



Festive fair gets the thumbs up!

There was much Christmas cheer as our community came together on the 10th December, to enjoy our Christmas Fair.

It's been a while since we were all together and what better time to celebrate than the festive season? So we dusted our decorations off, got cooking, baking, making and practising so there was no shortage of food, drink and fun activities.

It was wonderful to welcome so many pupils, parents, siblings and the wider community through our gates. They enjoyed hot food and drinks, a chocolate fountain, cake stall, inflatable assault course, side shows, sports, arts and crafts and the live enrichment show including Mr Jones playing "Fly me to the moon" on the saxophone. Most importantly, we raised nearly £800 for our chosen local charities, Time & Talents, and the Manna Centre for the homeless.

A big thank you to everyone who came to help support the school, and particularly Grosvenor UK and Ireland who sponsored the event. We hope to see you all again at our next big event!

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



Principal's Message

Marcus Huntley



A memorable term & great hope for the future!

We don't stand still at Compass, and are steadfast in our ambition to provide the best learning experiences for students. This means providing a rich tapestry of cultural experiences alongside an excellent academic curriculum.

Music fills the air

Music was a great addition to our curriculum this term and took centre stage at our Christmas assembly. There were fantastic piano performances, the student and staff choirs sang beautifully, but perhaps the highlight was the entire year 7 and 8 singing together, "Let it be" by the Beatles. I'm also pleased to say that Design and Technology, new this year, has proved popular with Mr Christie in charge!

Faith in focus

Compass does not have a faith designation, but we ensure our provision recognises the role of faith in the lives of our community. Canon Jenkins (St. James' Bermondsey) has kindly given his time to support this endeavour through his Christmas message and attendance at our Remembrance Assembly. Mr May has also set up a multi-faith reflection space for pupils to use during lunchtimes. Looking ahead to 2022/23, we intend to offer Religious Education, currently taught in Relating, as a subject in its own right with an option to study it at GCSE!

Celebrating achievement

Our pupils have excelled in their behaviour and exemplification of our values this term. There have already been an astonishing 144,000 positives awarded on Class Charts. 5 pupils have amassed a staggering 600 positives in a term! Congratulations to Greta, Godsfavour, Mohamad N, Yupeng and Faruk!

Our new school Summer 2023

Building work set to begin on our new school!

A clean site was handed over to the Department for Education whose appointed contractors will start building in January.

Our community will see rapid progress now with a handover date for the completed site in the summer term of 2023. This means, the current academic year is likely to be our final full year on this site! The new build has state-of-the-art facilities including science, technology, arts and sports. [Read more here.](#)

Exciting times ahead for our community!

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

Chair of Governors' Message - Martin Deutz

I've thoroughly enjoyed my visits to the school this term to see the fantastic work and continued growth of the school first hand. I've met with Student Council, met parents at the year 8 and 11 parents' evenings and a coffee morning, and went to the Christmas Fair. Being able to walk the corridors, visit classrooms and playgrounds gives a great sense of how things are going and the ethos of the school. Students are always very welcoming and friendly, and so very positive in their outlook. I enjoyed my conversations with our families and was very pleased that record numbers came to parent evenings. Our students thrive best when we join together to support them, so the fact that so many came to these events is a great sign for the future.

We cannot know how things will play out in the coming weeks, but the school has contingency plans in place and is ready for anything.

On behalf of the governors, I thank Mr Huntley and his team for their tireless efforts; and I wish everyone in our community a very happy Christmas, hoping that your holiday will be peaceful, restful and safe.

Christmas Message from Canon Jenkins'

When Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space in 1961 he declared, "God is nowhere." But the message of Christmas is that "God has come to Earth as a human and lived among us...God is now here. God loves us and wants us to know His love."

[Click here to view the video.](#)



Christmas Fair

by Ms Walkey-Williams

Memories of our very first Christmas Fair in 2019 have felt a long way away; with the arrival of Covid came the arrival of new rules and regulations which meant that keeping our distance was of utmost importance. With the relaxation of those rules, the Christmas Fair was one of the first things put back on our school's calendar!

The evening was a huge success! We welcomed more people than we could have imagined, having to send away for extra supplies to make sure that people had the opportunity to purchase delicious hot food and drinks!

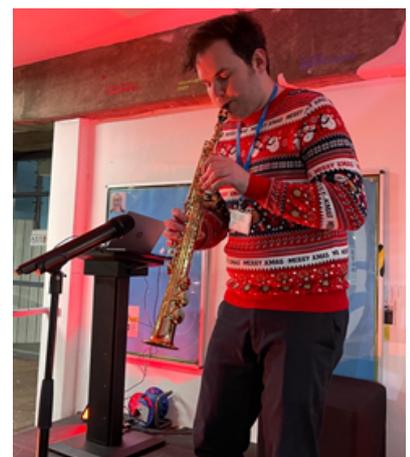
The centre of the fair was the Enrichment showcase, with pupils and staff showing off their musical skills, with piano, saxophone and choir performances.



Pupils (and some adults!) had races through our 36ft inflatable assault course, before trying their luck on one of our side shows. A year 7 student commented "I've won four things and I've only been here for 20 minutes!" - I did try to find out his secret, but had no luck.

There were also an array of sports challenges on offer; Mr Flowers and Mr Barrett were in the sports hall, along with our Greenhouse table tennis students coaches. Pupils were encouraged to try to score a basket or beat one of our experts and many prizes were won!

Our raffle caused much excitement among the crowds and it's easy to see why. With the top prize a hamper, generously donated by Planet Organic, worth £120, it was definitely worth a ticket! In all, more than 20 prizes were won in the raffle and this only helped to boost our fundraising efforts!



In the end, you helped to raise an incredible £800 for the local charities, Time and Talents and The Manna Centre. These two charities are very dear to our hearts and have worked in the local area for many years, supporting those most in need.



