

July 2023



A Bold New Chapter for Compass School

Compass School celebrated its tenth birthday this year and we are proud to have been serving this incredible community here in Bermondsey. What a journey it has been! From opening our doors to around 35 pupils in a temporary building in 2013 to expanding rapidly into the thriving community that we see today. A school that the community can be proud of, underpinned by our values and with the unshakable belief that our pupils are capable of achieving greatness.

As we begin our new chapter, we do so as the newest member of The Charter Schools Educational Trust. The Trust is an incredible group that inspires and nurtures children and young people in South London to excel, through education that transforms lives and strengthens our diverse communities. Their values align closely with our own and we are excited to be part of such a forward-thinking and vibrant multi-academy trust. We celebrated the merger with Charter CEO, Cassie Buchanan and Chair of Compass Schools Trust, Doug Lewis cutting a commemorative cake.

Joining such a great multi-academy trust is great news for our community and underscores our ambition for a transformative education for our students. As we prepare to occupy our new state-of-the-art building in the Autumn term, we can be confident that we are in great shape for the next 10 years of service to our community, driven by our core values: aspiration, integrity, exploration and resilience.

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

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UPCOMING OPEN MORNINGS

Thursday 14th September
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Tuesday 19th September
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

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VISIT US THIS AUTUMN

A warm welcome awaits!

Principal's Message

Mr Huntley



It has been a momentous year for our school community. We achieved another Ofsted "Good" rating in November, with inspectors praising our ambition for pupils as well as our broad enrichment offer, including opportunities to photograph the night sky through our astronomy club!

We see the development of pupils' values and enriching experiences as essential drivers of academic excellence. As a result, pupils have visited Paris, Boulogne, Oxford University, the Lake District, the Lord Mayor's Show, and performed in the Shakespeare School Festival at Greenwich Theatre. A highlight has to be our short film, "Ada," marking the centenary of Ada Salter becoming Mayor of Bermondsey. Starring our pupils and screened at Southwark Playhouse, the film gained praise from Dame Judi Dench.

In the last week of term, our students even had the opportunity to take to the skies in gliders, courtesy of the Honorable Company of Air Pilots.

So when we recently bid Year 11 farewell with a final day guard of honour exit, and a prom to remember, we did so knowing that they can go into the world with confidence, because of the education and opportunities they received during their time with us.

As we said farewell to 10 years of Compass School and started a new chapter as The Charter School Bermondsey, we are grateful for the contributions of former Chair of Governors, Martin Deutz and Chair of the Compass Schools' Trust, Doug Lewis. With us from the very beginning, they worked diligently on this transfer, confident that we would continue to flourish as the newest member of The Charter Schools' Educational Trust.

As the year drew to a close, we celebrated our pupils' achievements at prize-giving and in our final assembly. We know that behind every student's success, is a support network, cheering them on to be the best that they can be. This is a real team effort; pupils, parents and school working in genuine partnership.

I am proud of what our students have done over the course of the year, whether rewarded by a prize or not, they have all contributed to the richness of our school community. Let's now all see 2022-23 as a springboard for even greater things in the years ahead. I hope you all enjoy the summer break and I look forward to our return in September.

New Building Update

A few weeks ago, we communicated with you all that our new building has unfortunately been delayed. As with any large-scale project, they encountered unforeseen challenges during the final stages. However, we want to emphasise that these obstacles are being overcome and we are set to move into our new school during the Autumn term.

"We can assure everyone that our entire project delivery team is working exceptionally hard so that staff and pupils can move into the school as soon as possible. Our absolute focus on delivering the highest quality learning environments for young people in the community lies at the core of this project, and we are grateful for your support as we move towards the final stages of this important regional scheme."

ISG, Construction Contractor

As you all know, we have always been about more than just a building and, although we are eagerly awaiting our move, we will continue to live our values and maintain our high-quality educational provision.



Prize-Giving 2023

by Ms Walkey-Williams

Our annual Prize-giving ceremony is always a fantastic way to end the academic year, and this year was no exception. We held the event on-site, against a backdrop of fantastic displays of students' artwork. It was such a fitting way to mark our final major event before our new building opens.

This year, we had more prizewinners than ever before, with subject prizes, head of year awards, table tennis superstars, reading rock stars, Bedrock champions and, of course, our coveted values awards.

Before the awards, it was inspiring to hear from Cassie Buchanan OBE, the CEO of the Charter Schools Education Trust, as well as from Stephanie Schorge, Professor of Physiology and Interim Dean of University College London Faculty of Life Sciences.

It was wonderful to see so many families in the hall, eagerly anticipating the ceremony. The claps and cheers were ringing out all evening as pupil after pupil came to the front to receive their award.



