



Princethorpe  
College

# The Pinnacle

Issue 37 | Autumn 2025

Showcasing exceptional work by pupils from  
Princethorpe College, Crackley Hall School  
and Crescent School



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# Welcome

ISSUE 37 - AUTUMN 2025

Rising to challenges is never easy but every success begins with a first step and every step after that is a chance to grow and shine.

It is always delightful to see the achievements of the pupils and pupils here at Princethorpe College and to present to you a snapshot of some of these in *The Pinnacle*. Congratulations to each of the pupils featured in this Autumn edition of *The Pinnacle*. The range of their achievements goes beyond what is on these pages and it is never possible to showcase every success in one edition. We always feature our younger pupils more heavily in the summer edition as our Year 11s and Upper Sixth are focused on their exams. Therefore, this is an opportunity to see the talents that are emerging.

The promotion of challenge and curiosity in and around the subjects is something we have always promoted here at Princethorpe, it allows pupils to consider what they are interested in and to develop their passions. When you're passionate about something, you're more likely to persevere through challenges and setbacks, viewing them as opportunities to learn and grow, and developing resilience.

My thanks and congratulations go to our colleagues at Crackley Hall and Crescent for the work that is showcased in *The Minnacle*. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Louise Symons at Crescent for all her contributions to *The Minnacle* as she changes her role, and I look forward to working with our new Crescent Editor next year.

Congratulations on a fantastic academic year to all our pupils and students in the Sixth Form. I look forward to tallying up the da Vinci points and naming our da Vinci badge winners in the final assembly and the Shield winners at Prize Giving in November.

**Julia Lindsay**  
Challenge Curriculum Coordinator



Our cover art is by Year 7 Darcey Carroll. It was produced for a visual research project on the Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser.



To read more of any of the articles with the

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button, please scan this QR code.



ENGLISH | LOWER SIXTH

# Writing Challenge

The challenge to the Sixth Form was to write a short story of no more than 500 words. Their story had to be based at Princethorpe College, it needed to include at least three members of staff and three book characters. We had some fabulous entries and Oli Passantino's story was chosen as the winner.

## 'Mugged Off' by Oli Passantino

The sun began to set on another Princethorpe day. Mr du Toit walked into his office, ready to leave for the weekend. Then, he noticed something awful. It was abhorrent. He couldn't believe it. Someone had stolen his coffee mug! As quick as a form rushing to the front of the classroom on cake day, Mr du Toit jumped on Outlook and began aggressively typing an angrily worded email to all the staff members. He was going to get to the bottom of this. He summoned every member of staff to the Sports Hall and marched over there.

All of the staff members arrived in the Sports Hall, coming from all departments. Mr du Toit had recruited SLT to help him find the culprit who had committed the most heinous crime. He had also recruited Harry Potter, Mr Happy and Willy Wonka to help him, hoping they would be an effective team.

As the staff chattered to themselves, Mr du Toit approached the microphone. "Hello everybody," he boomed, in an angry voice. "Now, you know why you are all here. One of you has stolen my lucky mug. I would like it back. If it isn't back with me in thirty minutes, I'll fire the lot of you!" The staff members looked puzzled. "How are you going to cope without us?!" Mrs Newborough heckled. "Well," Willy Wonka started, "I will be able to set up an AI system which can replace every single one of you." The staff members all gasped. The 21st Century had turned and stabbed them in the back again. "You have thirty minutes," said Mr du Toit, leaving a timer on the board.

The staff members began to accuse each other. "Who took it?" Mr Parker asked in a very respectful manner. "I have Blackadder to watch." SLT watched the chaos unfold below them.

"Does this count as teacher training?" Dr Pyne suggested. "Well, I'm open to that!" Mr Spencer chuckled, sipping some coffee. Mr du Toit carefully watched as each staff member tore up years of friendship over a mug with Hello Kitty on it. Harry Potter used his magic to scan the school for the mug. "The mug appears to be somewhere in the Sports Hall." He claimed. The staff members began to search the Sports Hall. Mr Lyttle looked in the Sports Cupboard, Mr Robertson helping him. Mr Happy stood in the Sports Hall. He was just happy to be there. "What does the mug look like?!" Mr Rosenbaum cried out, the timer at one minute. "Well, it looks like Mr Spencer's mug," Mr du Toit responded. Then he realised...



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# Dinner Party Mystery!

**This short story by Year 7 pupil Mila Foulerton was the winning entry in the school's World Book Day Competition.**

During World Book Week the library had a 'dinner table' set with clues at each place for pupils to guess which book character was invited to the dinner party. We also had a "body" buried under a pile of books in the entrance. After working through the clues as to who the dinner guests were, pupils were invited to write a short story that included one of the dinner guests (book characters) as the murderer and they had to use their imaginations as to why the character committed the murder. Mila's story was the winner. She received a £15 Voucher and her story is published here in *The Pinnacle*.

## Chapter 1: The body of Mrs Boddie

The sun was shining high, and the birds were chirping. The sky above the Princethorpe tower was bright blue and cloudless and the flag fluttered gently in the breeze.

Students and staff had all gathered on the tennis courts following an unexpected fire drill and were slowly ambling back to class, taking their time to enjoy the warmth of the sun and fresh air.

The librarians, Mrs Chadwick, Mrs Treadwell and Mrs Hallam were chatting happily as they made their way back to the library. Mrs Hallam was describing the conversations from her book club the previous night in which they discussed Agatha Christie's *The Body In The Library*.

Mrs Treadwell opened the library door and, still deep in conversation, the three librarians entered the room. Nothing could have prepared them for the sight that met their eyes. There, lying on the floor stabbed and in a pool of blood was Mrs Boddie the biology teacher! Mrs Chadwick fainted, Mrs Hallam screamed and Mrs Treadwell grabbed the telephone and with trembling hands called for help.

Mrs Boddie was not one of the most popular teachers, regularly issuing the most LLCs and HLCs in the school. But who would hate her enough to kill her? And how, when everyone was out on the tennis courts?

## Chapter 2: Hercule Princethorpe

By chance, Hercule Princethorpe (cousin of the famous Belgian detective Hercule Poirot) was visiting the school that day to lead workshops for the A-level French and History students. Mr du Toit took him to one side and pleaded with him to stay and investigate the murder before it reached the papers.

After twirling his carefully shaped eyebrows and reflecting for a few moments, Hercule gently nodded his head and with a serious expression agreed to take the case on.

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## PUBLIC SPEAKING | UPPER SIXTH

# Speaks Out!

This year's regional contest took place at Newman University on Thursday 27 March with speakers from 24 schools taking part. Freddie spoke with tremendous flair, impressing the judges with his speech on the topic of 'Should the monarchy be abolished?'

