

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks once again for the time taken to meet during the course of this term. It is vital that we keep a clear line of communication, to ensure that we work in harmony to help each student progress within their own potential.

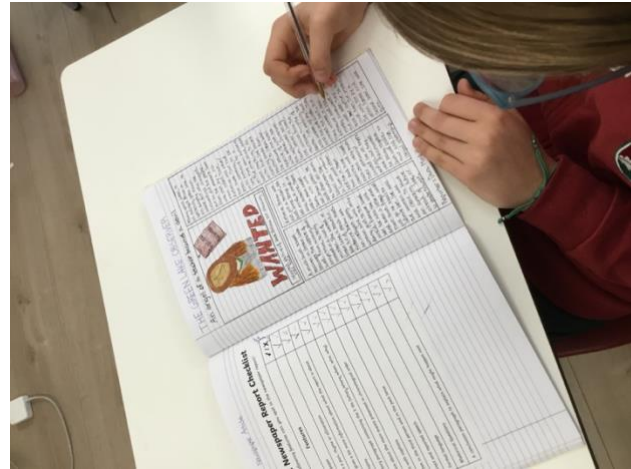
### **English and Humanities**

This term Year 8 pupils have been gaining an appreciation for stories and using them as inspiration for their own writing. By empathizing with characters in particular periods of time and understanding the personal influence a text can have on a reader, pupils can develop individual responses and interpret a range of literature. We have also been focusing on performance skills and techniques so that they may broaden their development of skills across all areas of English.

Our class novel, *Holes* by Louis Sachar, has served as a basis for pupils to further understand the importance of perseverance and through the main character, Stanley, identify the important role determination plays in their future success. Year 8 have produced some wonderful formal letters, newspaper reports, and persuasive pieces based around the novel. 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 major literary themes. 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 speeches, drama monologues, hot-seating, and debates. They also presented a range of group projects related to our topics around Elizabeth I, Tudor life, and events surrounding the Spanish Armada. These skills were particularly impressive during their oral expositions, which were delivered with great fluency, confidence, and knowledge of the topic. Through debates, round-table mantle of the expert activities, and classroom discussion, Year 8 have been developing the necessary skills to construct different styles of writing and communication.





## Maths

Maths this term was centred on Number and Area and volume. This included being able to calculate percentages of an amount, estimate answers to power and root questions as well as recapping on how to calculate the highest common factor and lowest common multiple for word-based questions. The students have performed various tasks within the lessons such as using MyiMaths to consolidate prior learning. 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 focused 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 Area and volume. We recapped how to calculate the area of basic 2D shapes and this moved onto being able to calculate the surface area of 3D shapes (including prisms) as well as calculate the volume of a 3D shape. The children continued to work on rounding to a specific degree of accuracy as well as being able to use the calculator efficiently and effectively. These skills have then allowed students to successfully extend their learning by looking at how to find a missing measurement when given the surface area or volume answer. The students have actively participated in various activities associated with this unit by working collaboratively.



## Science

This term in Science, the students have been studying reproduction, the Earth and our current unit, health and lifestyle. The Year 8s started the year learning about the process of reproduction in both humans and plants. They showed great maturity and focus during this unit, learning about the various changes they are going to go through during adolescence, how a baby is created and how it develops within the female body.

The second half of term saw the introduction of a new unit, the Earth, where the students looked at the structure of the Earth, the composition of the atmosphere and how certain gases within the atmosphere play a vital role in ensuring life on Earth. Their home learning projects were a real highlight of this unit, with each student creating, in my opinion, the best models I have ever received as a teacher.





## Physical Education

This term children in year 8 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.

