



## Où est Mickey Mouse?

Compass students enjoyed the trip of a lifetime to Paris, taking in as much of its splendour as possible across the 3-day visit. We got off to a great start, all students arrived on time and all with passports! We avoided the lengthy delays that were to follow at Dover, and had a smooth ferry crossing.

As soon as we arrived in the city, we headed straight for the Eiffel Tower, with students impressed at the sheer size of the structure! It was then back for check-in at the excellent Explorers Hotel, where students enjoyed a delicious dinner followed by an evening in the pool. The next day was spent at Disneyland. Students had the time of their lives meeting their Disney heroes and enjoying the thrilling rides. The highlight of the day was the spectacular fireworks and lights display, which one student described as 'the best thing I have ever seen'. Our final day included a boat tour of the sights and quick stop at Cité Europe before a choppy crossing home!

The Paris trip was just one of a number of visits this term. During the last two weeks, Year 7 geographers visited the Natural History Museum, Year 8 Gifted and Talented students visited the University of London, and Year 9 and 10 scientists visited the labs at University College London. These are all part of our commitment to enriching our students' education and inspiring a lifelong passion for learning.

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

Aspiration Integrity Resilience Exploration

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# Principal's Message

## Mr Huntley



This Spring Term has been one of great significance for our school. Our published Ofsted report confirmed us as a "Good" school and we have continued to ensure our strong academic focus and high expectations of behaviour are complemented by a broad range of extra-curricular activities that engage and inspire our students.

### The Charter School Bermondsey

I am delighted that the Department for Education have approved our application to join The Charter Schools Educational Trust and we will become The Charter School Bermondsey later this term. After 10 years as a single academy trust (SAT), we have worked with governors over the past two years to explore our potential future as part of a wider family of schools in a multi-academy trust (MAT). Having considered a range of trusts, we are pleased to be joining The Charter Schools. We look forward to the significant benefits of working in partnership with a group of great schools.

There will be some small changes to the logo on our uniform and we'll ensure these do not place any additional financial burden on our families. Unbranded items will remain unchanged.



### Our New Building

The "Topping Out" ceremony took place during the last week of term, marking the completion of the top structure. Chair of the Trust, Doug Lewis accompanied other governors, staff and students for the occasion.

### Easter Message - Mr Ward

Easter is a time of hope and new life. As we approach Easter Sunday, Christians are preparing to remember the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Similarly, our friends in the Muslim community are waiting for Eid al-Fitr, a time of celebration. Both of these festivals come after a period of fasting and reflection. For Christians, Lent, when they fast from something like chocolate or take up Biblical study. This helps them to reflect on Jesus' temptation in the desert. Muslims are fasting in Ramadan, a time to reflect on those less fortunate and a commemoration of the first revelations of the Qur'an. Both these seasons require discipline, concentration and determination. At the same time, our Y11s are in final preparation for their exams and look with hope that their hard work pays off so they can move on to the next stage of their lives. As Easter approaches, let us all reflect on our own practice and look forward with hope for the future.

### Farewell Mr Deutz

At the end of term, Chair of Governors, Martin Deutz, resigned his position at Compass in order to take up the post of Chair of the Finance Committee at The Charter Schools Educational Trust. We are grateful for his committed service to our school community over the past 10 years. Martin has always been a visible presence in our school, taking a close interest as a governor, and actively supporting our work as a friend of the school. We are pleased that he will continue to be involved through his role within the multi-academy trust.

I am delighted to have Sally Wood succeed him as the new Chair of Governors. Sally has been with us as a governor for 6 years and knows the school and community very well.

### Martin Deutz - Chair of Governors

I first became involved with Compass School in 2011 when it was still just an idea, a possibility, and I was asked - along with Doug Lewis, the school's now Chair of Trustees - to help set it up. The journey from then to now has been an extraordinary one.

Serving as a governor, as Chair of Finance and latterly as Chair of Governors has been the most purposeful and rewarding work of my career. It has been so thanks both to its purpose - the education and personal development of young people - and to its nature - guiding and supporting those who lead and run the school.

So many people have helped me fulfil my role, in so many different ways, but all of you have done so with kindness, patience and respect, and you have taught me a great deal. So I am a much better person for my time with Compass, and for that I shall always be grateful. I hope to return to the school during the summer term to say goodbye in person and to proffer my heartfelt thanks to our staff, to our leadership team, and to my governor colleagues.

