

Dear Year 7 Families,

After a very successful first term, I am pleased to send you this newsletter. Together, we have had a lot of achievement and discovered areas to improve. Please find this newsletter a step into what pupils have done and learnt this term.

### **English and Humanities**

This term Year 7 have been focusing on their ability to control and craft their writing, and through reading, enhance their cultural awareness and foster a sense of empathy and freedom of imagination.

Our class novel, *The Outsiders* by SE Hinton, has served as a basis for pupils to further develop their knowledge of contextual and structural clues for inferring, to study idioms and comparisons such as analogies, metaphors and similes, and to evaluate how well literary elements contribute to the overall effectiveness of the novel. We have also been focusing on characterization as revealed through a character's thoughts, words, speech patterns, and actions and identifying themes throughout the novel.

Over term one we have focused on the underlying structure of English, direct and indirect speech, adverbs, question formation, verb tenses, and formal/informal language. Year 7 have produced some outstanding formal letters, newspaper reports, and suspense stories. The pupils are becoming more confident creating a balanced argument using a range of cohesive devices and in using direct quotes to support their analysis of themes in our class novel. They show a good understanding of the importance of planning and awareness of register, structure, and organization.

The class had the opportunity to develop their oral skills through drama, hot-seating, role-play and by presenting a range of group projects related to our topics around England prior to 1066, Anglo Saxon life, and the events leading to and the aftermath of the Norman Conquest. These skills were particularly impressive during their presentations, which were delivered with great fluency, confidence, and knowledge of the topic. Through debates, round-table mantle of expert activities, and classroom discussion, Year 7 have been finding the right balance between emotional language and fact to persuade.



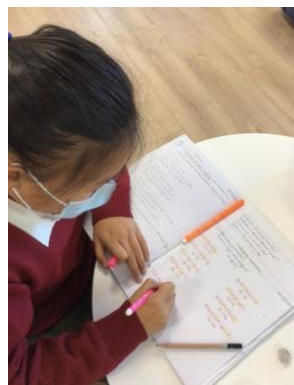


### **Mathematics**

Maths this term was centred on Data and Number. This included being able to calculate averages and the range, compare data using different averages and accurately construct different diagrams. The students have performed various tasks within the lessons such as using Microsoft excel to create scatter graphs from real-life data. The students have thoroughly enjoyed the real-life application of this unit and in addition have been able to further enhance their computing skills.

All children have focussed on being fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics alongside being able to reason mathematically therefore, a lot of the maths lessons have been delivered through the use of problem-solving activities allowing children to apply their knowledge by deciding which operations to use and why.

Our final unit covered this term was Number. We recapped both mental and written methods for the four rules of number, where children needed to multiply, divide, add and subtract numbers including decimals and negative numbers. The children continued to work on rounding to a specific degree of accuracy as well as applying their mental maths skills to calculations involving multiple operations. These skills have then allowed students to successfully calculate percentages of amounts and percentage change. The students have actively participated in the treasure hunts associated with this unit as well as being able to work collaboratively on various activities.





## Science

This term in Science, the students have been studying states of matter, cells and body systems. The Year 7s were fortunate to be welcomed into our new laboratory during their time in primary school and have been worthy attendees in the lab ever since. They started the year learning about the three states of matter and how particles are arranged and behave for each of these states. They showed great enthusiasm and engagement with the more practical lessons and have developed noteworthy skills when using new scientific equipment.

The second half of term saw the introduction of two new units, cells and body systems. Again, the students were introduced to the school's first ever microscopes and quickly demonstrated their experimental capabilities when observing cells, including their own, under different magnifications. Their home learning projects in both units were a real highlight of this term, with each student creating, in my opinion, the best models I have ever received as a teacher.





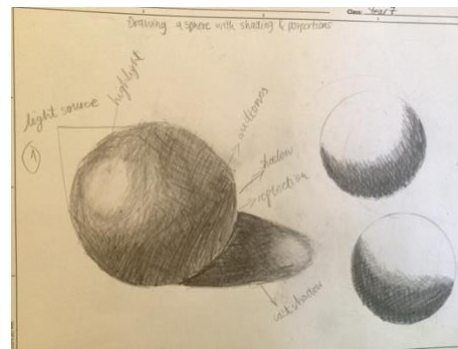
### **Physical Education**

This term children in year 7 have learnt skills to compete in athletics events. Children have been very fortunate to access external facilities to maximise their potential. Additionally, children have been taking part in cricket lessons, they have been fortunate to learn new skills to take part in cricket competitions learning both the rules and techniques to take part in the sport.