Community Matters

by Ms Walkey-Williams

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

Food Banks

Our student leaders made "community" their focus this year; together they launched an LFT challenge to collect food for the Southwark Food Bank. Over the course of the first half-term, the collection boxes in the library filled up with food donations and it was an absolute pleasure to deliver the items to a deserving charity.

Parents' Coffee Morning

It was also a relief, following the last few years of Covid restrictions, to be able to invite parents in for a coffee morning. They were given a tour of the school by Mr Huntley and our chair of Governors, Mr Deutz, so that they could see lessons in action and then enjoyed tea and cake while speaking about the school. We talked about what has been going well. Class Charts has been a big hit! And areas that we might wish to focus on such as staggering the lunch queues, which we did. Following this event, parents shared their after-school routines in the hope that it might help other families.

Remembrance

We were also thrilled to be able to once again support the Poppy Appeal this year. Every morning in November, poppies, wristbands and key rings were sold at the front of school, with many pupils donating, some on multiple occasions!

Our remembrance season was brought to a poignant close with our whole-school assembly. We were very privileged to welcome Canon Gary Jenkins from St James Church, who spoke to pupils about the importance of remembrance and the impact that the wars had on our local area.

We look forward to welcoming Canon Jenkins back later in the year as well as developing our relationships with local religious leaders from all faiths.

Preview 2022

We are all excited about the opportunities that the new year will bring and plans are already underway for our very first Shakespeare play to be performed at Greenwich Theatre. A trip with Y10 to watch A Christmas Carol at The Old Vic and, of course, a summer fair and our annual prize giving ceremony!

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and an exciting 2022.



Student Leaders at the Armistice Ceremony on Jamaica Road

Welcome, Year 7!

by Ms Hayward, Head of Year

Year 7 have thrown themselves into secondary school life and have taken on the challenges they have been given with gusto! There have been some amazing models made in Geography, beautiful art work and some interesting creative writing being shared as well as a first win for the football team against COLA! Science has proved a hit with a chance to complete fun experiments.



The Year 7 and 8 playground is always a hive of activities during social time with a wide range of sporting activities including football, basketball and table tennis taking place every day. The students are throwing themselves into all their activities both inside and outside of the lessons and are rising to the challenges that are being given to them!

The Year 7 Meet the Tutor event was well attended and gave parents and students the opportunity to meet their LFT and ask all the questions they may have had as well as finding out how the students have adapted to life at Compass. Staff and parents were happy with the evening and we cannot wait to see all the Year 7 parents at Parents' Evening on 13th January 2022 where we will be able to discuss all the amazing work and effort that the Year 7s are putting into their work.

Keep working hard Year 7 and I look forward to seeing you reach for the stars!



Year 8 Step Up!

by Ms Henry, 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!

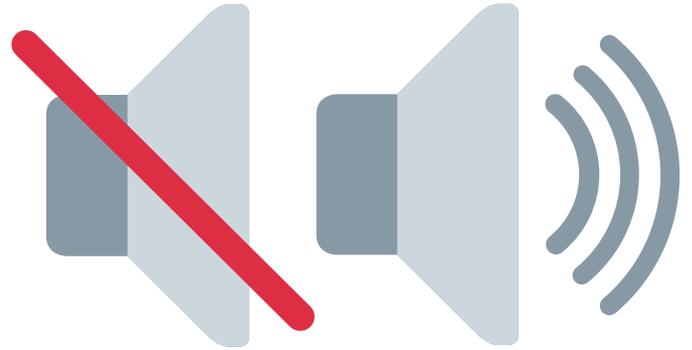
In other news, the Year 8 Parents' Evening went well. Being the first parents' evening of the academic year, the bar was set high and Year 8 did not fall short! With a good turn out of 75%, many parents and carers attended the evening to find out just how brilliant they've all been. It was especially 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 The 'Quiet Year'

by Mr Egbuchiem, Head of Year



Nobody ever knows what to expect from Year 9.

It is not transition.

It is not GCSE.

It is not work experience.

So, what is Year 9 about?

Do not let the clichés fool you. Year 9, for me, is THE year.

The year where comfort zones are destroyed.

The year where you find out just how resilient you can be.

The year where you will be challenged like never before.

The start of this year has been tough, but in the way it should have been. Students are beginning to see greater expectations put on them, academically and personally (character wise) and they are really rising to the challenge!

There are always improvements to be made, however, as we strive for academic excellence.

To put it plainly, this is the year where you decide, and work towards, the type of character you want to nurture and manifest within yourself to tackle your GCSE years. Your final grades will be affected by the routines, habits, and strength of character that you adopt NOW.

We have a long way to go, but, we don't have a long way to go.

Read that again.

Have a Merry Christmas, and come back fresh for the new year. New levels await!



Year 10 Start Strong

by Mr Haverty, Head of Year

'The Beginning is the Most Important Part of the Work.' – Plato

These words from Plato really resonate when considering Year 10 start to the year and every one of the Year 10s has hit the ground running. As they continue with their GCSEs, unfazed by all the obstacles that have come before them, their resilience levels never ceases to amaze me.

With the introduction of Class Charts, we have seen several students already reach 400 positive points, and the competition for top spot in terms of positive points is too close to call. With Simon M, Ollie M, Naga O and Naomi J all either reaching, or being close to reaching, the 500 mark, we are seeing a real race to the top. The competition continues, who will be top come the end of the school year?

What has been positive about the implementation of Class Charts is that we can see the reasons behind students receiving their positive points. For example, we can see that topping the charts for good manners is Oliver S. We can also see that the most resilient student is Michael K and the student with the highest integrity is Ollie M. We can really track how the school's values are being translated into student behaviour and Year 10 are leading the field in many of these areas..

Students have also been able to be part of some phenomenal extra-curricular activities, one such one which made us all proud was with Ms. Walkey-Williams, where several students met with their elderly pen-friends from a local community home for a day at Surrey Dock Farm. By all accounts it was a magical day and big shout outs go to Eliman J, Reggie H and Lily-Jay J, amongst others for their participation.

