

A beacon of aspiration

Compass School inspires pupils to think big and aim high.

Spring has sprung, the daffodils and tulips are in full bloom, and the seeds of new beginnings were firmly planted in the minds of our pupils this Spring term.

Pupils' performance of Twelfth Night wowed the audience at the Shakespeare Schools' Festival. The Brilliant Club graduated at UCL Goldsmiths' College having completed their study of American music alongside a PhD student and their 2,000 word essays! At the same time, those on the Jesus College, Oxford, widening participation programme also graduated with a couple of parents in tow.

Careers' Week provided plenty of opportunity for each pupil to explore their future careers and start to plan ahead. There were visiting speakers in assembly, learning family time and lessons. Our Careers' Fair capped a fantastic week with a range of professions represented, from architects to video game design, as well as post-16 providers, so there was plenty for students to explore. Pupils also paid a site visit to our new building and networked with builders, architects, surveyors and site managers as we broke ground on the new school.

Our values drive everything that we do at Compass School as we seek to shape pupils who are well educated and a force for good in our world. Our "Stand With Ukraine" campaign saw the very best of our pupils as they immersed themselves respectfully in our pupil-led activities and raised over £500 for the Save the Children Ukraine Appeal.

As the Spring Term closes, it is incredible to look back on all that has been achieved. Enjoy this edition of Our Journey and I look forward with excitement to the Summer term.

Mr Huntley

[Twitter](#), [Compass School Website](#), [Facebook](#).

Aspiration Integrity Resilience Exploration

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"Some Achieve Greatness"

by Ms Walkey-Williams



When we held auditions for Twelfth Night in November, we were so pleased at the number of pupils who turned up to try out. As Shakespeare's toughest comedy, we knew that we were challenging our pupils, and to see them ready to take up the challenge was incredible. As we rehearsed, it was wonderful to watch the cast take charge of their performance, suggesting ways to modernise the play, including music and dance elements to keep the audience gripped. Before we knew it, the day of the performance had arrived! Pupils arrived at school early for a rehearsal before travelling to Greenwich Theatre for the professional dress and technical rehearsal.



As we arrived at the theatre, there were shouts of "we made it", and the excitement continued to grow as we moved closer towards the stage. For most of the cast, it was their first time on a real stage, though, as soon as they started their run through, it was clear that it will not be their last! It was then back to school for a well-earned lunch and more rehearsal before heading back to the theatre for our evening performance.

You would have been forgiven for assuming that our pupils had been born into the theatre, such was their confidence. There was a supportive huddle in the dressing room, a rousing speech from Faruk and then they were on their way to the stage, chanting 'Twelfth Night! Twelfth Night!' as they went!



From the very first word of the play, our young actors had the audience gripped; making them cry with laughter on more than one occasion! The cast's musical choices of George Michael's Careless Whisper and Justin Bieber's Baby went down a storm, and there wasn't a person in the room who wasn't Happy like Pharrell Williams by the end of the performance!

As one of Shakespeare's most difficult plays, Twelfth Night is a rare choice for the Festival, as noted by the theatre's director. However, our pupils managed to tackle the play, modernise it through music and costumes, and tell the comedic tale in a way that all could understand. The theatre's director, who is currently directing a professional version of Twelfth Night, admitted to writing down a few of our ideas to take into his own rehearsal room and said that this was **"the strongest school performance he'd seen"**. **Greatness achieved!**

Oxford Graduates!

by Ms Selman



A group of year 9 pupils have had a unique opportunity this year to take part in a programme with Jesus College at Oxford University, designed to show them what university life and study is like. This project aims to show students that Oxford University is an option for them to aspire to and that they can shoot for the stars!

The project certainly achieved its aim, and so much more. It was my absolute honour and privilege to accompany this incredible group of students on their trips to Jesus College, watching each time as they threw themselves into a range of new situations with bravery and confidence.



During their trips to Jesus College, the students were given tours around the museums and students dorms, introduced to current students and given the opportunity to ask questions, as well as taking part in lectures and workshops that were designed to encourage critical thinking. One student commented that 'university seems like more fun' than they thought!

Students were also told about two of the university's very famous alumni: C.S. Lewis (who wrote the Chronicles of Narnia) and J.R.R. Tolkien (author of The Hobbit) which prompted much debate over the better of the two works!

It was then time to graduate from the programme!

It was fantastic to be joined by two parents on our final trip to Jesus College for the graduation ceremony and I can only imagine the pride that they must have felt, watching as their child rehearsed for the graduation and were fitted with their cap and gown.

After being presented with their certificates, it was time for photos and, as you can see, university really suits our students!

Being a part of this programme has really opened our students' eyes to the world of possibilities that exists for them and 100% of them now wish to explore university as an option as a result.

We look forward to seeing the long-term results!



Careers News

by Ms Cogher, Head of Careers



[Click logo for Careers Fair highlights](#)

Compass students have gone from strength to strength this term in learning about the wide range of future career options available to them. A group of Year 7 and 8 students have continued to impress all with their engagement and dedication on the Construction Youth Trust 'Building Bridges programme' and were very excited to take a trip to the new school's building site. As part of this trip, students were able to quiz the site manager in charge of the new school building, examine existing architectural plans and learn about how the various pieces of technological equipment worked.

