

our Journey



Student Voice Speaks Volumes!

Greta Pezzolato's Prize-winning Book Boost for Compass!

It was a fantastic experience, the one that I did a few weeks ago, as it enriched me greatly; I was so honoured to be chosen by my peers to spend the £250 [Jack Petchey Award](#). I wanted to focus on celebrating the achievements of women as this is something that is necessary; choosing new books for the library that do this, made me fully realize how important is the role of Ms Quigley inside the school. Everyone in school is different; for this reason, choosing the right books that every student will enjoy is a terribly hard task. Finding a book that isn't too simple or too hard to understand, which is both serious and fun is complicated. It's for this reason that I deeply admire Ms Quigley as she chooses with great care and passion books that she hopes the students will enjoy and find entertaining. I think the books that we picked together after many inspirational and enlightening conversations, are perfect. They talk about people who really exist and people who are a fruit of the fervid fantasy of the authors, which is what I think people most need. Another book that I found interesting is 'Men Explain Things to Me' by Rebecca Solnit; it is a collection of essays that make you reflect on today's society and how mansplaining is real and is a problem. Continued on page 4

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Principal's Message

Marcus Huntley



Embracing a Spring of Change

Spring is here again, and I can confidently say that it has never been more welcome. Daffodils and tulips are out, and the lighter evenings upon us. These symbols of new life and beginnings join serendipitously with the easing of lockdown restrictions to which we are all looking forward.



Free books for Year 7!



A rising football star!

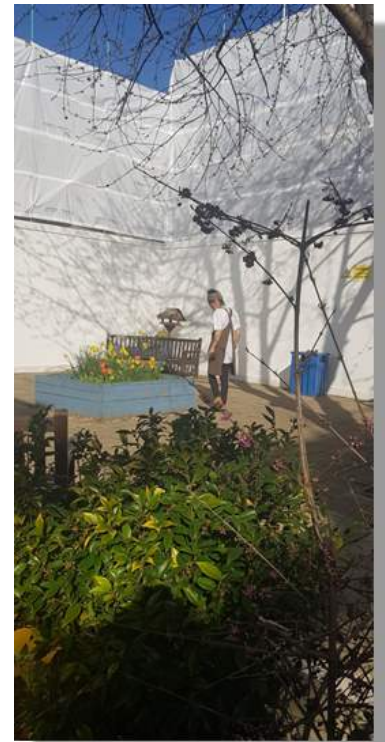
The journey to this point has been challenging. I would like to thank our school community; pupils, parents and staff for the resilience they have shown. As a team, we ensured the continuity of learning and enrichment throughout of period of virtual school. We saw record levels of engagement and pupils being able to access our live lessons. We connected with parents, both present and future through Zoom calls, workshops and School Cloud parents' evenings. It has been fantastic to have you on board.

Improvements Abound!

We have even found time to improve our outdoor play facilities in response to comments in the student survey. As a result, there are table tennis tables in each zone and additional basketball hoops. Now that pupils are back, there is a palpable buzz of excitement at break and lunch as pupils enjoy their new facilities. I am also pleased to report how well our pupils have settled back in to face-to-face routines and focusing well on their learning. A special shoutout to Year 11 who have just completed their mock examinations. We hope they have a successful final term with us and confidently reach the destination to which they aspire.



Free books for Year 7!



The Compass garden is in great hands with our gardener, Natalie John!



Forward Thinking!

Looking ahead, there is much to be excited about post Easter. We will be launching Accelerated Reader to promote reading across the school; we'll elect our Student Council and a Head Girl and Boy; there will be Sports Day; and the main celebratory event of the year, Prize-Giving 2021.

Wishing You a Restful Easter!

The Easter message for Christians is one of transformation, from evil to good, from death to life and the promise of a better and brighter future for all. I look forward to our next term and very much hope it brings the hope and joy we all need.

Careers at Compass

by Ms Cogher, Head of Careers



Virtual Work Experience is a Real Success for Year 10!

This term, Compass students have been incredibly busy engaging in a wide range of wonderful, virtual careers activities. Over the February half term holiday, several Year 10 students took part in a virtual work experience placement, having submitted successful applications. George Thomas, Juliet Asamoah, Jessica Lawars, and Fatima Jaguraga, all spent part of their holidays engaging in virtual webinars, talks and workshops to gain insight into their chosen profession. Juliet took part in a law placement and shared her enjoyment:

“My virtual work experience was really good! There were many people who shared their experiences with us and were always ready to answer every question we asked. I was also able to learn more about the areas and language of Law, which I didn't know about before.”

JULIET ASAMOAH YEAR 10

George Thomas took part in a finance work experience placement and found it very insightful:

“I am finding my virtual work experience really useful, as it covers a range of topics including: investment banking, fraud, insurance and how to get into the financial industry. The work is about one hour a day and I think it is valuable.”

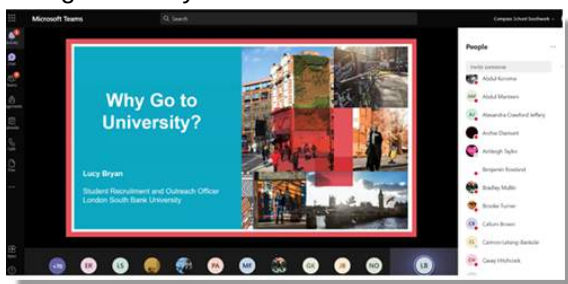
GEORGE THOMAS YEAR 10

Compass would like to congratulate these students for representing themselves and the school in such a positive, professional, and aspirational light.



National Careers Week - Compass Continues to Construct a Bright Future!

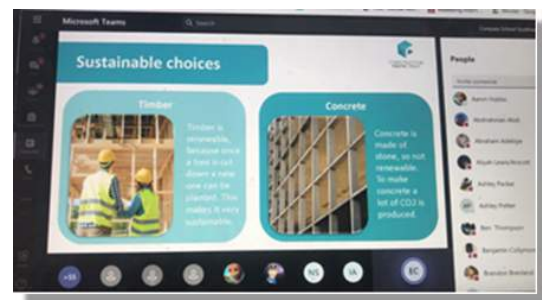
From the 1st to the 9th of March, Compass School celebrated National Careers Week. All students participated in careers activities in Learning Family time throughout this week, hearing about the different jobs their teachers have had previously, and what they learnt from these roles. During one L.F. session, all Key Stage 3 students attended a virtual assembly delivered by London Southbank University, in which they learnt more about the different courses that can be studied there, and the benefits of attending university.



That same week, Key Stage 4 students attended a virtual assembly delivered by the Metropolitan Police to hear about the variety of job opportunities within the police force, and the apprenticeship route into the profession.

During National Careers Week, each year group were lucky enough to take part in a virtual employer encounter, and learn first-hand from representatives in different fields about their day-to-day-work. On top of these virtual employer encounters, all year groups took part in careers and employability skills lessons in every subject.

Year 7 students took part in a sustainable design workshop delivered by Construction Youth Trust during their science lesson, in which they considered how buildings can be made more environmentally friendly.



Later in the week, Year 10 students took part in a live talk from two representatives from the Civil Service, who spoke about their role working in government, focusing specifically on their experiences as BAME (Black or Minority Ethnic) individuals. Joseph Boateng really enjoyed the talk:

“I learned about the roles of being in the civil services and how important it is to them.”