Competitors were marked by the judging panel on a variety of criteria from content, delivery, elocution and appearance and finishing second overall was a fantastic achievement for Freddie who was up against strong competition.

Freddie's success was down to teamwork and preparation, as a group of Sixth Formers had worked together to prepare for the event. Supporting Freddie were Jayden Carr, Raphi Kane, Roxy Glenn and Nika Handjani.

**Upper Sixth Former, Freddie Hadley celebrated after finishing in second place at the Midlands regional round of the 2025 Catenian Association's Public Speaking Competition for students from Catholic schools.**

They all worked together to help Freddie get ready for the competition. Jayden wrote the speech and the team had met once a week across the last term to research, write up, refine and rehearse.

Teacher of English, David Leach, commented, "All the competitors gave incredible performances, so Freddie's second place finish is something that we are very proud of. It was fantastic to see so many schools competing. With such a broad range of topics covered, it really was a challenging and thought-provoking session."



# Art Scholars' Challenge

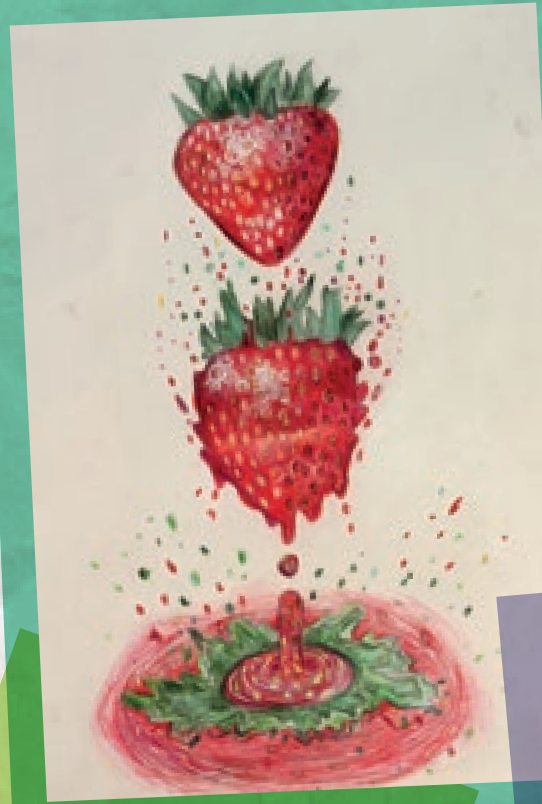
ART | YEARS 7 AND 8

The Lower Sixth Art scholars set a challenge to the younger Art scholars to respond to the theme of 'Metamorphosis'. Here is a selection of the incredible work from our Year 7 and 8 Art Scholars.

Florence Munn, Y8



Rosie Russell, Y8



Bella Davies, Y8



Flora Patey, Y7



Issy Messenger, Y8



ART | ALL YEARS

## Art Club Cartoons Displayed In Braunston Primary School Library

The College's Art Club worked on a special project for Braunston Primary School's Library. Under the guidance of Head of Art, Paul Hubball, and Art Prefect and Senior Art Scholar, Jamie Dickens (left), and Senior Art Scholar, Bea Taylor (right), pupils have produced over 20 vibrant and eye-catching A3 paintings and drawings of characters from children's books and cartoons.

Their original work went on display in Braunston's school library, helping to brighten up and create an appealing space that inspires and engages their young readers.

Art Club enjoyed the challenge and completed their paintings over a series of weeks using different techniques to bring their characters to life. Their finished pieces were bold and striking and made a beautiful display.

Paul Hubball, commented, "This was a super project for our Art Club. Pupils were free to choose a character to meet the brief and have enjoyed producing their paintings. For a number, this was the first time their work went publicly on display and they should be proud of their finished pieces."

Lianna Willis, Headteacher of Braunston CE Primary School, said, "Pupils are really enjoying the artwork which has been hung in our school library, it really brightened up the space. Princethorpe clearly has lots of talented young artists, thank you to them all for sharing their paintings with our pupils."

Pupils who contributed pieces to the project included: left to right, Isla Beecroft, Immy Griffin, Flora Patey, Leela Matharu, Alice Sibly, Erin Cowley, Bernie Bett, Amelia Turvey, Emmie Reason, Florence Munn, April Docherty and Natalia Pilato also contributing work but not pictured were: Ellie Ambrose, Harriet Mulhall, Eve Tilley, Leela Blythe, Darcey Gonon and Gwenan Roberts.

Immy Griffin, Y7



Ellie Ambrose, Y7



# Inspired by Hundertwasser

These images were created by our Year 7 pupils following a Hundertwasser artist study. They showed careful observation of an original piece and used coloured pencils on black card to present a beautiful section of their chosen artwork.

Ellie Ambrose, Y7



Darcey Carroll, Y7



Henrietta McVeigh, Y7



Eloise Joyner, Y7



Zaman Haidary, Y7



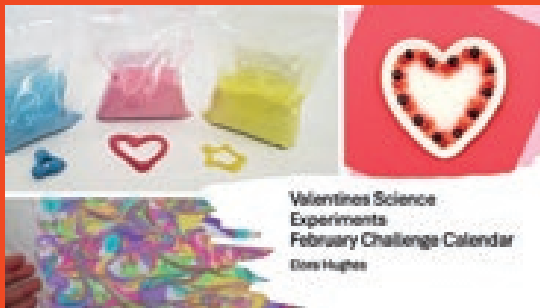
Charlotte Heckford, Y7



# St Valentine's Day Challenge

In the February Challenge Calendar, the Science department set a number of experiments, which could be done at home for the half-term holiday, linked to St Valentine's Day.

Elora Hughes, Year 7, submitted this fantastic compilation of the experiments that she did demonstrating her creativity alongside her Scientific methodology and write up skills.



### Valentines Skittle Experiment

**Materials:**

- Skittle Skittles
- Acetate plate
- Warm tap water in a jug

**Method:**

- Place your skittles in a circle on the surface of a flatish acetate plate.
- Then pour the warm tap water into the center of the plate until it has covered the whole surface area.
- Finally, leave your experiment to see what happens.

**Observation:** As the water went by the colour started to stain from the bottom of the skittles and when the plate until it was completely covered in water.

### Valentines Skittle Experiment (with sugar)

**Materials:**

- Skittle Skittles
- Acetate plate
- Warm tap water in a jug
- Sugar

**Method:**

- Place your skittles in a circle on the surface of a flatish acetate plate.
- After that, place about a half a cup of sugar in the center of the plate.
- Then pour the warm tap water into the center of the plate until it has covered the whole surface area.
- Finally, leave your experiment to see what happens.