The return of after school clubs has been great for our students to show off their skills in a different environment to the classroom. Year 10 have been particularly keen in playing basketball and football and have all displayed great levels of aspiration and integrity whilst doing this. Particular shout outs for Betty D and Mecca M for basketball and Ben N and Nabeel A for their continued efforts at football.

We have also seen Katie Lucas take the role of Head Girl, a much-deserved role, being voted in ahead of competitors from the year above. She has settled into this role seamlessly and is going from strength-to-strength representing her fellow pupils and working tirelessly to be a fantastic role model for all.

Team Year 10 have all the foundations needed to confidently reach the destination to which they aspire!



Year 10 pupils enjoyed the Lord Mayor's Show as Guests of The Pewterers



Back in the swing of science experiments



Surrey Docks Farm Visit



Productive day with artist in residence

Year 11

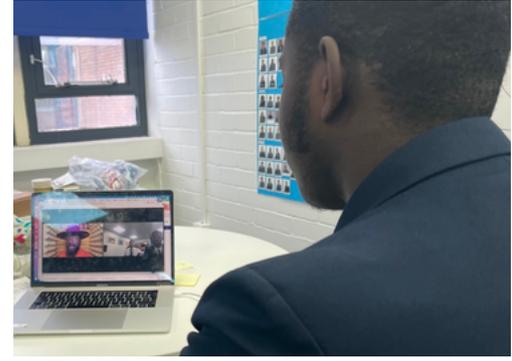
by Ms Mohamed, Head of Year



Productive day developing their performance pieces



Listening attentively to Ms Snell from Oxford University



On a call to bring Kai Rufai's "Smiling Black Boys" project to Compass

Returning from their summer holiday refreshed and recharged, Year 11 plunged themselves right into their final year of studies. Evidently, they were more determined than ever to impress their teachers with their positive attitude and mindset and this has continued throughout the term.

Futures

Year 11 have had a busy term with lot many extra-curricular opportunities. In preparation for their post Compass journey, the cohort attended assemblies delivered by LLS Sports College, London Screen Academy Assembly and Construction Youth Trust Apprenticeship who all provided excellent guidance about post-16 options.

Year 11 pupils have also taken part in the Oxford University Workshop to ensure there is no limit on their aspirations. They have also worked with Future Frontiers to explore careers and receive support from a mentor, and with Construction Youth Trust to enhance skills and improve students access to training and careers in the construction industry.

Study Skills

Ahead of their first set of Mock Exams, Year 11 students and parents received an Exam Buster session from Positively Mad in hopes of developing pupils' revision skills as well as raising the standards of their learning with a fully comprehensive exam toolkit. It was great to be able to share these skills with parents during a Zoom session and we look forward to working more closely with parents as exam season approaches. They even managed a Maths residential to brush up on their skills ahead of the mock examinations.

Mock Exam Week was the epitome of resilience and perseverance as every Year 11 student strived to do their very best, even when they did not feel like it. Students challenged and applied themselves to aim for the highest grades – a glimpse of what they would be experiencing from May 2022. In addition to this, Year 11 have also been busy visiting Colleges and Sixth Forms during and after school as they aim to send off all applications before Christmas and secure placements at their chosen post-16 institute.

2022

Spring term will be even busier, but with an ambitious and aspirational cohort like Year 11, I have no doubt they are ready for any challenges. As stated by Michelle Obama, 'Success is only meaningful and enjoyable if it feels like your own' so I am looking forward to seeing how Year 11 will revel in their success soon enough!

Careers News

by Ms Cogher, Head of Careers

Butler's Warf

This term Compass students have taken part in a broad range of exciting careers opportunities. One of the highlights was the Butler's Wharf trip, in which a group of Year 9 and 10 students had the opportunity to take a walking tour of the local area and hear from a historical expert about how Shad Thames has changed over the years.

Students then rested their feet at the Dixon Hotel while they listened to talks about careers in architecture from Anna Ludwig of Ludwig Willis, who recently won a competition to redesign the jetty and from Daniel Davies, a young architect from Southwark. Students listened attentively, asked thoughtful questions and gained valuable insight into life as a working architect.

Construction

A select group of Year 7 and 8 students have been lucky enough to begin a programme with Construction Youth Trust to learn about the wide range of opportunities available in the construction sector, and develop some practical skills alongside this. Students really enjoyed having the opportunity to practise their building skills and we can't wait to see what they are capable of achieving as the programme continues.

Brilliant Club

Another group of Year 8 students have risen to the challenge of taking part in the Brilliant Club, a programme designed to give insight into university life. The students have been receiving weekly seminars to learn from a PhD tutor from University College London about American music and its link with American history including the Civil Rights movement. In addition to these workshops, the students are producing additional written analyses in their own time and we have been so impressed with the quality and thoughtfulness of their work.

Careers Interviews

Year 11 pupils have been supported to make their post 16 choices with one-to-one interviews with external adviser, Leanne. She has been impressed with their focus and determination to achieve the very best outcomes for life beyond Compass.



English Update

by Ms Parkinson, Head of English

Globe Theatre

Students in Year 9 were lucky enough to work with The Globe Theatre this term in anticipation for their study of Romeo and Juliet. Students took part in drama workshops with actors from The Globe, looking at key scenes from A Midsummer Nights Dream, aiding their analysis of the language.

In addition, some students were lucky enough to take part in filming which is now being used on the Globe education website to support students all around the UK with their study of the play.



Compass Vocabulary Warriors

It is no secret that students who have the largest vocabularies will achieve the greatest academic success, but with 270,000 words in the dictionary, it is a huge feat! This term, we have launched a new programme, Bedrock, in English which aims to give Compass students a real head start in building their vocabulary.

It is so good, Mr Huntley has bought it for his children!

Students have gotten off to a fantastic start, going above and beyond on their point goals! Keep supporting your child to complete the lessons. It will pay dividends in developing their literacy!

gullible

adjective

gul-li-ble

A gullible person is likely to believe what they are told, even if it is untrue. Gullible people are easy to trick. Do you know someone who believes all of the most obvious lies? You could describe that person as gullible.