JOSEPH BOATENG YEAR 10

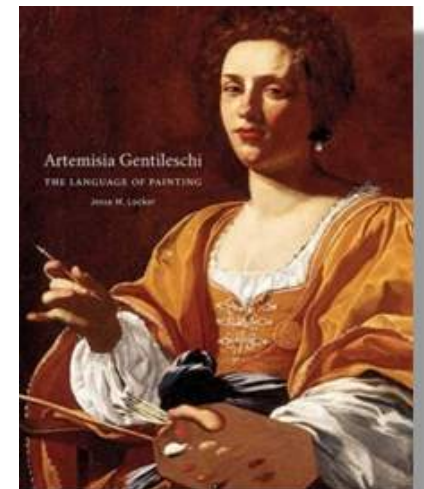
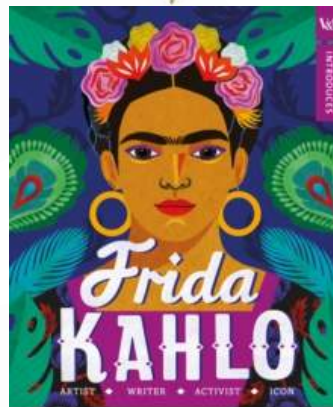
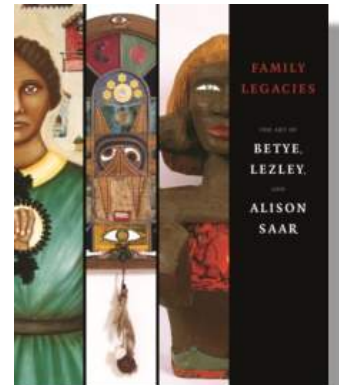
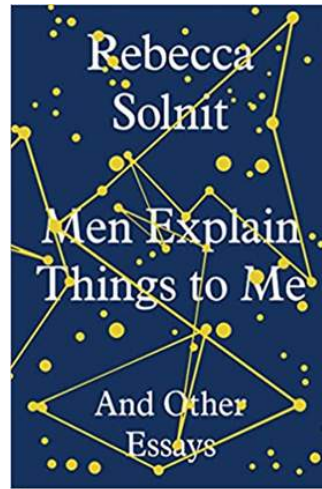
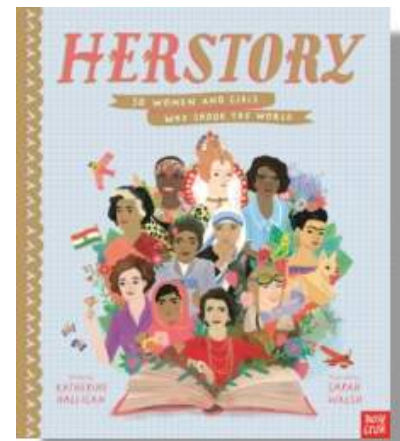
Year 8 took part in a webinar delivered by the Bank of England. Meanwhile Year 10 Citizenship students were lucky enough to hear from the BBC Africa Correspondent about what it is like to work as a leading news reporter, and asked some thoughtful questions. Over the course of the week students had some wonderful conversations about what they might like to do as a career and we are all extremely excited for what the future holds!

Cover Story Continued

by Year 8 Student, Greta Pezzolato

With this book (pictured immediately to the right) you can have fun as it's really ironic, but you can also learn new things. I would like to thank the Jack Petchey Foundation who gave me £250 to spend on these books that I believe can benefit the entire school, now and in the future.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Mr Huntley for letting Ms Quigley and myself have extra money to buy the books as we both think that all the books in the original list that we made together are amazing, and it would be a shame not to have all of them in our school library to share with everyone.



This article was written by Year 8 student, Greta Pezzolato who speaks English as a second language, having moved to the UK just prior to joining Compass School Southwark. Greta is an avid reader, she embodies our school values, always tries her very best as a Junior Prefect and works hard in all areas of school life, including helping others. For all of these reasons Greta's peers chose her to receive this award. We are all incredibly proud of Greta's thoughtful outlook and generous nature towards everyone in the Compass community.

We are looking forward immensely to sharing this collection of books celebrating the achievements of women and girls. Thank you Greta for your hard work, kind words and inspiration!

Digital Leaders, My Story So Far

by Year 10 Student, George Thomas



The digital leader training I have had has greatly benefited me; I now have a better understanding and know a lot more about technology.

I've been supported in achieving my badges and advancing my training.



CITIZEN BADGES

Digital awareness, safety and ethics

Cyber Security	Cybersecurity, Safety, Coding
Cyber Spies	Safeguarding, Ethics, Cybersecurity, Safety
Data Play	Data, Information, Cyber Security, Ethics
E-Safety & Online Etiquette	Safety, Reputation, Etiquette, Responsibility, Ethics, Problem Solving
Fake News	Citizenship, ESafety, Ethics, Etiquette, Cyber, Data, Information
GDPR	Citizenship, Compliance, Data Responsibility, Due Diligence Governance
Safe Online	Safety, Reputation, Etiquette, Responsibility, Ethics

MAKER BADGES

Digital creativity and how to build and make in the digital world

Animation	Animation, User Experience, Visualisation
Automation	Coding, Algorithms, Internet Of Things
Junior Web Designer	Design, Website Development, Frameworks
Making Websites	Web Development, Web Design, Posting, Blogging, CMS
Video Editing	Design, Video

This training has taught me a lot and has included lots of useful skills, like: [GDPR](#), user interfaces, digital pathways and careers within technology. It has also helped to further my understanding in E-Safety.

Best of all, it was fun, and it taught me lots of skills that I will use later on down the line in my future careers.

WORKER BADGES

Tools and techniques which are useful in the workplace

Digital Pathways	Raising Aspirations, Careers, Digital Skills, Apprenticeships, Aiming High, Career Pathways
Digital Research	Surfing, Data, Organisation
SysAdmin	Servers, Website Development, Testing
User Experience	Design, User Experience
User Interfaces	Design, User Interfaces
What is AI?	AI, Digital Skills, Raising Aspiration, Problem Solving, Machine Learning, Ethics, Smart City, Smart Home, Future of Work, AI Careers, Employability Skills

ENTREPRENEUR BADGES

Learn how to originate ideas and bring them to life

Advertising	Promoting, Marketing, Advertising, Selling, Business
CRM	CRM, Relationships, Marketing
Growth Hacking	Business, Entrepreneurship, Marketing
Growth Mindset	Learning, Understanding, Staying Positive, Stress Management, Coping Skills, Psychology, Brain Plasticity, Brain Hacking, Employability Skills, Life Skills
Researcher	Searching, Business, Marketing
Social Media in Business	Social Media, Communication, Marketing, Advertising, Strategy
Social Selling	Business, Relationships, CRM, Posting
The Art of Selling	Enterprise, Selling, Communication, Negotiation, Influencing



I would like to thank Ms Cunninghame for recommending this course to me; it will be great on my CV as it is as recognised as a Duke of Edinburgh award and will be really good on my [UCAS](#) applications.

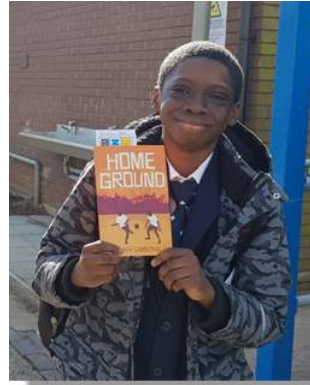
Brilliant Bookbuzz for Year 7! 'Books for Keeps' Delivered!

by Ms Quigley, School Librarian

Last term I invited the whole of Year 7 to visit the library to choose a book to keep from 17 fantastic titles. It was my intention to give them to the students at the end of the autumn term. The students had made a first and second choice from the books they had explored and I had hoped to wrap them and send them home at Christmas. As this wasn't possible due to a hold-up in deliveries as a result of Covid-19, this had to be delayed.



It was an absolute joy to be able to receive and prepare the books for students whilst I was in school during lockdown. It was better still to be able to give them to Year 7 when they arrived for testing in March and so lovely to hear how much they have enjoyed reading these in the following days and weeks! Well done to Year 7 for their enthusiasm for reading and appreciation of the many benefits this brings to them! Please encourage your child/ren to always have a book on-the-go!



Community Matters

by Ms Walkey-Williams, Assistant Principal for Community

Returning to school in September was a wonderful feeling for pupils and staff alike. We all adjusted very quickly to our learning zones, our staggered lunches and our masks! Who knew that, in just four months, we would be back to Virtual School?



Luckily, we were all well-prepared for online learning and our virtual community was quickly established! Just like last year, our community spirit was resilient and we managed to find new and innovative ways to support and celebrate each other. From social media challenges and our Community Quiz to Virtual Careers Week and World Book Day, we did not allow being separated physically from each other to hold us back.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

We were glad to be able to provide ongoing support to families through our fortnightly breakfast boxes, additional food supplies and access to technology and we were impressed by the messages of thanks that we received from families – we really are the strongest team when we work together!



It was also fantastic to be able to survey parents and run Zoom Parent Information Evenings for all year groups. It was great to share our plans for the rest of the year and reassure families that we are all still on the pathway to the destination to which we aspire, no matter what happens.

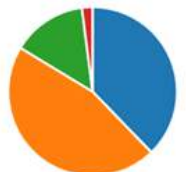


Community truly is at the heart of everything that we do here at Compass and lockdown proved that we don't need to all be in the same place to feel like we are part of it. That said, we are overjoyed to be back together and look forward to a successful end of the school year!

