

# TEAM BLATCH



Online Learning Bulletin

5th February 2021



# Online Learning Bulletin

Dear Team Blatch,

Welcome to the next edition of our online bulletin.

It's fantastic to see the wide range of work that Blatch students are undertaking whilst learning at home. Their hard work and effort is producing excellent work and we are so proud of their achievements.

Our staff, across the school, continue to work incredibly hard to support our students to learn. Thank you to everyone who is playing your part in helping our students to continue to thrive in all they do.

We hope you enjoying reading and looking at our students' work.



## Spanish

Year 11 Spanish students have been writing about where they went on holiday last year and the writing below is virtually flawless; exceptional use of the preterite tense!

El año pasado fui de vacaciones a Madrid, viajé en tren. Pienso que fue interesante pero el viaje duró diez horas. ¡Qué aburrido! Mi familia y yo nos alojamos en un apartamento en el centro de Madrid. El primer día visitamos muchos monumentos históricos y comimos paella en un restaurante. El segundo día fuimos a una corrida de toros, fue único pero en mi opinión es una mala tradición, es muy brutal. Recientemente, he viajado a Escocia con mis amigos, lo pasé bien porque las vistas del mar son muy bonitas y sacamos muchas fotos. Pero, recuerdo cuando me perdí en la playa porque mi móvil no tenía mucha energía.

Oscar B



# Drama

In Year 7, students have continued studying 'Darkwood Manor' and creating their own ghost stories!

## THE CELLAR

Once upon time there was a couple who moved to a new house. The house was close to a park where children could play and have fun. There were four bedrooms in the house and one cellar.

The couple had a little cat called Tabby. Tabby did not like the cellar. Everytime she passed it she started hissing and all her hair went on end.

The cellar was cold, empty and dark. The husband decided to go there and he brought a lamp with him. When he was downstairs he suddenly went cold. There was a shadow of a little girl with long dark hair staring at him. The husband dropped the lamp and the lamp smashed. He felt a cold shiver down his spine. He swatted the damp air but nothing was there. He could feel he was not the only one in the cellar.

Suddenly his wife shouted to him if he was ok there. He said he needed a torch. His wife went downstairs with a torch. She did not like what she saw... her husband was holding a string of dark hair in his hand and there was a girl with dark hair standing behind him. She screamed. When she looked again at him the girl was gone.

Nina P-P



# Drama

Many moons ago - precisely 13 years - a terrible tragedy occurred at Darkwood Manor. The mansion was originally a place for a Lord to supervise his slaves when they were cutting down trees to clear a place for a village - hence the name "Darkwood", in the years where they made advancements to mechanical items. The locals say, oh the things that say, one day a slave died. This might seem rather random, but that slave was from a rather... strange family. They say that his sister was a witch, living solitary in the forest they were cutting down. The Lord's son was playing around, and he accidentally caused the death of this slave. Such an act of stupidity would cost this family their souls. The witch was a kind soul, yet she flew into a rage when she heard of the death of her brother. She cursed the little boy, and his descendants after him to suffer misfortune and death before they turned 17. Years passed, and many moons turned to sun, as the seasons changed. The last living descendant of the Lord still lived in the grand country abode. This particular individual had managed to make it to 30 years of age, and there was only one section of the curse left to complete before it was lifted. He had to harvest the soul from the last living descendant of the witch. His name was Magnus Campbell, and the witch's descendant was named Andromeda Brown, or as she told her friends to call her, Andie. Magnus and Andie were the complete polar opposites, yet they complimented each other like no other. Eventually they wedded each other and had three beautiful children, who Andie and Magnus loved more than anything. One day, Magnus took the children shopping. Andie had a few errands to run, so she came with them. As she went off to buy groceries, she had a strange feeling in stomach - if she had known any better she would've said it was a premonition. As she came back, they were nowhere in sight. She called his phone, 13 times. No answer. She then called the police. "Hello, what is your emergency?"