From Monday 7th to Friday 11th March, students across all year groups celebrated National Careers Week in a variety of different ways, through their subject areas and the LFT programme. In one assembly, students were able to hear from Lambeth College about the range of courses available at a post-16 level, including the apprenticeship route, and asked some thoughtful questions. Year 7 students were lucky enough to participate in a 'Kitchen Design' session with Construction Youth Trust, in which they had to use their mathematical reasoning skills to design and plan a new kitchen, complete with correct measurements and unit conversions. We were super impressed with the team-work and communications skills we saw in practice.



Year 9 students took part in an 'Energy Quest' workshop in which they had to explore different ways of making power using orange peel and copper conductors. There were some great scientific discussions taking place and the Year 10s were able to use their findings to consider sustainable energy solutions for the future. Year 8 students participated in an assembly led by a representative from St Anne's College, University of Oxford to learn about the wide range of university courses available and all the extra-curricular activities on offer too. Students asked many thoughtful questions and lots of them are excited for the future that awaits them! Finally, Year 10 students engaged in a workshop led by Paddy Harverston to talk about the importance of aiming high and being proactive in the workplace. Paddy has had a highly impressive career himself, working as a journalist for the Financial Times, then as a PR representative for Manchester United and for the Royal Family. Students listened attentively and were able to pick up some useful words of wisdom for when they complete their week of work experience.

To celebrate the final day of National Careers week, all students took part in a Careers Fair in the sports hall, in which they had the opportunity to meet and network with a wide range of professionals. There were representatives who were kind enough to give up their time to talk to Compass students from a range of industries including from construction, law, technology, film, TV, gaming, beauty, engineering, architecture, consulting and insurance. We were so impressed with the maturity of Compass students as they spoke to the different professionals, and the insightful questions they asked. Some students even managed to make some valuable future contacts to help source work experience opportunities for when they leave Compass school!

Community Matters

by Ms Walkey-Williams



Community is at the heart of everything we do at Compass School and this Spring Term has really shown how committed we are to becoming a force for good in our local community!

Support for Ukraine

Like many others around the world, our community was shocked by the invasion of Ukraine. Our student leaders were determined to support in any way possible and very quickly planned a way that we, as a school community, could help. Our Ukraine Day was hugely successful and really shows what young people can achieve. Well done to all involved.



Standing with Ukraine - Click image for video.

Charlton vs Oxford United

When Charlton Athletic offered free tickets to the football, we jumped at the chance. Many families signed up for tickets, and Mr Huntley took this group along too. For many, this will have been their first taste of live professional football, and half-time snacks! Charlton got off to a good start, bringing the home crowd to life. But then the visitors took control running out 4-1 winners in the end. It was a fantastic experience non-the-less and we look forward to more opportunities. Thank you Charlton!



Trip to the football

Primary Heads Breakfast

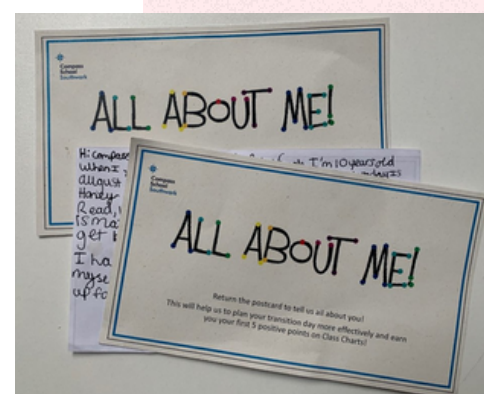
It was lovely to welcome some local primary headteachers to our annual Primary Heads Breakfast. As well as showing them around the school, which made them feel like celebrities with the amount of excited squeals from their former pupils, we also spoke about the transition process and ways that we can support each other moving forward.

Transition Welcome Event

The transition to secondary school can be frightening for some pupils and so making sure that we welcome our new cohorts as warmly as possible is a top priority for us!

It was lovely to see so many families at our welcome event - the queue was reaching down Drummond Road! Pupils arrived with a smile, ready to start their journey with Compass.

Mr Huntley and Ms Tofts spoke about the school's vision for every pupil, while the pupils got to go and take part in some enrichment activities. There was then an opportunity to see our new building in progress and the event ended with some delicious food - a great start!



We've been getting to know our incoming Year 7 pupils!

New Building, Same Values

This term saw the ground being broken on our brand new building! It has been a long build-up and our pupils have been very impatient, wanting to see their state-of-the-art school in progress. Although the demolition and ground work has been ongoing for a while, we can now say that the actual build has begun!



More than just a building

Wishing you all a relaxing and fun-filled Easter break.

Click image for video.



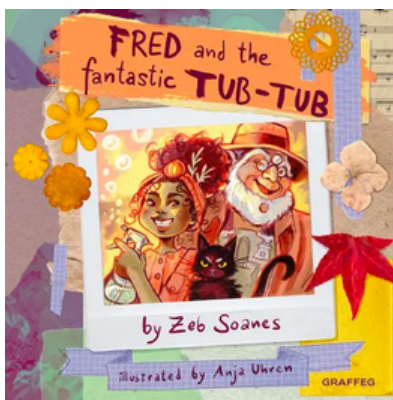
Music hitting the right notes with the Southwark Schools Learning Partnership (SSLP)

Music has been a hit for pupils this year with opportunities to learn an instrument in lessons and outside, practice during breaks, and best of all, to take part in public performances.