**Observation:** As the water went by the colour started to stain from the bottom of the skittles but when it got to the sugar it stopped as there was an invisible barrier and that sugar is spread out again but much slower.

### Valentines 3D Printing

**Materials:**

- Uncooked white rice
- An airtight plastic jar
- White glue

**Method:** Firstly, you need to choose a design to do - you could do a heart like in Valentines, but the children can be quite tricky. Next, you need to get a jar or other thing to use. After that you need to make your shape in glue. Then add another layer of uncooked rice then do you can increase the shape. Repeat this until you are happy with the thickness and then add enough sand to completely cover your shape. Finally, leave for 24 hours.

**Observation:** When you take your shape out of the printing should be finished you will need to be careful with them.

Responsibility we had did but my glue and heart is my job!

### Valentines Marbled Cards

**Materials:**

- Shaving cream
- Food colouring (various colors)
- Q-tips or cotton swabs
- Small empty bottles
- Acetate film paper
- Scissors
- Food colouring (at least 3 colours)
- Paper (heavy bottom card)

**Method:** First, put a 2-3cm layer of shaving foam - spread it evenly then add a few drops of each colour (don't colouring) on top. Using acetate film, carefully lift the foam and food colouring to make a pattern that you like. When that's done, you should be ready for the next step - using your Q-tips, carefully lift your shaving foam.

**Observation:** When it is dry it should look a marbled effect on your piece of card. Make sure to be careful with the paper.

# A Throw A

As part of the Challenge Calendar pupils were set an activity to make something for Earth Day from materials at home they would normally throw away. These three pupils showed great creativity in very different ways.

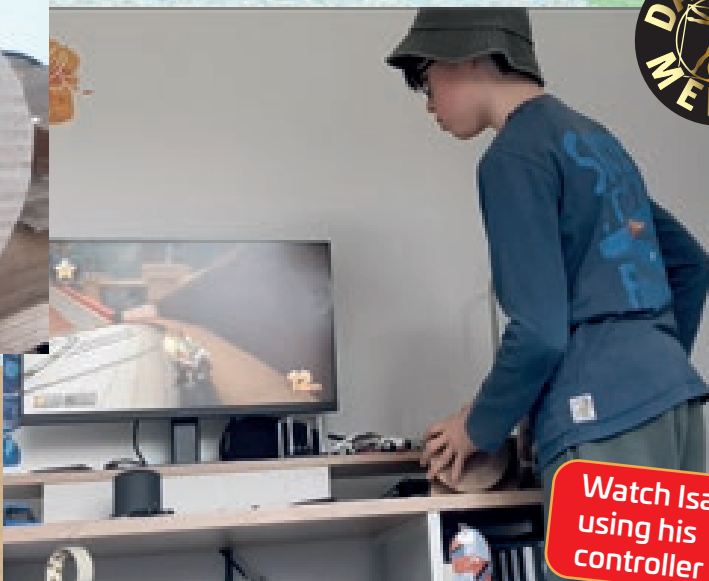


Miriam Lambe, Y7

Miriam recycled three pairs of jeans to show her Textiles skills and create a denim skirt with dolphin motif. She was awarded a Creative da Vinci.



# Way Challenge!



## Isaac Frith, Y9

Isaac created a working controller for playing Mario Kart from a cardboard box to incorporate a steering wheel and drift lever that he attached to his PlayStation Controller. He was awarded a full da Vinci for the best entry received.

Watch Isaac using his controller

WATCH ONLINE

SCAN the QR code on page 2

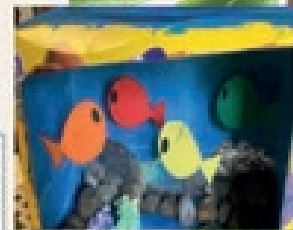
## Mila Foulerton, Y7

Mila did two projects, the first creating a model fish tank from an Easter egg box and the second a terrarium from two glass jars. She was awarded a Creative da Vinci.

### Project 1: Aquarium

We had some leftover popcorn from when we watched a film and coloured it in to look like coral.

The fish are made from leftover bits of card from when I made my cousin's birthday card.



### Project 2: Terrarium



I used some old jars to create several terraria with bits of garden waste from my Granny's garden.



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# Catalytic Converter Song

Emmi Parmenter, Isabel Barnes, Ruby Mander and Nell Tilstone in the Lower Sixth made a song with stop motion video on how catalysts function in a catalytic converter. This demonstrated outstanding creativity in presenting their knowledge and understanding of their A-level Studies.

**0:03**

How did the toxic gas produced by a car turn into the harmless substances which are carbon dioxide, nitrogen and water?

**0:15**

Let us tell you about catalytic converters.

**0:19**

The transition metals with honeycomb structure increase the surface area.

**0:24**

Let's paint you the picture.

**0:26**

Take unburned hydrocarbons and CO and NO reduce oxides of nitrogen.

**0:32**

The reaction's not slow.

**0:34**

Ambient hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide within the converter.

**0:39**

Then they are oxidised.

**0:41**

This works by reactants absorbed on the surface of the catalyst.

**0:46**

Once weakened, they're easily broken.

**0:49**

Then the new bonds are formed and they move away.

**0:52**

They're in a closer proximity, increasing the rate.

**0:56**

This is the case for heterogeneous catalysts must be indifferent because then through reactants, Well, the word got around, they said this thing is insane.

**1:07**

Man took up a collection just to make it mandatory to put in every car.

**1:13**

Invented by Eugene Awdry and the world's going to know his name.

