



## Compass Has Talent!

**There was much Christmas cheer as our community came together for the Compass Talent Show on the 9th of December.**

From beatboxers to singers, pianists to dancers, the whole spectrum of talent was on display for all to see and it was wonderful to see such a packed house for the performances. There was standing room only as parents, families and friends supported our fantastic acts.

Mr May and Mr Christie made the Sports hall into a dazzling performance space, with a full stage, professional sound and lighting which helped to inspire our performers on the night.

All who watched the show were blown away, not only by the talent, but by the bravery of the young people who took to the stage. It takes a lot of courage to stand up in front of your families, teachers, fellow performers and peers, and it was incredible to see so many of our young people rising to the challenge.

Please see links to our [Twitter](#), [Compass School Website](#) and [Facebook](#).

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# Principal's Message

## Mr Huntley



At the start of this academic term, I asked that we go **"all in"** for our students' success. This means all of us, staff, parents and pupils, because this is what it takes to ensure pupils confidently reach the destination to which they aspire.

### Parents going all in

There were many opportunities in the autumn term for parents across all year groups to come in and find out more about their child's learning and how they can support it. We held a "Meet the Tutor" event for year 7 and 8, "Stepping up to GCSE" evening for year 9 and 10 parents, and Parents' Evenings for year 11 and 8.

There were also less formal drop-in opportunities. We held 2 Parent Coffee Mornings to discuss the school's work and take parents' feedback. I certainly found these to be a great sounding board for some of the school's ideas and I know the parents in attendance appreciated the opportunity to connect in a relaxed setting. We will be holding more coffee mornings in the Spring Term, with some dates specific for parents of pupils with SEND to come into school and meet together with the Inclusion team, so please look out for these.

### Celebrating achievement

It has been fantastic to see our pupils taking up the mantle of going **"all in"** too. So many have invested in their future through high levels of attendance including achieving 100%. Pupils have also excelled in their learning in the classroom and beyond. I am especially proud of those who stayed behind after school for homework support or academic catch up sessions.

Many pupils represented the school in competitive sports including basketball, football, table tennis and athletics. And of course, participated in the many trips and visits organised this term. My highlights include our annual trip to the Lord Mayor's Show as guests of The Worshipful Company of Pewterers and the Leatherwork trip to Northampton University facilitated by the Worshipful Company of Curriers.

Our end of term assembly recognised those pupils who achieved the highest number of positives on ClassCharts this term. Congratulations to Simon, Greta, Daniela, Emily and Billy who topped their year groups.



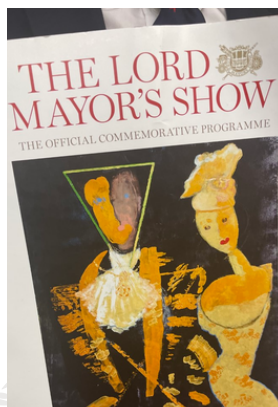
### 2023 - A year of great promise

In June our new building is set to be completed and our community will finally have the state-of-the-art facilities they deserve. We will celebrate this with a community event.

I am also pleased to share that we have an exciting potential partnership on the horizon. For the last 2 years, Compass School has been exploring the benefits of joining a multi-academy trust and are now in discussion with a fantastic local trust that fits our ethos as a community school, committed to academic excellence and enriching the learning of pupils.

I have had the opportunity to discuss this with attendees to our coffee morning and year 8 parents' evening and will be writing to all families at the start of term with more detail, including opportunities to come in and find out more. I'm sure you'll be pleased with this development. 2023 promises to be a fantastic year for our community!

I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and happy new year!



## Christmas Message - Mr Ward

Compass School recognises the importance of faith in the lives of so many of our community. In our final assembly, Mr. Ward highlighted the wider significance of the biblical Nativity story, presenting Mary, Joseph and Jesus as refugees fleeing persecution and reminding us of those today in similar circumstances and our duty to protect those in need.

# Community Champions

by Ms Walkey-Williams

We invited our pupils to nominate people from the local community to receive one of our Community Champion Hampers. The criteria was simple: someone who has gone above and beyond to support them or others in the community.

The response was overwhelming, with over 250 nominations! It was really difficult to decide on the winners but, in the end, we were able to present 17 deserving members of the community with a small token of thanks for all that they do.

Even though we are a small school, our heart is huge and reading the nominations that our pupils submitted really cemented that. It was a lovely way to kick off this festive season.



## Parent Coffee Mornings

by Ms Walkey-Williams

Based on your feedback, we have increased the number of coffee mornings this academic year, with two held already during the autumn term!

It was lovely to see so many parents here, to show them around the school and let them have a look at lessons in full swing (embarrassing their children as they went!)

