

Welcome to the Year 10 Newsletter

Here we are, 150 days to go and so much to look forward to despite the obvious looming of the GCSE's after the summer holidays. A Year Group with so much potential and spirit, I cannot wait to see you over the line and into your final year with us.

I hope your assembly earlier in the week gave you an insight into Year 11. It is not all doom and gloom I promise. Trips, Prom, Yearbooks and Hoodies all await when you return, and I know you will rise to the challenge of being at the top of the school.

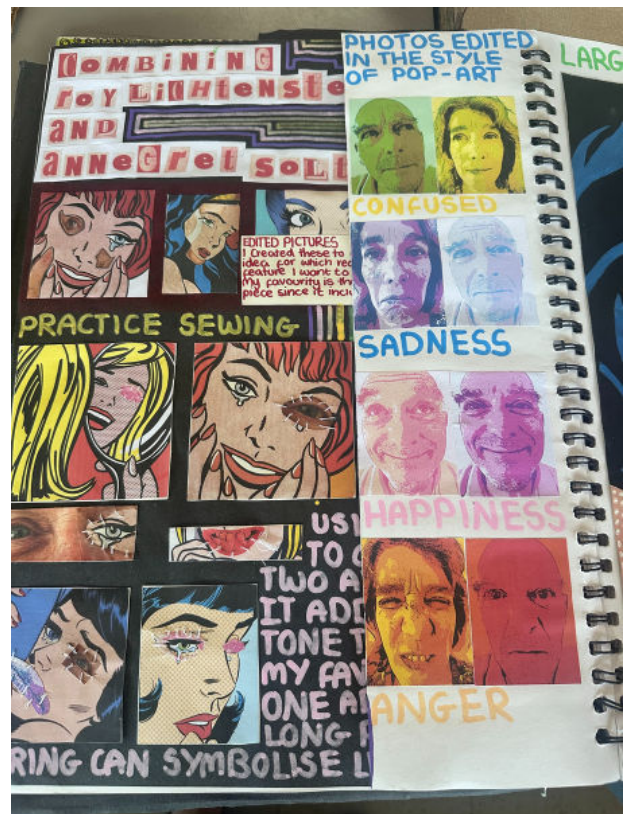
A huge well done and thank you to every single student who took part in the Wizard of Oz. You really are an inspiration to me, and I am very jealous of your talents.

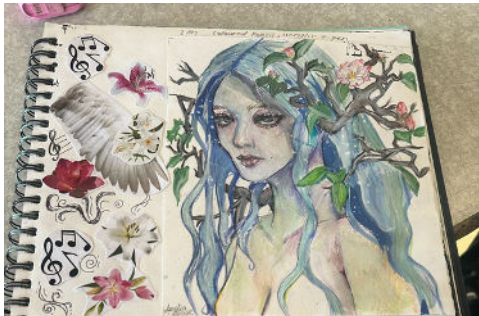
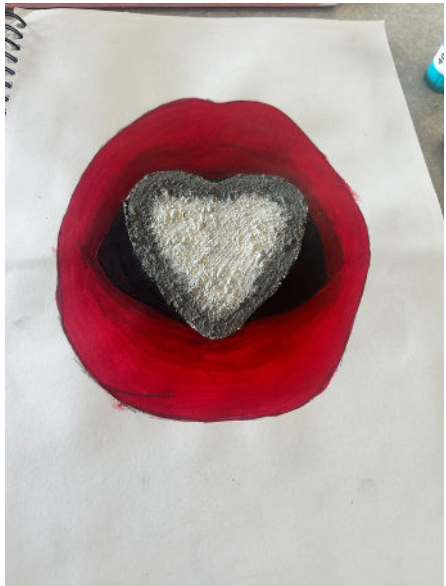
Another huge thank you and well done to those who participated in Sports Day for the final time, along with your efforts during work experience. I hope this, alongside your college taster days have given you the motivation to achieve the necessary grades for the next part of your educational journey. Time to reflect on the year ahead, as well as the year gone by and make sure you are at the peak of your powers when you need it most. Time management, dedication and resilience are skills that you all possess, and we will all make sure you have what you need to succeed.