Example:

Tom told Janet that the world used to be flat and she believed him because she was so gullible.

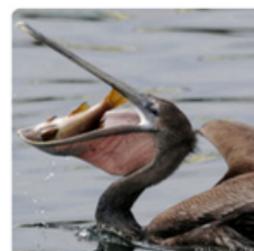


Confident voices, strong literacy

Continue

Which word is best represented by the image? Type the answer below!

	Vocabulary I already know	Vocabulary I am learning
A	abnormal accelerate	abate
B	brawl	bystander
C	casualty	catastrophe



Year 11 Question 5 programme

Year 11 have been working incredibly hard in the run-up to the mocks to develop their written narratives. In a special lesson, three classes joined together to collaborate and produce a model for the whole year to use. 'The Crash', written by twenty Year 11 students, is a short narrative which you can read below:



A scream. A screech. Another life consumed by the flashing lights of a Honda in an instant heartbeat. An innocent infant, freshly born into this cruel world. Just seven years ago, devoured by the monstrous cold-blooded machine covered in biscotti-brown.

Onyx black tenebrous clouds coated the environment, shrouding it in a lethargic aura. Gemstones of the prevalent graphite-grey sky showered the terrain which was laced with agony like a plague intoxicating the surroundings. Scrunched up like a ball, the everlasting highway anticipating it's oblivious victim's demise. Disillusioned, the mocha-brown vehicle radiated in profound catharsis, turmoil, anxiety and terror.

Panicking. Waiting for his soon to come demise. The seat crushed his arm, holding him still. Glass shattered around him, piercing his pale skin. He had never had this feeling before.

Wailing his arms, trying to break free of the seat belt's deadly grasp, his finger nails looked as though the devil had stolen them.

"Please, someone save me," he mumbled, struggling to breathe, his torn clothes made a blood curdling screech as if he was trying to break free from the devil's grasp. Hellish fire surrounded him; all the colour was sucked from his face as he knew his time was nearly up.

Losing the acumen to move, his body became paralysed, his legs were numb, arms shaking. An insidious light began to threaten his inner soul. Spirits had almost escaped, almost stranded, almost somewhere in the afterlife. Suddenly, an angelic light flushed across his skin and corroded from within. The feeling of pandemonium was gone. The tenebrous darkness disappeared. It was not seen. Finally he felt peace.

The scent of smoke invaded my being like an omniscient presence, taking me over. My dear mother, clutching her petite hands on the ebony steering wheel. Her feet slowly caressed the brakes as she glared at the children strolling across the white and black stripes. As I reached the end of our destination, something caught my attention.

A screech. A scream. The final pump of blood to his heart stopped. The seatbelt tugged his limp body.

Silence.

Geography Explores!

by Ms Smith, Head of Geography



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!

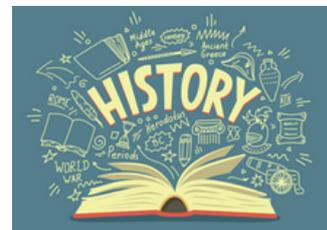
After practising their 4 and 6-figure grid references around school, Yr 7 got the chance to build upon these skills in Southwark Park. Students were able to take part in an orienteering activity and use their knowledge and the clues provided to find features and locations within the park. Every student made a great effort and can now be confident in finding their way around (without using Google Maps!). Some of the students found this quite frightening at first, but, alongside members of staff and their peers, all were able to complete the map and find their way around the park.

There were also some fantastic model projects of London created by talented Yr 7 students who used the opportunity to develop their 'sense of place' and get a better understanding about the city in which we live.



History News

by Miss Melling, Head of History



Students at Compass have had a fantastic start to History this academic year!

Year 7s started the year with a study of history that culminated in project booklets, designed to tell readers what skills they needed in order to conduct enquiries into key historical figures. They have continued to set the bar with an array of amazing homework submissions, from colourful posters to detailed mind maps.



Year 9s faced difficult conversations around Britain's history with colonialism, as they explored the lives of our forgotten soldiers during their World War topic. This concluded in a Remembrance Day Assembly, where Greta, Faruk and Alex, relayed their stories to the whole school.



Alex (Year 9 Student) left students with the simple but resonant message that “the colonies contributed a lot to our war effort”.

This was part of a wider approach to celebrate and recognise diversity in the curriculum, as part of Black History Month. Students across the school looked at how Black History was present in their current topics, from the medieval to the industrial period, and the 20th century and beyond.



Aspiration Integrity Resilience Exploration

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.

London Thunder Basketball

I am really pleased to say that we are working with London Thunder every Wednesday and are getting some really high-quality coaching for many of our students in Basketball, there is still some space to come after school if you wish to develop and improve your Basketball skills.

From a fixtures perspective we have played a 9 and 10 Basketball match against St Thomas The Apostle. The boys performed very well in their first competitive match of the year working very hard and overcame the nerves of a first competitive fixture of the year. Their hard work in training is clear to see in their performances and we cannot wait to see the progress in their next matches.

Our Year 8s and 9s also played Basketball against Bacons College in what was highly competitive. There was a really good attitude and effort from our students in a very competitive game. I was very impressed with how our students approached and worked together in the game.

Ballers' Football

We also have further enhanced our relationship with Ballers Football Academy. Due to popular demand we have had to add in another after school football club and have now created year group specific clubs; on Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm the sessions are for Years 7 and 8, this is a very popular club and so students need to sign up to attend, and on Wednesdays, Ballers are working with Year 9 and 10 from 3:35-4:40pm. We are also running our girls specific Football Club every Thursday from 2:40-3:40pm. Please see Miss Kidney and come to her amazing sessions, build confidence and develop some football skills.



Big shout out to Daniella for representing the school in the fixture as the only girl, fantastic competitive spirit from her.