Parents were able to hear about plans for our future, the progress made on the new building and lots of exciting updates about trips and visits. They were also then given the opportunity to ask questions and to provide any feedback about any of our systems and processes here at Compass School. As a result, we have already made adjustments to the way that we communicate around the time of assessments and are re-introducing the Parent Book Views.

We hope to welcome many more of you to our next event on March 15th so please do keep an eye on ClassCharts for an announcement closer to the time.



# Student Leaders

by Ms Ragusa



## Learning Family Representatives

During this last term all learning families voted for their representatives who then wasted no time in getting down to work. Reps gathered views from their learning families, starting with data to celebrate our diverse community. They have lots of ideas for the rest of the year and look forward to implementing them in the new year.

## Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Our new team of anti-bullying ambassadors attended training with Diana Awards - working towards gaining accreditation through their community action badge.



## Southwark Schools' Learning Partnership Student Voice Ambassadors

This year we are working with the SSLP on student-led sustainability project. Our students are working with 2 other schools for this project and are planning an event to highlight how fast fashion is impacting our environment. Students involved in the project attended a conference where they heard from speakers discussing different aspects of sustainability. This day inspired students to develop their project and we are excited to share the details of it with you all very soon.



## Head students

Our 22-23 Head Students are:

Katie  
Greta  
Nabeel  
Alfie

Our Head Students led an assembly to introduce themselves and all the student leader roles in school this year. They have also assisted at many evening events at the school, demonstrating their commitment to the role.

## LGBTQ+

We have joined the Groups in School Alliance who send us weekly resources to help with discussions and ideas. We look forward to building further links with groups in the community and celebrating Pride later in the year.



## Preview 2023

We are all excited about the opportunities that the new year will bring and plans are already underway for our performance of Shakespeare's comedy Much Ado About Nothing to be performed at Greenwich Theatre. We are also looking forward to the opening of our new building, as well as our annual Prize-Giving Ceremony at St James' Church.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and an exciting 2023.

# Welcome, Year 7!

by Ms Tofts, Head of Year

What an amazing first term at Compass Year 7 have had! They have earned an amazing 42,207 positive points in just 14 weeks!

They have all settled into their new school extremely well, adjusting to new timetables, teachers and learning new subjects. All students amazed me throughout their first term by showing they have developed new skills and knowledge, even taking part in experiments in Science and using their map-reading skills to navigate around Southwark Park.

Throughout this term they have enjoyed their enrichment sessions which have been taking place, whether this was honing their football and table tennis skills, astronomy, or creating a short film. They have enjoyed every minute of it and are looking forward to more enrichment in the new year.

The Year 7 Meet the Tutor event was well attended and gave parents and students the opportunity to meet their LFT, learn about class charts and ask questions. Please look out for their books which are being sent home with students for Parent Book Views, where you can see some of the amazing work students are doing in school.

As we end this year, it has been wonderful to watch all of the Year 7 students thrive and grow; I look forward to them coming back fresh and ready to learn in the new year!



# Year 8 Step Up!

by Mr Bacquenois, Head of Year

Year 8 have had a brilliant start to the year!

They've been very welcoming and accommodating to the new Year 7s and the joint playground is always alive with an array of activities from sports to singalongs.

Getting stuck right in with the PE department, Year 8 have taken part in many sporting events including table tennis, athletics and football. Hopefully we'll continue to grow from strength to strength and soon enough we'll be bringing home some trophies!



In other news, the Year 8 Parents' Evening went well. Being the first parents' evening of the academic year, the bar was set high and Year 8 did not fall short! With a good turn out of 75%, many parents and carers attended the evening to find out just how brilliant they've all been. It was particularly special as this was the first time that parents were able to see teachers in person since Year 8 joined the Compass family last year. Both parents and students were eager to ask as many questions as they could and many of the students took the opportunity to showcase the brilliant work they've been doing so far.

Keep working hard Year 8 and I look forward to the rest of the year as your Head of Year!

# Year 9 - A Great Start

by Ms Walker, Head of Year



What a fantastic start Year 9 have made to this academic year! They have thrown themselves into singing, basketball, dancing - all on top of their studies! They even got me dancing to *Candy* in the playground!

During Black History Month, a group of pupils were given the opportunity to take part in a seminar with Baroness Floella Benjamin. She spoke about her early childhood in Trinidad and the adjustments that she needed to make when she moved to the UK. Her speech was inspiring and she left us with a simple message: keep smiling and be leaders of positive change.



It has been a real pleasure to join the Compass Community and I have enjoyed the challenge of taking up the Head of Year role. I have learned lots about the pupils in the year group, developed relationships with them and I am looking forward to seeing them thrive.