Have a restful break. Take care of yourself and each other and bring on September. Cohort 2026 - What will be the legacy you leave behind?

Mr Graham - Head of Upper School

Art

[illegible]



Miho Hirano is a Japanese artist celebrated for her ethereal oil paintings that seamlessly blend human figures with elements of nature. Born in Tokyo, she graduated from Musashino Art University in 2008, specializing in oil painting.

Hirano's work predominantly features solitary female figures whose physical forms intertwine with natural elements such as flowers, birds, and water. This fusion creates a dreamlike atmosphere, emphasizing themes of sensuality, femininity, and the intrinsic connection between humans and nature. Her meticulous technique and attention to detail result in paintings that are both delicate and captivating.

Conceptually, Hirano focuses on the observation that people love to decorate themselves. Instead of adorning her protagonists with gold and precious stones, she embellishes them with organic and living accessories such as flowers, birds, fish, and water.

The piece I have chosen to recreate is titled "Infatuation" it's an oil on canvas portrait of a woman with branches of a flowering tree woven into her hair, it uses a cool toned and earthy colour palette, consisting of blues, greens and pinks. I really love this piece because of how well the colour work together and the calm nature of the painting.

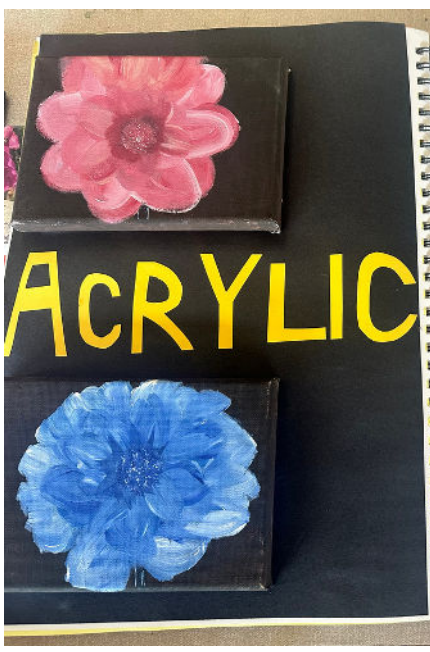
In summary, Miho Hirano's art offers a serene and introspective exploration of the relationship between humans and nature, rendered through her distinctive and meticulous painting style.



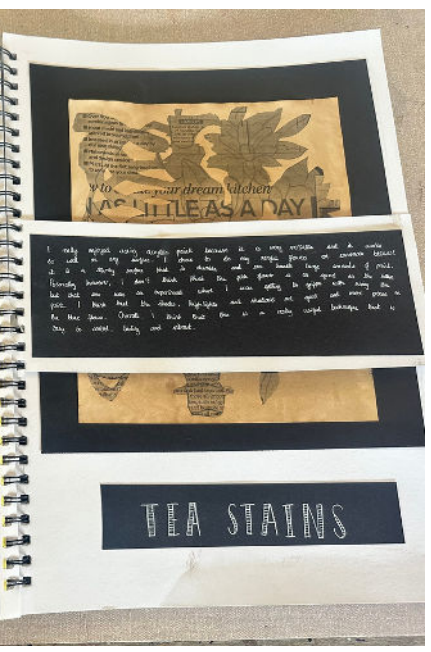
This collage features a variety of artworks, including cityscapes, portraits, and abstract pieces, with handwritten notes and captions.



