

TEAM BLATCH



Online Learning Bulletin

29th January 2021



Online Learning Bulletin

Dear Team Blatch,

Welcome to the next edition of our online bulletin.

This week's work again illustrates the wide range of topics our students are learning about each week. The creativity and thoughtfulness of our students' responses to their learning is wonderful to see and testament to how hard they're all working at home.

We continue to be incredibly grateful to everyone in our community who is working so hard to support our students with their learning, thank you for all you are doing.



English

Ms McKenzie was really impressed by Ellie-Ann V's version of the Great Expectations ending. Take a read below!

Pip sat next to the two gravestones and lay lilies on the left grave and purple hyacinths on the other. Pip's aged and wrinkled face squinted at the weathered gravestones and gave them a good wipe to reveal the two names; Abel Magwitch and Estella Havisham.

He sat on the grass and thought back to the first time he met both of them; Estella beckoning to him vigorously with a slightly taut expression from a crack in the door, Magwitch clutching Pip and spitting on his face as he requested food and a file.

Pip's sight blurred and he stroked the rigid gravestone and recalled Magwitch on his deathbed speaking his last words and the dread he felt then. He also recalled him receiving the letter, which informed him of Estella's death in a landslide. He clutched his chest and tears rolled down his lined face as rain started to pour down on them.



English

Ipseh M in Year 10 completed this excellent analysis on the poem 'Mother, any distance'.

1. Read or listen to the poem now for a second time.

2. Answer each of these questions:



1. How does the mother help her son?

Measuring windows, doors, walls and floors

2. What does the tape measure represent?

The link between the mother and son, the 'tether' that holds the speaker to his mother

3. What do you think 'space-walk' means?

Walking like you're on the moon and there's no gravity- it implies that the new house and his future is unfamiliar, unexplored territory like space

4. Comment on the meaning of the last line and what it tells us about the poet's thoughts on his **future**: "Endless sky / to fall or fly".

He is unsure of what will happen, and feels as if the possibilities are endless and unpredictable. He doesn't know whether he will fly (succeed) or fall (live an unsuccessful life)

LANGUAGE Analysis

1. Line 4: 'acres' and 'prairies'. What do these two images suggest about how the poet feels in his new home and the future there? It suggests that the poet sees his new home as a vast, empty, unknown, huge place: his future is huge and anything can happen. He is no longer in the small shelter of his childhood home, but in huge acres and acres of empty space where anything can happen, good or bad.

2. Lines 12-13: how and why does Armitage return to the image of the tape measure later on in the poem? The tape measure represents the relationship between the mother and son, and as the poem progresses the distance between the mother's end of the tape measure and the son's end grows longer and longer. He returns to the image later in the poem to show how the gap is increasing, and how he is leaving his mother to live alone.

3. Line 8: 'Anchor. Kite.' How do these two images contrast?

Whilst an anchor reminds us of stability, safety and being tethered to the ground, a kite has connotations of freedom, lightness, and exploration. They symbolise very opposite ideas.

4. "something has to give" in verse 3 might mean one of them is going to have to 'let go' and that they can't hold-on forever with things staying exactly as they are. Why not? The poem is stuck on the threshold of two worlds: whilst he is climbing up the ladder through the house to his future life alone, he is also tethered by the tape measure to the familiar world of his past, with his mother. He can't balance in the middle forever, he has to let go.

STRUCTURE Analysis

5. Why does the poem start with the word 'Mother'? What's the effect of this? It is almost as if he is addressing his mother, speaking to her, and dedicating the poem to her.

6. Where does the narrator go as the poem develops? How does this movement symbolise the changing relationship? He travels up through the house to the loft. This symbolises how he is moving forwards in his life, towards his future, up and away from his mother and the security she represents.

7. Anchor. Kite.' Why do you think this image is placed right in the centre of the poem? The poet is balancing in the very middle of his future and his past; his family and his own life. Therefore this metaphor is placed in the very middle of the poem to reflect the poet being in the middle. He is standing in his house with his mother behind him and the sky in front of him, and the poem starts with the word "mother" and ends with "an endless sky to fall or fly".

8. Why does the poem end up in the loft, with the narrator looking out to 'an endless sky'? It represents the fact that the narrator has broken free from his past, away from his mother, and the last we see of him is when he is looking straight towards the sky (symbolising his future) and away from his mother (symbolising his past).

9. Sonnets are 14 lines long and about love. This poem follows a loose sonnet structure. Why has Armitage chosen this form for his poem? Armitage has chosen this form for his poem maybe because he wanted to link the theme of his mother to the theme of love: he feels great emotion towards her, which is what sonnets are usually about.



English

Also in English, Year 11 students have produced excellent pieces of writing in response to Laurie Lee's writing about the Aberfan disaster.