In case I don't get to speak to all our students and families, I take this opportunity to express to you my thanks for the warm welcomes, the interesting conversations, the constructive feedback, and the courtesy that you have afforded me. It is you that we serve, and I am proud and honoured to have played my part in your service.

**Message from Sally Wood, new Chair of Governors:** I have worked closely with Martin over the last 6 years and would like to offer my profound thanks to him for his tireless commitment to the school. He has undertaken a huge amount of work behind the scenes and will be sorely missed.

It is a privilege for me to take on the role of Chair of Governors, and I'm looking forward to working more closely with the school over the coming years.



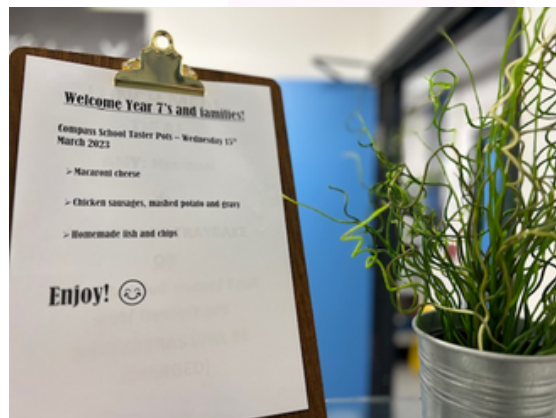
# Transition Triumph!

by Ms Walkey-Williams

Transition is always an exciting time. As a school, we are so proud and so passionate about what we do, it is a privilege to share that with our new pupils.

It is safe to say that this welcome event was our busiest yet, and the sports hall was packed with excited Year 6 families who are ready to start this journey with us.

While parents spent some time with staff, finding out about the road ahead and our exciting plans, pupils were able to go off and enjoy some taster enrichment sessions. We ended the event with some tasters of school lunches - always the number one concern from pupils when starting secondary school. The verdict, as expected, was overwhelmingly positive and so now we look forward to the next event and a flying start in September!





## Inclusion Open Day

**Wednesday 8th February**

Please join us for our first Inclusion Open Day. Drop in between 9am - 11am to meet the team and find out what's happening in Inclusion. If you would like to have a more in-depth discussion, please do contact us to book an appointment between 1pm and 3pm.

We will be running similar events every month and look forward to seeing you.

Please email [chayward@compass-schools.com](mailto:chayward@compass-schools.com) for more information or to book an appointment

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## Inclusion Coffee Mornings

by Ms Walkey-Williams

Based on your feedback, our wonderful Inclusion team introduced Inclusion Coffee Mornings this term.

Parents were invited to come in and meet the team for an informal chat and to catch up on the exciting work that Inclusion have been doing. Also to meet our newly-appointed Deputy SENDCO, Ms Wiltshire!

Parents were also then given the opportunity to book individual appointments to discuss more specific information with the team. These mornings have also proven to be really successful at bringing parents together, allowing them to meet each other and build supportive relationships.

The Inclusion team are looking forward to hosting more events before the end of the school year, including an event for our incoming Year 7 cohort and their parents so that they can start getting to know the team in advance.



# Student Leaders

by Ms Ragusa

## Learning Family Representatives

Our student reps have met on numerous occasions and are excited to visit the new school building soon. They have helped select colours and met with the interior designer to give feedback and ideas for the inside of the new building. They are also planning to meet with our caterers to give student feedback following on from the Student Voice surveys.

## Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Our new team of anti-bullying ambassadors attended training with Diana Awards - working towards gaining accreditation through their community action badge. They have been working hard in school to make sure that they are model students, always being seen doing the right thing.

## Southwark Schools' Learning Partnership Student Voice Ambassadors

Our Year 10 sustainability ambassadors have been working with 2 other schools in the Southwark Schools' Learning Partnership, on a project that highlights the importance of sustainability. Their "Re-Project" guide is designed to help other schools to run sustainable events. As part of the project our ambassadors also held a book swap. Students are now planning to present the project to all SSLP schools at a conference in May.

## Head Students

Our head students planned and delivered a wonderful assembly for Mental Health Week. They are now focusing on planning events for Year 11s leaving in June, making sure that our students go out with a bang!

## LGBTQ+

We have joined the Groups in School Alliance who send us weekly resources to help with discussions and ideas. Our LGBTQ+ equality group took part in a film workshop to mark LGBTQ+ history month in February. The footage is currently being edited and we cannot wait to see the results.