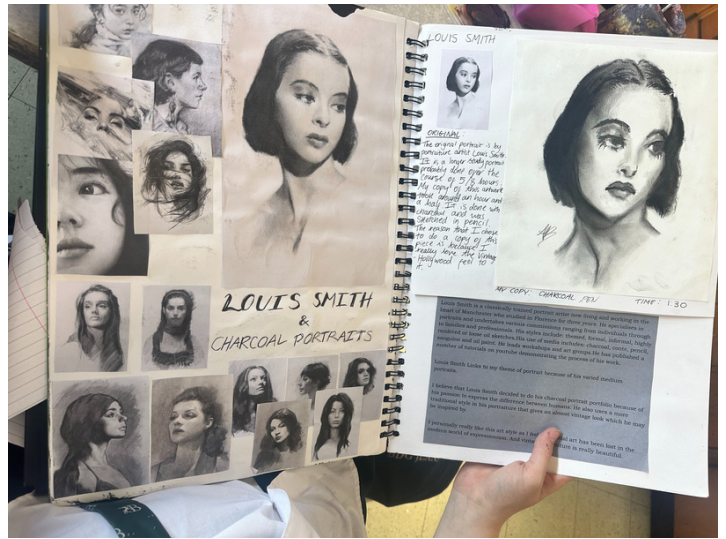
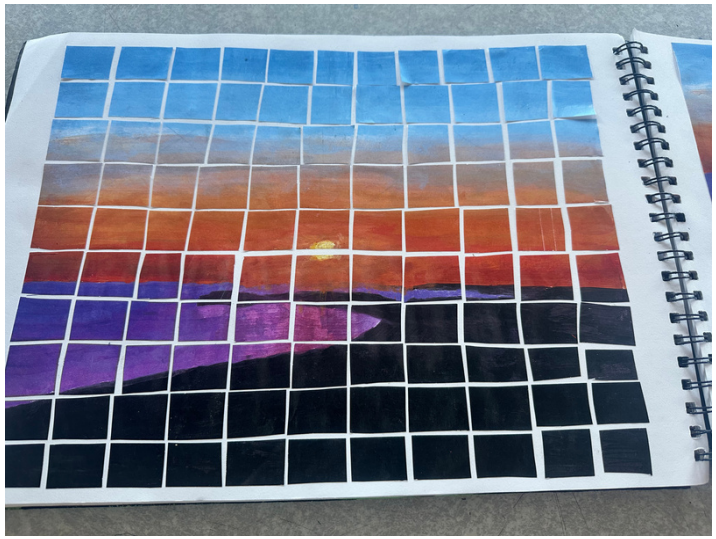
PAUL KENTON



ACRYLIC



TEA STAINS



LOUIS SMITH & CHARCOAL PORTRAITS

Business

We recently sat a full length GCSE paper 1 as their BET assessment. This was a great opportunity for students to have a chance to test their knowledge and exam technique on the actual 2024 paper 1. Overall, they did fantastically well and should be proud of their results, and hopefully this sets them up well for next year. In November next year they will sit another paper 1 mock (topics: 1. Business Activity, 2. Marketing, 3. People), so they need to take what they've learnt about their own revision strategies and exam technique and make the adjustments needed for next year.

In the final weeks before the summer and then into September, students will continue studying the 'finance' unit, learning about break-even, ARR and cash-flow forecasting, before moving onto the final unit titled 'external influences' (ethics, environment, economics). This will then leave time for us to recap the paper 1 content before their mocks and then utilise most of Year 11 for revision and exam technique improvements.



Computing

This term students have built upon their understanding of System Architecture and how the hardware in a computer system communicates and shares data. Students have studied how software can be used as a link between hardware and instructions, with a focus on the purpose and features of operating systems and utility software.

Students also sat a BET assessment within this term where they completed two papers, Paper 1 - Computer Systems and Paper 2 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming. This was a great opportunity for students to have a chance to test their knowledge and exam technique and identify strengths and areas to improve ahead of the Year 11 mocks next year.

Most recently, students have been applying their algorithmic thinking and programming skills to a practical problem, giving them the opportunity to design and identify the techniques required to produce a fully functional solution.



Drama

Students in Year 10 Drama have concluded their first study of their real Text in Practice scripted unit, where they have been paired up, and explored, learnt and staged two performance extracts from plays they chose with their teacher.

Students have been truly admirable in their support and feedback for others, as they worked on collaborative peer feedback, to ensure they can develop these performances for their real exam in early Spring 2025.

Next, students move into their real devising groups, where they will be working towards creating their own original and powerful 20 minute performances to present before Christmas of Year 11. We have no doubt this superb year group will produce work to be proud of, with lots of hard work, commitment and their desire to create work they are proud of continuing.

