist nie weggegangen
Wenn dort ist traurig
Dort ist glücklich
Weil, gibt immer Glück es,
Es ist nie weggegangen

SO IN ALLES PROBLEM
FINDE DAS GLÜCK



Runner up: Lou Annarumma

Mein Glück - La Mia Felicità ☺

Mein Glück ist warm und gelb,
heiß wie die sonne ☀

La mia felicità è bella,
simpatico e divertente. ♥

Mein Glück ist groß,
kuschelig und plauschig 🐱

È forte e resiliente,
non si arrende mai. 💪

Mein Glück ist unglaublich,
Ich bin nie allein! 🌈

Ma a volte, svanisce, e
la mia felicità è sparita! 🌧

Aber gib nicht auf,
weil es zurückkommen wird. ☀

Devi solo credere, e la tua
felicità apparirà! 🌟

A German and Italian poem
Lou Annarumma, BJE A

Runner up: Thomas Everson

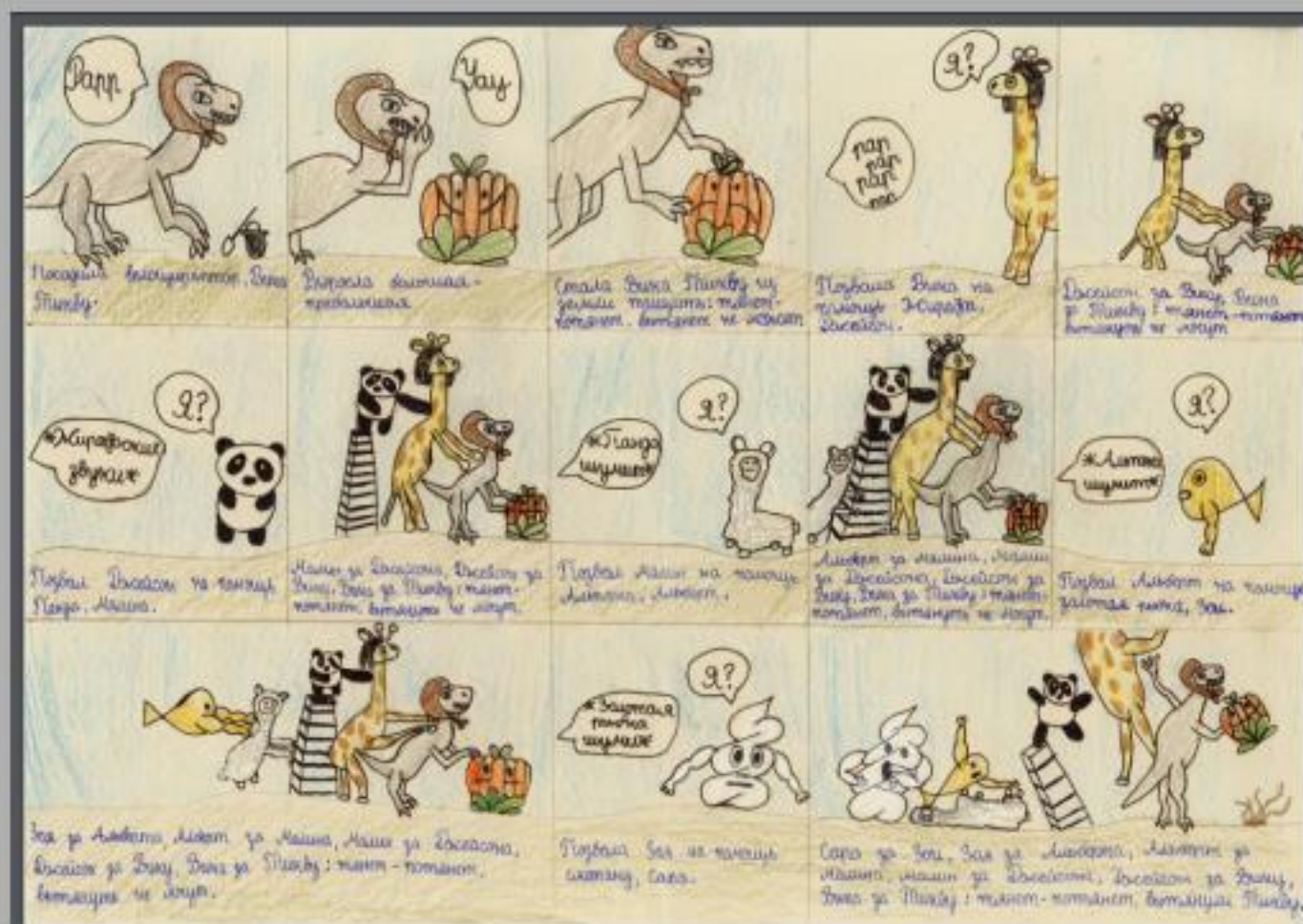
Creative Writing Competition:

Тпрубэн Кук Меня Зовут?	Меня Зовут Томас демакович Зовут?	Сколько медики?
Мне нравятся Али	Кат Зена?	Хорошо
У меня есть Мама и я Зовут Папа. Ей сорок восемь лет	Тпрубэн	У меня есть Мама, Папа и я Зовут Зена?
У меня есть Сестра и я Зовут Харла. Ей двадцать лет	Тпрубэн	У меня есть Брат и я Зовут Доктор
Ты хочешь поиграть на велосипеде?	Да!	Концы
Али Зовут	Тпрубэн	Тпрубэн



It's been a productive and exciting term for Year 8 Russian students. Having learnt to read and write in Cyrillic (which is no mean feat), they tapped into the diverse world of Russian fairy tales and even came up with their own version of "The Enormous Turnip", featuring pandas, aubergines, penguins and some BGS students. These works showcase the Year 8 Russian group's art and design skills, their growing mastery of the language and excellent storytelling.

Ms Zotova, Teacher of MFL





Позбала кошка мышку.

Мышка за кошку, кошка за собаку, собака за
девушку, девушка за мальчика, мальчик за
бабку жем : Яянуа - Пожянуа, Выйянуа
не можаа.

Позбала мышка сыр.

Сыра за мышку, мышка за кошку, кошка за
собаку, собака за девушку, девушка за мальчи
ка, мальчик за бабушку жем : Яянуа - Пожянуа,
Выйянуа бабка жем!



История
огромной
Моркови



Посадил пингвин
брокколи.





STAR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



MFL Star Students

MFL Monument Challenge

Some Year 7 and 8 classes were challenged during an MFL lesson last half-term to recreate a famous monument using only household/garden objects. We may not be able to travel at the moment, but we still love learning about different places all around the world.

Here are some of the very best entries!

Can you guess what they are? (*answer key at the bottom - some are repeated*)

Mrs Rubbera, MFL KS3 Lead Teacher

*** Other entries to the competition can be found in MFL News**



1

Amber Hicks, 7REL



2

Ariana Laing, 7PDH



3

Bess Clements, 7PDH



4

Hattie Pigott-Denyer, 7PDH



5

Urav Sirohi, 7PDH



6

Dylan Banks, 7PDH



7

Luca Bulavitchi, 8MCA



8

Gracie Gosling, 8MCA



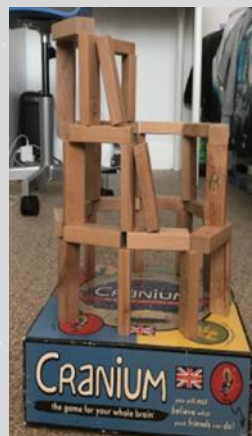
9

Edie Turner, 8MCA



10

Theo Jeffrey, 7KJP



11

Lukas Schreiner, 7KJP

Answer Key

1. Saint Basil's Cathedral, 2. The Eiffel Tower, 3. The Brandenburg Gate, 4. The Colosseum, 5. The Eiffel Tower, 6. The Acropolis, 7. The Eiffel Tower, 8. St Basil's Cathedral, 9. The Eiffel Tower, 10. The Parthenon, 11. The Colosseum.



MFL News ~ Monument Challenge Entries



The Parthenon

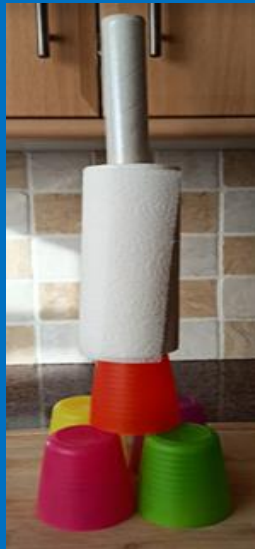
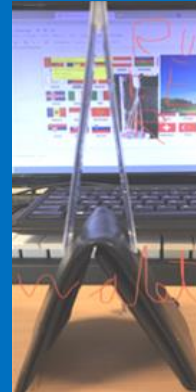
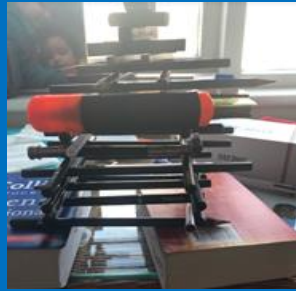


The Leaning Tower of Pisa





The Eiffel Tower



L'Arc de Triomphe



Buckingham Palace





The *Qingming* Festival 清明节 also called Tomb Sweeping Day 扫墓, also referred to as the Pure Brightness Festival, pays respect to ancestors and celebrates the warming weather of spring. It is a time to honour the past in a celebratory manner that allows for both reflection and renewal on the 105th day after the Winter Solstice 冬至, which is around the 4th/5th of April. This tradition started in the Zhou Dynasty (1046–221 BC), and has a history of over 2,500 years.



In Chinese, Qingming (清明) means 'clearness' and 'brightness'. The origin of the name is related to the weather in this season. At the beginning of April, it becomes noticeably warmer and brighter in northern/central China (this happens earlier in south China). People start to wear light clothes and walk outside to feel the spring atmosphere.