Our year 7s and 8s also had their first football match of the year against COLA, really great to see them performing and showing some fantastic resilience and great performances from Thomas, Kayden, Theo, David and Precious.



PE News

by Mr Flowers, Head of PE

Table Tennis

Congratulations on our Table Tennis team going away for the weekend to compete in the National Cadet League. For their first national competition, they performed really well. There will be many more tournaments for them to excel in in the near future.



Students in Year 7 and 8 are taking part in the London Youth Games Sports Hall athletics tournament. A huge well done to our Year 8 boys and girls teams who pushed themselves to their absolute limits and really enjoyed the competitive atmosphere of the London Youth Games. Over the next few weeks, our Year 7 will experience the same opportunities. Good luck to them!



I had the pleasure of taking our Y10 Sports Leadership Class to lead and manage a KS1 Festival of Sport in Burgess Park. It was a great opportunity for the students to get to practise the skills that they have been learning during our sessions and get experience as a leader of sports. The class set up the activities for the attendees and stayed at their assigned station as the visitors made their way around the festival, demonstrating what the tasks would be and guiding the children through these. I am very proud of the way that the students conducted themselves and represented the school. They were very professional, polite and modelled the expected behaviour perfectly!

Miss Kidney

Black History Month 2021

by Mr Egbuchiem

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021 - 'Proud to Be'

This year the theme for BHM was 'Proud to Be'. All members of the Compass community engaged in learning activities and discussions, which foremostly highlighted various aspects of the black communities around the world.



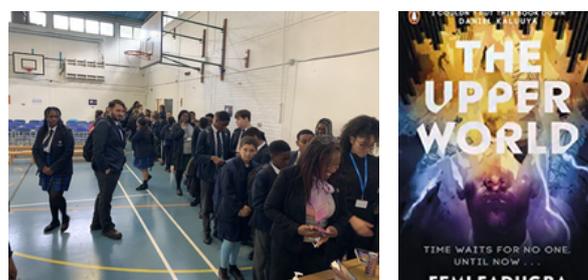
Instead of focusing on the usual music and sporting aspects of black history, and certainly not slavery, we looked at academia, cultural artefacts, inspirational figures, and imagery that reshaped the narrative of black boys. This made this year not only a celebration, but an educational access point for people of all backgrounds.



We were graced with the presence of Femi Fadugba, a 'local lad' with a new book called "The Upper World", which is being adapted into a movie on Netflix! His book was purchased by a multitude of staff and students and the queue to get signed copies was awe inspiring.



Staff and students alike actively took part this year, and this is just the beginning. The day will come when we do not have to condense cultural events into weeks and months, and it just becomes a part of our day-to-day discourse. Compass School as a community, shall continue to strive towards that day.



Year 10 trip to Oxford University for BHM



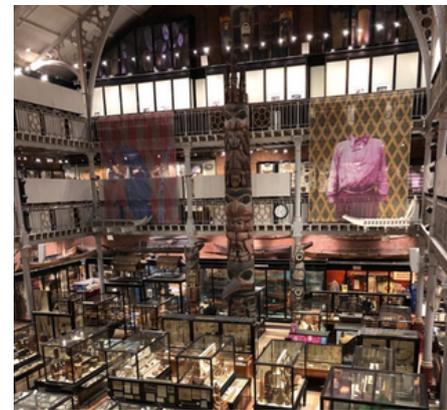
by Tia McNaught

Nine students and one teacher went to Oxford University. These included myself, Sonny, Kwame, Faruk, Mohamad N, Ridwan, Jesse, Camila, Angelina and Ms Selman. We travelled via train to Oxford University together.

Whilst we were on the trip, we talked to one of the Humanities and Law lecturers and to students to learn more about the subjects. We talked about the kind of things he shows people, one of the exercises we all did was to picture something we see all-day and describe it to the person sitting next to us. We were also told to be like a child and ask questions like: Why? How? What? Where?

We also went to see and explore the Pitt Rivers Museum where we learned about Black-African heritage. Please see the photos below.

The reason that we all went to Oxford was to encourage people of all genders, race, or even religion to study at Oxford. Usually, when we think of a prestigious University like Oxford, we do not always believe regular people can go to such a place but this program allows us to see that everyone no matter your background can enrol and graduate from Oxford University.



Faruk Bello and Mohamed Ndiaye

The only thing you need to be able to study at Oxford University is a positive mindset and knowledge. Many people currently at Oxford University come from disadvantaged backgrounds but still have the passion and belief to learn. From my own personal experience at Oxford University, I saw many people from minority ethnic groups as well as working class white backgrounds that still managed to get into Oxford University.



We were given a tour of the university and were guided to see different classes and architecture.

Year 10 trip to Oxford University for BHM

by Faruk Bello and Mohamed Ndiaye



The Bodleian Old Library is one of the oldest libraries in Europe. Part of the larger Bodleian Library complex, it is connected to the Radcliffe Camera by the underground Gladstone Link.



JCR Room: This is the place where the students come to hang out.



This was a Chemistry laboratory for leading research in WWII. It was closed in 1947.



We all wrote a step by step account of our day at Oxford. It was fun!



"It doesn't matter your race, gender, religion or ethnicity; you can make it to Oxford!"

Aspiration Integrity Resilience Exploration

Student Leadership

by Ms Ragusa

Student Council

At the start of the year the whole school voted for our first ever head students. Our candidates all filmed a short video and then each student voted. We welcomed George as our Head Boy with Mohamado as Deputy and Katie as our Head Girl with Millie Hull deputising.

Our learning family representatives had lunch with our Chair of Governors, Martin Deutz, (photo below) to discuss their thoughts and plans on school improvement this year. The session was extremely productive. Each learning family rep led on the food bank appeal for our community. Each year group collected a great amount of food to help our local community.



Anti-bullying

Anti-bullying ambassadors decided to focus on the Community badge for the Diana Awards and are almost at the stage of collating evidence for this as they had an action packed Anti-bullying week including a Graffiti wall, cupcake decorating, assembly, Learning family activities and Friday's Kindness Day. Students are also planning on re-introducing the successful Golden Lions Club.