DT

This last half term since the start of June students have started their NEA which counts for 50% of their final GCSE grade. Currently students are working on section A which involves identifying and investigating design problems that they could solve. This section A will need to be completed before the summer holiday as next year they will be starting section B Writing design briefs and specifications. Then, quickly moving to section C designing and developing ideas whilst revising for the Mock paper. The November mock will cover the core knowledge of all material areas and the specialist Timber area. All knowledge organisers are on the google classroom to assist with revision plans.

Economics

Year 10 recently sat a full length GCSE paper 1 as their BET assessment. This was a great opportunity for students to have a chance to test their knowledge and exam technique on the actual 2023 paper 1. Overall, they did very well, and hopefully this sets them up well for next year. In November next year they will sit another paper 1 mock (topics: introduction to economics and the role of markets and money), so they need to take what they've learnt about their own revision strategies and exam technique and make the adjustments needed for next year.

In the final weeks before the summer and then into September, students will continue studying the second unit of the course, which is National and International Economics, where we have been studying the key economic objectives of economic growth, inflation, unemployment and distribution of income. We have also begun to look at government policies and will be finishing fiscal policy before the end of this term.

English

This year, Year 10 students have been fully immersed in an enriching study of the AQA Power and Conflict poetry anthology, exploring all 15 poems. These powerful works have introduced them to a wide variety of voices, perspectives, and historical contexts—from the brutality of war to the complexities of power and human experience. Throughout this unit, students have carefully analysed poetic techniques such as imagery, metaphor, structure, and language, learning how these elements contribute to meaning and impact. Additionally, they have practiced developing their comparative skills, drawing connections between poems and evaluating how different poets present similar themes in unique ways.

Following their comprehensive poetry study, Year 10 has now transitioned to revision for Language Paper 2. This phase focuses on engaging with a diverse selection of non-fiction articles covering topical issues relevant to today's world. Through these texts, students are not only refining their exam technique but are also encouraged to explore and discuss varied perspectives, developing critical thinking and meaningful conversations about how language shapes opinion and influence.

Throughout these units, Year 10 students have demonstrated a really positive and mature attitude towards their learning. Their enthusiasm and dedication have been a pleasure to witness, and I am confident this will serve them well as they move into Year 11.

We have now completed all the coursework for BTEC Enterprise. This accounts to 60% of the whole course. In September we will receive the moderated grades so we can start to calculate what each student will need in their I exam to get a pass, merit or distinction.

Students have been learning the marketing theory this term, and will soon move onto finance topics. Our plan is to finish teaching the finance content before October half term of Year 11, so students can then revise for their November mocks. They will then sit their exam in January 2026. We have recently put a post on Google Classroom with a revision guide and workbook that you can purchase from Amazon which I would recommend to all pupils.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support over the last year as doing two pieces of coursework in Year 10 has been a slog, but it now sets them all up for a successful Year 11 where they can have two opportunities to sit the final exam, and hopefully progress with the grades that they all deserve.

Expressive Arts Co-curricular

As always, the summer term is a particularly busy one for Expressive Arts Co-curricular. Particular highlights include the Youth Dance platform at Bedales, the Summer Showcase and The Wizard of Oz!



Food preparation and nutrition



Students have been focusing on learning and applying their practical, testing and cooking skills in developing and refining these further in preparation for the NEA's (2 courseworks) that students will start in September of Year 11.

In September, students will start NEA 1 which covers the food science element of the course and is worth 15% of the final grade. They will be completing this alongside revision for the November mock paper. The mock will cover all commodities of food that students have studied in both Year 9 and Year 10. In January students will then be working on NEA 2 which is worth 35% of the final grade. This piece of coursework involves the 1 day practical whereby students will need to prepare, cook and present 3 dishes which are served at the same time. It is vital that students bring in their own ingredients to cook to develop their practical and time skills as both NEA's are about their own practical skills and evidence of work.

French DELF

This term, the Year 10 DELF students have finished the topic of Sport and Health. The students have gotten to grips with some more complex grammar structures such as looking at the key differences between imperfect and perfect tenses as well as comparatives and superlatives. They have also looked at the imperative mood in terms of a doctor/ patient role play!