All of the BGS Chinese learners from KS3 to KS5 had a great time celebrating the Qingming Festival in the classroom with their friends with cultural activities, including Spring outing 踏春, parachute throwing and making spring rolls 春卷. "I learnt that the Chinese family hold the afterlife in high regards, and respect their ancestors and passed loved ones a lot".

Ruth Yehualashet

"I found the lesson learning about the Qingming festival very enjoyable. I liked the fact that we got to try and make food that is a traditional part of the festival as well as learning a lot about it. I would definitely recommend learning about this festival to others as well as learning about other traditional Chinese festivals. My favourite part of the lesson was getting to go outside and throw the parachutes up in the air as it was fun and it was fun to do with my friends. I also enjoyed watching the videos and learning about the because I didn't know what it was before the lesson. I learnt that people give gifts to those they have lost. I found that very interesting. Overall, I really enjoyed learning about the festival".

Rebecca Elkins

"Today we experienced some of the Chinese traditions in the QingMing Festival. We had wraps with rice paper which was to be put in hot water in order to eat. Inside we put pasta with cheese or tomatoes. I picked cheese. We also played with kites outside which i enjoyed the most and we played a game to see whose kite would go higher. Traditionally, in China they would sweep the graves of their ancestors who passed away to show appreciation and love. Next time I would like to know what other activities they did to show their appreciation to the dead. Overall, I really enjoyed this Festival because I experienced lots of new activities and played games".

Elizaveta Newton

"This lesson helped to teach me about how important these festivals are. We took part in various activities, including making spring rolls (with cold fillings because fire isn't allowed on this day), throwing parachutes and trying traditional Chinese rice sweets - which I was to try but I would recommend. I really enjoyed the parachute throwing because we got to go outside and it was funny when it flew away and we had to run to catch it. I would recommend learning about this festival because it broadens your knowledge about Chinese culture and the importance behind it".

Scarlett Barber

"I was most curious about the foods and flowers and incense that are brought to the graves, and I liked how it is key in honouring your parents, and that it is a perfect way to continue honouring your parents/ elders even after they have died to show your love and gratitude for their sacrifices for you, by taking your time to think about your most valuable work to give to them."

Christabel Masaba



"I was best at the parachute throwing as I worked out the perfect angle to throw." **Max Waghorn**

"The throwing of the parachutes as it was fun and enjoyable to do." **Behzod Marufov**

"I was best at making the spring rolls and it was surprising to me to experience it in the classroom in a manageable way." **Maximilian Bartkevych**

Mrs Lu, Chinese Teacher



Year 8



Year 12



Year 9





Year 10



Year 11





Our Amazing IB Students

Isaac Frost started learning French on the IB Ab Initio programme at BGS in September 2019. He has just completed the course and he felt inspired to write a series of Haikus on each of the IB themes that we have studied throughout the course. All the French teachers and his fellow students were so impressed that we asked Isaac if he would be happy to share with the rest of the school. So, here you can see his work! Thank you Isaac and all the French Beginners for being such amazing students.

*Ms Adlington, MFL Department
(French and Spanish teacher)*

Identités

Ma mère et mon frère
Les deux m'ennuient beaucoup
Je voulais partir.

Expériences

J'ai visité la France
J'aime les grands monuments
C'est trop froid à Londres.

L'Ingéniosité humaine

Tous les jours mon écran
Est à côté de mon oreille
C'est une vie contente.

L'Organisation Sociale

Le travail est important
Gagner de l'argent nourrit les jeunes
Oui, toi-même de temps en temps.

Partage de la Planète

La ville est bondée
La pollution vole l'oxygène
Les poumons sont bondés.

What is the meaning of haiku?

A **haiku** is a specific type of Japanese poem which has 17 syllables divided three lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables. Haikus or **haiku** are typically written on the subject of nature. The word **haiku** (pronounced hahy-koo) is derived from the Japanese word hokku meaning "starting verse".



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6th May 2021

Year 7 MFL Diploma

For the second year now, our Year 7s started planning and creating their MFL diploma tasks during lockdown. If anything, we saw a real boost of creativity and dedication to the task this year! The task was to write "All about me" and students celebrated all the language they have learnt so far in Year 7. They were able to write fluently and extensively about their identity, family, pets, house and likes/dislikes. What really shone this year was consideration of the target culture and this was reflected in many diplomas, such as an enormous Arc de Triomphe!

Here are just a few examples of some of the stunning diplomas we received:



The best entries from each form this year were:



Aditya Vedamuthu
7REL (French)



Oscar Evans
7ACR (French)



Ariana Laing
7PDH (German)



Jibril Dahir
7CPB (German)



Best German entry: **Pauline Meltser**, 7AJW



Best French entry: **Zahra Selfi**, 7LPV



Overall Best Year 7 MFL Diploma: **Avaani Dutta**, 7KJP

Well done to all our hard-working Year 7 students!

Mrs Rubbera, KS3 MFL Lead Teacher