Well done, Year 9. Keep up the hard work and I cannot wait to see all that you achieve this year and beyond!

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and wishing you all the best for 2023.

# Year 10

by Ms Jackson, Head of Year

Year 10 are just at the beginning of their GCSE journey. They are working hard, they are resilient, they are smart, and they have welcomed me as their new Head of Year with grace and humour.

They have had some wonderful opportunities as a year group this term:

- Working lunches, where they have discussed some of today's biggest issues with economists, scientists and other professionals.
- The Lord Mayor's Show followed by lunch with the Lord Mayor
- We watched the first England World Cup match. I was so happy to have experienced this with them and see their amazement at England's performance.

I am looking forward to Year 10 Parents' evening and mock exams in January, as I am sure that they will surprise themselves. We have had challenges this year, but they have supported and encouraged each other, with a real sense of care and community.

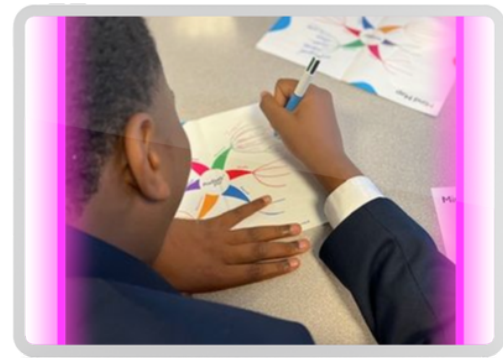
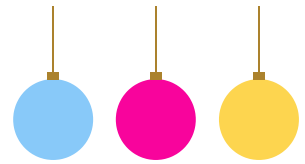
"Just because something works, doesn't mean it can't be improved". When I re-watched Black Panther recently, this quote made me think of Year 10, and what a brilliant first term they have had. They are improving constantly and making plans for their future.

Looking forward we think of fresh starts and quality time. Please make use of this time, in preparation for the year ahead. Wishing you all a happy and successful New Year.



# Year 11

by Mr Haverty, Head of Year



Time is ticking for Year 11 and that is why we need to have the mentality of making every day, hour, minute, and second count. We need to ensure that students are in school every single day, learning and making progress. The mock exam season has been tough, but resilience has been on display everywhere. I have seen aspiration from all corners and the guest invigilators have been overwhelmingly impressed with the students' behaviour and attitude.

We need to keep that mentality alive.

We have also been planning our time post-Compass. Every student has had the opportunity to have 1:1 careers advice, from either Future Frontiers, Construction Youth Trust, or a specialist careers advisor. The feedback has been great, Mia F getting a particular shout-out for being so well prepared to meet the destination to which she aspires. Students have also been attending open events at colleges and sixth forms. It is important to remember that students will need to meet the entry requirements at their chosen school - meaning that offers are not concrete until results day in August!

Saturday sessions and interventions have been working well, with work rate set to max. Students have been making the most of these sessions and finding them really helpful. Please continue to encourage this as every moment with teachers is vital - every moment is a marginal gain.

We also had some fantastic performances for the Performing Arts GCSE, with Betty D, Alfie A, and Nasir N particularly impressive in starring in their pieces.

As we move into 2023, the year of the exams, we also want to give Year 11 something to look forward to. We have booked their prom for Thursday 29th June at The Clarendon Hotel in Blackheath. Over the coming months, we will work with the students to make sure that this is a night to remember for them, allowing them to choose the theme, music and food! There will also be a range of ways that students can earn a reduced-cost (or even free) prom ticket, so please do keep your eyes open for that communication.

Team year 11 continuing to make every day count!



# Careers News

by Mr Beard, Assistant Principal

Our careers provision at Compass school has continued to grow this year with more programmes in place to ensure all our students get the advice and chance to experience a wide range of opportunities.

Some of our year 8 students had the chance to experience Jesus College, Oxford University this half term to better understand what going to an elite university looks and feels like. Read below for how one of our students summarised this trip:

"My trip to Jesus College was very knowledgeable. I learnt that if you try your best, you will be able to succeed one way or another. Being able to see student life showed me that the next phase in life was not how I was told when I was little. It was fun to interact with people from my year and from other schools. I liked the way the university was laid out and how nice it looked. The apartments looked very nice too. It was great to experience the way of life there even if it was for a short period of time."



Year 11 have been thinking about their career aspirations. Every student has met with the career guidance councillor to discuss their future. These sessions have been so helpful, with many students now really clear on the pathway to their success!

Alongside this, year 11s have visited a local sixth form, and have had assemblies from local colleges, universities, apprenticeship providers and sixth forms.

