# **COMMUNITY BULLETIN**

Issue 8. 3rd March 2022









**Paris** 

**New York** 

Taiwan







London

Georgia

Moscow

### **Standing With Ukraine**

It is sobering to think that prior to 24th February, children in Ukrainian schools will have been enjoying their education and the enrichment opportunities their schools provided. The shocking invasion by Russian troops shattered that peace and the established international norms regarding the sovereignty of nations. Ms Milburn led a dedicated assembly on Monday to promote pupils' understanding of the war and make a call to action for our community to respond. I look forward to an end to the conflict and meanwhile, to hearing pupils' views on how they would like us to support the people of Ukraine with the aim of having specific activities in the week ahead.

### **Enriching Young Lives**

We know that academic excellence goes hand in hand with pupils' personal development so we aim to expose our pupils to as broad a range of enrichment opportunities as possible. Over the past fortnight I have had the privilege of being directly involved in several of these. As I write, I'm sitting in the hall of St. Saviour's and St. Olave's School with 40 year 7 pupils, and perhaps 300 others from schools across Southwark for a festival of music. There is a professional orchestra warming up and the excitement is building at what is to come. More on this in our next bulletin.

### **Brilliant Club**

Last week I took a group of year 9 pupils to Goldsmith's College, University of London, for their Brilliant Club Graduation. This was well-deserved following a year of hard work studying American songs and writing their essays on, "How do popular American songs contribute to our understanding of American history?" As well as the opportunity to work with a PHD student, they also got a fantastic taste of university life.

#### Not Millwall?

The trip to Charlton Athletic was also a treat for some of our families and the pupils I took. For some, it was their first experience of a professional football match and it was great to share this experience with them. Our thanks go out to Charlton Athletic for this fantastic community initiative. Please look out for further opportunities to go to the match.

Mr. Huntley (Principal)

Please see links to our Twitter, Compass School Website and Facebook.

**Aspiration Integrity Resilience Exploration** 

# Twelfth Night Triumph!





### "If music be the food of love, play on!"

This year, for the very first time, Compass School took part in the Shakespeare Schools' Festival. This is the world's largest youth drama festival and allows pupils to perform an abridged Shakespeare play for a live audience in a professional theatre!

Our selected play was Twelfth Night, a confusing comedy about love, friendship and mistaken identity! Our pupils, working with Mr May and Ms Walkey-Williams, studied the play very closely, making sure that they understood the characters and their predicaments.

Our cast then set about making the play their own, deciding on their own costumes, rewriting some lines to make the play more modern and even choosing their own soundtrack!

On Tuesday 22nd February, following months of rehearsals, the day of the play arrived. Pupils arrived at school early for a rehearsal, followed by a trip to Greenwich Theatre for a dress and technical rehearsal. They then returned to school to fine-tune their performance before heading back to the theatre for the big show.

Some of the cast were very nervous, with one of them commenting "I can't feel my lips", but they needn't have worried!

From the very first lines of the play, "If music be the food of love, play on!", accompanied by Justin Bieber's Baby, the audience were rolling about with laughter. The pupils told the Shakespeare's story beautifully, and their performance went without a hitch!

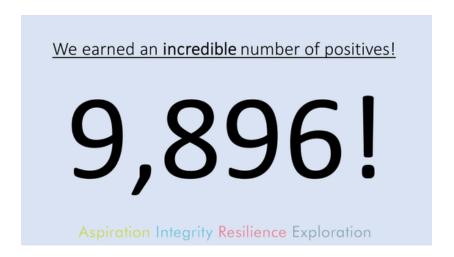
At the end of the evening, the theatre director told the pupils that they had put on the best school performance he had ever seen and the parents of the pupils from the other performing schools sought our pupils out for fist bumps and congratulations - they had stolen the show!

"I don't want this to be over", was one of the first comments from one of our cast members and we are happy to say that it's not. Our cast will be performing the play here in school for everyone to enjoy very soon and we have already signed up to take part in the festival next year!

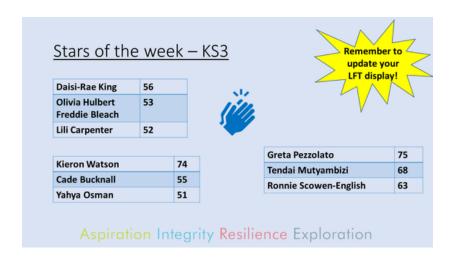
### Positive Power!

Congratulations to our pupils who have achieved an incredible total of positives. Even with mock exams and assessments taking place, pupils are continuing to demonstrate our Compass values on a daily basis and are reaping the positive benefits - well done, everyone!

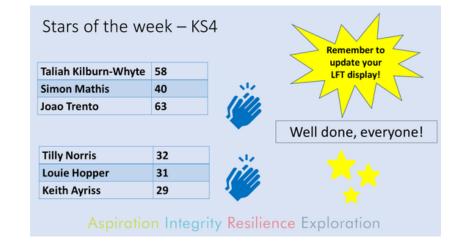












## What's been happening?

### **Brilliant Club Graduation**

This group of Year 8 pupils have been working hard on their Brilliant Club essays. This program, which brings together pupils and PHD graduates, has been incredible and has shown our pupils the power that a university education has. The group really enjoyed their graduation ceremony at Goldsmiths University and we can't wait to see how they put their new skills to good use!

"The song music never contradicts the actual meaning and mood. A specific part of the music I am intrigued by is the repetitive "do it slow" section. Parts of the music suddenly contradicts the main melody. These polar-opposite music represents Nina Simone's thoughts and the Southerners words. Showing the oppressors and oppressed." Yupeng Wang Yr.8





### **Attendance Matters**

We know that great attendance is the single largest contributor to pupils' success. We appreciate your support in ensuring that pupils are in school, every day, working with our fantastic teachers towards that destination to which they aspire.

Our weekly attendance league helps to encourage pupils to keep their attendance high and, every Friday during our weekly celebration, the position of each LFT in the league is revealed. Check out this week's results below!





### **New Site Visit**

Some Year 7 and Year 8 pupils were taken to visit our new school site last week!

Now the old building has been completely demolished, the ground has been cleared, prepared and is ready for building to commence.

Pupils were really excited to see the project at this stage and we look forward to a ceremony in the next few weeks to mark the start of the new build!

Roll on summer 2023!

### Fun at the Football (or not!)

Charlton Athletic were generous enough to offer us free tickets to their home game against Oxford United last week.

As well as passing tickets on to families, Mr Huntley took a group of pupils along to watch the match.

A great day was had by all except for the Charlton players and fans - they lost 4-0!





### **Crazy About Chess!**

Our library is full during every break and lunch time. It is wonderful seeing pupils so engaged with this part of the school, but what has been wonderful to see is the emerging chess talent!

Our pupils love playing chess and we are currently looking for ways to support them even further with the game.

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