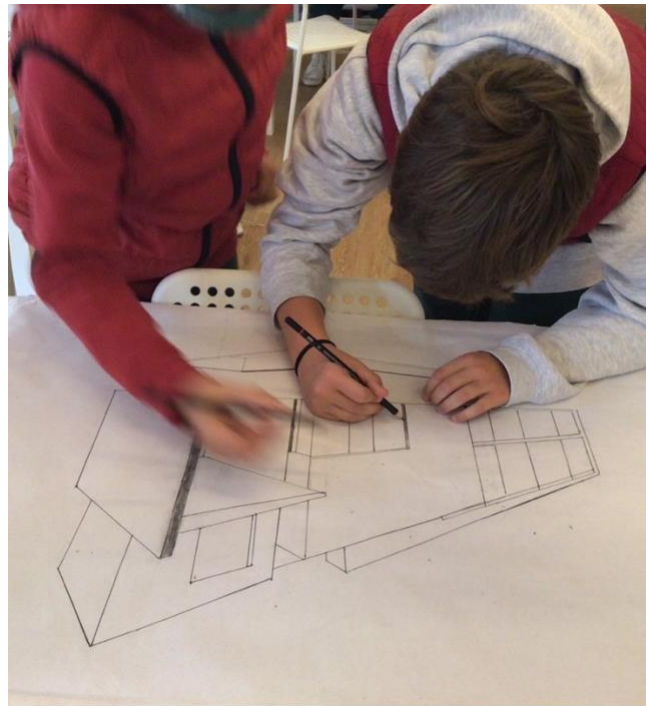


## Art

This term pupils have worked hard to develop and improve their technical drawing skills. Pupils have become more confident in being able to identify a horizon line and work to vanishing points in one-, two- and three-point perspective. Pupils have scaled up their work to create A1 work with added shading detail using tone, with some exploring the use of string to give their work an additional dimension. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow and in recent weeks pupils thoroughly enjoyed making their own Christmas wreath from using natural resources from the Dallington School Garden. I was really impressed to see their creativity flourish and I am looking forward to seeing their progress next term.



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### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, it has been a very active term and students have been engaged in a range of activities. Again, I would like to take this moment to share my thanks with you all and I hope that you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

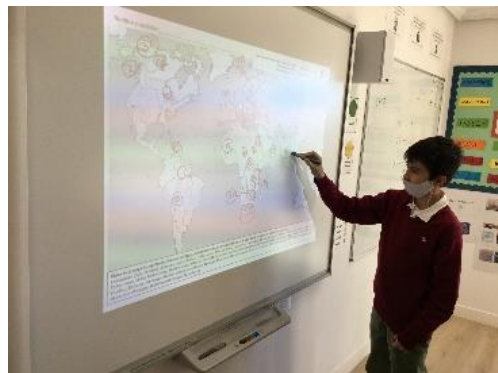
Mrs O' Connell



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 su proceso de aprendizaje durante este primer trimestre.

En la asignatura de Español hemos disfrutado de dos proyectos en los que Lengua y Geografía 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, “La coordenada exacta”, comenzó con un reto inicial en el que jugamos a “¡Tocado y cazado!”. Se trata de una versión del clásico juego “Hundir la flota”, adaptada a la Geografía. De este modo, los alumnos aprendieron y pusieron en práctica nuevos términos como “coordenadas”, “meridianos”, “paralelos”, “latitud” y “longitud”. Durante este proyecto también estudiaron la representación de la Tierra, así como la formación del relieve. Además, las noticias de actualidad sobre la erupción del volcán de la Palma nos permitieron relacionar directamente los contenidos con la realidad.



Por otra parte, Y8 se adentró en el mapa físico del mundo, identificando el nombre y la ubicación de los diferentes accidentes geográficos. Como producto final, crearon y adaptaron sus propios recursos literarios inspirándose en los conceptos aprendidos. Así, surgieron paranomasias, anáforas y símiles muy divertidos y didácticos.

En cuanto al segundo proyecto, se presentó bajo el *topic* “H2O”. En esta ocasión reté a los alumnos de Y8 a resolver un cuestionario con ayuda de códigos BIDI, personalizados mediante la aplicación *Plickers*. De este modo, descifraron las respuestas a preguntas relacionadas con las aguas en el mundo, sin olvidar los contenidos vinculados a Lengua, como el texto, el sustantivo y algunas reglas ortográficas.

A lo largo del proyecto, Y8 reflexionó sobre la importancia del agua en la Tierra. Me gustaría destacar el esfuerzo de los alumnos en las diferentes dinámicas y, en especial, identificando ríos, mares y lagos en el mundo. Por último, presentaron un Cuaderno de Bitácora que escribieron a lo largo del proyecto y que les sirvió como apoyo para el estudio de las asignaturas.





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 cariño,

Miss Jessica