"My husband and children are missing," she cried

Days passed, still no sight of them. She heard a knock at the door. It was the police, with a grim expression on their faces. "We're very sorry to inform you, your children and husband are dead. We found their bodies a few hours ago, by the lake."

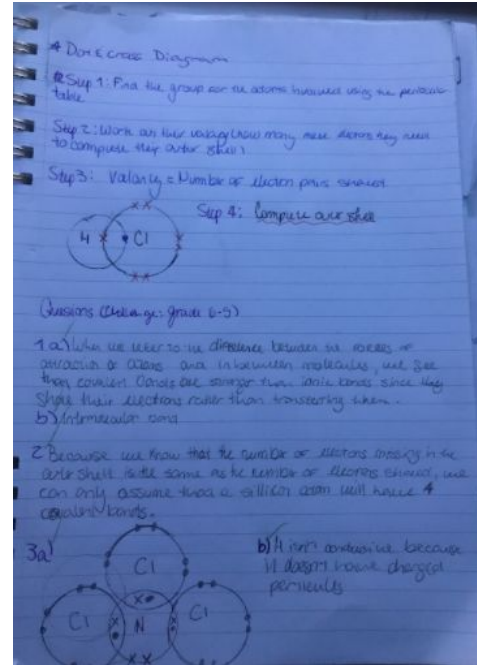
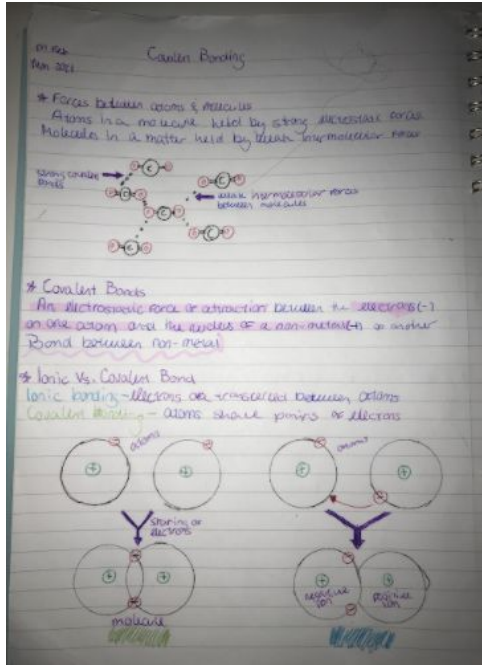
Mrs Brown couldn't live there anymore. Wake up expecting a cuddle and a kiss, when all she received was silence, and empty, cold air. The curse had struck again, leaving her a widow, and a childless mother.