Southwark Youth Parliament Representatives

Mariam Ajayi and Milly Curtis-Ramsey (Year 11) were elected Compass School's representatives on the Southwark Youth Parliament for 2021-22. The parliament brings young people together to have a voice in Southwark.

"My priorities are reducing knife crime and bringing positivity to our community." Mariam

"My priorities are supporting mental health in our community especially considering all the issues that have occurred due to Covid-19." Milly

Eco-Committee

Our students are re-evaluating the use of single plastic and recycling in the school and are working with the Mayor of London and Mobie on an exciting competition.



Art at Compass

by Ms Ragusa, Head of Art

Art, Craft and Design by Year 7

Year 7 have been working on a Biscuit Factory Project. They have focused on the formal elements in Art and produced a range of drawings and recordings including printmaking and collage. They have also produced some homework of excellent quality.



Art, Craft and Design by Year 8

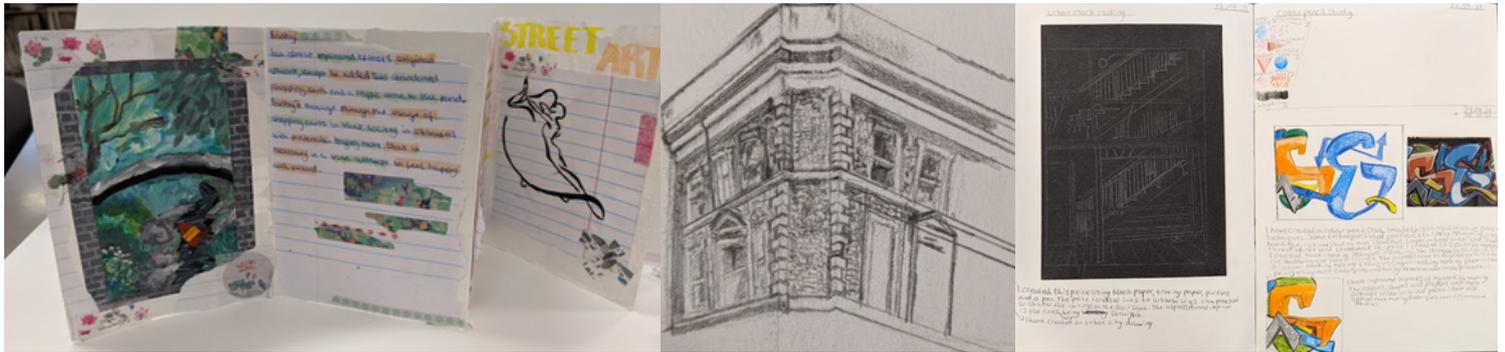
Year 8 have been working on a Science and Art Project. They have completed a range of drawings including oil pastel, colour pencil, ink recordings and some experiments with media types. They are now planning a two colour print.



Art at Compass

Art, Craft and Design by Year 9

Year 9 are exploring My Bermondsey. They will be looking at symbolism and creating a 3D piece in response. In preparation of this they have been recording urban imagery in a variety of ways and developing their painting skills.

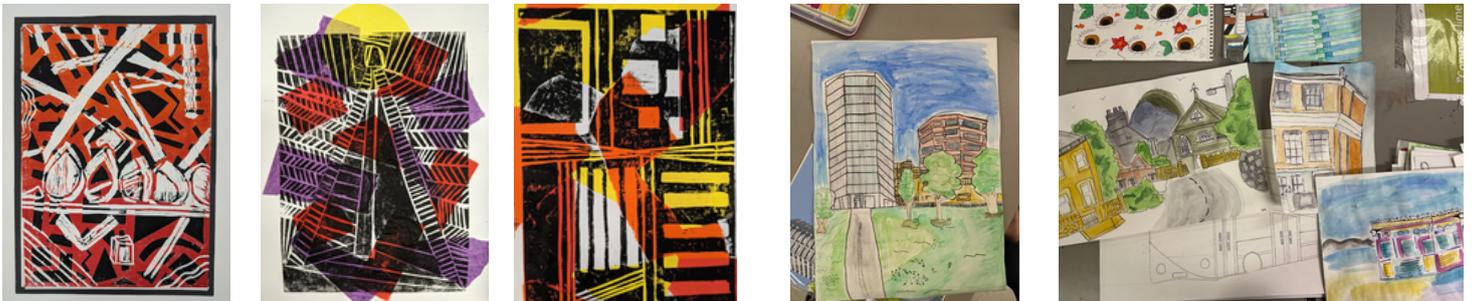


Art, Craft and Design by Year 10

Year 10 have completed a mini project based on the theme of Structures. This has been mainly a printmaking project. Year 10 students also had the opportunity to work with an Artist in Residence over a day and a half workshop with artist Jane Smith. On the first morning students were introduced to the working style of Jane and they spent the morning drawing from observation using expressive lines. On the second day students focused their drawings on the theme of structures and produced sustained drawings combining media such as watercolours and charcoal. Our thanks go out to the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers for sponsoring this activity.

"It was really useful having an artist because she helped us improve our pieces and gave us an expert's opinion on perspectives and which colours would look the best. She helped us achieve our full artistic potential, showing us really how much we can achieve." Lucy Yr.10

We look forward to working with Artist in Residence on further exciting projects.



Art, Craft and Design by Year 11

Year 11 have been continuing with their coursework. They are all working on a personal sustained project. All students are at the experimental development stage and have created some exciting pieces.



Aspiration Integrity Resilience Exploration

Inclusion News

by Ms Oladejo, SENCO

What an amazing Autumn term it has been, it has truly been a great start! Already, we are approaching 2022, which is exciting but let's reminisce on the joys, excitement and achievements we have experienced so far this term. In August, it was great to meet some of our new Year 7 at Summer School – what a bonding experience that was!

