



Dear parents,

Once again, it has been a half term of challenges! I can't say how proud I am of our students and the work they do. Attendance is exceptional, as is engagement with the online learning. I have in particular enjoyed teaching science lessons recently but am waiting excitedly to welcome our students back.

The media is often quick to focus on the negative impacts of these lockdowns. I am sure there will be many drawbacks, however, we must also look at the opportunities for this generation. In my opinion, this generation could be the most self-disciplined, resilient and resourceful we have seen and this message is one we will share with our students. A year ago, the world was at their feet. That is still the case today.

Behind the scenes we are working on modifying our curriculum to welcome our students back to school successfully and we are in a lucky position to do this. We have also appointed exceptional teaching staff across every subject for next year. We are, as ever, excited for the future of Whitelands and as a community we will make sure all of our children thrive.

For now, I hope you all have restful and safe half term. I would like to remind you that if you are facing any challenges, please do contact us.

Take care,  
Mr Cush

Congratulations to our student council representatives! We were so impressed by the high standards of the presentations from all nominated students.

**Cavell:** Hannah and Thomas  
**Franklin:** Lili and Richard

**Hillary:** Emily and Lola  
**Mandela:** Jack and Isaac

### House points

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the most house points in their houses since the beginning of this term. A fantastic achievement. Keep up the good work!

#### 7 Cavell

1. Thomas
2. Abigail A
3. Mithuna

#### 7 Hillary

1. Megan
2. Talia
3. Eloise

#### 7 Franklin

1. Amalia
2. Freya
3. Mia-Louise

#### 7 Mandela

1. Isaac
2. Kaci
3. Jack



### Important dates

15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - School CLOSED (Half Term)

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 – Online learning continues for pupils until otherwise instructed by Government.

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2021 – Last Day of Term

## Fundraising



We are delighted to share the amazing fundraising efforts that our students have undertaken so far this year. Congratulations on your fantastic achievements – we are very proud!

Well done to Oscar for fundraising for Future Hope, a charity which helps some of the most vulnerable orphaned children from the streets and slums of Kolkata (formally Calcutta) by offering them a home and the opportunity of an education through their schools. Oscar set himself a challenge to run while dribbling a football 5 kilometres along one of the health routes in Bicester. He crossed the finish line in a record 39 mins and raised an amazing £445 for Future Hope.

Well done to Callum who ran 40 miles between 10<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January, raising a total of £320 for Prostate Cancer. Fantastic fundraising!

Well done to Ori for raising a brilliant £400 for Prostate Cancer by running an average of a mile a day throughout January.



Well done to Emily who raised over £1200 on her 100km bike ride. The money went to support Watoto, which is based in Uganda and cares for orphans and vulnerable women.

## Debate Club

Our Debate Club is up and running and students have been putting forward their arguments on Teams. So far we have debated school uniforms, social media and animal testing. Miss Montague has been really impressed by the arguments students have been putting forward and how respectful everyone has been when listening and counter-arguing. We have some great suggestions from debate club members for topics to debate after half-term. If you would like to get involved, please email Miss Montague for the details.



## Cooking with Mr Cush

Thank you for sending in your cooking photos. We are so pleased that so many students have enjoyed cooking along with Mr Cush. Keep sending them in and get involved with our half-term bake off!



Delicious curry and roti made by Kyla



Beautifully presented spaghetti bolognese by Emily



Alfie chopping



Impressive curry and home-made samosas from Alife



Tasty curry made by Caitlin

### The Great Whitelands Bake Off!

Do you make fantastic fairy cakes? Will you be victorious with a Victoria sponge? Send photos of your half-term bakes to Miss Montague to see who will be crowned the Whitelands Academy star baker.



Zach making pizza dough



Excellent spaghetti Bolognese made by Eloise



Delicious looking pizza made by Oscar

Have you had a go at cooking at home yet? Do you think you could make a pizza as delicious as the one Mr Cush made? The videos are still available to help you try out some recipes.

## PE Challenges

A huge well done to the following students who have accepted all of the PE challenges set by Miss Dawe this term!

Abigail Abraham  
Cameron Slevin  
Daniel Beasley  
Ryan Booth  
Tyler Geering  
Josh Hoodless  
Amalia Lee

Lili Mckinnon  
Sam Parish  
Finley Marshall  
Charlie Kilbane  
Kaci Lothamer  
Isaac Starren  
Joseph Stevenson

Miss Dawe has been really impressed with Alfie M (7C) who has had excellent engagement with PE this term and has been really creative in setting up and running rugby drills for himself.

Grace (7M) and Megan (7H) have been getting together on ZOOM in PE and creating dance routines. They also have been making plans to start running their own extra-curricular dance club when we return to school. Fantastic work!