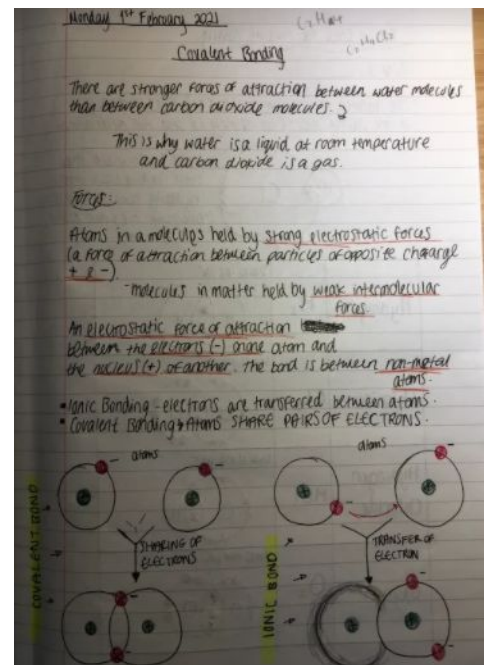
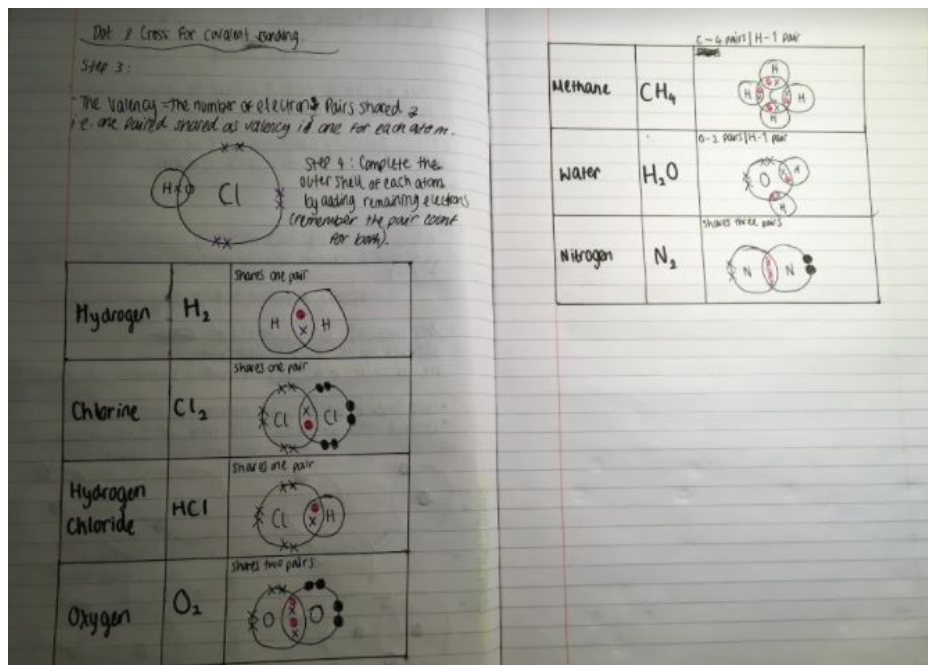


# Science

In Year 10 Science, Mrs Cahill's class have been learning about bonding (ionic, covalent and metallic).



Leticia G



Lola M



# Science

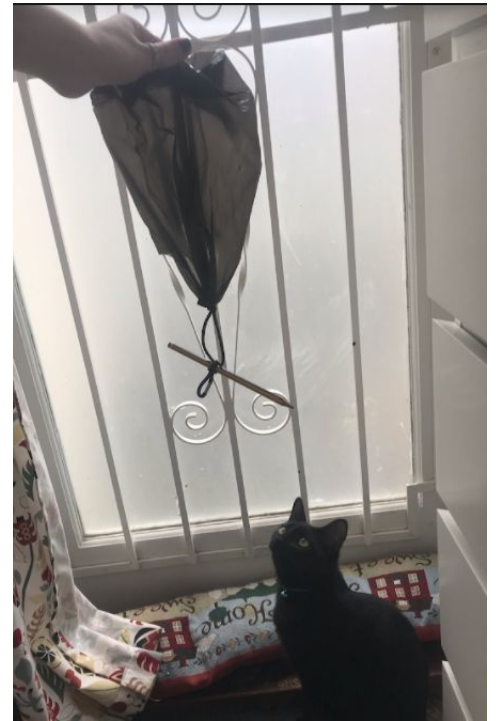
Also in Science, Mrs Hamilton's Year 9 class have completed some excellent practical work on air resistance. Take a look at their parachute's below!