The writer uses language to give the coal tips an ominous and dark feel and to describe them as dangerous and sinister. The seventh coal tip is specifically described as the most evil for example in the metaphor 'a killer with a rotten heart'. The adjective 'rotten' implies that it was malevolent and evil and relates it to decay and death and the whole phrase 'rotten heart' implies that it was evil all the way to the core. The use of personification suggests that the coal tip was there with the intent to deliberately kill the children, rather than it simply being an accident, which further reinforces the idea that the coal tip was villainous and evil. Overall, the writer uses this metaphor to show just how malicious the tragedy felt by suggesting the coal tip had planned to murder and cause this catastrophe due to its destructive essence.

Also, the writer uses language to portray the coal tips as ominous and unwanted in the phrase 'dumped by the hand of God'. This implies that even God did not want the coal tips and so discarded them in Aberfan. This image is particularly powerful as God is supposed to be loving of everything and creates everything with care but the coal tips were so horrible that they were 'dumped' on the mountain. The writer's use of juxtaposition here creates the idea that the coal tips were undesired and quickly disregarded by God because of their cruelty. It also suggests that God did not care about Aberfan as He put the coal tips there and they then later caused ... this devastation to the village. It implies that the coal tips were created higher presence which then could absolve the Coal Board from any responsibility or blame for the accident.

The writer continues to describe the coal tips as dark and threatening which can be seen in the phrase 'rising like black pyramids in the western sky'. The verb 'rising' makes me think of the sun rising however this phrase implies the dark coal tips are the first things seen from the village as they rise, rather than the sun. This gives the village a foreboding feel as the ominous coal tips are overlooking it and possibly casting shadows down. The verb 'rising' also implies that the coal tips are always growing and getting bigger. The adjective 'black' implies that they are dark and evil and stand out against the 'western sky'. The phrase 'black pyramids' links the coal tips to the Egyptian pyramids however their description drastically contrasts the pyramids in Egypt. For example, the pyramids are stable structures whereas the coal tips are described as being 'not as solid' and they had 'inched ominously'. The pyramids are great wonders of the world that are popular tourist attractions whereas the coal tips are 'black' and unwanted, this comparison highlights this negatives of the coal tips. Furthermore, the Egyptian pyramids held the tombs of pharaohs and this could foreshadow the fact that the coal tips would then 'smother' the children and become their tombs. This ominous description shows the danger and threat of the coal tips.



In this extract, the writer uses a simile to describe the coal tips. The quote 'rising like black pyramids in the western sky' creates the image that the coal tips are looming ominously over Aberfan, creating tension. By comparing them to the Pyramids of Egypt, the writer is suggesting that as the Pyramids are a quintessential part of Egypt, the coal tips are essential to Aberfan. The pyramids are historic, as are the coal tips - they feel like a part of Aberfan. This simile also creates a foreboding mood. The pyramids were used as tombs to bury people, linking to death of the children in Aberfan. The adjective 'black' intensifies this image as it doesn't distract the reader from the shape and size of the coal tips, but it more acts as a base idea. Furthermore, the verb 'rising' suggests that the coal tips are always being added to and that it is inevitable at some point that they will cause a disaster. This makes the reader feel tense.

The quote 'fatal seeping of water was turning tip 7 into a mountain of muck' puts the blame of the accident onto the water. The verb 'seeping' sounds malevolent and makes the reader feel as though the mud has been building up for a long time (possibly that it should have been noticed earlier). The noun 'mountain' describes the immense size of the coal tips, and makes it seem like they are towering over Aberfan. The alliteration of the letter 'm' sounds solid and hard like rocks, making the mountain imagery stronger. The use of the adjective 'fatal' foreshadows to the reader that the mud will kill someone. The action of the water seeping is fatal, putting the blame on the water, and not the people that put the coal there. The reader feels like it is inevitable that the tip will kill someone at some point.

The quote 'wave of stupefying filth' describes how the mud renders the children helpless. This metaphor makes the 'filth' seem so powerful that it is unstoppable, making the reader feel distraught for the children. The adjective 'stupefying' makes the mud slide appear very strong and all powerful, so much that it makes anything it touches unable to think or feel properly. The noun 'wave' makes the mud seem very liquid and fluid, like a wave, but also compares it to the devastation of a tsunami. The noun 'filth' makes the reader feel disgusted with the dirt and muck that makes up the coal tips, and as a result more sympathetic for the children.



Geography

In Geography this week, Hannah L completed some excellent work on China's One Child Policy. Take a look below!

The One Child Policy could be considered positive, because without the policy the country would be swimming in poverty and the whole of China would be overrun. Additionally, if you did abide to the rules, you could be rewarded with free healthcare and a private education. This would be a positive impact because healthcare and private tuition fees can be really expensive and a lot of people might need it.