Celebrating success is so important and, as Stephanie reminded us in her keynote speech, the feeling is addictive! We hope that all of our winners use their success as a springboard for even more.

All winners were chosen by their teachers as stand-out pupils this year and they should be proud of what they have achieved.

Our values prizes were nominated and chosen by the staff body and were awarded to pupils who have stood out in terms of our values this year. A huge well done to Godsfavour, winner of the Principal's Award, who was nominated by members of staff to receive the honour!

Next year, our ceremony will be held in our brand new building, but we know that the education and values that have been taught here, in this building, will be what has propelled all to their success.



Transition Day

by Ms Walkey-Williams

Transition was in full swing this term, with the Southwark Transition Day and lots of smaller events to support the upcoming change.

Our new Year 7 pupils have been able to take part in actual lessons, learning Spanish and even how to make their own clay monsters! It has been a pleasure to welcome them into the community and speak to them about their aspirations for the future.

As we go into the summer holidays, we hope that our newest community members are feeling confident about the journey ahead and looking forward to September as much as we are. For all who can't wait until then, remember to sign up for our summer school on August 30th and 31st - a link has been emailed to you.



Inclusion Update

by Ms Hayward

As we get to the end of the Summer term, our Inclusion students have been working extremely hard both inside and outside of their lessons. They have been working hard on developing their resilience and they have made great progress throughout the year!

Our Club Ausome intervention has been continuing, and our wonderful autistic students have been building their superpowers, showing just how awesome they are. We are looking forward to seeing how they are going to put their superpowers into action in September!

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, thinking about how they want others to see them as well as thinking about how they can use what they have learnt in their lessons.

Our Inclusion students are absolute superstars and we are extremely proud of all of them! Keep reaching for the stars and have a wonderful summer - September will bring new ways for you to show your awesomeness!



Culture Day

by Ms Walker



This year, we planned and held our very first Culture Day!

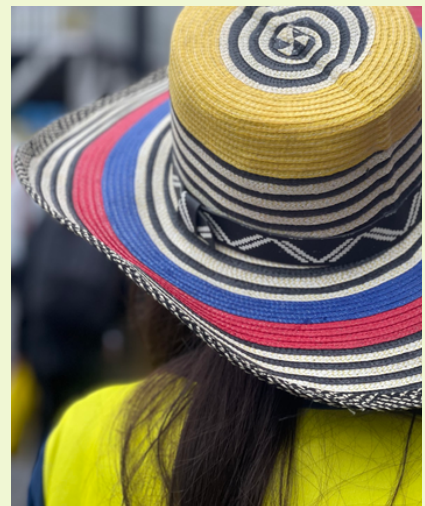
Students were invited to come to school dressed in an outfit that represented their culture and heritage - and they looked amazing! We saw students arrive in national football kits, traditional African dresses and tunics - even a pie-and-mash uniform!

We did have a small competition for the best dressed and for the best country display board. The winner for the best dressed was so difficult to choose, so we chose 4! The winners were Macey-May, Faruk, Yuna and Faith. All really put thought and care into their outfit choices and our staff were so impressed with them.

The best country display board went to 8C3, who created a stunning Colombia board which was full of colour and key information to teach us all about the vibrant Colombian culture.



A massive well done to all who took part. Celebrating our cultures and what unites them is so very important and our community embraced this day wholeheartedly. We can't wait for next year!



Year 7 Finish Strong!

by Ms Tofts, Head of Year

What an amazing first year at Charter Bermondsey Year 7 have had! They have earned an amazing 107, 338 positive points in their first year, settling into their new school extremely well and growing into true members on the Charter Bermondsey Community.

They continued right to the end of the school year showing their commitment to learning and resilience with changes to the timetables for their end of year exams. All of the students amazed me throughout their exams, showing how they have put all of their newly developed skills and knowledge to the test.

Throughout this year they have enjoyed their enrichment sessions, whether these were honing their football and table tennis skills, creating a short film, making gifts for a loved ones in leather work, getting clued up on coding in Hack Space and even our newest enrichment - Astronomy. They have enjoyed every minute of it and are looking forward to more enrichment in Year 8.

They have embraced our value of exploration with a trip to France, where they visited a snail farm and made some authentic French bread. Our trip to Kew Gardens saw them take part in English, Art, Geography and Science lessons, while enjoying the wonderful sights.

It has been wonderful watching Year 7 thrive this year and I know they are ready for Year 8!