We welcomed Hannah from St Anne's College, Oxford University. She spoke with year 10 and 11 students about aspiring to top universities and ensuring they pick the right A Level subjects for the degrees they want to study.

We also had two working lunches where all students got the chance to meet with a pilot and an economist to discuss a range of different topics and ask questions about their careers. Students enjoyed the detailed discussions and being able to find out more about jobs they had not previously considered.





# English Update

by Mr Piper, Head of English

## Challenging Texts, Challenging Topics

Pupils have had a fantastic start to the year in English, reading challenging texts such as *Animal Farm* in year 7 and *Of Mice and Men* in year 9. These texts and their ideas have led to many interesting discussions: do we still see tyranny in the world? What are the impacts of racism?

In half-term 2, pupils moved on to rhetoric, learning how to write their own persuasive pieces. Through examining topics such as the cost-of-living crisis and women's rights, pupils have been forming their own viewpoints and using them to construct well-reasoned narratives.

Pupils are well on their way to becoming a force for good in the world!

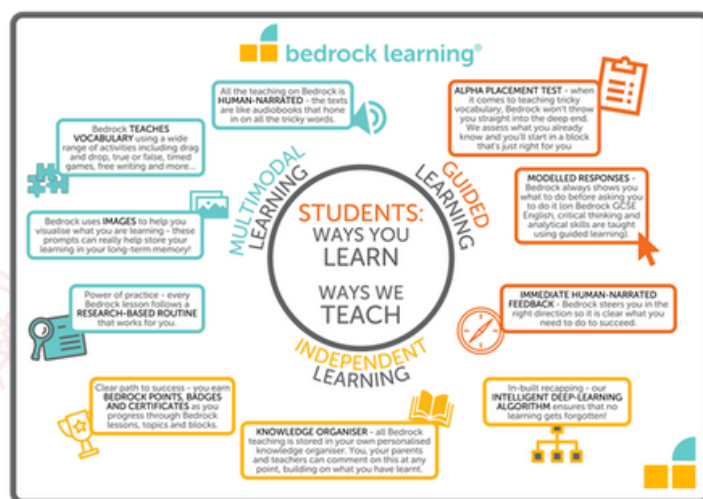


## Bedrock Vocabulary Warriors

Pupils have made a flying start to the year when it comes to Bedrock, with some of our Year 7 pupils running away with the lead in terms of points!

Bedrock Vocabulary is a platform which develops pupils' academic vocabulary, allowing them to engage with the curriculum in all subjects at a deeper level - it is a vital tool for them and we are so pleased to see so many pupils engaging fully with it.

We know that a wide-ranging vocabulary means not only improved GCSE outcomes, but better life-chances and we encourage all pupils to keep up the hard work! Not only that, but we also encourage you at home to get involved - your children are able to use some pretty impressive words - see if they can challenge you!



**A huge well done to Jimmy M in year 7 who earned an incredible 3394 points this term!**

# Remembering the Fallen

by Miss Melling, Head of History

This year, we marked Remembrance Day with a whole-school assembly which was led by our student historians. They told us stories from conflicts around the world, from England to India, before guiding us to think about the importance of the two minute silence that we hold every year.



We then fell silent for two minutes, with everyone encouraged to remember those who have fallen, either those they are personally connected to or those we had heard about in assembly. This was observed beautifully by all and then followed up on November 11th, with all staff and pupils coming to a stop and falling silent at 11am to show their respects to those who gave their lives in their fight for freedom from oppression.

## Geography Explores!

by Mr Beard, Assistant Principal

This term, Geography students have been busy equipping themselves with knowledge about the world and the interaction between human and physical environments.

The year 7s made a fantastic start to the year! They have been learning about the UK, harnessing their map skills, and are starting to understand the reasons why some countries are wealthier than others in this half-term's topic 'Development' - they really have been putting our Compass value of *Exploration* into action!

## Leatherwork Excellence!

by Mr May, Leader of Creative Arts

This term, our pupils made a flying start to their leatherwork enrichment. Working in their enrichment session, as well as in the sessions after school, pupils have designed and made their own leather goods including pencil cases, wallets and belts!

There was also a trip to Northampton University for pupils to see the Leather Technology course in full swing. Pupils were able to work with the teachers to develop their skills!



# PE News

by Mr Flowers, Head of PE

This term has been a really positive one for us in PE. We have had some fantastically well-attended after school clubs and lots of fixtures.

In Basketball:

Year 9 girls 3 v 3 Southwark tournament- the girls are into the Southwark final vs Kingsdale, and therefore will finish either 1st or 2nd in the borough.