Maya - 9B

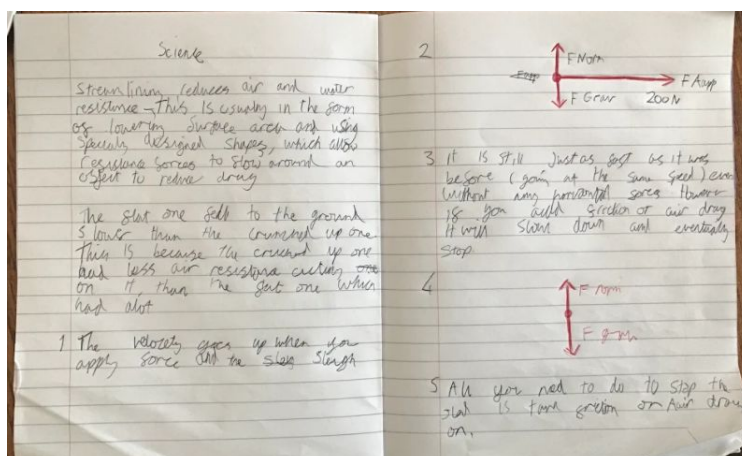
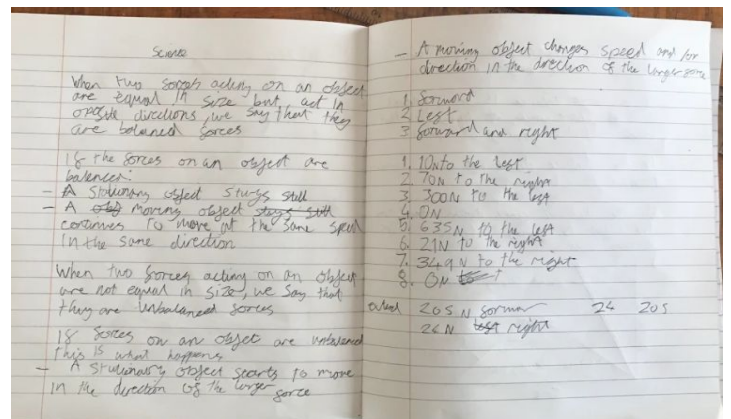
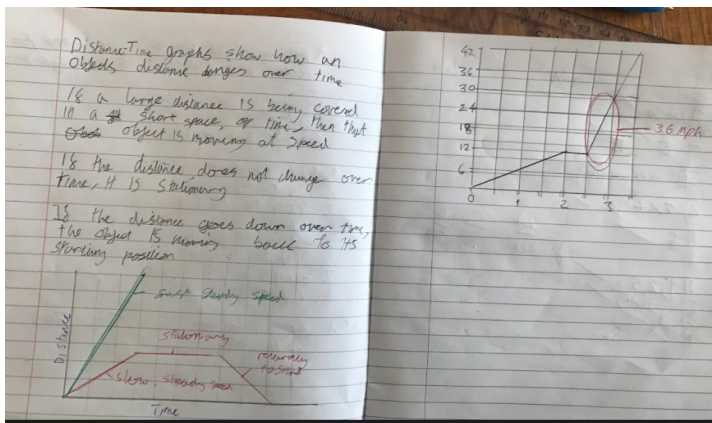


Johnny - 9B



Sebnem - 9B

Also in year 9 Science, Bobby in 9L completed this excellent work on resultant forces and distance-time graphs.





# PSHE

In PSHE, year 7 students have been learning friendship skills and the traits 'Caring, Integrity and Congeniality'. One of the skills of congeniality is humour and so we asked year 7 to tell us a joke!

**Why did the bike fall over ? It was two tired**

Someone asked me to make a donation for a swimming pool. So I gave them a glass of water.