# Year 7 Settle Nicely!

by Ms Tofts, Head of Year

Where to start... Our wonderful Year 7 students have settled in so well. They have grown and flourished that they now seem to have always been part of the Compass Community. We are now over halfway through their first academic year and what an amazing first half they have had.

Year 7 have learnt about Composition in Art and produced some amazing artwork which has been celebrated on our weekly celebration PowerPoint in school. Consistently Year 7 reached the top of the leader board in our Bedrock Championship with Jimmy James hitting the top 5 most weeks! Keep up the good work! Year 7 also produced some amazing Mental Health Posters - Bella Stephens' work was outstanding.

Everyone showed real teamwork and community spirit on World Book Day, taking on our Spelling Bee with 7C1 winning the trophy! All students showed and embodied the Compass Values and it was great to see them getting involved and cheering for their peers. Students also got the chance to see Shakespeare's *Tempest* at The Globe Theatre. They really enjoyed seeing Shakespeare's work in action. We also have some budding Table Tennis stars in our midst, they are expanding their skills and, thanks to their coach, will soon be taking part in tournaments.

Year 7 continue to amaze me with their thirst for knowledge and their continued embodiment of the Compass School Values. Keep up the good work !!



# Year 8 Step Up!

by Mr Bacquenois, Head of Year

Year 8 have seen their Autumn term come and go in a blur; littered with so many great accomplishments achieved so far. With so much expected from them on their return to school after the winter break, Year 8 have started their Spring term very much where their last term ended.

Year 8 have taken the term 'Culture Vultures' to an entirely different meaning. There have been some incredible works produced by students so far this term with Lucas, Vinicius and Jack in their leatherwork enrichment, along with those taking part in a new cultural awareness enrichment where students have been learning about Mexican culture where they learned about and made piñatas. In Art classes, students made impressive posters in the style of artist Barbara Kruger for Mental Health Awareness Week.



Our participation in school community events also continued as our school was represented at a borough-wide Chess tournament during half term where Myles Sheppard flew the Compass flag. Finally - some of our Brilliant Club students attended a trip to Oxford University, took part in seminars and enjoyed a tour of the campus to get a taste of what university life has to offer them.

Year 8 continue to impress the school community with their impressive haul of positives, consistently placing them in the top two year groups. Attendance has continued to improve too as our LFTs shot up the leader boards! Keep up the good work Year 8!

# Year 9

by Ms Walker, Head of Year

Year 9 have had a good start to 2023. With our basketball team winning their match, also trips to the Imperial War Museum and the Head Held High group going to the Ben Kinsella Trust where they were educated about the dangers of knife crime; students found this workshop very informative.

The Year 9 Parents' Evening was an excellent success. Year 9 did not fall short! With an excellent turnout of 82% of parents and carers attending, we smashed it! Well done and thank you to all the parents and carers who turned up, it was lovely to see you all.

At parents' evening, parents and carers had the opportunity to speak to teachers and see how their children are progressing so far this year. There was also an Options Briefing where parents and students were able to see how to choose their GCSE options. The choosing of options went live on the following Monday and it was lovely to see how keen the students were to choose their GCSE subjects.



The Diversity events team has been having weekly meetings to discuss and plan different ways we can celebrate diversity at Compass. Students would have seen the many posters of inspirational women around school recently. This was to celebrate International Women's Day. There are many other wonderful things the team have in store so watch this space!

Year 9 - have a lovely Easter break, look after each other and get ready for the last leg of Year 9 where even more hard work and resilience will be required of you.

# Year 10

by Ms Jackson, Head of Year

Year 10 have been amazing this term, they are starting to realise their goals and aim high.

We began 2023 with mock exams, in which many of our students realised just how far they can go. Then shortly after, we had Parents' Evening where I met many parents and carers for the first time and it was lovely to see so much support for our students.

They have once again had some brilliant opportunities this term, including:

- Trips to different churches around London for our Religious Studies students.
- A visit to the Tate Modern to research for an Art GCSE project on sustainability.
- Careers Fair with 28 different occupations, colleges and other professionals.

In June, we will be going out on Work Experience for one week. Please guide your children to find placements and help us to advise them on working practice and professionalism.

Around the same time, Year 10 will again be taking mock exams; these will determine their "expected" GCSE results and also their sets for Year 11. We thank you in advance for your support in both of these milestones.