We have since been looking at the topic of school and education and focussing on the differences between schooling in France and in the UK. We recently celebrated our successful French exchange when we visited our partner school in Marseille in May. The students had an amazing time in France and a huge thank you to Mr Vallet for organising this exchange. A special thank you to all the families involved! We cannot wait for next year's Year 10 to experience this special partnership again. The Year 10 tutor group have been brilliant this half term so well done to them all!

French

This term, Year 10 students have been learning about the topic of holidays as well as famous festivals in France which incorporates all the key tenses for success at GCSE ready for next year.

We recently celebrated our successful French exchange when we visited our partner school in Marseille in May. The students had an amazing time in France and a huge thank you to Mr Vallet for organising this exchange. A special thank you to all the families involved! We cannot wait for next year's year 10 to experience this special partnership again.

The DELF course (10ALH CLIL group) have been practising their skills ready for their DELF exam in March - not long now! They have completed full past papers now including writing, listening and reading! The listening has proved the most difficult (the French speak so fast they tell me!) but hopefully the time in France will have helped! We will do a speaking mock at the start of year 11. This year we have covered topics such as environment, health (with a fun doctor-patient role play), media and technology before finishing off year 10 with the topic of school looking at the French schooling system. The Year 10 cohort have been brilliant this half term so well done to them all!



Geography

This term, our Year 10 Geography students have been exploring the Coastal Landscapes of the UK. They've studied how coastal processes such as erosion, transportation, and deposition shape our coastlines, and have analysed the impacts of human activity and climate change on these dynamic environments. Throughout the year, our students have tackled Urban Issues and Challenges, examining the complexities of urbanization, city planning, and the social, economic, and environmental issues facing urban areas. They've also gained a thorough understanding of natural hazards, both weather-related and tectonic, learning about the causes, effects, and management of events such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

As we approach the end of the term, Year 10 is gearing up to develop their Fieldwork skills. They will soon embark on practical fieldwork in Selsey, where they will apply their classroom knowledge to real-world observations and data collection. This hands-on experience will be invaluable in enhancing their geographical skills and understanding.



Year 10 have been studying their 3rd unit of the GCSE, Voyages of Discovery and Conquest of the Americas. They have learnt about the actions of many different explorers, including Christopher Columbus and Hernan Cortes, as well as Aztec Culture and how Cortes defeated them.

We successfully relaunched our Berlin trip for the first time since before Covid in May half term and it was a great 4 days.

In Year 11, students will learn their Medicine Case study on Ancoats in Manchester ready for their Mock exam in November. Once we are finished with that, we will start our final unit on Empire, Reform and War in early 20th Century Britain.

We strongly encourage Year 10s to check in with their teachers before the end of the year for any areas for development and where they can find resources such as knowledge organisers



This half term, our Year 10 iMedia students have been building their creative and technical skills in preparation for their R096 NEA unit. Focusing on key areas such as animation and audio editing, students have been developing the essential knowledge and tools needed to bring their ideas to life through digital media. These practical skills form a vital part of their NEA. Since half term, students have started their R096 NEA and have already made a strong start on their projects. Their early engagement and commitment are setting a solid foundation for success. Well done to all of Year 10 for their focus and enthusiasm!

Students also had the chance to reflect on their March mock exam results, identifying both their strengths and the areas needing improvement. Each student received a summary sheet that will guide their revision and preparation as they work toward their official GCSE exam in January 2026.

This term, our Year 10 students also had an exciting opportunity to step behind the scenes of the film and television industry during a trip to Sky Studios. During the visit, students took part in a hands-on workshop where they used professional filming equipment and green screen technology to create their very own movie trailers. Working in teams, they explored roles such as director, cinematographer, camera operator, and video editor, gaining a real insight into the teamwork and creativity involved in film production.



Library

For Year 9+, book club have been reading the shortlisted Yoto Carnegie books for 2025 – a fabulous selection this year. They are all available in the library, I would really encourage you to try them.

WINNERS



Accessit - library catalogue

We have a new library system, which pupils can now access [here](#). You will be able to browse our library catalogue, create a reading list, write book reviews and keep up to date with library news.