**What do you call cheese that's not your cheese? Nacho cheese**

**Why do bees have sticky hair?  
Because they use a honeycomb**

**Lots of people cry when they cut onions but the trick is not to form an emotional bond**

**A man walks into a bar. Ouch.**

**When is the best time to go to the dentist? At tooth-hurty.**

**Why did the nurse need a red pen at work? In case she needed to draw blood.**

**What did the traffic light say to the car? Don't look, I'm about to change!**

**Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards? He was just going through a stage.**

**I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger.  
Then it hit me.**

**What do you call a fish with no eyes? Fsh**

**There were two fish in a tank and one said to the other, "Any idea how to drive this thing?"**

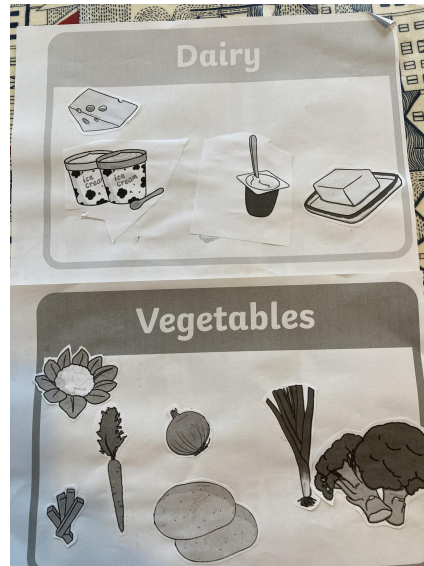
**What did the science book say to the maths book.... "Wow, you've got problems".**





## PSHE

Also in PSHE, Nancy L in year 11 completed some excellent work in her Healthy Eating unit this week!



## Art

In Art this week, Miss Baker was really impressed with these pieces of KS3 work.



Ellie S C



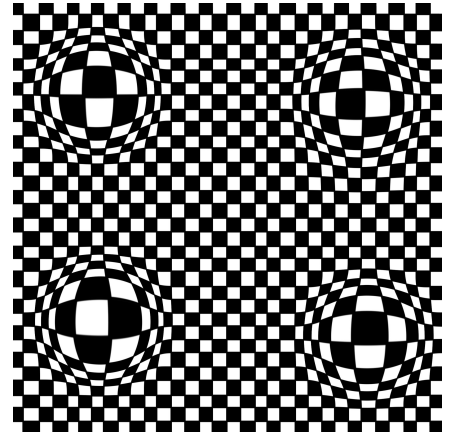
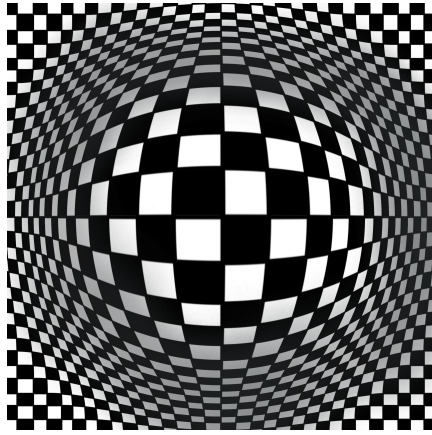
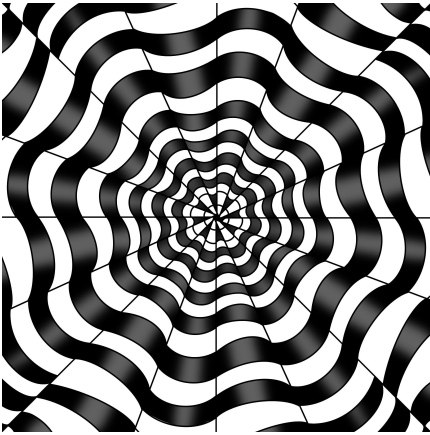
Leni T



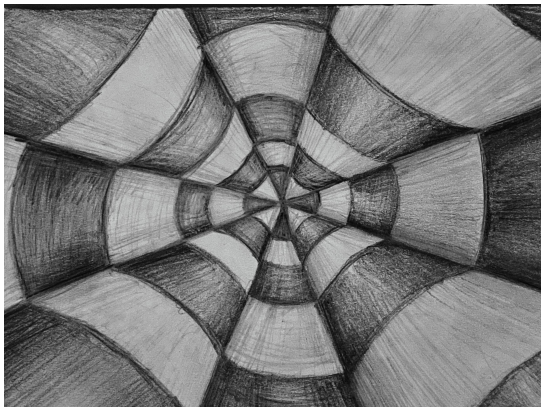


# Art

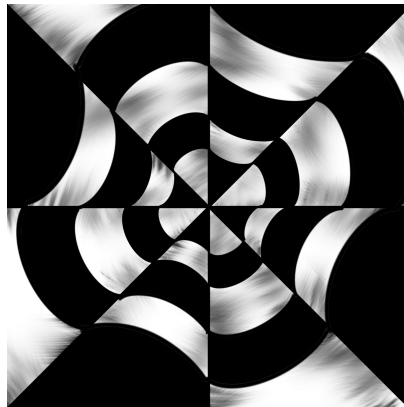
Meanwhile in Miss Bradley's KS3 Art classes, students have been extending their knowledge and understanding of Op Art. They have made some great mathematically based work in response to the artist Victor Vasarely. Students were given the choice to work digitally or using materials they could find easily at home.