As we move into Spring, we think about new beginnings and transformation.

I wish all of you, but especially my students in Year 10 a restful and rejuvenating break, in the hope that they return to school in April, ready to go all in.





# Year 11

by Mr Haverty, Head of Year

**"A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor" - Franklin D. Roosevelt**

Mock exams have been completed, the final opportunity for students to recap and assess their knowledge before the GCSEs kick off in mid-May. It has been tough, there has been stress, but overall, the Year 11s have been impressive. They have showed enormous aspiration in preparing themselves and attendance has been very impressive. The rough seas are truly skilling our students to know how to overcome any challenge.



Drama performances were an all-around success, with students displaying very capable skills in front of a small crowd. There were many stand out performers, however, Nasir N has been highlighted as a student who truly excelled. Well done to all who took part.

The Year 11 Citizenship group also had the chance to meet Wendy Joseph, a former judge at The Old Bailey and author, as part of Careers Week. It was fascinating to meet someone who has worked in such a high-profile role in one of the most prestigious courts in the land. There were some amazing and probing questions, with many students such as Lily RW leaving with aspirations of a career in the courts herself.

Team Year 11 are continuing to make every day count as we approach the biggest challenge of their young lives!



Make Every Day Count

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# Careers at Compass

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 of our students get the advice and chance to experience a wide range of opportunities.

Our Careers Fair is just one of the ways that we promote career pathways and opportunities for our students and it is always very well received by all.

This year, we were joined by a record number of representatives from a vast array of careers and every year group was given the opportunity to engage with them during their own allocated time.

Students really enjoyed the event. Naomi in Year 11 remarked "It was interesting to find out about different careers and explore the ones you want to do", while Fatima said "I learnt that fashion comes with a lot of different job opportunities, more than you think".



Our Year 7 students were especially enthused by the event, excited by the opportunities that they discovered. Many left the event with a completely different idea about what they want to do when they leave school!

There have been lots of other careers-related events on offer this term, from trips to local providers to lunchtime talks from prominent people. We were delighted to welcome Wendy Joseph KC, a Cambridge Law graduate who became only the third ever female full-time judge at The Old Bailey.

Our mission that 'everyone in the Compass School community will confidently reach the destination to which they aspire' can only be achieved when our students have aspirations. Our careers provision aims to introduce them to the world of opportunities that awaits them, allowing them to dream big, knowing that they have our support to reach for the stars and beyond!





# The Tempest at The Globe

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!



Confident voices, strong literacy

It has been wonderful to see the way that pupils have approached their reading this term. Hopefully you will have seen the benefits of this on your child's report!

Pupils have been breaking Bedrock usage records, with a record number of points earned this term, and they have been using this impressive vocabulary across the curriculum.

Our reading groups have also been throwing themselves into their books. Ms Wiltshire's group have been reading Noughts and Crosses while Mr Huntley's group have just started their second book of the year, *Animal Farm*.

If pupils can continue their excellent attitudes into term 3, they will certainly reap the benefits!

## Reading Rockstars!



# Spelling Superstars!

by Ms Walkey-Williams, Assistant Principal

This term, we hosted the very first Y7 Spelling Bee! Students spent the day digging into the importance of spelling and some of the spelling 'rules', before taking part in a number of tricky spelling competitions to determine the strongest spellers from each class to progress to the final.

The final took place in the library and saw three teams go head to head across 7 rounds. The standard was incredible, with only 2 points separating all of the groups and the winners dropping only 2 points!

Huge congratulations to our winning team and all who took part - we look forward to running the event again next year!



## Enrichment Excellence!

by Mr May, Leader of Creative Arts

This term, our pupils threw themselves into their new enrichment choices, with many of them continuing to pursue their activity outside of school hours.

Our Cultural Appreciation group, led by Ms Carrero, have been around the world! From learning about ancient tribes to learning how to make traditional piñatas, they have spent this term having fun while developing their knowledge of the world.

Our chess enrichment pupils have also been flying; they have really honed their skills this term and have been taking part in tournaments against other schools!

Finally, our Poet in Residence, Dan Simpson, and his enrichment group saw their hard work in print. The anthology, *Make a Dark Place Flutter*, was published, containing beautiful poems written by the pupils. The book, which was scanned into our library during a special launch event, is available now!





# PE News

by Mr Flowers, Head of PE

This term, we have had some very close fixtures against one of our closest neighbouring schools, St Michael's.