On March 4th the music department embarked on a trip to St Saviours and St Olave's School to be a part of the orchestral production of Fred and the Fantastic Tub Tub. Around 30 Year 7s set out on foot, enjoying the walk past familiar landmarks in the community on route.

Over 500 students from both state and independent SSLP schools formed a junk-yard orchestra using their voices, body parts and everyday objects. Thomas Carroll, International Cellist, conducted the orchestra whilst James Maragone worked with the students as composer, and leading them in the interactive elements. The pupils had the opportunity to see the professional orchestra, Orpheus Sinfonia, rehearsal and collaborate with pupils from around the borough of Southwark to bring to life a piece based on a book written by Zeb Soanes, BBC 4 Radio Presenter and directed by James Maragone the composer of Spider-Man: Into the Spider Verse.

The pupils used body percussion, paper and their voices to create sound effects to enhance the storyline and score of the production. They were also the first audience members for the debut performance of the piece. A marvellous opportunity alongside the Year 7 classical music curriculum.



Year 7 Settle!

by Ms Hayward, Head of Year

Year 7 have continued to work hard and show their resilience in the face of everything that is being thrown at them. They are working hard at developing their knowledge and skills in their academic curriculum as well as enjoying their enrichment lessons and extra curriculum clubs such as Table Tennis and Football.

All Year 7 students were given the chance to take part in the Southwark Council bike workshop this term, where they learnt how to change and fix tyres, build bikes and repair chains. All students were excited to learn a new skill and many are already planning to take part in fixing their own bikes and bikes in their community in the future! This exciting workshop really sparked the interest of our students and it is so good to be able to work alongside local groups for the good of our community.



Cycle Works project was a hit!



Ms Tofts joined the pastoral team



We continued to enjoy enrichment

Special mentions go to Oscar Dawson who recently went on a table tennis tournament; hopefully, alongside the other Year 7 students who attend Greenhouse Table Tennis, this will be the first of many!

Some students in Year 7, Maliyah, Lily C, Olivia H, Freddie B and Ciara O'H, performed Shakespeare for the very first time! They spent lots of time and effort rehearsing and learning lines for their performance of Twelfth Night. Ciara, in particular, deserves a huge amount of recognition for learning her lines in just one day after a cast member became ill and was unable to perform. These students, along with the rest of the cast of Y8, Y9 and Y10 students, were amazing and blew the audience away! A massive congratulations to them all.

Finally, it is with sadness that I am writing this, my final article as Head of Year 7! I have loved every minute of being a Head of Year and it has been particularly rewarding to work with this current year group following the final two years of disruption that they had to their primary education. I am excited, however, to be taking on the role of SENCO at Compass and I look forward to working with Year 7 daily in that new capacity.

A few weeks ago, Year 7 welcomed a new Head of Year to their team. Ms Tofts has joined Compass from another local school. She has grown up in and around Bermondsey and knows the area, and people in it, very well. Ms Tofts has made a great start to her time at Compass and all of the Year 7s have welcomed her with open arms! I wish her the best of luck and I know that all of you will be as welcoming to her as the staff and students have been - she is a real asset.

Year 8 Excel

by Ms Henry, Head of Year 8

With an outstanding 59,880 positives being awarded since the start of the academic year, Year 8 continue to excel, with a number of students accumulating over 1000 positives each! A huge congratulations to the following students who have reached over 1000+ positives this half term: Fonti, Danny, Ronny, Julian, Yupeng, Kaydon, Emilia, Paige, Daniela, David, Kieron, Benjamin and Caleb.

Brilliant Club

Congratulations are also in order for the Brilliant Club. Accompanied by Mr Huntley, students who took part in the 12-week programme had the opportunity to commemorate all their hard work by attending a 'Graduation' ceremony at Goldsmiths University. They worked incredibly hard on their essays and we are delighted to share with you some extracts further on in this publication.

May you all continue to be Brilliant!

Careers Week

All of Year 8 got to experience a taste of higher education in National Careers Week. Students had the opportunity to explore University as a post-18 option during a presentation from Hannah Snell, a representative from St Annes' College at Oxford University. We were so impressed with all the inquisitive and thoughtful questions asked, with Miss Cogher nominating Abraham Adeloye and David Ajakaiye as Career Heroes for their fantastic engagement, well done boys!

Year 8 continue to grow from strength to strength. Regularly throwing themselves into everything, from sporting tournaments to school productions, they have taken on every challenge head first.

Whilst there has been great progress across the curriculum, Year 8 have been excelling in Art and English with both their skill and enthusiasm for both subjects featuring in the weekly Celebration PowerPoint.

As we approach the Easter Holidays, I have no doubt that Year 8 will end on a high and return ready and equipped to reach the destinations they aspire to reach.