### **Art**

This Term Year 7 pupils have worked hard to further explore the elements with a key focus on drawing skills. Pupils have become more confident in being able to draw 3D shapes, such as a sphere with correct shadows, midtones and highlights from a light source. Pupils also explored a range of mark making techniques and were able to apply cross hatching and contour hatching to their drawings. We then look at how Oil pastels could be applied to their artwork, exploring colour blending to create a final still life outcome. In recent weeks we have become very festive in our art lessons, where pupils planned and made a hand embroidered Christmas tree decoration of which they are all very proud of. Pupils have improved their skills in a wide range of areas this term and I am looking forward to seeing their progress further next term as we explore a range of artist's work.



### **Conclusion**

To conclude, it has been a new experience for children in their term of secondary. Year 7 have had a mere dip of the toe with regards to life in secondary, however, should have many areas to reflect upon. We have seen many achievements this year and a lot of progress, especially considering ownership, responsibility and how to have a greater impact on society around them.

I acknowledge and appreciate all your efforts and positivity this term, I would like to take this moment to share my thanks with you all and I hope that you all have a very happy and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best Wishes,

Mr. Price

Queridas familias:

Me alegra poder dirigirme a vosotros a través de estas líneas. Para mí está siendo un privilegio conocer a vuestros hijos y compartir con ellos las aventuras de cada día durante su primer trimestre en Secundaria.

En la asignatura de Español hemos disfrutado de dos proyectos en los que Lengua y Ciencias Sociales han ido de la mano. Además, han potenciado su creatividad, su autonomía, su capacidad de superación y su pensamiento crítico, así como su competencia oral y escrita.



El primero de los proyectos, “¡Viva la Pepa!”, comenzó con un reto inicial en el que recibimos una carta del Ministerio de los Asuntos Perdidos. La Constitución de 1812, conocida como “La Pepa”, había desaparecido y los curiosos alumnos de Y7 debían resolver el misterio. Como enlace del Ministerio en Madrid, fui ofreciendo a los nóveles investigadores diferentes pistas, con las que consiguieron descartar a algunos sospechosos e identificar a los culpables. Así, conocimos datos sobre personajes relevantes en la historia de la

España decimonónica y aprendimos los acontecimientos más destacados del siglo XIX. Como producto final, los ya expertos detectives escribieron un relato que evidenciaba los resultados de sus investigaciones. ¡Me encantó leer y escuchar sus originales teorías!



En cuanto al segundo proyecto, se presentó bajo el *topic* “Nuestra España más reciente”. En esta ocasión reté a los alumnos de Y7 a elaborar un eje cronológico con las etapas de la historia española en el siglo XX. Para ello, debían seguir las directrices de un texto instructivo.

Además,  
continuamos  
practicando  
diferentes

técnicas de estudio, que ayudan a los alumnos a comprender y retener mejor los contenidos. Sin duda, la más exitosa de todas fue la herramienta *Kahoot*, en la que se basó el producto final. De este modo, vuestros hijos diseñaron por grupos diferentes





cuestionarios, con los que profundizaron en la historia y plantearon preguntas muy interesantes.



Por otra parte, me gustaría destacar los buenos momentos vividos en clase gracias a la lectura del libro “La lección de August”. Se trata de una obra cargada de valores, lo que ha dado lugar a numerosos debates sobre temas de interés general como la amistad, la familia, la autoestima y los cambios en la adolescencia. Los alumnos han podido realizar hipótesis, ponerse en la piel de los protagonistas y de la autora, así como desarrollar estrategias de comprensión lectora.

En resumen, este ha sido un primer trimestre muy emocionante en *Dallington School*. Quiero agradeceros vuestra colaboración en todo momento durante estos primeros meses del curso. ¡Estoy deseando ver lo que nos depararán los siguientes!

Con todo mi cariño,

Miss Jessica