**1:17**

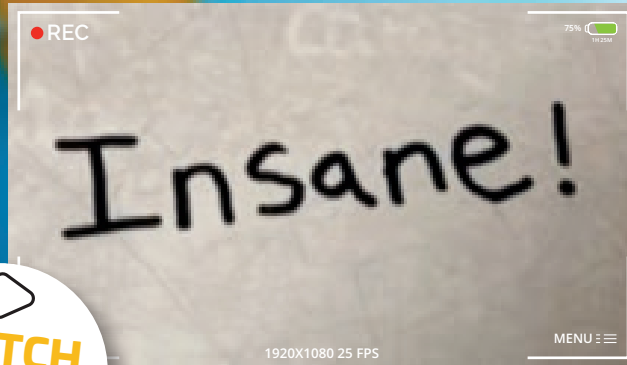
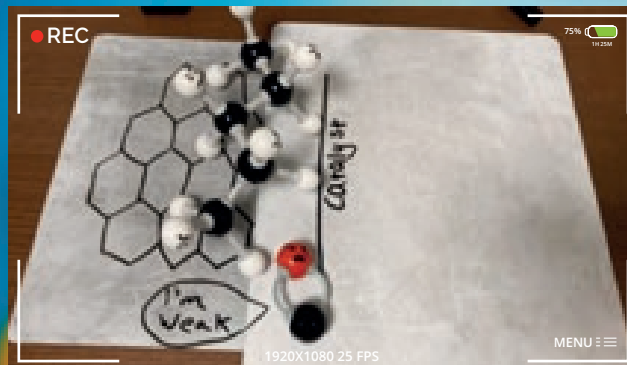
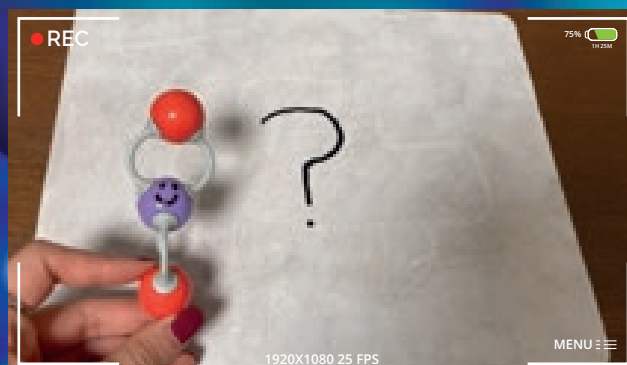
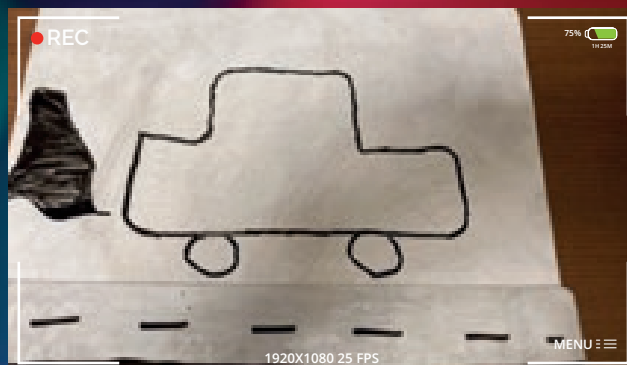
What's its name, man?

**1:19**

Catalytic converter.

**1:22**

This is a catalytic converter reducing activation energy to provide an alternate pathway for the reaction to a car.



Watch the full video online

**WATCH ONLINE**

SCAN the QR code on page 2

# UK Chemistry Olympiad

Designed to challenge and inspire, the UK Chemistry Olympiad is a national chemistry competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Hosted annually, it is aimed at chemistry students in the Sixth Form and offers a unique opportunity to develop their thinking and problem-solving skills while testing their knowledge of chemistry in situations from the real-world.



All our Upper Sixth Chemists who took part in the 2025 Chemistry Olympiad were awarded certificates. Our top performance was achieved by Louise Gambling, who earned the highest scores and was awarded a Silver certificate.

A Bronze certificate was awarded to Sammie Borland, Tom Bucknall, Albert Jackson-Bettles, Giorgio Kleinmann, Hamish O'Brien, Ben Smith, Tom Windley, Layla Wolsey and Henry Woodrow.

Charlotte Gledhill and Megan Shipton were awarded participation certificates.

They faced tough national competition and we congratulate them all on their excellent results.



Scan the QR code for examples of the questions the students faced on the Royal Society of Chemistry's website.



## SCIENCE | YEAR 7

# Life On Earth

Year 7 studied the solar system in Science. They completed the topic with a project answering the question 'Why is earth the only planet right for life?'



Their projects developed their research skills, helped them learn the correct scientific terms and also developed their knowledge and understanding of the solar system as they selected and rejected information to present. To complete the task, pupils were asked to display their research but with the caveat that they weren't allowed to use a PowerPoint. Instead, they were challenged to creatively exhibit their findings to their peers. The results were amazing.

To support Year 7's projects, the Library team hosted and delivered research lessons showing pupils all the different online resources available as well as the full range of reference titles available in the Library. Head Librarian, Nicola Treadwell, commented, "We have been doing this research project with Year 7s for several years now and the standard of work this year was simply superb. The pupils clearly put in a lot of effort."