At the beginning of Autumn term 2021, we made a big effort to welcome our new Year 7 students. This Year Group has been the epitome of resilience. As the term has progressed, the Inclusion Department has been privileged to see students keen to display our Compass Values – what a true sense of Community Spirit. Everyone always says that the Inclusion room is warm, welcoming and a safe space within school. The integrity of our students is outstanding. They are respectful of each other's needs and having a clear understanding that although we may be different, we are all equal.

We wish you all a very blessed, safe Christmas and wish you the very best for 2022.

The Inclusion Team



"The Inclusion room is a warm, welcoming and safe space within school." Ms Oladejo

Farewell Ms Oladejo

Ms Oladejo received a rousing send off from pupils and staff after three and a half years of service to our school and inclusion department. We understand that this is a big change for our pupils but rest assured, we have their interests at heart during this period of transition.

Welcome to Inclusion Ms Hayward!

Ms Hayward will be taking on the role of SENCO from January and will be working alongside our dedicated team of Learning Support Assistants and Karen Esson who has been supporting the leadership of Inclusion over the past half-term. There will be an Inclusion Drop-in parents' event on Monday 10th January 2022, 4:15pm to 5:30pm, to give parents of pupils supported by Inclusion the opportunity to meet the new team.

EAL News

by Miss McCormick, EAL Coordinator

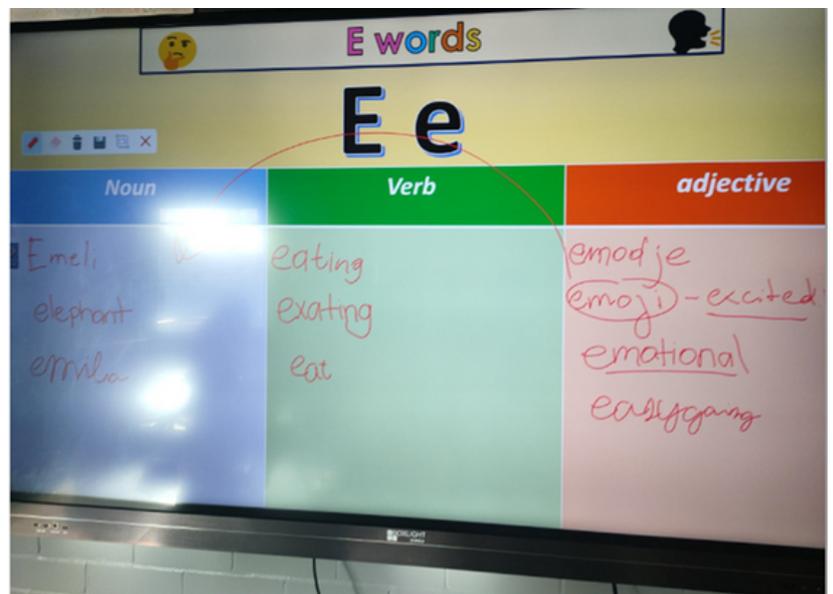
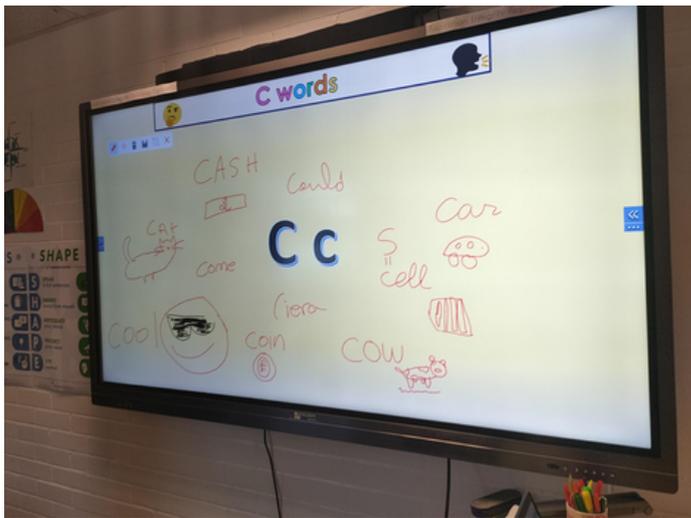


As we come to the end of the first term, I am astonished at the progress that has been achieved by our EAL students.

Those who were with us since last year have continued to show their willingness to explore by using the English they have already acquired to build friendships and integrate themselves into the school's wider community.

Those who have joined us this year, especially those who arrived with no English, have shown their aspiration to succeed by working hard, completing homework and improving their language skills day to day through independent study.

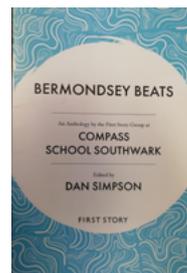
Despite the barriers imposed on them last year and barriers that may yet come up again, every EAL student has scored higher on their EAL assessment this half term. This is reflected in the attention to detail and integrity they all show in their weekly EAL classes where they encourage each other and are fearless to try new words and phrases they have learnt.



Enrichment and Creative Arts

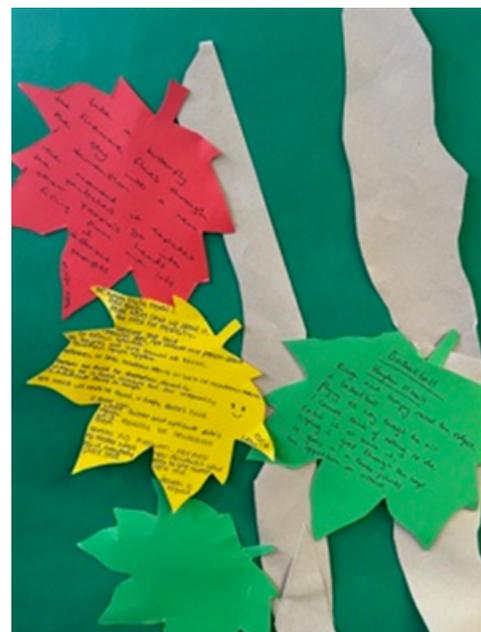
by Mr May, Head of Creative Arts and Enrichment

We are delighted to welcome back Dan Simpson who is now our official Poet in Resident at Compass. Dan worked with a group of budding poets to produce our first poetry anthology *Bermondsey Beats* with first stories. We had a great book launch in October where students read their own poetry to friends, family and staff. Dan will be running our Poetry Enrichment, setting up a Compass Poetry Squad, hosting open mic evenings and curating our first whole school poem supported by our new Librarian, Ms Ingrid Edwards, we've already had a flourish of poetry from our emerging poets.