2. I understand the school's vision and values

[More Details](#)

Strongly agree	37
Agree	45
Neutral	14
Disagree	2
Strongly disagree	0



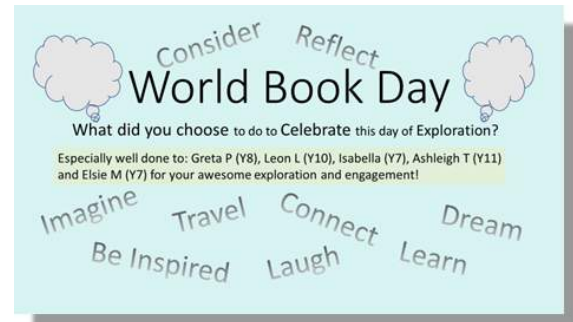
Library News - "Exercising Our Little Grey Cells"

by Ms Quigley, School Librarian

This term has been another one that challenged our creativity and willingness to find new ways to exercise our curiosity and stimulate, as Poirot says, our "little grey cells!" It was a term that included Harry Potter Night which is normally a source of such joy in our school library, with our home-made decorations building atmosphere and excitement in the lead-up and decision-making for which costume to wear. This event had to be postponed, but we can look forward to sharing butter beer, chocolate frogs and the customary quiz as a surprise in the week of the 23rd of April (World Book Night). It will be great for all Year 7 students to spend an English lesson celebrating in this way (and rolling out to Year 8s in the weeks following) as a reward for their excellent engagement on and off-site with reading for pleasure and other library activities.



I bought 200 World Book Day £1 books (the maximum any school can buy), 50 of each of the books pictured below, and on a first-come-first-serve basis students could request these via email and then in person. We have also observed and promoted – Mental Health Week, Careers Week, LGBTQ+ History Month, International Women's Day, and World Poetry Day.



Many tasks, opportunities and initiatives have been shared with students via email, or during Learning Family Time and in our Celebration PowerPoint on Friday. It is important that students check their emails regularly to get them used to communicating in this way to keep up with opportunities and preparing them for the world of work beyond school. Please encourage them to do this as they can miss out on expressing themselves and finding a new interest or talent.

Through the library, students are encouraged to use Compass values to be curious to learn and improve their chances in life beyond school – the values of Exploration, Aspiration, Resilience and Integrity can all be exercised by students in engaging in their personal journey as a life-long learner. At the moment we are using preference forms and conversations to identify the perfect book to inspire the level of engagement needed to develop and expand the horizons of all our students. Please encourage your child to take every opportunity to enjoy expanding their knowledge and skills with reading for study and pleasure.



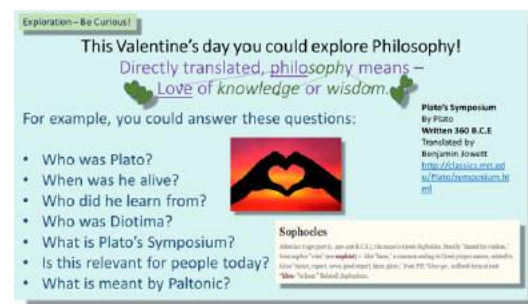
I am always thrilled to hear student voice on the library!



We celebrated World Book Day online with escape rooms, podcasts, book cover design challenges, reading eBooks and listening to audio books with all activities encompassing a broad range of genres. Students were also challenged with a book quiz blended with a fitness challenge to give our nation's sports teacher, Joe Wicks a rest and each challenge was followed up with links to reading for pleasure and wellbeing and our curriculum.



There are lots of options to explore!



International Women's Day and Women's History Month

by Ms Quigley, School Librarian

International Women's Day is a special day for many reasons and this year it coincided with World Book Day, Careers Week and British Science Week. I decided I would like to draw these three occasions together and focus student attention on some lesser-known amazing women!



Anita Ganeri is an extraordinary woman! She is one of the most prolific authors in the world! She has won many awards for her work, but you will likely not know her name, she is not a 'celebrity' despite her many, many achievements. You are, however, highly likely to have read (or at least handled) one (and very possibly many more than one) of her hundreds of books on all areas of science!



We also looked at Evelyn Glennie, a world-renowned percussionist who, despite being deaf, has an incredible career as a musician at the very top of her profession!



Greta Pezzolato responded to Ms Ragusa's challenge to create a piece of art celebrating women's contributions to the world!

As ever, our Head of Art, Ms Ragusa joined Ms Cogher, our (80% female) Science Department and myself to encourage students to express their thoughts on the achievements of women.

Students were able to find out about numerous high-achieving women despite the lack of wider recognition and the gender-inequality that persists around the globe.

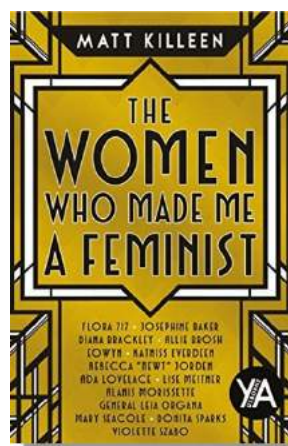


<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/theme>



<https://www.chineke.org/> <https://www.chi-chinwanoku.com/>

Students were encouraged to listen to podcasts, make explorations of their own and comment on these, and other lesser-known women. In their search they were able to discover and explore another musician; ex-sprinter, double bass player and founder of the [Chineke Foundation](https://www.chineke.org/), Chi-chi Nwanoku OBE.



Matt Killeen, author of Orphan Monster Spy has also written this book which will appear in the Compass School Library very soon!

Holocaust Memorial Day

by Ms Melling Head of History

Wednesday the 27th of January 2021 marked the 76th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, and more widely the conception of official Holocaust remembrance in the UK. For everyone across the country, this year's reflection was forced to take different approaches to those in previous years, but still carried the important messages of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust, rescue, justice, the legacy of Holocaust survivors and the action of educating the next generation to carry these stories forward.

The Compass community marked its remembrance with a week-long reflection, which saw students in all years consider the stories and messages of the Holocaust and other genocides in history. They ended each morning by sharing their thoughts on how we could continue in future years to relay this year's theme, 'Be the light in the darkness.' Their explorations confirm the importance of education in spreading the key messages that underpin Holocaust Memorial Day.



John Hadju MBE

Year 10 were given the opportunity to enhance their remembrance also, by partaking in a session with Holocaust survivor, John Hadju. Their engagement in the workshop, together with exploration of a series of materials earlier in the week helped them prepare questions that John himself noted, as being 'mature beyond their years.' This was followed by individual reflections on how we can remember the Holocaust through exhibitions, literature, film, and memorials.

I think this book was accurate. You feel a sadness for the characters and feeling that this should never be allowed to happen again. The book gives a small incite into the holocaust and can make the reader keen to learn more about the terrible time.

Year 10 Student Reflection

BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS

Written by John Boyne

The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas is a fictional story set in WW2. The story starts in Berlin and then takes the reader to Auschwitz concentration camp, the biggest camp in Europe. A nine year old boy of the name Bruno and his family move to Auschwitz, due to his father getting a promotion from Adolf Hitler. Bruno then soon discovers the camp Auschwitz and meets a young boy named Shmuel. The two kids begin to talk to each other and soon become friends as they share the same birthdate and age. Bruno finds out why Shmuel is in the camp because he is a Jew and so Bruno starts

YEAR 8 STUDENT NATHAN BAMBOSE'S INDEPENDENT ATTEMPT TO REMEMBER THE HOLOCAUST, WITH AN ARTICULATE AND INSIGHTFUL DIARY PIECE, FURTHER REINFORCED THIS MESSAGE. HE WROTE:

"something that is almost unforgettably traumatising is happening in Europe."

While we remember that for most, the story of the Holocaust was not the story of successful resistance or rescue, or of survival, and that justice was not served. Compass students provided a timely reminder of why it is our responsibility not to stay 'silent' when confronting past and present genocides around the world. More importantly, they represent a generation that can continue to spread the message 'never again and be the future light, in a history clouded so often with darkness.



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

Learning from genocide -
for a better future

ONE DAY

One Day is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2022.

Nothing Stops Enrichment for Compass Students!

by Mr May, Head of Creative Arts and Enrichment

Lockdown provided us all with challenges that we had never had to think about. This was especially true for our unique weekly enrichment programme. How do you teach singing, leatherwork and even football online? Well in true Compass style we improvised, adapted, and overcame. Our singing teacher, Ms Field instructed her students during the nine weeks with her usual energy and talent; on returning to school, it was really moving to see what this group had accomplished! Whilst our leatherwork teacher, Mr Osman (of [Yussico](#)), enabled our students to develop their ideas with templates and origami paper we had posted to them, Ms Quigley used clay and adapted leatherwork skills with our students onsite. Finally, Ballers Academy offered weekly online circuits and skills-development supported by our wonderful, Ms Kidney.