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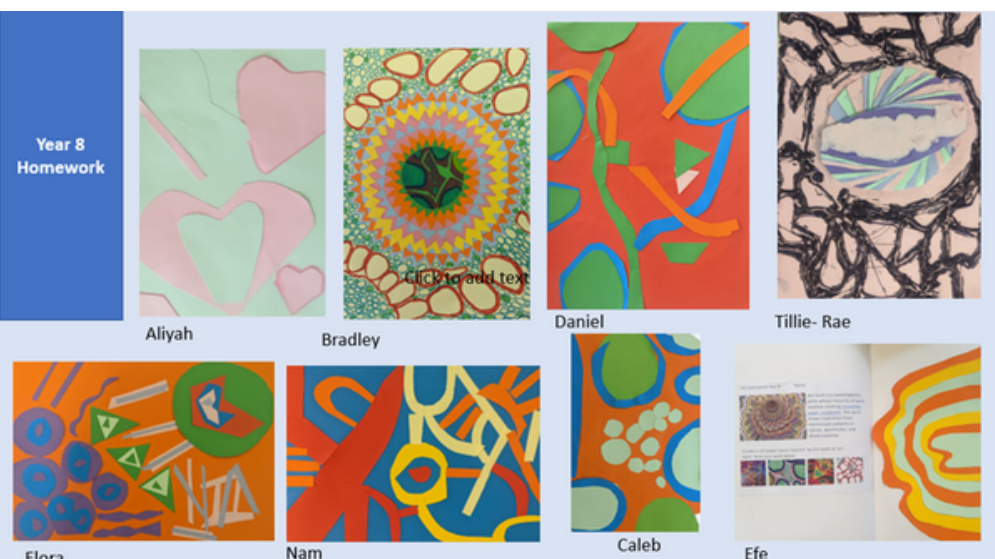
8C3 topping the positives table



The Brilliant Club on their graduation trip



Ms Snell of St. Anne's College, Oxford leading assembly



Year 9 Turn Heavyweight!

by Mr Egbuchiem, Head of Year 9



This term, Year 9 have been challenged to step up their game even further by the introduction of a weekly year group champion!

Each week a new student has the chance to make great strides in their progress and get the opportunity to be declared champion.

The benefits:

- They go into a raffle for sports vouchers at the end of the school year
- They get to jump the lunch queue and take two friends for the week of their reign
- A donut on Monday morning
- A positive call home and, of course, that belt!

Students have been trying extra hard to display the Compass values and it has been a pleasure to observe and choose the new champion each week. It has meant that a wide range of students have been rewarded, in addition to the positives that they have been receiving through Class Charts.

I cannot wait to see how students respond to this challenge as we enter the summer term, with end of year exams and our annual prize giving on the horizon - something tells me that Year 9 are going to go from strength to strength!

Parents' Evening was a great success and I was very sorry to not be there personally to catch up with you all. The options talk that you all had, and then those conversations with teachers will ensure that you and your child are choosing the right options to set you up for success.

Year 9, as I mentioned in my last article, is sometimes a tricky year for students; they have grown into the school but have not yet started their GCSE courses. Of course, that will soon change with KS4 waiting for them in September.

GCSEs, although studied for 2 years, are a culmination of the solid hard work that has been completed in Years 7, 8 and 9 and it is important that, as we go into the final term, we all remember that. Students need to be here every day, working hard and laying those bricks which are the foundation to their success in Year 11.

Wishing you all a fantastic Easter break, eat all of the chocolate, and I look forward to working with you all to ensure that Year 9 enter Year 10 in the best possible way.

Year 10 Make it Count

by Mr Haverty, Head of Year 10

“Don't count the days. Make the days count” – Muhammed Ali

Time is ticking for Year 10 as we approach crunch time with regards to starting GCSEs - it is going to come around so quickly. With this in mind, this Muhammed Ali quote is going to be Year 10's mantra in ensuring they make every single day of school count, ensuring they reach the destination to which they aspire.

Making each day count is so important and it is so important that students start to realise that now - not when they have already started Year 11 and the end is in sight!

Therefore, a massive shout out goes to the 11 Year 10s with 100% attendance. Class Charts has really helped to push students this year and we have seen some absolutely incredible scores with regards to positives. There are 3 students all with over 1,000 positive points, breaking all kinds of records: well done Oliver S, Ollie M, and Simon M - amazing aspiration and dedication – all three students also have over 95% attendance showing the link between progress and attendance!

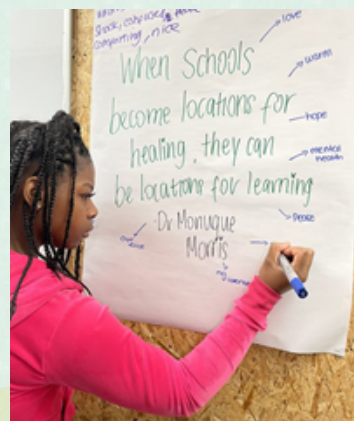
There have been a number of really successful mentoring groups: Milk and Honey have been offering some of our students' insight into their personal identity and has been a particular highlight with Betty D, Fatima, Dia-Monet and Akiylah all participating and enjoying their Saturday sessions. It has been wonderful to see the confidence and enjoyment that the girls have found from these sessions and is a wonderful example of how we as a school work closely with community groups to ensure the best possible outcomes and experiences for our students.

In physical school, a number of students were able to take part in some extra-curricular activities and many student council members were active in the Ukraine Action Day. Junisa, Katie L and Nabeel worked so hard to organise the day to support those around the world who need it most. They showed the strength and care our community has and were the driving force behind the entire day, from the idea to the execution.

Year 10 have also been exploring new vocabulary with their Bedrock homework. This platform, which aims to teach students new vocabulary to enable them to access the curriculum, has been a big hit with Year 10 and is already starting to yield results - Year 10 are making every day count!