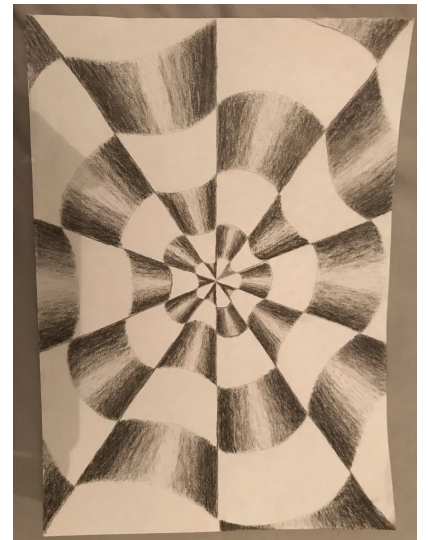
All 3 above by Sam A



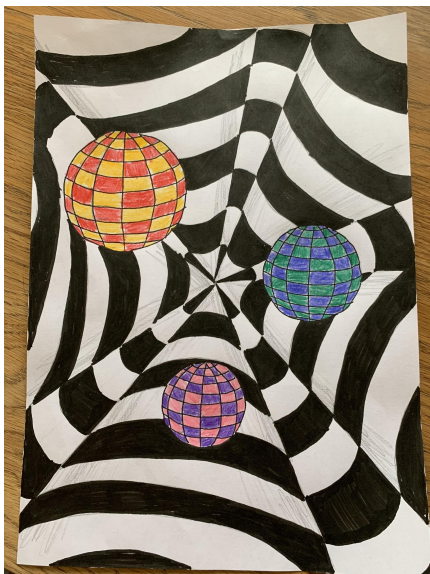
Eva B



Nolah B



Denis G



Indi D



Ruru T



Harley M L





# Art

Also in Art, Miss Messent was really impressed with these Year 9 students' research on artist Georgia O'Keeffe.



## Georgia O'Keeffe

Georgia O'Keeffe was born November 15th, 1887 and was the second child of seven. She grew up on a farm in Wisconsin and by the time she graduated from high school she was determined to be an artist. Georgia spent the early years of her life studying in NYC in the Art Students League in NY. It was there that she learned the techniques of traditional painting however her career shifted massively when four years later she studied the revolutionary ideas of Arthur Wesley Dow which offered her an alternative way to think about art. She found this a better way to express her innermost feelings and ideas. Georgia began to mail some of her highly abstract drawings to a friend in NYC who shared it with Georgia's future husband, a renowned photographer at the time, who then exhibited her work in 1916. Georgia began to become quite the popular artist and by the 1920's she was seen as one of America's most valued artists.



## Georgia



The style of work that Georgia O'Keeffe created is what is described as abstract which means that her work was based on an idea or thought but had no real existence or physical state. For example one of her pieces of work called 'Rivalry' shows a mixture of paints and colours mixed around a lighthouse which of course would never be real but it was based on the idea of light which was real in her mind. Her work usually features an explosion of colours all mixed together almost like paint exploding in the water, it holds a sense of calmness and de stress. Her unique way of painting, simplifys life's shapes and forms into a much calmer and more tranquil state. As for the materials she used, she took a particular liking to watercolour, charcoal and oil- all very popular techniques of art at the time

## Georgia O'Keeffe

I personally think that Georgia O'Keeffe was very brave to create the type of art that she did at the time as society was very open to ideas I think that that helped to inspire her and she inspired many artists to go out there with there painting and just fully express themselves no matter what others said.