However, the One Child Policy also had many negative results, for example China now do not have enough children to replace the current population. This will have a major impact on the economy and military, their power and wealth would fall. Another reason why it would be considered negative, is that now China is experiencing an ageing population and the government is having to spend more money on hospitals and healthcare. This shows us that if the government hadn't placed the One Child Policy, then there would be enough medical doctors to support the weak and elderly.

In conclusion, I believe that the One Child Policy was good to some extent for the wellbeing of China. I think this because China's government had to do something to stop the vast population overgrowth and they managed to accomplish that, but then I also think that they could have tackled the situation in a different less threatening way.

If the One Child Policy was introduced into the UK, I think that there would be massive protests and then the government would have to eventually give up the idea. It would damage children's wellbeing and corrupt the government as they already have so many educational barriers in place. As well as this, England's population compared to China's is relatively small so there would be no need to enforce such an act.

China could have come at their problem from a different direction, for example they could have given women more rights, so that they could have more educational experiences and this could maybe make them choose to lead a more educational life than a family one. On TV, they can stream educational entertainment on reproduction, helping women learn.

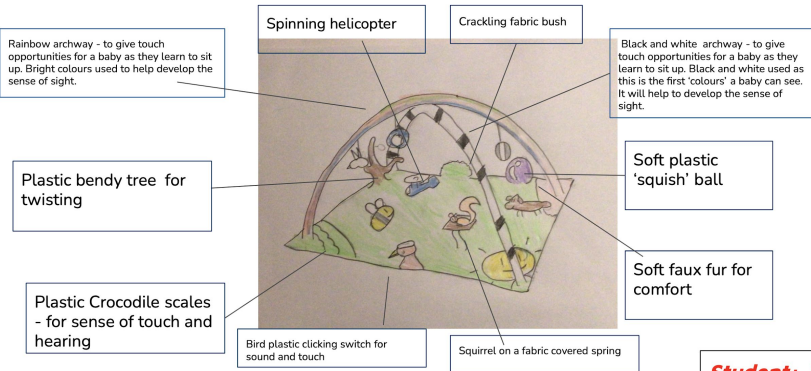


Design

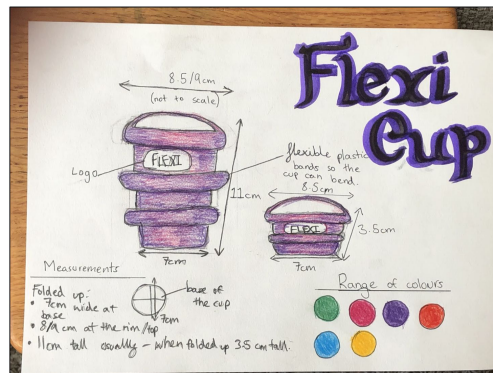
In Design & Technology, year 7 students have been working on their ideas for The Design Museum competition. Mr McCormick was so impressed by all the students' designs and here are just a few of them!

Design & Technology - The Design Museum Competition - January 2021. **Lesson 6**

Student: Sam - 7GG - Lesson 6



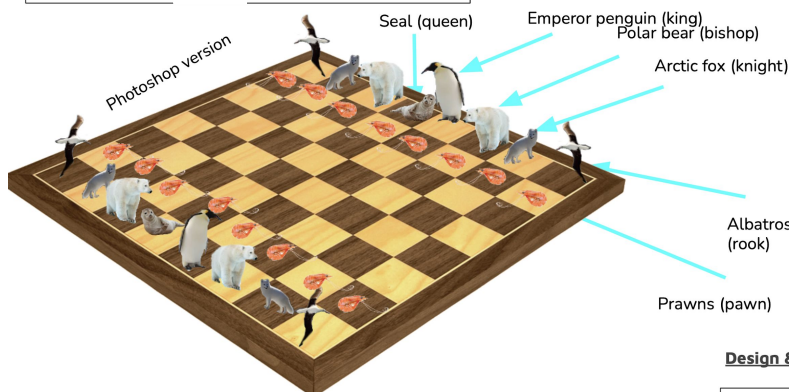
Student: Mia - 7GG - Lesson 6



The flexi cup is a plastic cup made specifically to help carry liquids on transport. It's portable and can get as small as 3.5cm when folded up whilst also being as big as 11cm when open. It's lightweight and can carry hot and cold liquids. Also comes in a range of colours.