Two of our reps leading assembly



Working with Milk and Honey



Productive day with artist in residence

Year 11 Home Straight

by Ms Mohamed, Head of Year 11



The GCSE Drama performances were incredible!



Volleyball has become a popular lunchtime activity!



Year 11 have been excelling in their walking, talking mocks!

The last full term at Compass has certainly been eventful. Students have been working hard in lessons, participating in interventions, revising outside of school, attending interviews and college open evenings as they prepare for their post-16 destinations.

In February, Year 11 began their Journey to Excellence; a path to success as they approach their GCSE exams. Students immersed themselves into weekly and Saturday interventions as they prepared to improve their grades, their coursework and portfolios. Independent revision became a topic of hot focus; flash cards became a handy necessity. Student participation, attendance and resilience were equally celebrated and Amazon vouchers were distributed.

Ahead of their second set of Mock Exams, Year 11 students and parents attended their last parents' evening at Compass to discuss progress and revision strategies. Students also received another Exam Buster session from Positively Mad with the aim of equipping students with a full comprehensive exam toolkit. During the Mock Week, students were given a taster of the GCSE Exam experience as they sat papers in every subject. As with the previous Mocks, students remained resilient and persevered as they strived to do their very best.

As we approach the end of their final term at Compass, students began to think about their prom - what would they wear and what will be this year's theme? Would it be Peaky Blinders, Bridgerton or the eye-raising 'Top Boy'? I look forward to seeing what Mrs. Walkey-Williams and the prom committee will put together!

The Easter holidays will hopefully see many students in attendance as they've only got 20 school days until the first exam (Biology). There are interventions taking place each day of the first week - please encourage your child to make the most of these final weeks ahead of their exams.

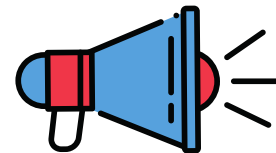
As we move towards the last part of Year 11s journey at Compass, I encourage them to reflect on their aspirations and aims... not regrets and take-backs. Year 11 need to remind themselves of what they hope to see in those envelopes in August! Where do they see themselves in September? What can they do to make those 20 school days count...?



Mille had time out at Painter Stainers Hall where she collected her art prize.

English Update

by Ms Parkinson, Head of English



Jack Petchey

Year 10 were lucky to take part in the Jack Petchey workshop this term, designed and delivered by Speakers Trust, and supported and funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation, the “Speak Out” challenge is UK renowned for giving students a fantastic opportunity to practice their public speaking.

With topics ranging from feminism to animal cruelty and siblings, Compass students didn’t hold back in their wide range of topic choices, building on from their rhetoric unit in English. They spent the day learning the skills and techniques for public speaking, making the most of opportunities to put these into practice, before preparing a speech they were judged on at the end of the day.

All the students involved really found the workshop beneficial, describing how it improved their confidence in public speaking and enabled them to see how they can put what they have learnt in the classroom into practice. With only sixty-minutes to prepare, they were really put under time pressure! We are hoping one Compass Student will be selected for the regional final.

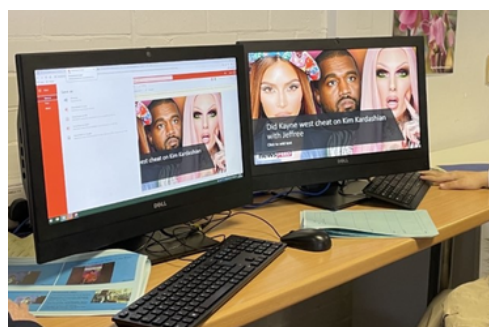


Guardian behind the headlines

9AMO took part in a fantastic interactive workshop with the Guardian newspaper, they explored the concept of fake news and engaged in interesting discussions about the tone and persuasion in newspaper headlines.

During the interactive workshop from the prestigious newspaper, students gained the skills to create their own newspaper page highlighting stories from their own community, taking on the roles of both reporters and editors. It is safe to say, Compass has a few budding reporters and journalists on site, so be sure to look out for their breaking articles in your local newspaper.

Miss Parkinson described how the workshop was “really fascinating for the students and gave them a real-world insight into the industry which is particularly important in 2022 where fake news and journalism is a huge part of our society.”



Geographic Explorers!

by Ms Smith, Head of Geography



Year 7 students demonstrated the Compass value of **Exploration** on a Geography trip to the Natural History Museum!

They learnt about different types of lava, went inside the earthquake simulator to feel what an earthquake is like, and explored the Wildlife Garden where fossils of dinosaurs can be found! One student commented that the earthquake simulator was 'terrifying' while another claimed that it was 'good fun'. I think I agree with the first student and hope that we don't experience any ground shakes in Bermondsey!



Year 8 students also demonstrated the Compass value of **exploration** on a Geography trip to the Science Museum!

Students had the opportunity to watch 'Antarctica 3D' from the makers of Planet Earth II in the IMAX theatre to learn about the effect that climate change is having on threatened environments. They learned lots and have some new items to bring to our Eco Committee's attention next term!

It's been a great term in Geography and we look forward to new adventures, inside and outside of the classroom, next term.