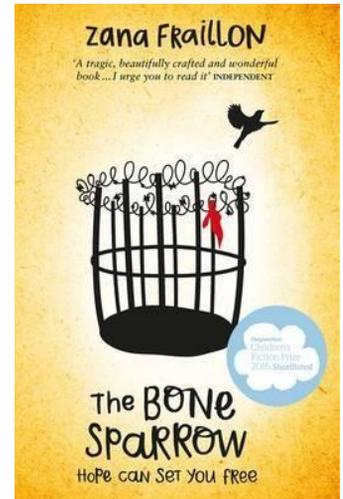
# English and reading



We are currently reading *The Bone Sparrow* after working on the themes of conflict and war in English. Recommended reads on this topic include:

- *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne
- *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo
- *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo
- *Once* by Morris Gleitzman
- *Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
- *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai
- *Tug of War* by Catherine Forde
- *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Raúf
- *Boy 87* by Ele Fountain
- *In the Sea There Are Crocodiles* by Fabio Geda
- *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* by Judith Kerr
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Some of these books do include challenging and sensitive content. You can find out more on the Book Trust website.



## Opening of a short story written by Thomas Samuel-Fagg

The warm summer sun glistened over the famous café Ralf. Inside incredible paintings with gold frames of King Gon hang on the wall. Underneath was the millionaire Che. He was eating a golden steak with chips. It was a successful mission. He was waiting for his money from Lord Tico.

The waiter (Toby) went to seat the next costumer. The room fell silent, 5 body guards with guns walked in. Toby not knowing what to do stood dead still in the front of the café. The guards moved out the way to reveal a short man in his 50s with a girl next to him who looked 20. The man walked over to Che...

## Be Yourself!

I wake up and I am ready for my day,  
When I see other people staring at me, I  
get anxious.  
I say to myself "why is everyone looking at  
me like that",  
I turn around behind me,  
People are still looking.  
Then, I straighten my back and say to  
myself,  
"I do not care".  
Why should I change myself for other  
people?  
I am who I am,  
And if you do not think so,  
I do not mind,  
You cannot be friends with everyone,  
I am who I am,  
I am not changing for anyone,  
I love who I am,  
And you should love yourself, too.  
So, I ask you one thing,  
BE YOURSELF!  
Do not care what other people think,  
Just be you.  
By Freya Taylor

# English and reading

## Writing Stories: By Jack Happell

Writing stories is a good way to express yourself, you can do it whenever you want at a time that suits you best. You can put whatever you like in a story, it doesn't take much. You can write it on anything, a word document, a piece of paper or anything else. The best thing about writing stories is that you can use your imagination, just let the words take you to another world, a world that you can do whatever you like in. It doesn't matter how long your story is, it can be short, or really long. The effect of writing stories is magical, it can take you away from the stress of work and let all your thoughts out. Just let the words out onto the page and then you can tweak it and make it better. I have been busy lately writing a series of stories lately and I really recommend it, it has really given me something to stay busy on over the past year. Here is the opening of the first story of the series...

## The Legend of Blast and Shadow

### Prologue

Long before time had a name, a man by the name of Elementor, created a world called the Realm of Elements. He had the power to shoot a golden beam of creation, it was the most concentrated power in the universe. Elementor had divided the Realm into five different regions: Earth, Fire, Ice Storm and Light (the capital) each region plays a part in keeping the Realm of Elements running smoothly. All was peaceful, all was perfect.

### Chapter 1: The Brothers

As time progressed, Elementor had two sons: Blast, the eldest, and Shadow, the younger of the two. Their father had passed on much of his powers to them, only, they were weaker than his.

### Chapter 2 The Murder

Over time, Shadow grew jealous of his family, and slowly, he seemed to drift away. And then, one day, he grew so jealous that he attacked his parents.

"Shadow", said his mother, "Please, why are you doing this?"

"Because you care more about Blast than you do about me!", he replied.

"Shadow, we do care about you, very much.", said Elementor.

"It's too late for that now you fools!", he screamed, "You should have thought of that earlier!"

And with that he transformed, he turned into a dragon of purple and black. He was no longer Shadow; he was now called Destructor. With his heart filled with darkness, He shot a beam of pure destruction from his hands, killing his parents in a single blow.