Darcey Wilcox-Smith, Y7

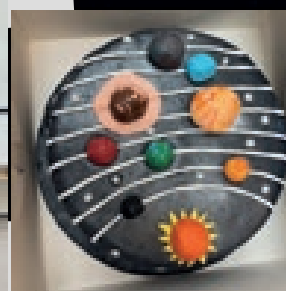
Barnie Bett, Y7



Edward Civzelis, Y7



Elora Hughes, Y7

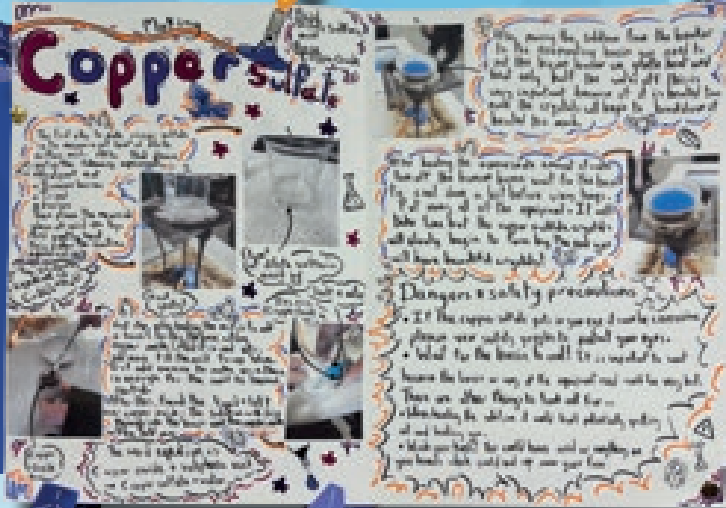


Zac Herring, Y7

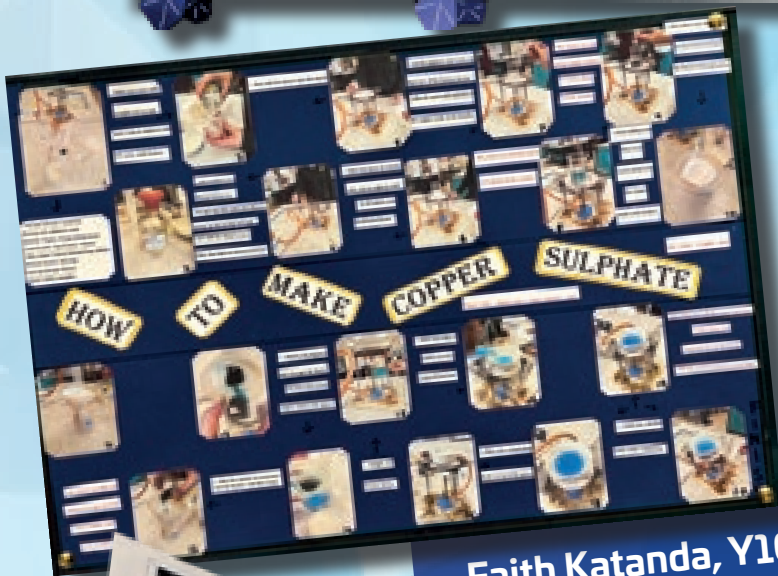
# Crystal Clear Creativity

Year 10 pupils carried out a required practical to make Copper Sulphate crystals, using copper oxide and sulfuric acid. They were then tasked to write up the method at home, with some great outcomes demonstrating their creativity alongside their subject knowledge.

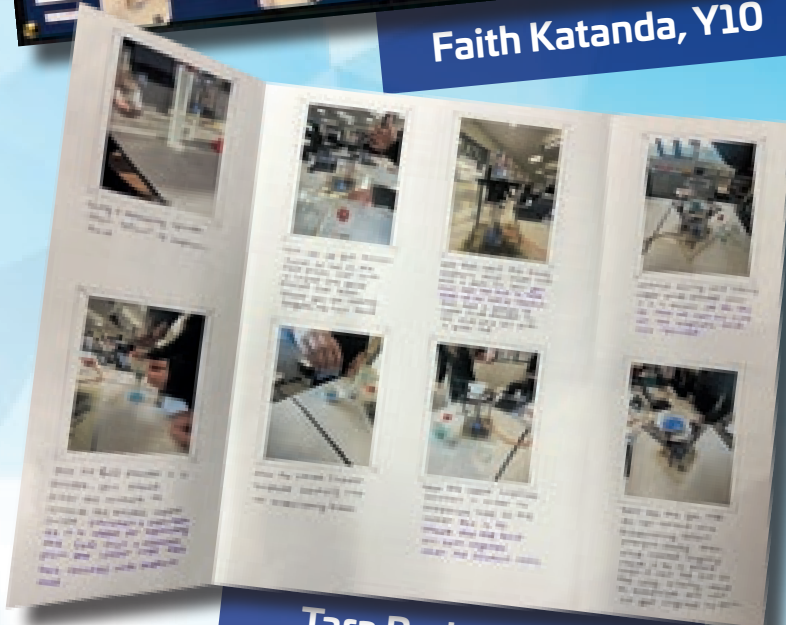
Alexa Thoday, Y10



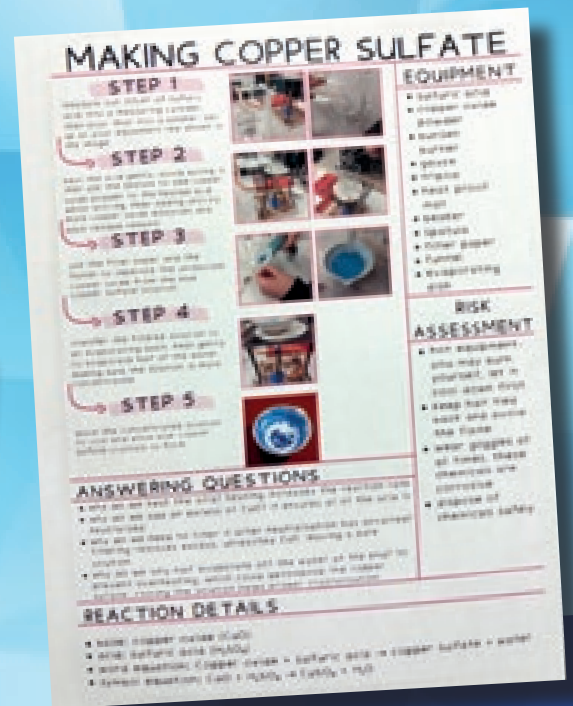
Amelia Hunt, Y10



Faith Katanda, Y10



Tara Rodgers, Y10



Millie Lammas, Y10

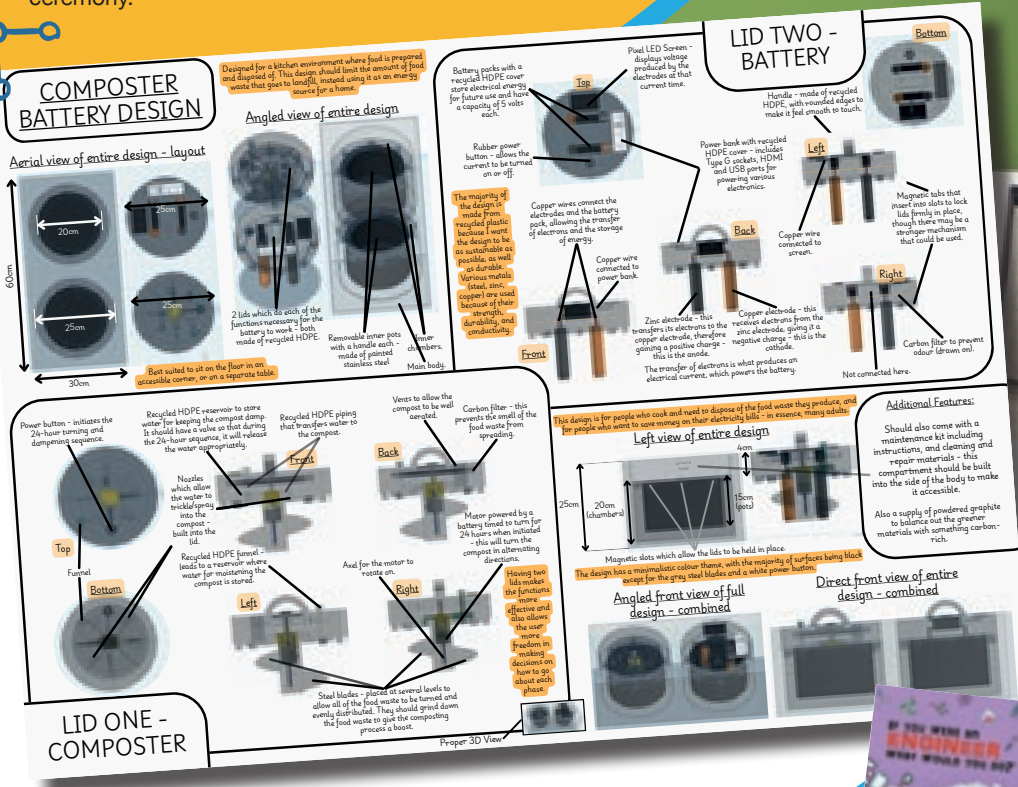
# STEAM Competition

Dami Ajagunna in Year 9 entered a submission to the nationwide STEAM competition for pupils aged 13-19, titled "If I were an engineer..." run by the organisation, Primary Engineer.