Library

Summer reading

Start the next academic year off positively with an ERA by keeping your reading going over the summer. Read 5 books and [review them here](#) to get your ERA. They can be books from home, books on our eLibrary [SORA](#) or pop into your local library for plenty of choice.

These are the top 5 books borrowed from our library – give them a go!



NEWSFLASH

Student Librarian of the Year 2024 becomes Head Student 2025! Well done and congratulations to Lauren B.

“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”

Mandarin

Year 10 students have been steadily and systematically preparing for next year's GCSE exams.

Through the "CIAO + WOW" formula, they have been strengthening their speaking and writing by focusing on key connectives, intensifiers, adjectives, and opinion phrases. Over the course of the term, they have also worked through important topics including careers, health, and tourism, laying a solid foundation for success in their final year.

Well done to all students for their hard work and enthusiastic participation throughout the term!



This term, our Year 10 CLIL students took the HSK Level 3 exam—a Chinese language proficiency test that marks a significant step toward fluency and can open doors to future study opportunities in China, including scholarships. Following the exam, students explored a range of culture and business-related topics, developing their public speaking and presentation skills. A particular highlight was the Tourism Project through the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP), where students planned promotional campaigns to showcase their local areas to Chinese audiences. They had the exciting opportunity to present their videos at the University of Southampton, alongside students from other MEP schools. To celebrate their achievements, they rounded off the day with a meal at a Chinese restaurant—which they thoroughly enjoyed!

Maths

Year 10 have now finished looking at quadratic equations and sequences, and are completing the year by looking at angles in all their contexts from bearings to circle theorems, before moving on to trigonometry in Year 11. They have been working hard this year and are ready to start their final year in readiness for their GCSEs in May.

As we finish the year, please remind your son or daughter to collect a calculator if you have paid for one and they haven't already done so. The window for buying calculators through Gateway has closed now for this year but will re-open in September.

Music

Year 10 have been looking at their study pieces - Badinerie by Bach and Africa by Toto, and have also started their first piece of composing coursework which is a free choice piece they must write and record.