On our return to school Ms Parkinson introduced us to investigative journalist Antonia Cundy. Antonia works as a freelance journalist for the Financial Times and Channel 4's Dispatches. She has spent the last five weeks working with a small group of Year 8 students on stories that concern them, including Feminism, 'Cat Calling' in Bermondsey, deforestation, Formula One, Manga and life during lockdown. We very much look forward to the final pieces – watch this space!



Looking to next term we are tremendously excited about [SparksArts](#) coming to Compass to work with Year 7 and 8 students to make two short films about the impact of what we have all been going through over the last year. Students will write, direct, film, act and edit the entire film over ten weeks with a screening at the end of term. If you are interested in your child participating in this, please let Mr May know at bmay@compass-schools.com. Mr Egbuchiem has been working with two groups of students looking at how we can promote anti-racism at Compass. His first group has been working on '[Show racism the Red Card](#)' where students have been asked to design a lesson and poster for Year 8s on anti-racism. Whilst the other group of students have been working in collaboration with St Saviour's & St Olave's and JAGS on a Southwark Schools Learning Partnership film-project about how difference, diversity and anti-racism affects us all daily. We look forward with anticipation to see how our students create meaningful and authentic responses to a challenging issue that affects each one of us!



Diversity Enrichment

by Mr Egbuchiem, Head of Year 11

With everything that has been happening in the world of late, it's easy to see how divisive conversations around ethnicity and culture can be for people who are not actively pursuing unity and respect.

Within our diverse community we aim to consistently reflect the various elements of our demographic, and we have engaged with the students to create an Anti-racism/Diversity group. Within this group, which comprises of Year 7 and 8 students, we have already laid the foundations for a mini promotional video. This film aims to highlight stereotyping and micro aggressions, and created a poster shedding light on the feelings of those who have been subject to racial abuse. The work produced by this diverse group of students has been inspiring, and it is only going to ascend to greater heights.

The values of integrity, aspiration, exploration and resilience has well and truly been ingrained in these students, and I am more than confident of the long-term results of this project. [Show Racism the Red Card](#)



Curriers meet Origamists and Ceramicists in Paper and Clay

by Ms Quigley, Librarian and team-teacher of Leatherwork

It was an unusual term for our leatherworkers (or curriers) with the challenges of the physical nature of this enrichment we all had to be more creative than ever, which fortunately was no problem for this creative group!

Students working remotely were challenged by our wonderful leatherwork teacher, Mr Osman to make exquisitely formed origami versions of designs to be later made in leather. In school, students made leather tassels and pencil pouches, adapting to using minimal tools in the crafting of these, then moving onto creating objects in clay kindly provided by our awesome Inclusion department when Ms Oladejo realised my qualifications in this area.

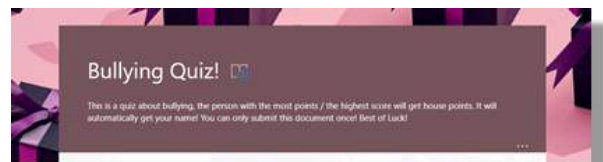
All of the students, working online with Mr Osman, or myself in school, were fantastic in their attitude to working flexibly and ability to focus and create in the changing landscape. We are very proud of them all and look forward to seeing what they do next!



Web-designed for Kindness

by Ms Ragusa, Head of Art

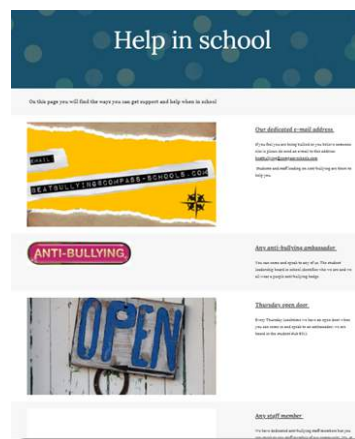
The Anti-bullying Ambassadors have been busy creating their own website! I am delighted to announce that it is ready for viewing; the link can be found on the school website via our [Virtual School](#) page.



On Monday the 8th of March we were proud to work with [Bullies Out](#) and offer training to our Year 7 parents on [understanding and exploring bullying](#). The session was extremely informative and something we wish to further embed in the future.



The ambassadors wanted to create [a dedicated space where students and parents can get information and advice on bullying](#). The website includes an introduction to the ambassadors, the work they do, how to get help in school, useful website links and activities. This will be updated regularly by our Student Leaders. I am immensely proud of our Student Ambassadors who have worked extremely hard on this project in the hope of helping others.



Year 7 Students Thrive through Exploration!

by Ms Hayward Head of Year 7

It has been lovely to see all of Year 7 back onsite; seeing their smiling faces and excitable chatter in the mornings as they catch up with their friends and teachers. Year 7 have shown great resilience and worked extremely hard during lockdown making sure that they were thoroughly involved in their lessons. They have been immersing themselves in as many activities as possible to ensure they are both physically and mentally fit; doing Joe Wicks workouts during PE lessons, creating interesting pieces of art to express themselves - both inside and outside of their lessons and taking part in virtual talks for careers week.



Year 7 students really enjoyed visiting our baby chicks in science!



Year 7 have been learning how to play volleyball!

Before Christmas many Year 7 students enjoyed our attendance brunch to celebrate their great attendance and maintained their great attendance in virtual school. They enjoyed taking part in weekly virtual assemblies on a range of topics as well as having interesting, thought-provoking discussions in Learning Family time and celebrating their successes and efforts in the Friday Celebration PowerPoint. A massive shoutout to every Year 7 student who managed to get 100% attendance in virtual school as well as to those who have received a £10 Amazon voucher for their hard work and dedication. It has been lovely to hear from the students, how they spent their voucher!



A new 'book-to-keep' for every Year 7 student!

The Year 7 students have been enjoying playing table tennis and basketball at breaktime and lunchtime on their return to school and have thrown themselves back into their lessons; we are looking forward to seeing how well they rise to meet whatever the future holds!



Well done to all the students achieving certificates for excellent attendance!

The Year 7 virtual Parents Information Evening was well attended. Key messages were shared with parents including information about reports, virtual school, enrichment and supporting students' mental health before parents were given the opportunity to ask questions. It was great to be able to hear from parents, to catch up in this way whilst in virtual school and show our community spirit! We look forward to our first virtual Year 7 Parents Evening in April where we will be able to discuss all the amazing work and effort that the Year 7s are putting into all their lessons and look forward to seeing everyone.

Year 7 have continued to go from strength to strength this year as they have faced and overcome different challenges and we look forward to the Summer term together learning, exploring and developing their many different skills.

I look forward to seeing what they do next!



Artistic endeavours at lunchtime!



Taking part is what it's all about! Year 7 students participated in extra-curricular activities and excelled in their lessons!

Year 8 is Driven, Determined and Dedicated!

by Ms Mohamed Head of Year 8

"It is the size of one's will that determines success."
Anonymous

What other way can you describe a cohort that does not let the current circumstances defeat them? Year 8 have powered through and soared beyond our imagination. They have proven, once again, what a resilient and aspirational year group they truly are. They have remained steadfast and managed any challenges, such as technological issues so gracefully. They have maintained ambitious standards in their virtual lessons and have continued to demonstrate our highly esteemed Compass Values. Their amazing records of attendance has been nothing short of phenomenal; they have continued to set the bar for the rest of the school, and again, they have proven to be the strongest team!

Year 8 have recently been introduced to the GCSE Options process; they have attended two assemblies so far to explore what GCSE Options are available as well as having an opportunity to hear directly from option subject teachers. I have been delighted to see how very diligently they have begun to consider and contemplate which subjects to choose for next year. After half-term, Year 8 had further assemblies focusing on their options as well as opportunities to explore different pathways during our Careers' week. A special thank you to all the Year 8 parents who attended the GCSE Options meeting in February, it was great to see this involvement and support.



Awesome exploration in geography lessons outside in the spring sunshine!

A huge congratulations to students that have performed exceptionally well in virtual school. The following students have received Amazon vouchers for upholding the Compass values which translates to an elevated level of engagement and attendance in lessons: Theo CW, Jake A, Regan F, Blue C, Charlie H, Camila M, Joshua O, Mohamad N, Brigette CC, Justin K, Ridwan O, Amy J, Tai H, Eden P, Tye H, Greta P, Alex L and Edwin E.



Striving for excellence with the new basketball hoops in P.E. lessons!