Year 8 !

by Mr Bacquenois, Head of Year

The Year 8 students at Charter School Bermondsey have achieved remarkable accomplishments during the academic year. Their dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm have propelled them towards success in various areas, leaving an indelible mark on the school community.

Academically, Year 8 students have consistently excelled in their studies. Throughout a period of tough testing to see out the academic year, they have demonstrated exceptional growth in their subject knowledge and critical thinking skills. Through their commitment to learning, they have consistently attained outstanding grades across a range of subjects. Their ability to grasp complex concepts and apply them in practical scenarios is truly commendable.



In addition to their academic and creative achievements, some Year 8 students have actively engaged in supporting our school community through taking parting charitable events. They have volunteered their time and efforts, demonstrating empathy and a sense of responsibility towards the less fortunate.

There has been plenty to celebrate in the world of sport too, with Year 8 contributing masses of success to the school's table tennis program. Many of our students have made it into the national rankings for their age group.

Best of luck in Year 9 - I know you will excel!

Year 9

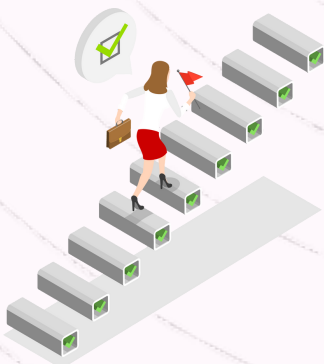
by Ms Walker, Head of Year

Wow, Year 9! What a year it has been!

Together we have created lots of wonderful memories and I am proud of how much you have grown.

We have so much to celebrate. Twelve students went on an Outward Bound residential to Wales in the Easter holidays. Students were really put to the test, jumping off boats, hiking for miles and sleeping outside in tents. Students supported each other through some scary but rewarding challenges.

A team of students took part in a programme called Football Journeys and had fun interviewing members of the public - Ram even managed to bag himself an interview with the director of Sainsbury's! Also, students chose their GCSE options and had a step into GCSE day to prepare them for the year ahead. I know that they will go into KS4 next year ready for the challenges that await them and I cannot wait to see how well they do.



It has been a roller coaster of a year, but with reliance and perseverance, we have all made it to the end. Well done, Year 9!

Year 10

by Ms Jackson, Head of Year

Year 10 is such an important time for students, and this year's group have made it count! They have all begun their GCSE journey and are ready for the challenge that Year 11 will bring.

We have recently had work experience which was a resounding success. We had students learning about workplaces as varied as Museums, Nursing, Events production and even Archaeologists. We had amazing feedback about their work ethic, willingness to work and their confidence. They did us proud!

Year 10 left me in awe throughout their mock exams, with their professionalism, confidence and grace. Even when they were stressed or worried, they rose to the challenge and knew they would benefit from doing their best. When you receive their reports this week, I imagine that they will be very proud of their efforts and glad to know their areas for improvement.

There were many Year 10 winners at our Prize Giving Ceremony this year. Their commitment to progression, education and hard work is what the rest of the school looks up to.

At prizegiving, we also had the Student Leadership Team announced for next year. These students give the rest of the school a voice and lead in planning various events throughout their final year.

Our Head girl and boy are; Greta and Mahboud. Their deputies are; Lottie and Tai.

Finally, I want to wish you all an amazing summer and to Year 10 even better Year 11!



Goodbye, Year 11

by Mr Haverty, Head of Year



We made it! And we made every day count!

I will use this final 'Our Journey' article for the Year 11s who are moving forward to just say how proud I am of every single one of them. The levels of aspiration displayed by all students in the GCSE exam season was inspiring. From the 7:30 starts revising in school, to the constant looking for feedback and improvements, I can say wholeheartedly that they gave the exams their all. A particular shout out to Michael K, who despite various things, made it his goal to perform the best in every exam, for me you embody our core value of resilience.

The end-of-the-year barbeque was such a lovely way to wrap up their 5 years with us; looking around at them all, I was so pleased to see the positive and warm interactions with each other and staff. The support given to each other, the trust built and the laughs we have had along the way will live with me, and hopefully all of them, forever. Watching each student leave the site for the last time as every teacher lined up to give them a guard of honour applause as they left was an absolutely fitting end and goodbye to who I believe were the greatest year group the school has seen. Their conduct during the exam period serves as an example to all students.



Prom was fantastic, everyone looked a million bucks. The dancing, the laughing, the awards, everyone letting their hair down after a really stressful time, was an absolute joy to see. The photo booth was crowded all night and we hope that we managed to give them a night to remember.

A particular shoutout to Femi O, who absolutely stole the show on the dance floor!

Year 11... thank you!