Mr Sayedi's First Term

Mr Sayedi, our new Head of Science, has now been with us for a full term and it has been incredible to see the impact that he has had in such a short space of time. Our pupils have enjoyed being in his lessons, completing a wider range of practicals and Year 11 have benefitted from his excellent interventions sessions!

Mr Sayedi, who was Second in Charge of Science at his previous school for two and a half years, has really enjoyed his first term here at Compass, saying that the school is 'exactly what he was looking for'.

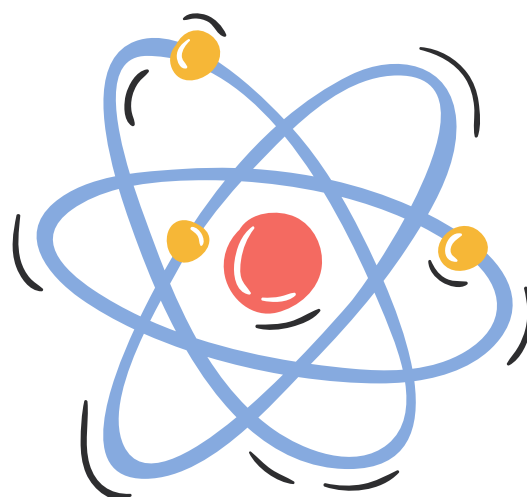
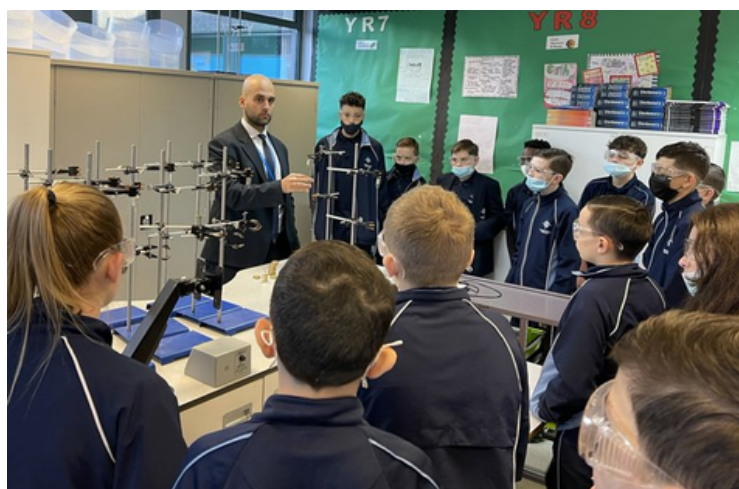
That's not, however, where his praises stopped. He said that coming into a new school is 'challenging', especially when you start part way through the year, but that he 'could not have received better support' from everyone in the Compass community and 'absolutely loves it here'.

This is a feeling that is echoed by students and staff alike. Mr Sayedi has brought an excitement to the science department that we have never seen before; pupils love his lessons and he has already started building strong relationships with his classes, as well as his Year 11 LFT.

A Year 8 student said: 'I always found Science quite hard but Mr Sayedi makes it fun', while one of his Year 11 LFT states that he is 'calm' and 'loves science which makes it more enjoyable for us'.

Mr Sayedi studied Biology at Queen Mary's University before completing his teacher training and his life-long love of all things science is having a real impact on our pupils.

Thank you for a great first term, Mr Sayedi and we can't wait to see what you achieve in your second term and beyond!



PE News

by Mr Flowers, Head of PE



Another good participation rate for our extra curricula club program this half term. There has been a fantastic showing in trampolining every Thursday after school, where we consistently get numbers between 8-16 students who are working on some very technical skills: swivel hips into front landing and back landings. The focus on technical development and bravery to push your own limits has been absolutely fantastic. Keep up the good work.

We have also had a continued good turn out this half term in Basketball, with pupils honing their skills and developing better tactical understanding, unfortunately the matches we have booked in have had to be rescheduled to after Easter, but I cannot wait to see the progress they have made.

Finally we have had a continued excellent turn out for our Ballers football programs on a Tuesday and Wednesday; the teams are really progressing and developing and have had some good matches this year against CoLA. They were great learning opportunities for our boys and I was really impressed with their resilience and hard work.

Girls football has begun to build momentum and those who have come regularly have really started to progress. We are looking for a few more girls to consistently come to the sessions so we can start to compete against other schools.

Furthermore, I would like to congratulate our Year 10 Sports Leaders Program, they have continued their development and understanding of the skills required to lead sessions such as communication, organisation and positivity and have been learning how to structure and run sessions. They have applied this this half term in sessions coaching Year 7 PE classes and it has been a real pleasure to watch how they apply what they have learned in their program. Hopefully over the last half term they can plan and lead a KS2 event.