Congratulations to our Year 9 boys and girls combined basketball team who had a very successful 3 v 3 tournament against St Michael's, winning all 4 games they played and with good margin. We were particularly impressed with their focus throughout and their constant desire to work hard for each other and win the ball back in transition.

Well done to the Year 10 boys' Football team who played against St Michael's in a highly competitive 3 - 3 draw. For their first game in a while, it was great to see their hard work, constantly pressing and closing down the spaces. Stand out performances from Freddie in goal who made a superb 3 shot save in the dying minutes to secure the draw, and Godsfavor, for some sublime finishing throughout.

## Upcoming fixtures include:

- Year 9s football vs St Michael's
- Year 7-9 Basketball fixtures v Bacon's school



## Table Tennis Triumph!

by Coach Tyla, Greenhouse

Our Greenhouse table tennis stars have had an exceptional start to 2023! Not content with ranking nationally last term, many of them have gone on to be super successful at tournaments this term! 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.

Huge shoutouts must go to Thu and Emily in Year 8. The girls entered the National Cadet League at a disadvantage as they were a team of 2 rather than 3 - and they won!

We had success at the Southwark Schools' Learning Partnership tournament. 10 schools entered a team of four KS3 students for the competition. Nam and Nathaniel took second and third place, and along with Myles and Precious led Compass School to the Best Team trophy.

Many of our students placed highly in other competitions this term and we are so excited to see where their commitment to the game will take them.

# Inclusion Update

by Ms Hayward, SENDCO



Inclusion students have been working hard both inside and outside of the classroom this term. We have had many students showing their resilience and aspiration in both their classwork and their homework which is great to see!



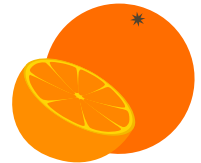
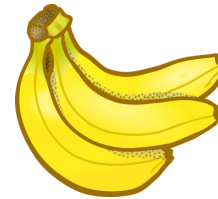
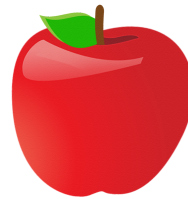
This term, Miss Phoebe has been running Club Ausome, where some of our wonderful young people with Autism have been looking at what being autistic means to them as well as thinking about how they would like others to see and understand them. They are beginning to see and understand that having autism can be like having a superpower and we are so impressed with our superheroes!

Other interventions that have been taking place this term include: Lego club, touch typing, emotional literacy and talking tables intervention. All students involved in these interventions have been working hard and have been reflecting on themselves and how they want others to see them.

Our Inclusion students are absolute superstars and we are extremely proud of all of them! Keep reaching for the stars!

## Fantastic Fruit

by Ms Walkey-Williams - Assistant Principal



This term, we are thrilled to have received funding from the Worshipful Company of Patternmakers to allow us to provide a piece of free fruit to every student every day.

We know that a healthy body helps to build a healthy mind and that a good breakfast can make the world of difference in the classroom. That's why we feel that this initiative is so important and it is something that we want to keep going.

The pupils have really embraced the opportunity, with many who would never have eaten breakfast before, grabbing a piece as they enter in the morning. It has also been well-received by staff, who are delighted at having a healthy option to grab and go!

One Year 7 pupil said "I like being able to take some fruit in the morning as I often forget to have breakfast as I'm in a hurry".

As we move into the summer term and end of year exam season, it is more important than ever to look after ourselves so make sure you grab a piece!







# Interested in becoming an Air Pilot?

## 19<sup>th</sup> July Gliding Opportunity



### 12 places for Compass students

The Air Pilots Youth Gliding Scheme has been in operation since 2004 and each year offers students the opportunity to take part in a day out at a local British Gliding Association (BGA) school.

The scheme is open to students of secondary schools, academies and youth groups on behalf of a group of City of London Livery Companies, led by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots.

Subsidised cost: £20 each. Students receive a flight in a glider under the instruction of a qualified instructor.

### Apply now

Send a personal statement to Mr. Huntley explaining:

- Why you think you're suited for this opportunity?
- What are your current levels of achievement, behaviour and attendance?
- What are your ambitions for the future?

**Deadline 21<sup>st</sup> April**

## 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.



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**Compass School wishes you an enjoyable Easter Holiday  
and we look forward to welcoming you all back for the  
final term of the year!**



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