Library Update

by Ms Edwards, Librarian

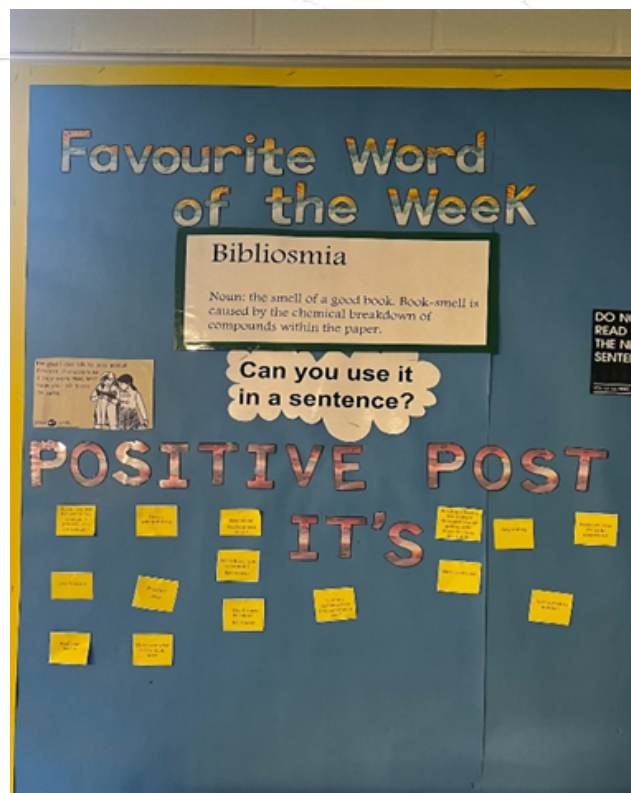
As a librarian, I physically love holding a book. They have a unique and special smell. I love getting new books. Smelling the pages is known as Bibliosmia. Pupils have been learning this word this term!



This World Book Day this year was celebrated via an online assembly, where the students learned about the importance of reading and books. I also spoke about the fact that, throughout history, books have been burned and destroyed as a way of controlling people.

We now live in a much more technologically advanced society and it is vital that we don't forget the importance of books and reading.

- Books have primarily been a freedom of expression for humans around the world.
- The reason for the destruction is that it represents an element of censorship and these atrocities are usually carried out for cultural, religious or political opposition.
- World Book Day motivates people to discover new ideas and increase their knowledge
- World Book Day celebration ensures that all individuals, irrespective of class, community and culture have access to books
- Books have the power to change lives.
- World book day is also a link between the past and the future, a bridge between generations and across cultures.
- Reading improves your mental health.



The library now has a Positive Post it Board where students are encouraged to write something positive for others to read. It has been a huge success and will continue in September.

I also visited James Allen Girls School (JAGS) and they have graciously donated a variety of books to our school. I have been very busy cataloguing the stock. The library has been completely overhauled and updated with new stock, donated and existing stock have all been labelled, catalogued and put on shelves.

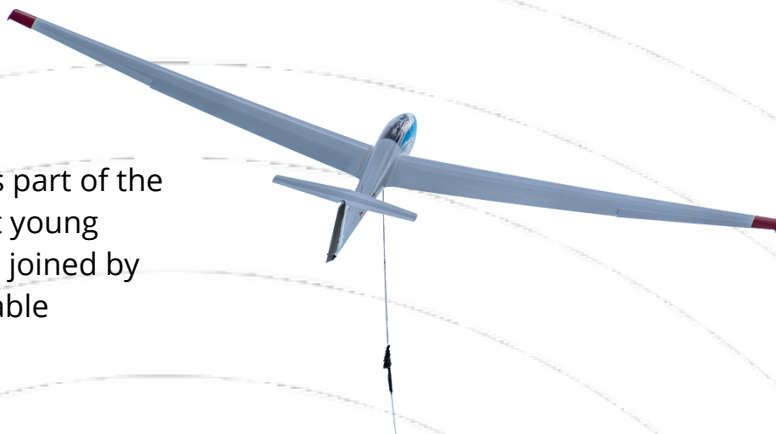


I will not be returning in September, and I will be leaving the library in the very capable hands of Miss Begum who will take over as the new librarian. It has been a pleasure to work with such exceptional students and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Flying High

by Huntley, Principal

Charter Bermondsey students took to the skies as part of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots' initiative to get young people flying. Charter Bermondsey students were joined by students from Charter East Dulwich for a memorable experience at Cambridge Glide Centre.



Students received a flight in a glider under the instruction of an experienced qualified instructor. Gliders are unpowered aircraft, so it's launched either by winch or via an aero-tow behind a powered aircraft. Using naturally occurring currents of rising air, gliders can remain airborne for hours and travel hundreds of kilometres.