From a Greenhouse Table Tennis perspective, it has been a very successful term. We are regularly getting 30 students down to our sessions before school, 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. and our after-school slots. The rate of progress and development we are seeing in this program is fantastic and this is reflected in the following highlights:

- Increase in girls participation for table tennis
- Several players selected for TDC (talent development club)
- Several players playing in the National Cadet League
- Increase in SEN participation
- 2 players entered for national ranking tournaments up and down the country





A number of Year 9 pupils took part in The Brilliant Club, a project run by PHD candidates which introduces students to university-level academic study. Over the course of the project, students examined music as a historical source and you can read some extracts from their incredible essays below:

Nathaniel Nwaordu

The song “Mississippi Goddam” was made in 1964 in just one hour, immediately after the bombing of 16th Street Baptist Church where 4 African-American girls were murdered. Nina Simone splits her song into sections, some about the atmosphere wherever she goes, her negative and anxious thoughts throughout her day, the expectations she must meet and her taking action to force change. Always being on edge further pushes that oppression. When she is talking about her negative thoughts, she says “I think every day’s gonna be my last” suggesting that nowhere is a safe place for her because she faced discrimination outside, at the workplace and even just walking whilst minding her own business. The lines “Alabama’s got me so upset, Tennessee made me lose my rest, and everybody knows about Mississippi Goddamn” suggests that wherever people are and whoever they’re with, discrimination towards “different” people will always be there and shows how unjust the world is.

Isabella Lynch

My first song is ‘Black, Brown and White Blues’ by Big Bill Broonzy in November 1951. The song was during a time in America when black people were seen as inferior to other races. My second song is ‘Strange Fruit’ written by Billie Holiday on 20th April 1939. I chose both songs because they both explore a new perspective of the lives of black people in greater depth: both songs are written by African-American artists who wrote the songs based on their point of view.

Emilia Gazda

I have concluded that both songs “Strange Fruit” and “Black, Brown and White Blues”, show the human injustice and humiliation of people of colour... the lyrics demonstrate that there was huge injustice at the present time of when these songs were sung. Thus, this may verify that it was very hard to live life to the fullest in freedom and peace and that as a “coloured” person you would have to constantly live your life in fear for not only yourself but for other people in your community. The song describes that life as an insider to these incidents, was not as colourful, bright, or as easy as other American songs may suggest. This may also imply that white people would get away with even the most disgraceful crimes, but people from other racial backgrounds would be punished. Seeing the song lyrics, you can tell that white people were incredibly biased about the Black-African American community. From the songs verses, I can see that black people had to work for themselves in order to survive. Furthermore, I believe that this made people suffer, not only themselves but also for others.

Standing in Solidarity with Ukraine

by Greta, Year 9



As fear is growing and spreading across the world faster than anything we have seen this century, it is extremely important to keep strong. To not let fear have power over us, to control it. To not only show support for Ukraine with words, but with actions too. Everybody can help. No matter how big or small your actions are: they *will* make a difference.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on the 24th of February, tension in Ukraine has only increased. People fear for their lives and the ones of their loved ones. As a result, 2.5 million Ukrainians have fled their country (however, NATO has predicted that the number of Ukrainians being internationally displaced is going to reach 4 million soon). 1.5 million Ukrainians have taken refuge in the neighbouring country of Poland whereas 40% have fled to other countries. Even Ukrainians that have been living in Britain for a long time feel scared for the fate of their mother country. Artem in Year 7 has said: *"I cried [...] because in Ukraine there is my family too"*.

Ukraine and Russia have always had a tense relationship. On August 24th 1991, Ukraine officially declared itself independent from the Soviet Union. This greatly angered Russia as Ukraine was no longer under its influence. Ever since that day, the Russian government has always wanted Ukraine back. As a result, in 2014 war broke out between Russia and Ukraine. In February of that same year, Russia annexed the peninsula of Crimea. Because of this, the small country is now under Russian rule. Furthermore, when the Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's government came to an end in 2015, tensions between the two countries grew even more. This is because the former President was pro-Russia; this means that he believed that Russia and Ukraine should become united once again. On the other hand, the current Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is completely against the merging of the two countries. For this reason, the tensions between the two governments grew exponentially. This resulted in the invasion of Ukraine on February 24th.

As the world watches helplessly families being torn apart, fathers hugging their children (maybe, for the last time), cities being bombarded and innocent citizens being killed, we are asking ourselves what we can do.

It is vital to comprehend *why* this invasion is so terrible, *why* so many people are scared. It is vital that, as a society, we understand the devastating effects that the annihilation of the culture in Ukraine can bring. For this reason, there will be themed lessons for History, English, Relating/Citizenship and Geography on Ukraine (culture, history, traditions). These lessons will help everyone acknowledge the importance, beauty and relevance of Ukraine.

Furthermore, to help the citizens of Ukraine, the Student Council prepared a week full of events to help the Ukrainian citizens. From a bake sale to an own clothes day (on Thursday 24th March), students will have plenty of opportunities to not only have fun but also donate money, food and clothes to charities supporting Ukraine.

In these critical times, *knowledge is power* has never been more true. The power that knowledge and education hold has never been more relevant and more important.

Inclusion News

by Ms Hayward, SENCO



The start of 2022 brought in a change in Inclusion. The lovely Ms Oladejo left Compass for pastures new at Christmas and, although we were sad to see her leave, the team came back ready for a new adventure with Miss Hayward as the new SENCO.

All of the Inclusion team were extremely excited to see all our students back with us and it was great to see their smiling, happy faces - it shows that our space is one where students feel safe.

Students in Inclusion have been taking part in a range of interventions such as taking on different roles to build interesting and inventive Lego creations, practising our description skills whilst playing Articulate and thinking about the best ways to talk about and deal with our emotions in our social skills lessons!

Lunch and break times in Inclusion are always full of laughter, fun and sharing stories of the day. Jenga or Dobble is often played with a lot of excitement and competitiveness and the different year groups share conversations and words of advice leading to everyone feeling safe and supported in Inclusion.