Year 7 and 8 Boys came 4th in their heats of the 3 v 3 tournament with 6 schools in the competition.

Year 9 and 10 boys came joint 3rd in their heats with 6 schools present.

In Indoor Athletics:

Year 8s came 4th overall in Southwark over 3 hard-fought Wednesdays. Amazing camaraderie and great resilience shown by the girls and boys.



## Table Tennis Triumph!

by Coach Tyla, Greenhouse

Our Greenhouse table tennis stars have had an exceptional start to the year! Not only have they been incredibly successful in the tournaments that they have entered, many of them are now nationally ranked!

Considering the length of time that the pupils have been working with Greenhouse, this success is even more impressive!

From 7am training sessions, to holiday camps, they really deserve every accolade they are given - they have worked so hard and we are immensely proud of them.

- Thu H - ranked UK no. 22 girls under 13s
- Mustapha B - UK no. 260 in boys under 15s
- Tai H - UK no. 225 boys under 15s
- Nathaniel N - UK no. 190 boys under 14s
- Francis O - UK no. 135 boys under 13s
- Precious B - UK no. 112 boys under 13s
- Myles S - UK no. 112 boys under 13s

# Inclusion Update

by Ms Hayward, SENDCO



Students in Inclusion have been working hard since our return to school in September. Our year 7 Inclusion students have made a great start to their Compass journey and have thrown themselves in to all things Compass!



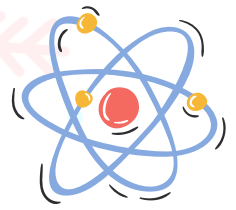
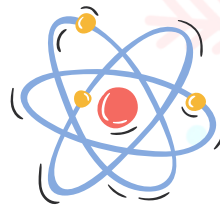
Our interventions have been in full swing and students have been enjoying a range of activities such as touch typing, handwriting, social skills, emotional literacy and even Lego therapy!

In Lego therapy, our students have been tasked with making a range of different objects including bridges, rockets, buildings and even Christmas trees all whilst working on their team building and communication skills!

Students have also got involved in all aspects of school life, including football at lunchtimes, after school enrichments and athletic and table tennis competitions! We in Inclusion are so proud of all the hard work and commitment that all our Inclusion students are showing in lessons, in their social times and especially in after school homework club. Keep reaching for those stars team Inclusion!

## Science

by Mr Sayedi, Head of Science



We are thrilled to have launched a partnership with University College London to promote pupils' love and curiosity of science. During the launch event, pupils had the opportunity to meet university professors and doctors to discuss three topics:

1. How do rare diseases hurt children? Professor Stephanie Schorge
2. Can astronomy find Planet B? Dr Francisco Diego
3. How do we hack our brains using viruses? Dr Giulia Massaro



Each speaker gave a 20 minute lecture before pupils were given the opportunity to rotate around workshops and hubs, diving into these topics in more depth and having the opportunity to ask questions.

This partnership between Compass and UCL means that our pupils will have opportunities to work with the university in the future on projects, as well as giving pupils the preparation that they need for the rigour of university study.

# All About Ada

by Mr May, Head of Creative Arts and Enrichment

In 1922 Ada Salter became mayor of Bermondsey, the first female to hold the position, and Alfred Salter was elected MP.

This wonderful couple devoted their lives to the environment, housing and public health. They transformed Bermondsey into a healthier, greener oasis - one we are still thankful for today.

One hundred years have passed but their aspirations for this area and the community work that they did continue to inspire us all and we were thrilled to be a part of the centenary project.



Our *Ada* movie, written by Sarah May and directed by Ben May, captures the achievements and legacy of Ada Salter through the eyes of her daughter, Joyce, as she travels through time witnessing the changing landscape of Bermondsey.

From improvements in housing to the beautification of Bermondsey and opportunities for young women, the film celebrates Ada's extraordinary vision and legacy. With all characters played by our very talented Compass pupils, it is a project that we are truly proud of and one that will speak to generations to come.

Ada has proven to be a big hit, with the video viewed nearly 800 times. If you haven't seen it yet, please do watch it [here](#).

We have been inundated with praise for the film, with members of the local community sharing and commenting on social media, and others contacting the school directly to share their praise and thanks for helping to educate people about Ada. But, we were blown away when we received a letter from none other than Dame Judi Dench!

Dame Judi, who is a patron of the Salter Centenary, wrote to congratulate us on the 'moving' film and to 'thank the young people very much for what they have done'. To hear such incredible words from such an incredible talent, left us speechless.

This Christmas, think about the community around you to help keep the Salter's legacy alive.



## 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 hopes you had a merry Christmas and wish you the very best for 2023!



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