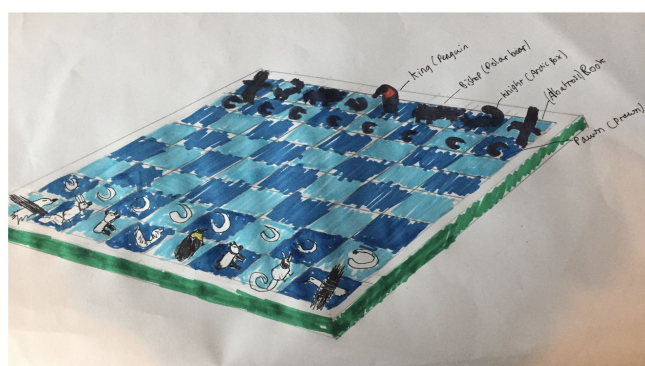
Design & Technology - The Design Museum Competition - January 2021. **Lesson 6**

Student: Ben - 7FF - Lesson 6



Design & Technology - The Design Museum Competition - January 2021. **Lesson 6**

Student: Ben - 7FF - Lesson 6



50 cm x 50cm
Approx £24.99

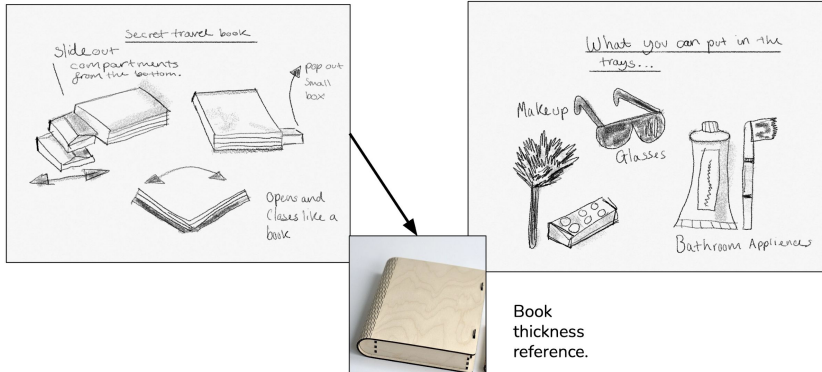


Design

Design & Technology - The Design Museum Competition - January 2021. Lesson 6

Student: Harry

7KK - Lesson 6



Design & Technology - The Design Museum Competition - January 2021. Lesson 6

Student: Harry

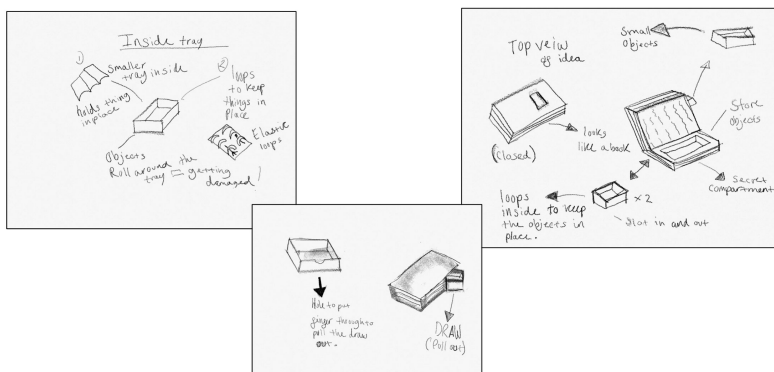
7KK - Lesson 6



Design & Technology - The Design Museum Competition - January 2021. Lesson 6

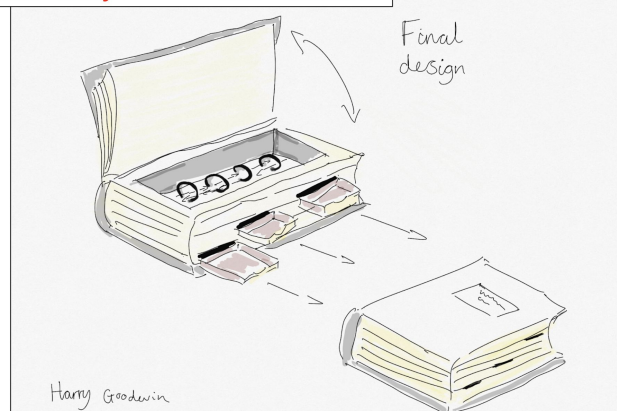
Student: Harry

7KK - Lesson 6



Student: Harry

7KK - Lesson 6





Science

In Year 8 Science, students have been producing some really creative work while studying the rock cycle!

'Ring Ring Ring' the bell went on everyone started rushing to class. Class 6G sat there in their seating plan waiting for their teacher. After 5 mins when all the girls started gossiping about where professor might be, a not very tall man came marching in and said out loud ' Hello everyone. I'm your substitute, professor George washingstone. You can call me professor. I like it that way.' he said speedily. 'So i believe this is your Science lesson...' he said while looking through his huge pile of unorganized papers and files. 'I can't find your lesson plan. Hmmm let me see...' he went on.