Ciara B

## Georgia O'Keeffe

Georgia O'Keeffe was born in Wisconsin United States but lived in New Mexico for most of her life. She was born on the 15th November in 1887 and died the 6th of March 1986 making her 98 years old.



## Georgia O'Keeffe

She began liking art when she was 12 and went to an art school but didn't like what she got taught there because it wasn't relevant to the way she wanted to do art. She's mainly known for doing American modernism and that's what you'll see in all her artwork.

Her style of work looks very colourful and bright and I like it because it looks very clean and the designs look very cool.

Georgia's paintings are very simple but the lines and shapes she does add a lot of sculpture and uniqueness. The media she uses is a variety of pastel, charcoal, oil and watercolours which she'll combine with the curves and shapes she makes while painting.

Lois M





## Art

Mr Lister was also impressed by his Year 11 students' reflection projects this week. Take a look at couple of examples below.



Leia B



Leia B



Lola T





# History

In History, students have been producing some excellent work on the Spanish Armada. Here are some excellent pieces of work by Year 8 students, discussing the hypothesis that the Armada failed because of bad luck.

I disagree with the idea that bad luck was the main reason why the Spanish Armada failed to invade England in the summer of 1588.

One reason I think this is because luck didn't affect every single part of the Armada, instead it only dealt the killing blow. I believe this as the Spanish ships were already badly damaged and being haunted by English ships when the storms came and destroyed them. By then it seems as if the Spanish ships cannot recover, and even if less were destroyed and more made it back to Spain, that Armada had still failed. Instead, I think that it was a variety of other causes that caused the Armada's failure, and got it to the state where a storm almost wiped it out. However luck might have made more of a difference earlier on, where Philip would have chosen an experienced naval commander in the Marquis of Santa Cruz, but chose the far less experienced Duke of Medina Sidonia due to the former's untimely death. But I think in an empire as vast and large as the Spanish at that time, there surely could have been an experienced naval commander that wasn't across the Atlantic, and so I think it was more a Spanish mistake.

A second reason I made this decision is because the Spanish fleet wouldn't have been forced to run and break their unbreakable crescent formation if not for Spanish communication errors. The Spanish docked at Calais, expecting a force of 30,000 led by the Duke of Parma waiting for them. But due to issues in communication there was no invading force waiting for them, and so they had to dock at Calais to wait. This allowed the English to send fireships to break up the formation of the Spanish ships and disperse the Armada, making it far easier to attack. This led to far more being damaged, although few were sunk, meaning that the later storms did far more damage.

A third reason why I think this is because the Spanish were not prepared for naval warfare that the English forced them to engage in. The English hung back, using their greater speed and maneuverability to stay far away. The traditional Spanish tactic of boarding required close combat, which was prevented in this style of warfare. This meant they had to rely on their cannons, which were far more complicated to fire due to their complexity. An experienced English gunner could fire every minute, whereas it was estimated that the Spanish guns only fired one an hour. The English therefore far outgunned the Spanish and again may not have sunk many, but would have damaged them, leading to the killing blow. Overall, I think luck played a factor in the defeat of the Spanish Armada, but if not for some unwise choices and not being quite prepared, that factor would be far more minor.



I agree to some extent with the idea that bad luck was the main reason why the Spanish Armada failed to invade England in the summer of 1588. One reason I think this is because of the bad weather around Scotland and Ireland, which destroyed lots of the Armada (of course the Spanish couldn't do anything about this) shows the effect of bad luck. But I still think something like this could've been avoided if some better decisions were made.

For example there were other factors that also had a bigger influence on the outcome of the battle. For example King Philip II wanted Marquis of Santa Cruz to lead the Spanish Armada (a good decision as he had a lot of naval experience) but then he died (bad luck for the Spanish). This bad luck wouldn't have a huge effect on the battle if another experienced commander was chosen, but the mistake that Philip then made would. He chose the Duke of Medina-Sidonia who had no experience as naval commander (some say he was even sea sick) this bad luck did have an effect but Philip's bad decision had an even greater effect on the battle.