The poster attached shows multiple views of the invention that she independently designed and created in CAD. A great idea - sustainable, recycling, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and potentially invaluable for developing countries. In addition to this, she had to complete an engineering logbook that included stages such as critiquing an existing invention, interview an engineer, research careers in engineering and then come up with her own invention. For her work, Head of Physics, Mr Lee, awarded her a full da Vinci as her commitment and final article are superb.

Over 75,000 entries were received and two from each year group were selected as winners with two shortlisted for distinction. Dami was one of the two pupils in the 'distinction shortlisted' category and she was invited to the regional exhibition and award ceremony. Well done, Dami!

Dami said "Taking part in 'If You Were an Engineer' was an eye-opening experience. I'd always been interested in the world of engineering, but had never been exactly sure what it entailed. This competition gave me the chance to brainstorm, research and design a device that could potentially be a first step towards renewable energy on a smaller household scale. One thing I found an engaging challenge was making sure that the design didn't conflict with itself, while the most enjoyable part was designing my final result in TinkerCad. I also really enjoyed making my poster and writing my letter. I'm extremely pleased with the final result, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to go to the awards ceremony."



"This competition gave me the chance to brainstorm, research and design a device that could potentially be a first step towards renewable energy on a smaller household scale."



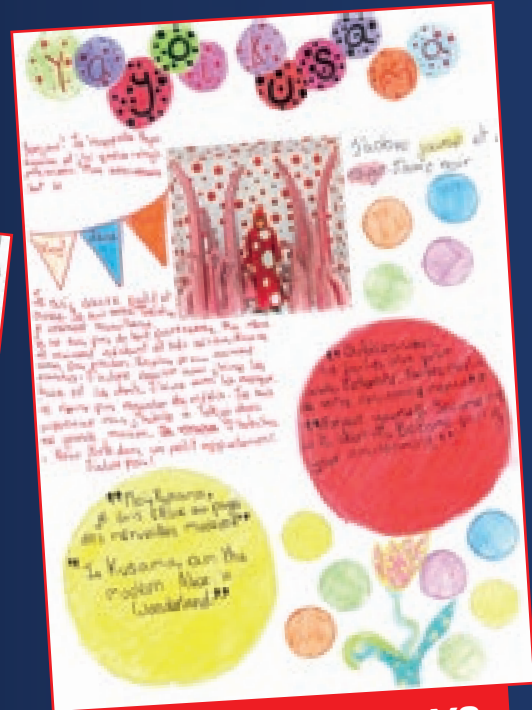
# Celebrity Posters and Language Mastery



To close the topic of personal descriptions, Year 8 were asked to create a poster about their favourite celebrity.

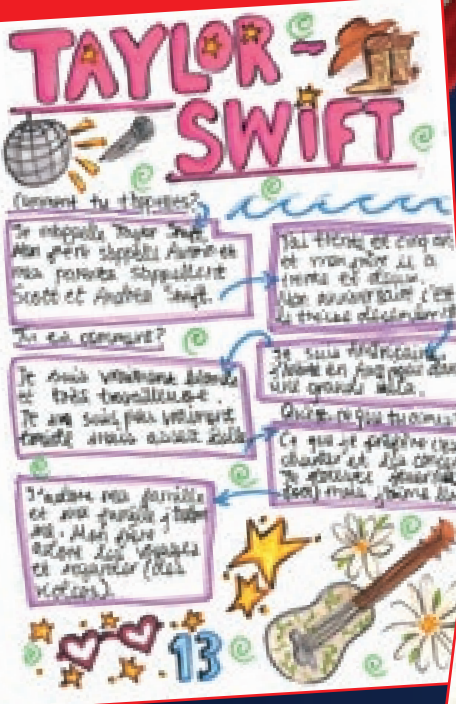
These three pupils: Florence, Gwenan and Emily, showed not only an excellent command and understanding of the grammar and vocabulary, but also a clear artistic flair. All three were awarded a da Vinci. Having only studied French for two terms at this stage, both Evelyn and Sophie demonstrated excellent mastery of the topics covered, as well as the ability to manipulate the language to talk about others in creative writing and were awarded full da Vinci merits in French for this work.

Emily Divers, Y8



Gwenan Roberts, Y8

Florence Munn, Y8



Sophie Crawford, Y8



Evelyn Waterworth, Y8



# Creative Caption Contest

Pupils from Year 7 to Year 11 were asked to think of a caption for this photo of Ariana Grande and Lionel Messi in either French or Spanish. Points were awarded for use of language and creativity. We had over 60 entries and we were very impressed with the imaginative responses!

The winning entries were chosen for their linguistic accuracy as well as their humorous response to the task. Well done to the winners; Leela Blythe (Y7) Grace Toone and Mimi Legge (Y9) Jenson Lee (Y9) and Harry Andrews (Y7).

See translations below.



Leela Blythe, Y7



Grace Toone and Mimi Legge, Y9



Jenson Lee, Y9

**Translations**  
**Leela Blythe**  
 Messi: Wow, she's so concerned about nature that she's even watering the plant that doesn't belong to her. I definitely want to have more dates with her.  
 Ariana Grande: Ergh. Messi is so boring, always looking at his phone. This is the last time I'm going to have a date with him.  
**Grace Toone & Mimi Legge**  
 Messi: She's so pretty. See how she's looking after the plant.  
 Ariana Grande: I don't think we'll have a second date because he's boring. He goes on his phone and never speaks.  
**Jenson Lee**  
 Messi: Please let me be in your next music video.  
 Ariana Grande: Only if you score a hat-trick in your next match.  
**Harry Andrews**  
 Messi: Could you buy me a large (GRANDE) coffee sometimes?  
 Ariana Grande: Are you messy (MESSI)?



Harry Andrews, Y7

# Redacción en Español

As an independent half-term project, Mila Foulerton, in Year 7, decided to keep a diary of her holiday activities, written in Spanish.

She used a wide range of vocabulary and even taught herself the past tense, which she used with an impressive level of accuracy. This project showed real initiative, mastery and creativity and was rewarded with a full da Vinci.