Our students had flights of around 20 minutes in a two-seat aircraft, enjoying the extraordinary views of the Cambridge countryside. Some students even got the opportunity to take control under the supervision of their instructor.

Captain Pete, Honourable Company of Air Pilots said: "What a well-behaved and polite bunch of students!"

A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all and we are looking forward to returning in the new academic year. View our video of the day to see the experience through students' eyes.



Rewards Trips

By Mr Snoxell, Assistant Principal

At the end of every term, pupils can choose to spend their Class Charts positive points on rewards trips. This term, they enjoyed reward trips to Hollywood Bowl and Odeon Cinema.

The pupils, who have worked hard all term to accumulate enough points to attend the trips, had the time of their lives, leaving lessons behind for a portion of the day!

Teachers supervising the bowling trip think we may have some future professionals in our ranks - watch this space!

Work Experience!

by Ms Jackson, Head of Year 10

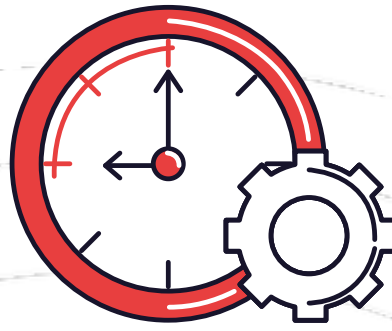
This term, Year 10 explored the world of work!

We started with a Dress to Impress day, where pupils came to school in their smartest clothes, and they continued to impress in their placements, drawing many commendations from their 'employers'.

Tye was described as 'an absolute pleasure' by her employer, while Mohammed was thanked for his 'valuable contribution' to the team.

Pupils worked across a range of sectors, from nursery schools to construction, engineering to libraries. It was an incredible experience for them and really helped them to sharpen their focus on their future goals.

Well done, Year 10!



Future Frontiers!

by Mr Beard, Assistant Principal

This term, Year 10 students spent four weeks with their assigned mentors at The Banking Circle at Moorgate as part of the Future Frontiers programme.

They shared their career plans and researched the steps that they will need to take to bring these to fruition. Adding this to their work experience, our students now have a much better idea about the pathways available to them in the future.

In the final session they spoke with people in these or similar industries, to find out how they got to where they are, picking up tips to follow in their footsteps and blaze their own trail in these fields.

Students loved this course and will continue with 1 to 1 mentoring sessions in school next year!

Future Frontiers is always such a positive experience for our pupils and we are so glad that we will be continuing this partnership in the future.



Sports Day

by Mr Flowers, Head of PE

It has been a very long wait, but it was wonderful to get back to Southwark Park for our first Sports Day since 2019! For all pupils, this was their first-ever sports day at secondary school and it did not disappoint!

Pupils and staff were looking forward to this day, planning events and selecting which pupils would be representing their houses for weeks.

Pupils spent some time at school in the morning, making banners to support their houses and getting their faces painted and ready for the event. Then we walked over to Southwark Park, the anticipation building!

It was a spectacular turnout, with even some parents coming along to watch. The music was blaring and people were dancing and cheering as Mr May commentated on the action for us all.

Our school values were in action as pupils displayed their resilience, aspiration, integrity and exploration for all to see - helping each other when they were struggling and striving to be first over the finish line.

One year 7 pupil commented, "this is so different from sports day at primary school - I love it".

Many pupils walked away with necks full of medals, excelling in many events, while some walked away with the knowledge that they had tried their best and given their all. All of us walked away with smiles on our faces knowing that we had enjoyed a fantastic day.



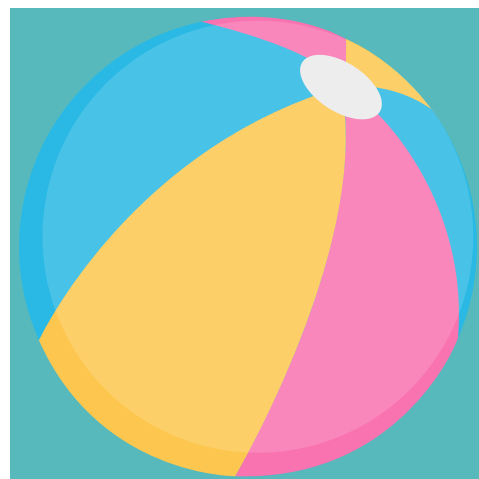
Special Thanks

The Charter School Bermondsey 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.



The Charter School Bermondsey

Charter School Bermondsey wishes you an enjoyable Summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming you all back in September for another incredible academic year.



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