'Aha! Found it' he said with relief. 'Hmm so today you are doing Biology and in that you are learning about yourselves. Well you lot there have got a very fun lesson!' He said while smiling. 'What's so fun in it?' said Gloria. 'It's extremely boring and it seems so awful that you have to change your appearance' said Gloris in a rather frustrated way. 'Well i can understand. That's what i used to think when i was young but you know this is our life'. 'Well now let's stop this chit chat get on with our proper work'. 'So professor you mean that you have been through all 3 processes?' said Tom excited (he likes science!). 'Ah yes! Nice for you to ask'. 'Omg thats amazing! I wonder how it feels'. 'Well if you lot really wanna know why don't we skip all this boring lecture and have some actual fun!'. 'And what's that?' said Gloria. 'Well I am going to tell you my journey from when i was little up to now...'

'Well originally i was born as an igneous rock. I was formed inside the earth's core. When magma cooled down (inside the earth's core) it formed many rocks and one of them was me! I spent nearly 2 years of my life underground, being cooled down. But later when i got out and had a look around the earth to see i was astonished cause i saw dozens of fellow rocks. Many of my fellow told me that was very shiny and i indeed was and I was the shiniest rock my entire family! I event went travelling through the sea and I spent a lovely time in Hawaii sunbathing. But later on i realized i was becoming smaller. It was because I was being broken down as i travelled through the sea. I soon realized i was changing and becoming sediment. This was a hard time you know. Looking around seeing myself being broken down...' He stopped for a second and drank some water.

Hadia Q

Read as a poem or sung as a rap!

Metamorphic rocks deep under the ground, go deeper and deeper until magma is found.

Metamorphic rocks get too hot to handle, with high pressure they start to dismantle.

Then turn into magma, when pressure builds up, volcanoes erupt.

Igneous rocks are formed when magma is exposed to the air - extrusive or intrusive, crystals can be found everywhere.

Weathering, erosion and the effects of time, transform into sedimentary lime.

Pressure and time, gonna have their way.

Because sedimentary rocks are not here to stay.

And they turn into metamorphic rocks all over again.

The rock cycle!

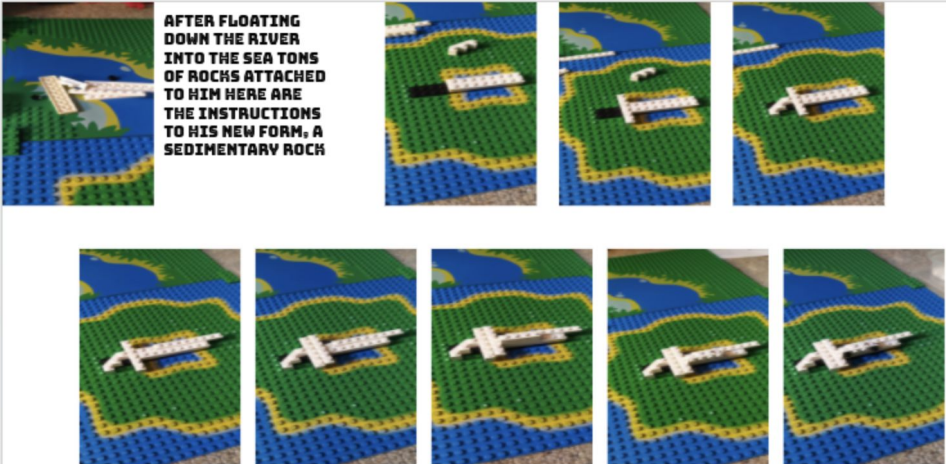


Zain A




Science

AFTER FLOATING DOWN THE RIVER INTO THE SEA TONS OF ROCKS ATTACHED TO HIM HERE ARE THE INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS NEW FORM, A SEDIMENTARY ROCK

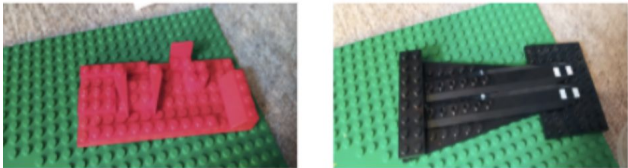


BUT THEN AS HE EDGED FURTHER AND FURTHER DOWN WITH THE PRESSURE IF FELL IN SOME MAGMA



THEN HE GOT FULLY ENGULFED IN IT...

YEARS PAST AND HE FINALLY GOT OUT AND BLASTED OUT.



HE THEN WAS FLUNG ON TO A NICE BIT OF LAND WHERE HE NOW WAS LAVA AND MAGMA.