Inclusion is a place for everyone. If you need a safe space to spend some time or need someone to talk to, come and join us in Inclusion at break or lunchtime and we can help you make new friends!

Team Inclusion

EAL Updates

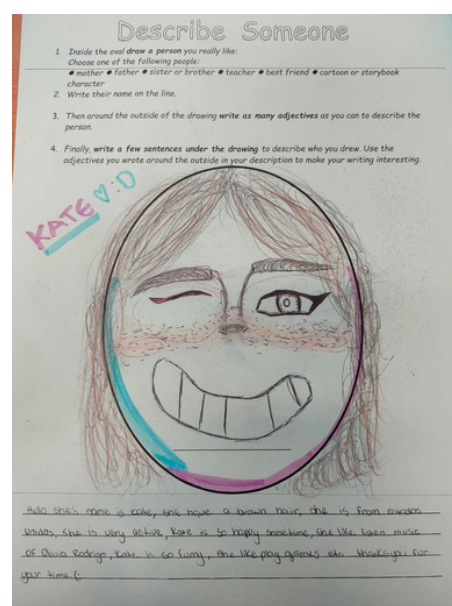
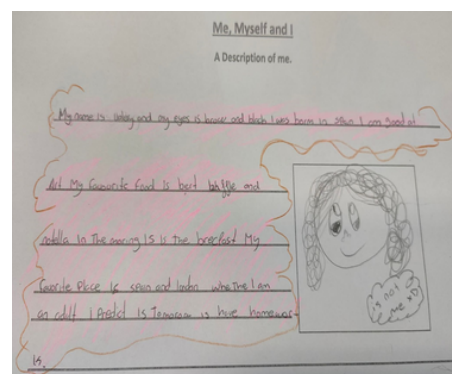
by Miss McCormick, EAL Coordinator



Since September we have seen amazing progress from all our EAL students. The determination, resilience and creativity is evidenced in all the incredible work they have produced. Most students have passed the EAL test highlighting their ability and readiness to begin engaging fully in lessons and break down the barriers to learning present at the start of the year.

It is also lovely to see that a community has emerged around the EAL group with all the students looking out for each others progression and encouraging each other during group sessions. Their kindness and inclusiveness has created a great learning atmosphere where all students feel comfortable participating and using their new found language skills.

I think above all else it is important to remember that learning a new language isn't a straight road that will yield tangible results in a measurable way. Instead it is an experience where bravery and creativity play a big role. In our own EAL group at compass there is a correlation between how confident the student feels in their ability and how quickly progress is made. Therefore with continued support and encouragement I'm sure we will continue to see amazing progress from our EAL pupils.



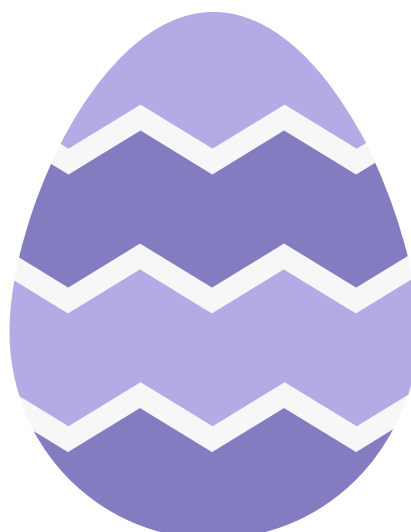
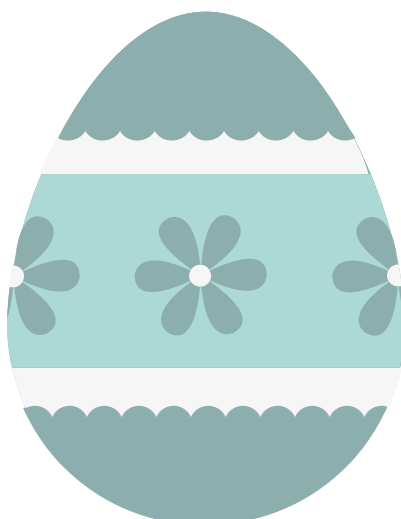
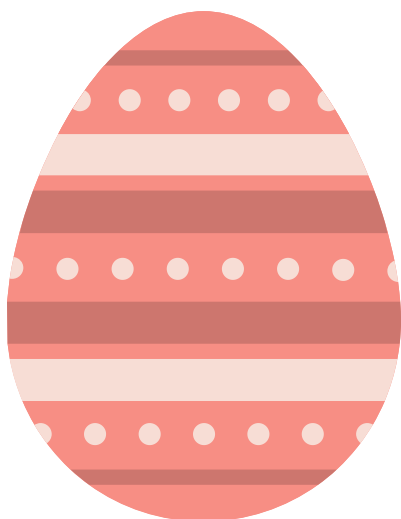
EAL pupils playing a full part in our Careers Week

Special Thanks

Compass School is proud of our association with City of London livery companies who support our extra-curricular and personal development programmes. We are grateful to the Worshipful Company of Pewterers, the Worshipful Company of Curriers and the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers for their kind support.



Aspiration Integrity Resilience Exploration



**Compass School wishes our community a restful Easter break
and we look forward to the summer term and the celebrations
and achievements it brings**