Excellent exploration in the library at lunchtime!

In our celebratory assemblies on Fridays, the following students received a shout-out from their Learning Family Tutors for outstanding effort, performance and commitment to their education: Ronnie H, Nathan B, Tia M, Faruk B, Saxon ST, Aitana B, Maisie B, Shaniyah H, Harry L, Tendai M, Ashley R, Greta P, Ronnie SE, Angelina B, Alex L, Molly P, Chau C, Jake M, Thomas W, Courtney B, Mustapha KB, Ruby-Sue H, Freddie F, Kwame D, and Vivian A.

A massive shout-out to Greta P who has used her Jack Petchey Prize fund to order more female-focused books for our wonderful library space. Her input, time and effort in reviewing the book choices is greatly appreciated and will be a wonderful and much welcomed addition.

It has been truly refreshing to see Year 8 thrive virtually as well as they do in physical school. They have returned refreshed and rededicated to excelling in their studies. I am thoroughly impressed with how well they are doing and I have no doubts that they will continue to excel and strive for success on return.

Have wonderful and restful break.
Ms Mohamed



Teaching Mr Huntley how to hold baby chicks!

Year 9 Opts for Optimism!

by Mr Haverty, Head of Year 9

“The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.”
Winston Churchill

These words from Winston Churchill really resonate when considering Year 9's efforts during Term 2 which has been unlike any seen before. It is safe to say, we are a group of optimists. Yes, things have been different and difficult but, like staff, students have gone above and beyond to ensure that their learning and progress were still taking place and taking advantage of the amazing resources provided for them. Students have become technological experts, using OneNote to complete work and marked live, taking part in whole group discussions on Teams and seeing opportunities at every turn.



Fantastic creativity from Michaela P!



The joy in discovering Solitaire Chess!



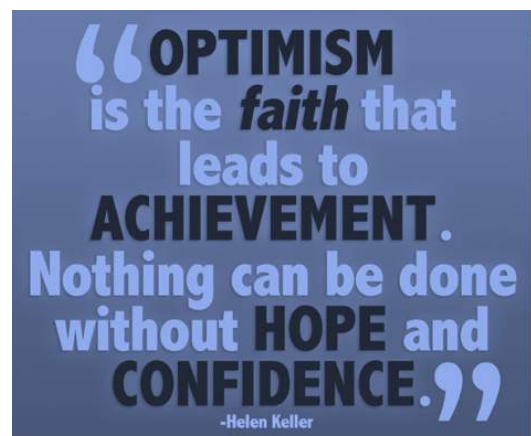
Year 9 students taking on Mr Huntley at table-tennis during breaktime!

What has most impressed me, is the students' seamless return to physical school. Students' resilience and adaptability has been nothing short of phenomenal, going through all the processes necessary for a speedy, and most importantly, safe return to learning. We have seen many students already reach 200 house-points, and the competition for the top-spot, in terms of house-points, has been more competitive than ever! At various points, Steven, Elias, Raylonda and Ibrahim have all held this coveted position. The competition continues, who will have the highest number of house-points at the end of the school year?

There have been successful mentoring groups; Milk and Honey offering some of our students an insight into their personal identity has been a particular highlight with: Michaela O, Sirra, Taliah, Meika, Raylonda, Mam and Sarah taking part. There has also been an opportunity for three Year 9 students to help create anti-racist lessons with Esther from [Esteem](#), she has been bowled-over at the maturity and insight displayed by Nabeel, Isaiah and Amie in helping to create these resources.

In physical school students were able to take part in some extra-curricular activities and display some explorative skills, Lily-Mae particularly shining and displaying not only her artistic talents but also her musical abilities and her guitar playing in the canteen. We also had Michaela P showing her creative abilities in creating her own version of the popular game 'Among Us'.

The introduction of table tennis tables to the Year 9 playground has also offered students a positive method to 'let go', and after their expert coaching from Coach Simon I am sad to admit I struggle to win even a point when I play against them now! Harry, Eliman and Ben N deserve particular recognition for their ever-developing talents.



Team Year 9 are really going from strength to strength and long may this continue!

Year 10 Students are Flexible and Creative!

by Ms Di Stazio, Head of Year 10

“You can’t stop the waves, but you can learn to swim.” Jon Kabat Zin

This quote has been picked specifically for Year 10; we can't stop life events but we can learn how to handle them. Year 10 have done extremely well during virtual school, overcoming barriers such as how to take part in work-experience. Life in virtual school was different and posed challenges like, "how do I use OneNote to help me?"



Back in the science lab' for explorations with Head of Science, Ms Samater.

I am not exaggerating when I say how proud I am of how the year group has transformed what originally was a challenge, into their biggest strength! Yes, during lockdown they missed their interactions with their friends, playing football or table-tennis; they have, however, enhanced their IT skills and worked hard to achieve good grades on their tests.



Year 10 escape room antics in Relating!



Year 10 students rewarded for excellent attendance with a delicious brunch!

I am especially proud of students who attended 100% of their lessons in virtual and physical school. A big shout to Mariam, Jack, Eduardo, Jaime-Lee, Louie, Millie K, Oscar and George. Well done!



Year 10 escape room antics in Relating!

Making the most of the sunshine and their lovely outdoor area; Year 10 answering 'the big questions' in an al fresco relating lesson!

Year 11s Rise to the Challenge!

by Mr Egbuchiem, Head of Year 11

“Don’t spin your wheels and stress. Take a deep breath, centre yourself and make a plan.”

Douglas Adams, The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy

It may be easy to lose focus when circumstances are consistently dictating what mood, role, or position one takes in these times, but our Year 11 cohort have not succumbed. They have embodied the Compass values, and a true determination, sense of community, teamwork, and respect shown upon their return has been a joy to behold.

There are nine weeks left as I write this, and less than that as you are reading. Every day in school now is an exam as all work will go towards a grade.

We, as parents and teachers, must work together over the coming weeks to give these students the best and most productive assistance to enable them to reach the destinations to which they aspire.

The things that matter now are their health, both mental and physical, and their studies; all other distractions are to be put aside, so that they can focus on what is important.



A huge well done to all Year 11s achieving attendance certificates!



Fun in their form rooms with a Kahoot quiz!



Year 11 students demonstrating their hard work and determination in Art and Graphics!



Have a restful, healthy and revision-inclusive Easter break!



A huge well done to all Year 11s achieving attendance certificates!

Physical Education Skills for Healthy Living!

by Mr Flowers, Head of Sport

What a term it has been, lockdown has had a massive impact on all our lives. As a department we are so happy with the engagement of our students to take on the challenge of doing PE lessons at home. It has been great to hear from so many students that they have been completing their workouts and exercises with their siblings and parents! One of the ambitions for our five-year curriculum at Compass is to provide our students with the tools and experience to be comfortable with living a physically active lifestyle; it has therefore, been amazing to see the levels of engagement in physical activity throughout the latest lock down. We hope these skills and knowledge stay with our students and they continue to exercise and eat healthily outside of school.



Volleyball, netball and basketball in the mild spring weather!



Football on the Muga!

I would like to thank our governors again for continuing to support our students to be physically active; we have been delighted to receive another five outdoor table-tennis tables and four more outdoor basketball hoops thanks to this generosity. These additions mean that at break and lunchtime, all year groups can play football, basketball, or table tennis a fact that has delighted students and further ignited a real enthusiasm for striving to be fit and healthy.

It has been great to see how smart our students have been on the return to school in their Compass School PE kit. For those who are missing items, they can be purchased at [Price and Buckland](#).



We are very happy to have welcomed back Ballers Football Academy, Kylie and Greenhouse Sports for our enrichment programmes this term and have been delighted to see how this, together with lunch and breaktime fitness has complemented PE now we're all together! We're looking forward to even more outdoor games in the improving weather of the coming term; wishing you a happy, healthful and active Easter holiday!



Excellent engagement!



Perfect volleyball posture!

Maths Problems are no Problem for Compass Students!

by Ms Russo, Head of Maths

As part of LGBTQ+ history month celebrations, students tested their own code-breaking skills in maths as they decrypted the [Infamy Speech](#). During World War II, code-breakers played a crucial role in breaking Nazi Enigma codes that were believed to be indecipherable. One such cryptographer, was Alan Turing. Turing was not only an extraordinary mathematician, but a notable war-hero, saving countless lives through his work. He played a pivotal role in cracking intercepted coded messages that enabled the Allies to defeat the Nazis. Turing was faced with much dismay after he admitted he was gay to the police and was later charged with crime of 'gross indecency.' To 'cure' his same-sex attraction, he was given hormonal treatment, but he became depressed and tragically committed suicide just a few years later. Today, 'The Alan Turing law' is now an informal term for a law passed in the UK in 2017 that retroactively pardoned men cautioned or convicted under historical legislation that outlawed male, same-sex acts. A portrait of Turing is to appear on the face on the fifty-pound note to be circulated in England and Wales in 2021.