THEN AFTER HE COOLED DOWN (VERY QUICKLY) HE BECAME SOMETHING MORE... AN IGNEOUS ROCK

Spike M

Rocking around the world

Sammy the sandstone, crumpling and pale
Is found in the cliff face where nearby boats sail.
Made up of crushed up pebbles shells and sand
A natural source made up from the land.
Inside dear Sammy lies a fantastic surprise
A tucked up fossil a poor insects demise.
Sammy is useful for building statues and homes,
Even as far as buildings in rome,
So you see Sammy the sandstone is an amazing rock
Sedimentry is his name found down by the docks

Ava J

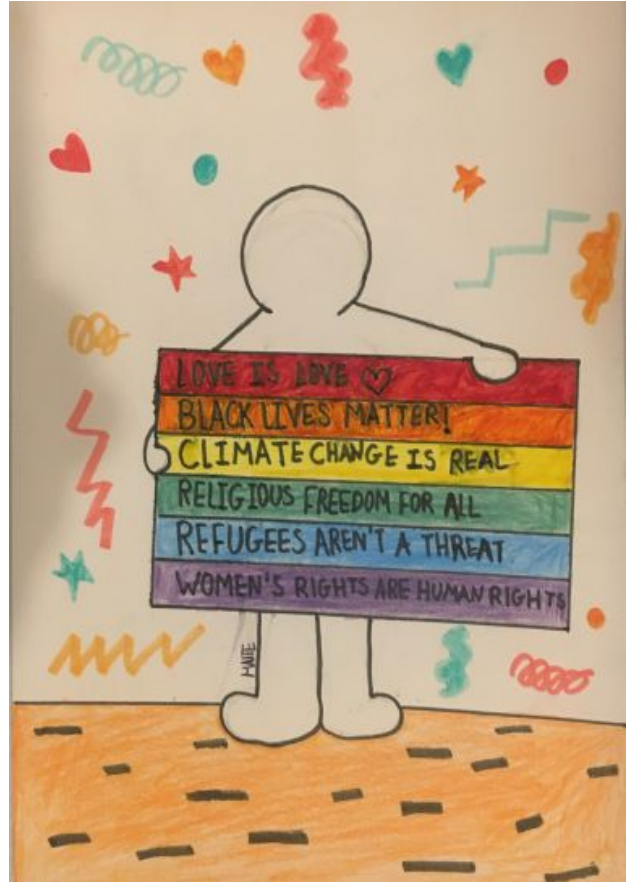


Art

Yet again, we've been incredibly impressed by our students' art work this week. Here is just a small selection of our students' masterpieces.