**Lunes**

Primero me levanté y jugué con mis primos Ana, Sarah, Luke y Harry.

Luego fuimos de paseo en la costa y buscamos comida para las tortugas. Comimos bocadillos, patatas fritas, maíz, fruta y pastales.

Después, visitamos mi bisabuela. Jugamos en su jardín y hablamos.

Más tarde, fuimos a la playa y nadamos en el mar pero ¡hizo mucho frío!

**MARTES**

Me levanté y comí un desayuno especial de mi Ma.

Luego regresamos a Leamington en tren. Fue triste decir "adiós" a mi familia. Pero también emocionante porque quiero ver mi padre, mi hermano mayor ¡y mi perro!



Sofi Green, in Year 8, wrote an article describing all the reasons why she loves Argentina in Spanish and constructed a small quiz in English as a comprehension test of her writing.

## Sofi G - Why I Love Argentina (+ Test Your Spanish!)

Lo que me gusta de Argentina es cuando hace tiempo bueno y porque casi siempre hace calor, pero cuando llueve, llueve mal, también me gusta ir de paseo con mis padres y mi hermano porque vamos a lugares interesantes. Lo que no me gusta de Argentina es que está tan lejos de casa y gastamos mucho dinero cuando vamos a visitar y vamos a la casa de mis primos y su padre cocina un asado muy rico con chorizo, cerdo y otras carnes ricas.

**Pastres que son riquísimos:**



Rogel, es muy simple para cocinar.



Esto es torta brownie, tiene brownie, dulce de leche, crema, fruta (y a veces tiene almendras).



Esto es Chocotorta, es riquísimo pero a mí no me gusta tanto porque es dulce y muy pesado.

**Test your Spanish!**

What is the weather almost always like in Argentina?

- a) cold b) rainy c) hot

What does Sofi like to do with her brother and parents?

- a) go to the park b) go for a walk c) go to the beach

What does Sofi not like about going to Argentina?

- a) they live so far away b) she doesn't like the food

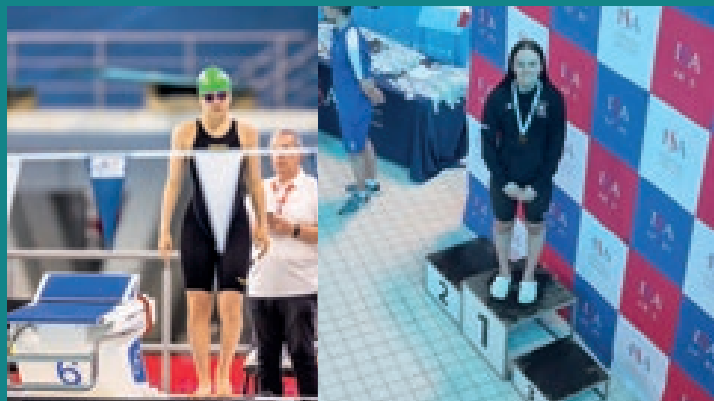
Los kioscos en Argentina tienen caramelos más ricos que en Inglaterra, como turrón, alfajores, palitos de la selva y Shirry.



# The Sports Interviews

## SWIMMING

An interview with Charlotte Gower, one of our Year 10 pupils. Charlotte is an Academic and All-Rounder Scholar who is competing at a National Level and has been selected to swim in the 2025 Deaflympics in Tokyo.



**Name:** Charlotte Gower

**Sport:** Swimming

### Representative Honours (achievements):

I have competed at county, regional and national levels and soon internationally.

### How did you get into your sport?

I had swimming lessons when younger and really enjoyed being in the water so then progressed to join Rugby Swimming Club when I was 8-years-old.

### Do you do any other sports? If so, which sports do you play? Give detail on level etc.

I play netball and cricket. I've represented the school at both sports and also play netball for a local club when I have time.

### What does your training/week programme look like to compete at your sporting level? Can you explain a day in the life of Charlotte on a busy day?

I swim six days a week including twice on a Friday. I also do land training usually three times a week which includes strength and conditioning in the gym and flexibility.

### Monday and Tuesday I swim 5.00 - 7.00am before school. I then swim Wednesday and Thursday evening. Friday morning and evening and Sunday afternoon!

On a busy day I will get up before 5.00am, eat a quick snack then drive to the pool, swim for two hours then go home and change ready for school. I often eat my breakfast on the bus. In the evening, I will usually do homework and often go to the gym. When I have an early morning start, I have to get to bed early too unfortunately!

### What has been the highlight of your season and why?

This year my highlight so far has been competing in the 200m backstroke at the Aquatics GB National Championships at the London Aquatics Centre. This was the Senior Championships, so I was competing alongside Olympians.

I have also qualified to swim in seven events (plus two relays) at the Aquatics GB Next Gen Championships which takes place in Sheffield. Selection for these Championships is on age group rankings so to qualify I had to rank in the top 24 swimmers for my age group in GB. Currently I rank in the top 10 for backstroke.

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## HOCKEY AND NETBALL

An interview with Katherine Lee, one of our Year 9 pupils. Katherine is an All-Rounder Scholar who has earned representative honours in Hockey and Netball.



**Name:** Katherine Lee

**Sport:** Hockey and Netball

### Representative Honours (achievements):

I came first in the UK Lions Trophy tournament – Mercian Marauders (July 2024), captaining the team who came 4th in the Indoor Hockey UK U14 girls (December 2024) with Hockey Mentors. I won the Midlands Inter County Tournament with Warwickshire U14 girls as Captain (April 2025), I was in the winning team of the Holland Elite Cup for U14 girls at Den Bosch – including teams from Holland, Northern Ireland, Belgium and Germany – playing with Hockey Mentors (June 2025).

### How did you get into your sport?

I started hockey in Year 3 at Crescent School, then I started to play at a hockey club outside of school. I started netball in Year 3 as well, but I didn't go to a netball club until Year 9. In Year 8 I was put forward for Warwickshire U13 county trials and got in.

### What does your training/week programme look like to compete at your sporting level?

During the main hockey and netball season my week will look like:

<b>Monday</b>	Strength and conditioning, with either County netball or hockey training in the evening
<b>Tuesday</b>	This year Games (School), then age group hockey for an hour followed by ladies' hockey for an hour and a half
<b>Wednesday</b>	This is usually my rest day, unless I have a match
<b>Thursday</b>	School netball, then club netball
<b>Friday</b>	School hockey for an hour and a half
<b>Saturday</b>	School match followed by a club ladies' match, or a hockey camp with Mentors
<b>Sunday</b>	Either an age group club match, County match/tournament or a hockey camp with Mentors.