Alan Turing

Turing's work was celebrated and recognized by Compass students who developed their resilience and problem-solving skills by decrypting messages using substitution ciphers. The online challenge was well received with exciting competition between classes, using the Microsoft Teams breakout-room feature. They were inspired and worked fantastically hard to decrypt the challenging cypher.

The UK Mathematics Trust ([UKMT](#)), organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical activities for UK school pupils, with competitions attracting thousands of students each year. [The Intermediate Maths Challenge](#) is a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition. It encourages: reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in the use of basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems designed to make students think. This was the first time we have entered Year 9 and they did so well!



We particularly congratulate those students who achieved certificates; Yayha Ali and Brian Malinowski were both awarded Bronze certificates. Nathaniel Thomas was awarded a Silver certificate and has also been invited to the follow-on 'Intermediate Kangaroo' round where he will compete with Year 9-11 students from across the UK. We are immensely proud of all the students who took part in the challenge and look forward to updating you with how Nathaniel gets on!



"I learnt that it's important to enjoy what I do when I grow up!" - Year 10 student

For Careers Week students in Years 9 and 10 had the opportunity to hear from guest speakers representing: aviation, finance, data science, systems engineering and even jewellery design who gave up their time to join us online and share their own exciting and sometimes 'bendy' career paths. Students gained valuable insight into each of their fields, how maths has supported their careers, opened doors, and given them a step-up along the way. Our students asked insightful questions and took away innovative ideas, reassured that, hard work does pay off, it may take a while but it is achievable and always good to have a back-up plan.

"I enjoyed it very much and would like to see them again and hear more about them all in school" - Year 10 student

During National Careers Week, students in all year groups had the chance to develop their problem-solving skills. Problem-solving is one of the most important employability skills, and will be valuable for students in the future, regardless of their career preferences. Moreover, problem-solving forms an essential part of the mathematics curriculum, therefore it is vital for students to develop confidence in this area. Students were presented with a range of different problems and were able to work together to discuss viable solutions. The students really enjoyed having the opportunity to explore some more challenging questions and some interesting discussions emerged as a result!

"Mathematics opens up a whole host of new career options!" - Year 9 student

"There are a lot of different directions you can go with just a maths GCSE, it's very inspiring!" - Year 9 student

A Small School with a Huge Impact

by Ms Oladejo, Head of Inclusion



Celebrating ourselves and all we have to offer, is of paramount importance to both our wellbeing and community!



Musical expression and appreciation!



Reading connects us, relaxes us, expands our horizons and our vocabulary!

As I write, I reflect on the last few months, I cannot help but say aloud, "WOW! Did we really go through another National Lockdown and school closures?"

Embarking on this lockdown, we knew that closing our schools and colleges and the move to remote learning was in order to help, "control the virus, protect our NHS and save lives"; we also knew from the last closure in March 2020 how much our students benefited from our support both at home and in physical school. We had seen too, how much students enjoyed the live lessons we delivered just before their summer holiday; so as soon as the announcement was made by Boris Johnson on the 4th of January, in true Compass-style, staff leapt into action and it was live lessons from the very the next day!

Compass staff, our amazing students and the support from our parents and carers all demonstrate that we are truly aspirational and certainly resilient!



Some of our students' beautiful creations in Lego Club!

“

“When we listen and celebrate what is both common and different, we become wiser, more inclusive, and better as an organization.”

PAT WADORS

Insight from the Chief Talent Officer for LinkedIn.

Our students' mental well-being is of the utmost importance to us; our vision - "everyone in the Compass Community will confidently reach the destination to which they aspire" and our core values cannot be fulfilled without a healthy, positive mind and well-being. For this reason, during the national closure, our students in virtual and physical school were given the opportunity to speak with our school counsellor, Julie. Students on and off-site were encouraged to partake in mindful activities. Onsite we were able to offer: art therapy - clay, painting and drawing and other mindfulness activities such as Lego therapy. In addition to this we ensured students had respite and onsite provided recreational activities such as: table tennis, basketball, football, reading and the use of our school library. At lunch and break time we had Karaoke sessions and were at times treated to one of our talented Year 9 student's vocal and musical talents.



Clay work has been a source for creativity and expression!

"Inclusion is not simply about physical proximity. It is about intentionally planning for the success of all students." This quote from thinkinclusive.us is what Compass School thrives to be and it was clearly evidenced in the outstanding and explorative work produced by our students during remote learning and since their return back to school in March 2021.

The Inclusion Team would like to thank every member of our community for a smooth transition back in to full school reopening, your continuous support is hugely appreciated. In the words of CTO of LinkedIn, Pat Wadors, "When we listen and celebrate what is both common and different, we become wiser, more inclusive, and better as an organisation."

Art - A Caring and Creative Cohort Reflecting on a Portrait of Society

by Ms Ragusa, Head of Art

Term two has been an extremely busy one in the Art department; our students rose to the weekly virtual art challenges and produced some great work during lesson times.

As a school community, we celebrate and reflect upon local, national and global events (both current and historical); I believe art has an important place in responding to these and continue to encourage students to express themselves at every opportunity for their own wellbeing and to enhance the strength of our community. I have been delighted to see the connections students have made between their opinions and feelings to the issues and events we have explored at Compass this term.

LGBTQ+ History Month, International Women's Day, Black Lives Matter, Careers Week, British Science Week and World Book Day are just some of the ways Compass students have shared their voice this term and we look forward with great anticipation to seeing what they do next!



Year 7 and 8 students worked on the independent parts of their projects with some great results. Year 7 pupils created pieces in response to the question, 'How are we impacting our environment?' and have impressed hugely with their innovative and thoughtful work. Each student selected an environmental issue, researched it and produced a creative outcome. Year 8 was challenged to explore the relationship between art and science, they created independent and considered responses based on their research.

Brigette, Year 8



Camilla M, Year 8

Year 9 students embarked on their identity project, they made investigations and explored how a variety of artists have examined the theme of identity, creating imaginative pieces in response. Year 10 and 11 art and graphics students made great strides with their coursework; they found a lesson-tracker especially useful to track their progress whilst allowing for feedback and response. The art department sourced free art resource packs for eligible students from [MakeBank](#), these kits have been immensely useful towards their GCSEs.



Free MakeBank resources



Livia, Year 9

Taking the Time to Talk

by Ms Mohamed, Head of Year 8

Thursday the 4th of February saw the nation speaking about Mental Health. It was no different at Compass as students took part in the [Time to Change](#) movement. This year's theme of *The Power of Small* was the focus of our *Time to Talk*; that a small conversation can change a life and make a significant difference. Students were encouraged to discuss, understand, and recognise why these conversations about Mental Health were not only personally imperative, but also vitally important in raising awareness and eradicating stigma.

"While there are people that are good (thus far) in terms of mental health, there are also people that have a weakness in their mental strength, who need help." We must be kind and be able to recognise signs of a need for support so we can help from early on."

NATHAN BAMGBOSE YEAR 8



This conversation also encouraged students to explore how as a community we can: end stigma around Mental Health, become more resilient and learn how to maintain a good well-being. This understanding will improve and strengthen our community and make a difference to anyone struggling with their mental health and wellbeing. To commemorate and celebrate Children's Mental Health Week with this year's theme, *Express Yourself*, students explored healthy ways to be creative and expressive through art, poetry, music, dance, or drama.

Looking ahead to national Mental Health Week in May, we will continue to highlight the importance of creative outlets, talking and being resilient, especially during these circumstances, as well as being courageous enough to have those small conversations that could make a substantial difference.

EXPRESS YOURSELF



Mental illness is nothing to be ashamed of. Neither is talking about it. It's #TimetoTalk.

time-to-change.org.uk



"Many people with bad mental health do not necessarily like to talk about it because they feel it is a sign of helplessness, that they are not brave enough. For example, in the fight or flight response, they will most likely choose flight because they are scared and are not feeling resilient enough to continue to fight."

LOTTIE O'HARA YEAR 8

As Maya Angelou once said: **"Having courage does not mean that we are unafraid. Having courage and showing courage mean we face our fears. We are able to say, 'I have fallen, but I will get up.'"**

At Compass, we will continue to support each other, to rise, to be courageous and to face challenges head on.