Richard P



Maite N



Diana M



Tova S



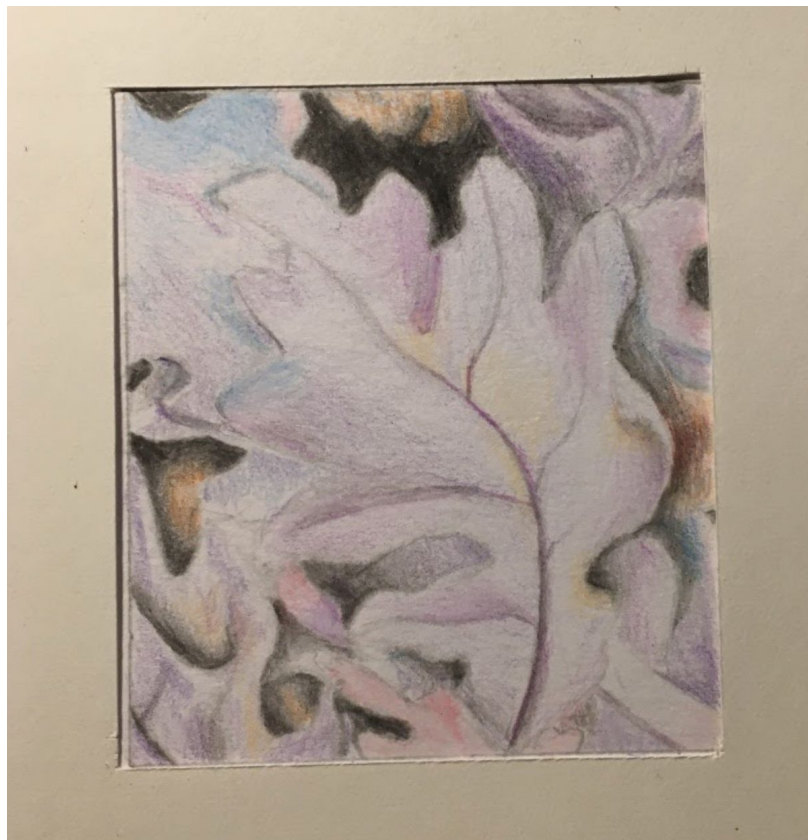
Art



Talia F



Sasha L



Madeleine M



Art



Jasmine D



Heidi H-W



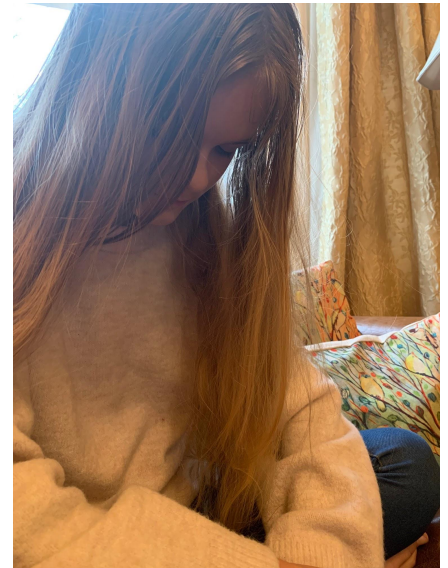
Abi S



Archie W



Active Heart Rate: 112	Heart Rate 5 minutes after exercise: 68
<p>Explain how you found the exercises</p> <p>I really enjoyed this circuit routine, i found the burpees the most difficult as they are very tiring, i find i really feel it in my triceps, i found press up great (i've been doing these with a new mat i got for christmas) i found the jackals gave me time to recover slightly before getting back into a challenging position for the drag through.</p>	





History

In History, Year 8 students have been answering the question; 'Do you agree or disagree with the hypothesis that the most significant Tudor monarch was King Henry VII?' Take a look at some of their great answers below.

I agree to some extent with the idea that King Henry VII was the most significant Tudor monarch.

A reason for this is, at the time of Elizabeth's reign, she had to overcome the Spanish armada attack. She did win which is what made her so well known. She had to fight independently with her own judgment which is what made her headstrong. Although Henry did win the battle of Bosworth field creating this line of Tudor monarchs. Had he not won, we may never have seen Elizabeth fight the Spanish armada. Nor Henry VIII marrying all 6 women. Henry VII was a good king but he may not be as significant as thought.

A second reason I made this decision is that Elizabeth was always pushed to marriage. She declined suitors constantly and people worried there would be no heir to the throne. At the time men degraded women and thought men should rule. The constant need for her to marry was out of faith in Elizabeth. Out of doubt, and the fact that she could not rule alone. This criticism came from almost every man with authority. Yet she managed to win the battle and save her country with no man by her side. This proved many people wrong. This puts Henry's achievements in the shadows.

A third reason is that Henry did one great thing. He won the battle against the house of York and won. But for the rest of his reign, he was a good king. He wasn't spectacular. The question is, is winning the battle of Bosworth field enough significance? Does it make him a good king? In my opinion, yes he did win the battle but that didn't make him a memorable monarch. Elizabeth is a memorable monarch. She independently beat the Spanish armada and also made a difference to the way people viewed women. This is why I agree to some extent.

Clara P N



History

I agree to some extent with the idea that King Henry VII was the most significant Tudor monarch.

One reason I think this is because Henry VII created peace and stability across England after winning the battle of Bosworth Field. This is significant because before 1485 there was a lot of tension and battling between the house of Lancaster and the house of York over who would become the next King of England. When Henry VII did become king he was intelligent and kept the peace. One way he did this was by marrying Elizabeth of York so the house wouldn't try and take the throne from Henry. Another reason why I think Henry was significant was that he started to make England a rich and powerful country and when he died he was still able to pass this on to Henry VIII.

A second reason why I agree to some extent is that other tudor monarchs did significant things and some are remembered even more than Henry VII. For example Henry VIII parted England from the Catholic Church and the Pope. This was a very significant decision from Henry VIII as it made him more money and got him more land but it also meant that a lot of workers at the Catholic churches lost their jobs. As well as that the decision caused tension and arguments between the Protestants and Catholics for centuries after. Also this parting with the Pope meant that England was vulnerable from more attacks from different countries as a cause of this religious difference.

A third reason why I think this is that Henry VII isn't remembered as much as his other tudor descendants. This might be because Henry VIII is remembered for having seven wives, two of which he beheaded, or Mary I is remembered because she was called Bloody Mary which is now used in nursery rhymes. As well as that, during his reign Henry VII didn't win a battle against another country like Elizabeth I did when the English Navy beat the Spanish Armada, all he did was keep the peace and made England a wealthy country. However when Elizabeth defeated the Spanish, the most powerful country at the time, it set the course of England becoming a powerful empire, which eventually became the British Empire, the most powerful country in the world.

Because of these reasons this is why I agree to some extent that Henry was the most significant Tudor monarch. This is because he started the Tudor dynasty and started to make England a powerful, wealthy country. However these things that he did are rivaled by other significant things that different Tudor monarchs did.



History

I agree with the idea that King Henry VII was the most significant Tudor monarch. However, I believe that queen Elizabeth I was equally significant.

One reason I think this is because Henry VII did start the Tudor dynasty which totally changed the course of history. If the house of York won, there would have been a whole different line of monarchs who each made other important decisions. Henry ended the long struggle for power between the two families. So many things could have gone differently. For example, the Spanish armada may have been successful if it was launched at all. Maybe, a different country would have invaded and taken over England.