Also, even though the Spanish had some bad luck at one point they had luck on their side; this was when they were sailing to Calais. The English Navy were trapped by the tide at Plymouth (a great advantage in the battle) but as the Spanish commander had no experience he just blindly followed orders and sailed past. This is another example of bad decision making not bad luck.

It's worth noting that also the Spanish ships weren't well stocked with the right guns this meant they fired less than the British as they were more complicated, another example of a lack of planning not a lack of luck.



# History

**I agree, to some extent, with the idea that bad luck was the main reason why the Spanish Armada failed to invade England in the summer of 1588.**

**One reason I think this is because originally King Phillip II of Spain chose the Marquis of Santa Cruz to lead the Armada and he was a very experienced naval commander. But he died before the Armada set sail so the Duke of Medina-Sidonia had to command it but he was less experienced. This is probably why some of the mistakes were made as he had less knowledge of naval battles. One of the biggest reasons that the Armada failed was that it had to return to Spain by sailing around Scotland and Ireland. Dangerous storms sunk lots of ships and food and water ran out also. Many soldiers died of disease and infections. These are all unlucky events**

**A second reason I made this decision is that there were also mistakes made by the Armada that could have been easily avoided. And the English made lots of right choices too. For example when King Philip II then chose the Duke of Medina-Sidonia he could have chosen someone else who had more experience. Another point is when the English Navy was trapped by the tide at Plymouth the Duke of Medina-Sidonia sailed past to reach Calais to pick up the soldiers. If he had attacked then the English fleet would have been at a massive disadvantage.**

**A third reason why I think this is, is the mistake not to attack the English led to more bad luck and mistakes. When the Armada sailed past England, England spotted them and lit up beacons around the country and while the Armada collected troops they prepared for battle. The English had lots of time because the Duke of Parma's soldiers hadn't heard that the Armada was on its way and so were not at the planned meeting point. This bad luck meant that The Armada had to anchor and wait near Calais until the soldiers arrived. This is a good decision from England and a mistake from Spain and is probably one of the biggest reasons the Armada failed.**

**In conclusion the reason the Spanish Armada failed to take over England is a combination of mistakes from Spain, good decisions from England and bad luck, so I agree to some extent with the statement 'The main reason the Spanish Armada failed was because it was unlucky'.**



# History

I agree to some extent with the idea that bad luck was the main reason why the Spanish Armada failed to invade England in the summer of 1588.

One reason I think this is because the Spanish, firstly, made various crucial decisions or choices that didn't turn out to be as good as expected. For example, King Philip chose *Duke of Medina-Sidonia* as the next commander. He is said to be relatively inexperienced and not necessarily the best option... In a way, the Duke of Medina-Sidonia shouldn't really take *all* the blame for simply following what the king said (to avoid the English at all costs). We get the idea that maybe if he had been more daring and done something independent it might be successful; but, he decided to go back to the meeting point of Calais instead of taking the chance when the English were trapped at Plymouth.

A second reason I made this decision is because there were - as well as Spanish *mistakes* - misfortunes. The Duke of Parma's soldiers in favor hadn't actually heard that the Armada was going to pick them up at Calais, the meeting point. So, they *weren't there*. Because of this, the Armada had to drop the anchor and just wait near Calais. They, however, also faced really bad stormy weather as they made their way back.

A third reason why I think this is because the English Navy did many things successfully, also because of a bit of luck *and* good tactics. Such as, when they initiated the Battle of Gravelines - by using fire ships to split the Armada up. Other reasons to do with the designing and structure of the boats used also came up - e.g. the English had somewhat *smaller* boats, that, however, were faster to maneuver. Overall, the Spanish were not just *unlucky* here and there, but also made their own mistakes which led them to having to abandon the plan of the invasion.

Don't forget to share any work, photos, or learning tips with us on Twitter [@blatchmill](https://twitter.com/blatchmill)



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