British Science Week was a Blast!

by Ms Abdalla, Teacher of Science

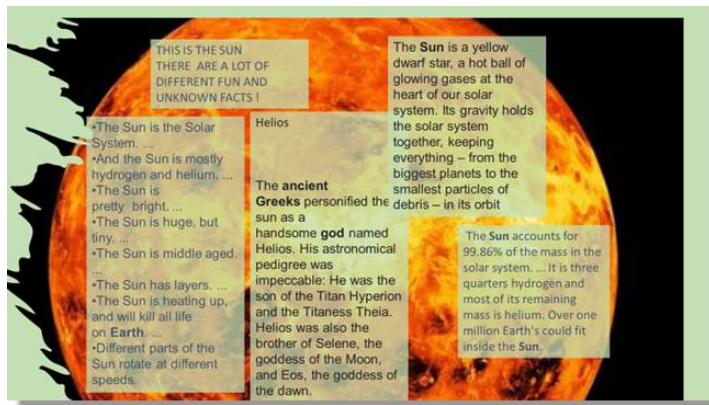
Although British Science Week commenced this year with students learning virtually and transitioning back to school, our students in Key Stage 3 were able to adapt and kick start the celebration by taking part in a poster competition. This year's theme was 'Innovation for the Future' which is perfect for the current climate where we find that due to the pandemic, we have been adjusting our lives and able to adapt thanks to the innovations of engineering, technology and science! Students were given opportunities to discover the different innovations that are being used in real life by attending webinars with the University of Essex: *Strawberry Picking Robots*, *Harvesting Fruits of Robotic Labour*, *Coral reef conservation using 3D technology* and *Artificial Intelligence applied to mental and brain health*.



The week we returned to being in school together, students were able meet a scientist, Tom Dwyer who is an ex-army serviceman who is currently completing a PhD at UCL and ZSL- Zoological Society of London. Tom is interested in researching the quaternary period which started 2.6 million years ago and extends into the present! He spoke about how his research on when human population growth may have affected the Mammoths, will be essential to understanding the magnitude and pattern of human impacts on biodiversity through time, and allows us to make predictive hypotheses for modern conservation science! Students enthusiastically engaged by posing questions which included, "Why did you go into research after the army?" and "What was your favourite animal or tooth you have studied?"



Year 8 took part in an activity delivered by the Science Museum which highlighted how STEM is a creative, imaginative and social human endeavour. Students were able to test six different sealed boxes to identify what it contains without having to look inside. There was a lot of rattling, shaking and passionate discussions, with students shocked when the final reveal was...no boxes being opened. Sally Ride (1951–2012), first US woman in space, "We all have natural curiosity. Science is a process of investigating; it's posing questions and coming up with a method."



Finally, Year 7 and 8 students were able to meet Cathy, a zoo keeper from London Zoo and were fortunate enough to virtually meet the gorillas in their enclosure! They found out more about what it takes to be a zoo keeper and what a normal working day entails. In addition to this, students were able to experience the joy of eight baby chicks [hatching](#) in front of their eyes in school! There was a real buzz across the school with staff and students visiting daily to witness their progress, pet and even name the chicks! In lesson, students were able to discuss the ethics of industrial farming including free range versus caged chickens!



Mr Christie brought the chicks to say goodbye to Year 7 students before they went to their new home.

The slides on this page were part of an impressive presentation created by Year 7 students, Elsie Muldowney, Shannon Cruse and Scarlett McSweeney! We are very impressed!

World Poetry Day!

The Emotional and Intellectual Benefits of Reading and Writing Poetry

by Ms Quigley, School Librarian

Whether you want to stimulate your intellect or foster emotional health and well-being, reading or writing poetry has many benefits to offer. These benefits were shared with students leading up to World Poetry Day 2021:

Therapeutic: Poetry fosters emotional expression and healing through self-expression and the exploration of one's feelings. It provides a safe way to vent, examine, and understand our feelings.

Self-awareness: Through raw expression of our thoughts and feelings, poetry can help us become more attuned to what's going on in our hearts and minds.

Creative thinking: With its emphasis on symbolism, metaphor, and imagery, writing poetry fosters and promotes creative thinking.

Connections: Many people write poetry privately, but when poems are shared, they can inspire, move, and honour other people, forging deeper interpersonal connections.

Catharsis: The act of creation — of making something out of releasing often negative or powerful emotions — is a cathartic experience.

Critical thinking: Through the processing and expression of our thoughts and ideas, poetry pushes us to challenge ourselves intellectually.

Language and speaking: The practice of poetry strengthens language, writing, and speaking skills.

Developing perspective, empathy, and world views: Writing poetry often prompts us to look at the world from a variety of perspectives, which fosters empathy and expands one's world view.

Cognitive function: Whether we are searching for the perfect word, working out how to articulate a thought, or fine-tuning the rhythm and meter of a poem, the steps involved in crafting poetry strengthen our cognitive processes.

World Poetry Day is on Sunday! Are you ready to...

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Have you checked your school email lately? There are lots of opportunities to explore, expand your knowledge and express yourself!

Poetry, the writing and studying of, is a fantastic medium for exploration and expression. For this reason, we have chosen to mark this special day and are celebrating as a whole school community here.

When writing poetry, you will be using the right side of your brain to access your emotions and *condensing these into words and writing phrases without having to follow the usual writing rules!

condense
 verb
 1. make something denser or more concentrated
 2. change or cause to change from a gas or vapor to a liquid
 3. reduce something to its essential parts
 4. reduce something to its essential parts

LEFT BRAIN vs RIGHT BRAIN

WOMENS
 Together Toward Tomorrow: Amplifying All Voices

LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME
 MATA ANGELOU
 JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT

Maya Angelou was an American poet who knew and celebrated the strength and power of women, words and equality!

The **highest aspirations**, the **strongest team**

Compass School Southwark

World Poetry Day
 Taking place on 21st March every year.
 Celebrating poetry and the power of language.

condense
 verb
 1. make something denser or more concentrated
 2. change or cause to change from a gas or vapor to a liquid
 3. reduce something to its essential parts
 4. reduce something to its essential parts

<https://poetrystasion.org.uk/>
<http://poetrystasion.org.uk/search/titk...>

EMOTIONS & FEELINGS VOCABULARY

afraid, amazed, angry, annoyed, appalled, astonished, awe, bored, brooding, combative / quarrelsome, composed, confused, curious, contented, delighted, enviously / depressed, determined, disappointed, disgust, exhausted, exhilarated, gratitude / grateful, happy, hate, hysterical, hopeful, indignant, loathing, modest, sad, satisfied, serene, shy / bashful, wacky, silly, surprised, wacky, withdrawn, wonder

You can express yourself in a painted poem...

Everyone can benefit from writing poetry, whether they want to share it or not, because it:

- Improves cognitive function
- Helps heal emotional pain
- Leads us to greater self-awareness
- Provides a gift of inspiration or education to others
- Helps us celebrate

Closed & Dreaming

As my teeth graze across the sweet, sweet taste of glass,
 the summer air dotted with warm and batty notes like the sea
 All the empty spaces between the words I wish to speak
 and the ones that spill around the edges of my heart,
 I know there won't be a moment like this again,
 Waves and swells of time will and be enough,
 Just like how I won't ever have a love like you,
 Perhaps in the past, yes
 The present is an oblong fall-away
 The future of us is just my closed eyelids and dreaming

Performing poetry can bring culture and connections to communities!

What I thought to be
 Flowers soaring to their boughs
 Were bright butterflies.

What kind of poem is this?
 From which continent and country does it originate?

The **highest aspirations**, the **strongest team**

Compass School Southwark



We celebrated World Poetry Day by encouraging students to explore and express themselves through poetry in all its forms.

LGBTQ+ History Month

by a Student who wishes to remain anonymous
Introduction by Ms Di Stazio, Head of Year 10

Introduction:

LGBTQ+ History Month at Compass is an important annual event that has successfully reached students' hearts. The LGBTQ+ poetry competition encouraged creativity and self-expression. I was very moved to receive beautiful reflections from students; please enjoy reading this beautiful contemplation and 'A Month and a Day' - by the winner of the Compass LGBTQ+ History Month Poetry Competition.