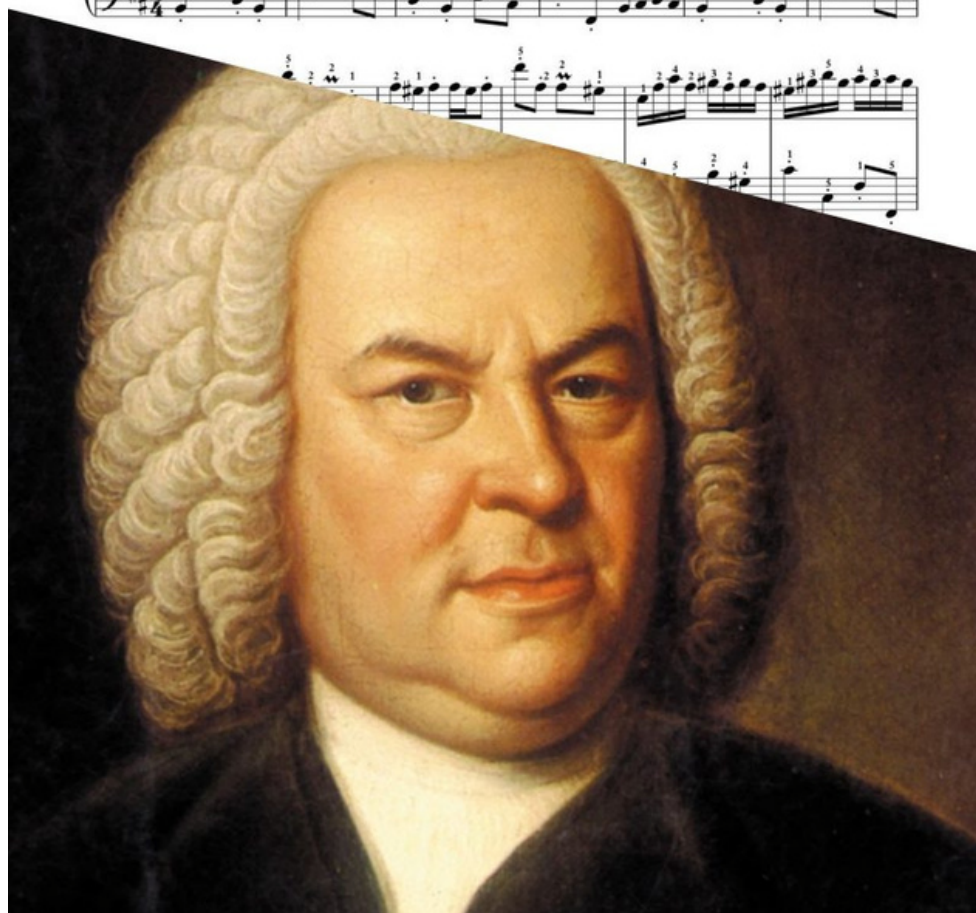
Badinerie

from Orchestral Suite No.2

J.S.Bach

Vivace ♩ = 120

Piano cover by Adelina



Music Tech

Year 10 have completed content area 3 looking at a range of styles of music and the associated technology that enabled them. They have now started content area 4 looking at sound creation in a range of different media including Film, Theatre, Advertising, Computer Games, and Installations.

Outdoor Education

This year the focus was on completing your Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. Well done to all those that took part in the expeditions earlier this year! We are thrilled to be starting to sign off some of your awards as you have now completed all 4 sections! If you haven't quite finished your sections, keep working away at them and try and get them completed by the end of the summer.

Some of you have also started working on your Silver award- we were so pleased to have so many of you decide to opt in after your Bronze expeditions! If the silver level hasn't appeared yet, you need to have completed at least one section of your Bronze for this to appear on your profile. Expeditions for next year have been scheduled and the dates should have been communicated to you already! Next year you will have completed all your expeditions before you start your GCSEs, so try to make sure all your sections are also completed by then so you can focus solely on your exams!



PE Sports Leaders

Year 10 Sports Leaders have been dedicated to completing their course and working toward their Level 2 qualification certification. A huge thank you to all the students who have supported the PE department this term - from assisting with sports day heats and primary school events to volunteering at the South East Hants Athletics Championships. Your commitment and leadership have been greatly appreciated.

PE GCSE

The Year 10 GCSE PE students are nearing the end of their Anatomy & Physiology topic and are currently completing the Analysis section of their coursework. Students should be reminded that they are to be gathering evidence towards their practical NEA, with all sport footage needing to be submitted by the end of the Autumn term 2024!

PE BTEC Sport

Year 10 BTEC Sport students have successfully completed their coursework and are now turning their attention to the Year 11 Component 3 examination content. Adding an extra layer of excitement, a competitive edge has developed between Mr Waterfield's and Miss Heeney's classes as they go head-to-head in a series of fitness tests. Currently, Mr Waterfield's class leads 3-2, with three tests remaining - everything still to play for in this spirited showdown!

PE Co-curricular

The enthusiasm, dedication, and skill of our students continues to inspire and amaze us. This academic year, we have seen outstanding individual and team performances across District, County, and National competitions. We are incredibly proud of all your achievements and look forward to supporting your growth as both sports performers and young individuals in the coming year.

PE Sports Science GCSE

Year 10 Sport Science students have been making strong progress as they gather evidence for their practical NEA, due in December 2025. Alongside this, they've been focused on mastering the content of Chapter 1 (Anatomy & Physiology) to ensure they're well-prepared for their first set of mock exams in Year 11.

PE Health & Social Care

Year 10 Health & Social Care students have been working hard in preparation for their PSA in September. Their focus and dedication are setting them up well for the challenges that Year 11 will pose!

Philosophy

During this half-term of our GCSE Philosophy studies, we have embarked upon an intellectual odyssey, delving into the profound interplay between religion and life. This expansive and multifaceted subject has confronted us with some of the most provocative and timeless inquiries that captivate the inquisitive mind: Is abortion morally justifiable? Should humanity assert dominion over animals through testing? Can euthanasia ever be considered an act of compassion?

To all the dedicated students, I extend my heartfelt commendations for your unwavering diligence and intellectual prowess throughout this term.