*Are humans truly equal?
These days, people never shut up about it, the need for equality
Someone once said
"Heaven does not create one person above or below another".
It says we are equal at birth
But then gaps appear,
Differences of one's academic efforts,
Or lack of academic efforts,
Humans can think for themselves
Equality
It may be a false concept,
but
our inequality
is a difficult thing to accept
The world will never be equal
It simply doesn't exist.*

By Lily-Rae Whipps Year 10



Shakespeare

Following our continued dedication to make Shakespeare accessible and aspirational for all our students, Compass are taking part in the Coram Shakespeare Festival this year. We have a wonderful cast of students who will be performing Shakespeare's comedy *Twelfth Night*. The production will be directed by Mr. May and Ms. Walkey-Williams and be performed at Greenwich Theatre on 22nd February 2022. Do let us know if you would like to see our students on the stage at Greenwich.



Enrichment and Creative Arts

by Mr May, Head of Creative Arts and Enrichment



September saw the Visual and Creative Arts Department double in size with the addition of Design Technology and Music for all our students between Years 7-9. Design Technology is being taught by Mr. Christie and will equip our students with the skills and knowledge to meet the ever-changing technological world we live in. From product design to food technology students will develop an understanding of the complexities that makes up the fabric of our modern world.



Meanwhile, Mr. Jones in the Music department will enable our students to read music, play the keyboard and explore the fantastic historical and global musical heritage that we all share. This term Mr. Jones joined forces with Ms. Field (our enrichment singing teacher) to spend four weeks teaching Let it Be by the Beatles to our Year 7 and 8 students. The whole Year Group will be singing in the year's closing assembly.



Our Enrichment program continues to grow from strength to strength with the addition of some new and returning enrichments for Compass Students. The Computer IT Educational Company "Firetech" has worked with a select group of students to develop the elemental building blocks of game design.

Debate Mate has returned to Compass after lockdown and is training the Compass debating team for the forthcoming Spring Debating season following the wonderful work Mr. Egbuchiem undertook at the beginning of term.



Ballers Academy are back in full force training a fantastic group of students' skills, teamwork and essential football skills.

Yusuf Osman continues to run the much-cherished leatherwork enrichment. Our leatherworkers made a wonderful range of goods for the winter fair.

Sasha Field continues to work with our ever-expanding Compass Choir and they performed at the Christmas Fair and assembly at the end of term. Sasha also started a staff choir that will grace the students over the Christmas season.



We said goodbye to Simon Hoang from Greenhouse Sports who is off to develop his career as an exceptional Table Tennis Coach. He will be missed and is responsible for the fantastic engagement of Table Tennis at Compass with the Enrichment and PE department. Table Tennis will continue to flourish under the new coach who will be starting after the Christmas break.



Library News

by Ms Edwards, Librarian

What an incredible start at Compass. I have been overwhelmed with kindness and politeness from every student I have met. The students are so conscientious and have made me feel very welcome. They are always willing to help out and often come in and ask me if there is anything they can do to help me. I have been a librarian for 16 years and Compass school students are amazing and a real credit to you.



The library has been undergoing a transformation. With the introduction of Accelerated Reader, Compass have invested heavily in reading materials for students. I have been very busy cataloguing and labelling new stock to make sure pupils can make the right reading choice at just the right level to challenge them.

Students are given a ZPD which stands for Zone of Proximal Development. This is given to them after their Star Reader Tests and is a part of the Accelerated Reader program. The zone they are given is right for them and their reading age. This also means that students are less likely to become frustrated when reading. Books have been clearly labelled to make it easier for students to find their Accelerated Reader books.



We have a new library returned book trolley where students can post their books when they have finished them.



Students have been reading well with the Reading Mentor and continue to show their progress by recalling storylines and explaining difficult vocabulary. Each morning, groups are asked to read non-fiction articles and then complete a quiz. Students have expressed a change in the way they approach reading, many even showing excitement and pride when getting their Accelerated reader results. It's great to see students engaged in their books, and to hear their opinions when they finish each novel too.

Shannon and Jess from Year 8 are setting up and will be running an Art Club on Fridays in the library. Here they are busy making posters to advertise the club which will start after the Christmas break.



The Library continues to be a hub of activity with board games at lunch and break, as well as reading and independent study. All are made welcome!

Reading Legends

by Ms Edwards, Librarian

Each week a student is chosen to be a Reading Legend. The students featured below have worked extremely hard and deserve recognition for the impressive reading and quizzing they have been doing over the last few months. I am delighted with the progress they are making and their commitment to raising their reading ages and improving their vocabulary.



Faruk had this to say about being the reading legend of the week.

"It has made me feel like never before, a wonderful feeling. Reading really inspires me. As a footballer I like reading books about football, maybe you could read it too."

Aaminah had this to say about being a Reading Legend.

"I feel really happy because it makes my mum proud of me. Reading takes me to another world and helps me with my English lessons. I can use better words in my written work."

Sebastian had this to say about being a Reading Legend.

"I'm overwhelmed with happiness because I've been made a legend twice now."

Sebastian has also gone up four years in his reading age after taking another Star Reader Test. What an amazing accomplishment! Sebastian had this to say about his new reading age.

"I feel like finishing a book is like climbing another step on my ladder to success."

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 merry Christmas and happy 2022!



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