Student Reflection:

The rights and freedoms for people within the LGBTQ+ community has varied throughout the years. Many have suffered a bleak, traumatic experience for being queer. Some have had a slightly different experience, whether that is hiding that he/she were queer or maybe even having a secret same-sex relationship. The rights for people under the LGBTQ+ umbrella have gradually become better over the years, which is great! However, it is still seen as 'inhuman' by some and being queer, transgender, asexual, non-binary etc. is still frowned upon by some in society. Many people have lost their lives fighting for their rights within this world, it's not fair.

Many young people, such as myself, are struggling with identity and sexuality. Finding who we are is essential, living a life that doesn't feel like yours isn't exactly ideal for anyone. Being part of LGBTQ+ is seen a lot nowadays, it's becoming much more common which is what it should be. Many of us have a constant fear of coming out to the world, when we shouldn't have to, we shouldn't have to be afraid to be who we are just because some people disagree with our decision.

In schools, there are only male and female changing rooms and bathrooms for students. With this arrangement, people who feel they identify as neither, or maybe something else, could feel misplaced and not sure where to go. Having a third bathroom or changing room would be beneficial to these people, so they feel welcomed and accepted. Many people get confused between 'gender' and 'sex'. Some people say, "There are only 2 genders." which isn't correct. Sex is something you were born with, either male or female parts, gender however, is something you feel aligned with - body parts do not define a person.

The message is: Being Queer, transgender, non-binary, pansexual, asexual etc. is normal. There should be no fear in letting others know your true self; in this way, live your life how you want to live it, not as others think you should. Being queer is normal.

A Month and a Day

***It took me a while, a month and a day.
Years of confusion, lead my mind astray.
Tucked in the closet, hidden away.
Not enough courage just to say...
If loving is scary, I'm very afraid.
I can't choose who I can love this way.
What if they talk, throw dirt on my name?
Too much pressure just to say...
But I am who I am, and I'll be loved the same.
Speaking out will relieve this flame,
It took me a while, a month and a day.
Just to say: I am loved, I am gay.***



Well done to Year 8 student, Regan who created this poster for Ms Ragusa's LGBTQ+ History Month art challenge!

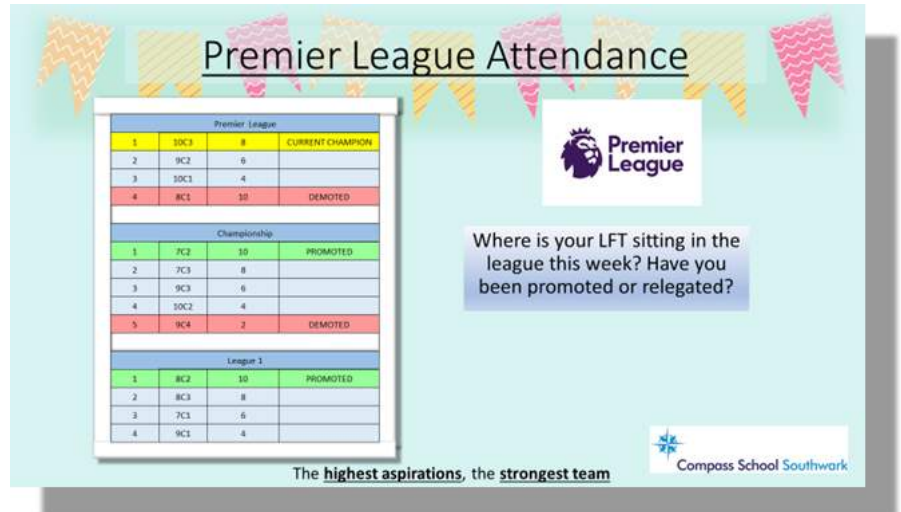
We are the Champions of Attendance!

by Ms Hayward, Head of Year 7

Attendance at Compass has always been a focus for staff and students alike. Every student is working hard to make sure that their attendance is high, not just for themselves but so they can help ensure their Learning Family is in the best possible position to win the big attendance prize at the end of the year! The prize is yet to be decided, but last year's winners, 8AMO, each student received a £10 Amazon voucher to spend on whatever they wished! Learning Family Tutors are working hard to make sure that their L.F. has the best chance of winning, with 8AMO hoping to win this title for the second year in a row!



The weekly football league-style attendance competition continues with 7GAH managing to hold the top spot for two weeks in a row, hopeful of cementing their place at the top! This challenge holds the added excitement of the bonus ball students who, if they get their 100% attendance that week, can earn double points which could catapult their Learning Family from one league to another! The excitement builds to see who will be top of the league and who will be fighting relegation!



Premier League Attendance

Premier League			
1	8DC3	8	CURRENT CHAMPION
2	9C2	6	
3	10C3	4	
4	8C1	3D	DEMOTED

Championship			
1	7C2	10	PROMOTED
2	7C3	8	
3	9C3	6	
4	10C2	4	
5	8C4	2	DEMOTED

League 1			
1	8C2	10	PROMOTED
2	8C3	8	
3	7C3	6	
4	9C1	4	

Where is your LFT sitting in the league this week? Have you been promoted or relegated?

The highest aspirations, the strongest team

Compass School Southwark

Table Tennis is Tops!

by Coach Simon, Greenhouse Sports

Over lockdown it was great to be able to offer table-tennis sessions to students on site for enrichment, exercising and playing socially distanced of course, at Compass School Southwark.

We were able to offer online weekly mentoring with Compass students and group discussions around mental health, physical health and emotional literacy. I'd like to congratulate Lucy L. for her fantastic effort and winning the online quiz three weeks in a row!

All students arrived back to Compass for the remainder of the term with break time games and Lunch Club. With new table tennis tables, we now have indoor and outdoor options for students; students are benefiting enormously from the new table tennis tables dotted around the school site and the 3 London 2012 Olympic tables inside in the table tennis room.

Compass collaborators Greenhouse Sports have also been welcomed back to run the extra-curricular table tennis after school clubs for all year groups!

The Year 7 and 8 teams have shown particular focus and determination; this is a sign of their growing resilience within each student, it's a joy to see after the challenges of the past year.

Greenhouse Sports has invited Compass students to attend the first competition of the season held at the Greenhouse Sports Centre on Sunday 18th April 2021. Good luck to all those attending.



Chair of Governors' Message

by Martin Deutz

At the end of the autumn term, I was hopeful, as we surely all were, that school would resume where we had left off, operating under special safety measures but looking forward to a degree of normality and more to come. Then government's last-minute change of plan in January upended everything, but the re-activation of virtual school and lockdown pastoral provision meant that from the start, the school was able to deliver a full curriculum, enrichment, wellbeing activities, pastoral support, and engagement with our families online.

I visited the school soon after the return in March and was very struck by the calm and mature way in which our students have responded to the safety measures. It has been wonderful to see students at break-times, enjoying being together again.



School improvements have made a huge impact on wellbeing!

The governors are very impressed by the school's immediate move to real-time lessons, which really boosted student engagement and enabled students to receive in-lesson feedback and encouragement. Virtual attendance was impressive and I was very pleased to visit the school recently to congratulate those students who achieved 100% virtual attendance. We know how hard it can be to spend all day, every day working at a screen, and I want everyone in our community to know how proud we governors are of the resilience, ingenuity and commitment of our staff, students and families. I must also pay tribute to the amazing array of extra activities that took place during the closure, which are reported in this edition of Our Journey.



Playing sports or having lessons outside at every opportunity has been great for the physical and mental wellbeing of students!

On behalf of the governors, I wish everyone a happy Easter, hoping that the holiday brings good weather so we can make the most (safely of course) of the relaxed rules, and return refreshed for the coming term.



Beautiful planting in handmade, recycled containers in every outdoor space has lifted everyone's spirits throughout autumn, winter and spring!



Online events have been impressive!

Compass School is proud of our continued association with the Worshipful Company of Pewterers and Worshipful Company of Curriers. We thank them for their continued kind support of our community and particularly this year for their generous donation to the provision of P.E. equipment and outdoor sports facilities used at break, lunch and after school.



Covid-19 Remembering the victims

It was a year ago that we entered the first lockdown to save lives and protect the NHS. Since then, over 100,000 people have died from Covid in the UK and nearly 3 million worldwide.

We are living through a global catastrophe and continuing as best we can. We are doing well thanks to the resilience of our school community.

But there are those who have been lost, their lives cut short in the most unexpected way. Some close to home, in care homes, hospitals and across the globe.

Let's take a minute in silent reflection to remember them.

Thank you,
Mr. Huntley



Aspiration Integrity Resilience Exploration



Compass School Southwark

On Friday the 26th of March we held an assembly for students in their Learning Families to remember those who have lost their lives, lost loved ones or been most deeply affected by Covid-19.



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