A second reason I made this decision is Elizabeth was the first unmarried, independently reigning, female monarch. She made quite a statement and presented herself in a strong and capable light. Elizabeth was constantly crowded by the men in power; she had to stand her ground. This was unusual. She turned down King Philip of Spain's proposal. This one partly why the armada was launched. This means, she was partly responsible for it coming in the first place as well as overthrowing it. If the armada was a success Britain would be extremely different today.

A third reason why I think this is without Henry the V11 none of this would've happened without him. Additionally, none of the other monarchs did any actions of such significance as winning the battle of Bosworth and defeating the armada. Henry the V11, for example, is probably the best known Tudor monarch and is remembered for making the break with catholic church and having six wives. Although becoming protestant was a big move I think it came back to wanting to divorce his wife. It also didn't change the total path of England in my opinion.

Therefore, I believe Henry V11 and Elizabeth were equally significant and both had a big impact on how Britain turned out today.



In PSHE this week students have been exploring loneliness and connectivity . We have been blown away by the many fabulous responses. Here are just a few!

Loneliness poem

Loneliness is an invisible fear,
It's that overwhelming feeling of not being here,
Feeling lost within yourself,
Feeling like dust on a shelf,
It cannot be described,
As it is just so vast and wide,

Building confidence is like building blocks,
Step by step your mind unclogs
It seems so clear,
Yet still is here,
Clocks will tick 'n' time will turn,
Time slows down loneliness burns,

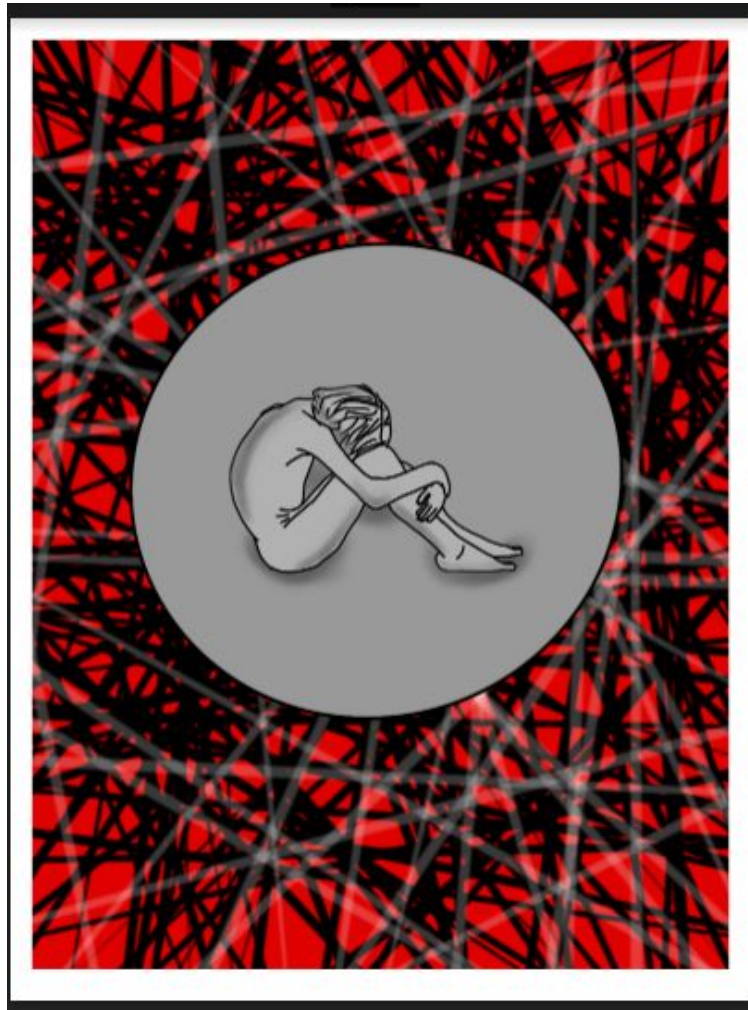
Taking that leap of faith,
Reaching out will seal your fate,
The view on the other side, it drains your fear,
That satisfaction of finally being here,
Your safe place,
An incredible space,

Whoever you are, persevere,
Don't be afraid to combat that fear...

Alex M



Lilith C



Luka T

**Loneliness is a candle it burns for so long,
Then in an instant, the flame is gone,
You see someone you love or a friend that you know,
Then, inside, your heart will glow.**

**The feeling comes in waves just like the ocean,
An endless flood of tears and emotion,
People think you are fine, hard like a stone,
Yet all you can do is stare at your phone.**

**You may want some meaning and fun in your life,
You want to put an end to all of your strife
So play ps4 or talk to a friend,
Then maybe, just maybe this struggle will end.**

Huw C

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



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