## U15 Girls Cricket Team Reach Last 16 of National 100 Ball Cup

The U15 Girls Cricket Squad had an impressive run to reach the last 16 of the National 100 Ball Cup; a superb achievement and a true testament to the team's talent, commitment and unshakable team spirit.

The journey was nothing short of inspiring. As the squad progressed through the tournament they faced King's High School, a strong opponent with a solid reputation. Despite the challenge, our girls rose to the occasion, playing with confidence and control to secure a comfortable and well-earned victory, progressing confidently to the next stage.

Into the last 16 of the competition, the girls were drawn against Rugby School; another formidable cricketing side. The original match date was unfortunately interrupted by rain but not before our team made a powerful opening that clearly unsettled the opposition. The momentum was with them and anticipation built as the fixture was rescheduled.

When match day finally arrived, the U15 squad stepped out onto the pitch with energy, determination, and pride. They played with heart and grit, embodying the values of teamwork and perseverance. Unfortunately, this time, the match did not go their way but regardless of the outcome, reaching the final 16 of a national competition is an extraordinary accomplishment and one the school and wider community was proud of. These pupils not only demonstrated excellent cricketing ability but also shown what can be achieved through hard work, unity, and a passion for the game.

The U15 coach Miss Callan said, 'Well done to every player. You've made your mark on the national stage and inspired future generations of cricketers at the school'.



## HISTORY | YEAR 7

### Prosecuting Richard III

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Year 7 were asked to present the prosecution case against Richard III in relation to the disappearance of the Princes in the Tower.

Here Ayesha Hanif has drawn upon a range of primary and secondary evidence to argue for his guilt. She carefully considers his motives, actions and character and the alternative suspect, Henry Tudor, within the context of the Wars of the Roses. She notes the reliability of evidence, makes connections between pieces of evidence and presents her case in a logical, persuasive and convincing manner. In doing so she proves how valuable History is as a subject for would-be lawyers! This is a lovely piece of work and worthy of the da Vinci awarded.



### Prosecution case against Richard III by Ayesha Hanif, Y7

Fellow members of the Court and Jury, we are here today to discuss the pressing matter of the two 'princes in the tower'. I am sure you have all heard of Richard III; the nasty, evil, child murderer, and the most cruel uncle and king that history has ever seen!

There is so much evidence and motive to prove that Richard III was a child murderer who ordered the killings of these two innocent young boys.

The first piece of evidence that I would like to discuss with you is the very detailed writings of Sir Thomas More which was written in 1513 and precisely explained how the murder was carried out. More explained how King Richard asked, "Sir James Tyrrell to carry out his wishes", and "Tyrrell picked Miles Forrest and John Dighton to do the job". More wrote, "Tyrrell decided that the princes should be murdered in their beds... About midnight Forrest and Dighton entered the room where the children lay in their beds and forced the feather pillows hard into their mouths until they stopped breathing". This account details the uncle's barbaric cruelty.

Sir Thomas More spent his life as a devout Catholic, he even wore a 'hair shirt' which proved his religious status. Such a pious gentleman would surely not deceive us and should be trusted. More interviewed the son of the murderer Miles Forest, who he knew personally as they were at Court together.



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# Global Rights

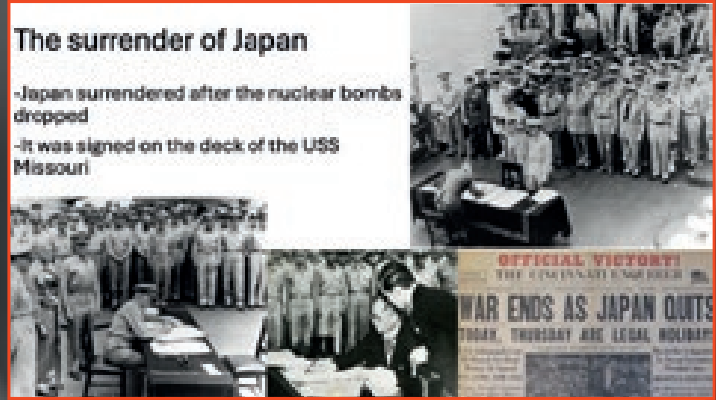
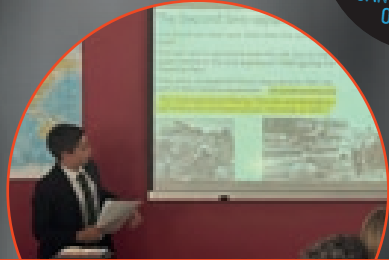
Year 9 pupils were challenged to present an independently researched project on Human Rights. After studying the development of Civil Rights in the 1950s and 1960s in the USA pupils were asked to research how societies were developing 'meanwhile, elsewhere' in the world.

One of the standout projects was by Amelia Dutton on the Chinese cultural revolution, which was awarded a creative da Vinci as she produced her own sketch of a propaganda image: the Chinese writing translates to "Destroy the old world, build a new one". Also earning a da Vinci was Lewis North who presented a highly interesting and engaging presentation on the downfall of Imperial Japan and Lauren Dent, whose project discussed the links between women's fashion and social change and the mood board she created is pictured.

Tom Gwashavanhu was awarded a full da Vinci for his confident presentation on Apartheid in South Africa, presented jointly with Marisa Lumani, demonstrating outstanding depth of research and complex explanations based on primary sources.

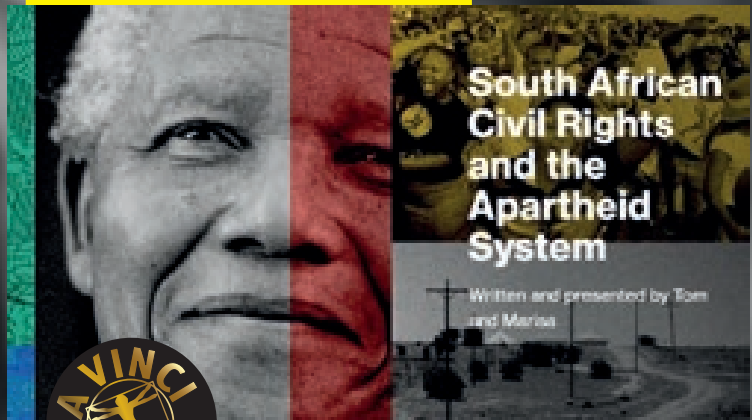
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Amelia Dutton, Y9



Lewis North, Y9

Tom Gwashavanhu and Marisa Lumani, Y9



Lauren Dent, Y9