Photography

Year 10 have been working hard on their Portrait projects. It has been amazing seeing the work they have produced over the course of Year 10 and this will reflect in the work they do moving forward into Year 11. Look out for snapshots of their work on our social channels and the students will see the work around the school site

Personal Development

Our students took part in a wide range of activities as part of ERA Week – a celebration of our school values. From trips and team challenges to careers talks and creative workshops, students made the most of every opportunity. It was a joyful, engaging week that reminded us all of the power of learning beyond the classroom.



The Year 10 psychology cohort have finished the social influence section of the GCSE. We looked through some of the causes of obedience and conformity. Students have discovered the power of the group and how the individual's personality, brain and self-esteem may impact their behaviour. Our key focus throughout the last part of the summer term is the consolidation of research methods and exam skills associated with this key course content. Students have been learning about different methods to collect data from participants and evaluating these methods.

When students return, they will be completing the last two topics of their GCSEs, memory, and sleeping and dreaming. The Year 11 academic year will provide a strong focus on the use of exam skills and revision. A last note of congratulations to the Year 10s for completing their second year of the Psychology GCSE.

RS

This half-term, we embarked on an exploration of alternative and minority religions, investigating belief systems and philosophies beyond the traditional "big six" (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism), including Taoism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Heaven's Gate cult.

More recently, we have ventured into the intricate field of medical ethics, offering students the opportunity to contemplate their own views alongside religious doctrines on matters such as IVF, designer babies, and the ethical implications of the COVID-19 lockdowns. I extend my sincerest commendations to you all for your exceptional hard work and wish you a restful and enjoyable summer respite.

As we move ever closer to the end of the summer term, our Y10s will be working through the final content of the year. They will be studying ecology in biology, so looking at the interaction of organisms within ecosystems and the increasingly critical matter of how humans affect biodiversity. With the weather as it is they may also get the chance to get outside and complete some sampling of biodiversity. They will continue this topic when they return in year 11.



Our physicists will be studying pressure and how fluids behave under pressure. Within this topic they will investigate atmospheric pressure and the potentially catastrophic consequences of increasing water pressure on submersibles.



The chemists are on the topic 'using resources'. Within this topic they will be looking at the chemistry and economics of significant industrial chemical processes.. Some of our students may also get the chance to make fertilisers in the laboratory!

It's been a busy and productive year in Sociology, with students continuing to develop their understanding of key sociological concepts, perspectives and debates.

We began the academic year with the Sociology of Education unit. Students explored the role and functions of education in society, the impact of educational policies over time, and patterns of differential achievement based on social class, gender and ethnicity. We examined both external (home) and internal (school) factors that help explain why some groups do better in education than others. In the spring and summer terms, our focus has turned to Crime and Deviance – one of the core units in Paper 2 of the AQA GCSE Sociology course. Students have been learning about the social construction of crime and deviance, the functions crime may serve in society, and a range of sociological explanations from functionalism, Marxism, feminism and interactionism. We've well and truly broken the back of this unit, and students will complete it early in the autumn term before moving on to Social Stratification – the final new unit of the course. A reminder to parents and carers that all students have been issued with the Collins GCSE Sociology revision guide, Collins flashcards and Tutor2U revision cards. These will be essential for preparing for next year's mock exams. Although full details will be provided in the new academic year, the autumn term mock exam typically covers Paper 1: Families and Education (including Research Methods in both topics). The paper is 1 hour 45 minutes and marked out of 100 (50 marks per section).

Finally, we will also be running weekly revision clinics in the autumn term. These will be a great opportunity for students to ask questions, revisit tricky topics and practise exam skills. Further details will be shared with students and families in September.

Spanish

This term, Year 10 students have been learning about holidays and famous festivals in Spain which incorporates all the key tenses for success at GCSE ready for next year.

We recently celebrated a fantastic trip to Battersea Spanish Hub in London in March. A small handful of Year 10 Spanish students attended the day which immersed them in the language and culture. We had restaurant role plays in a real Spanish bar setting, ice breaker games in Spanish, speaking exam practice, tapas for lunch and finished with a salsa class which made a lot of students really come out of their shells! The students were fantastic company. The Year 10 cohort have been brilliant this half term so well done to them all!