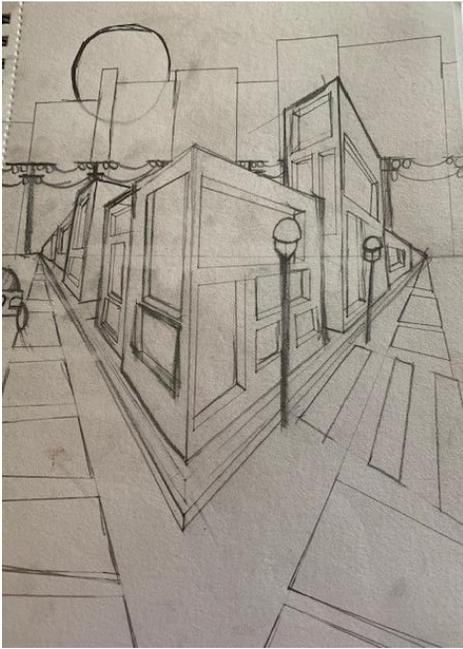
"SHADOW!"



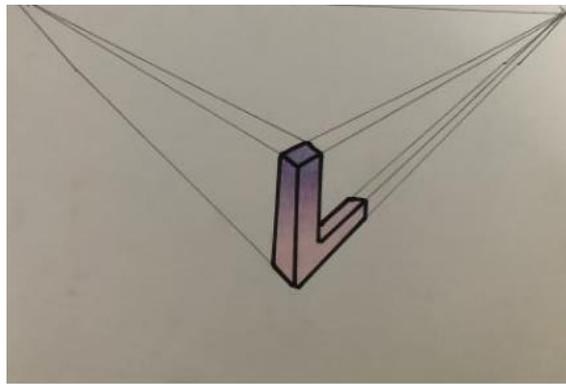
# Art and DT

Students have been completing outstanding DT work developing their drawing skills. Keep sending in pictures of your excellent work to Mrs Peters.

Evan

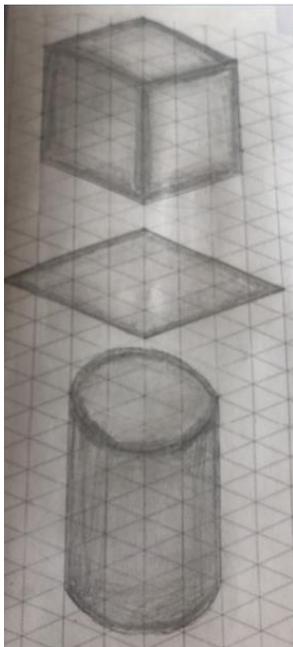


Finley M

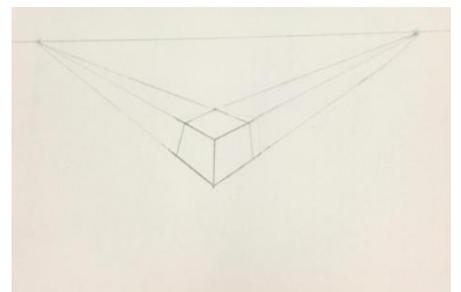
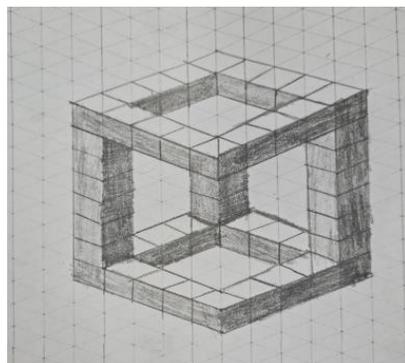


Talia

Jessica



Ori



Abigail A

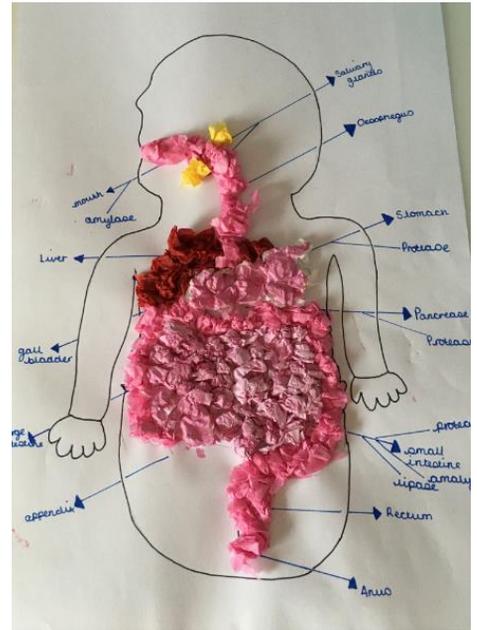
Art club has been running after school for a couple of weeks and it has been a fantastic opportunity for students to come together and have some social interaction via Teams whilst doing some drawing. Mrs Peters sets a drawing task and then during the session students are encouraged to share what they've been working on via the camera so we can have a look at everyone's work.



# Science – Digestive System models

Grace

Oscar



Salivary Glands:  
The salivary glands produce the saliva. The saliva helps with chewing and swallowing your food.

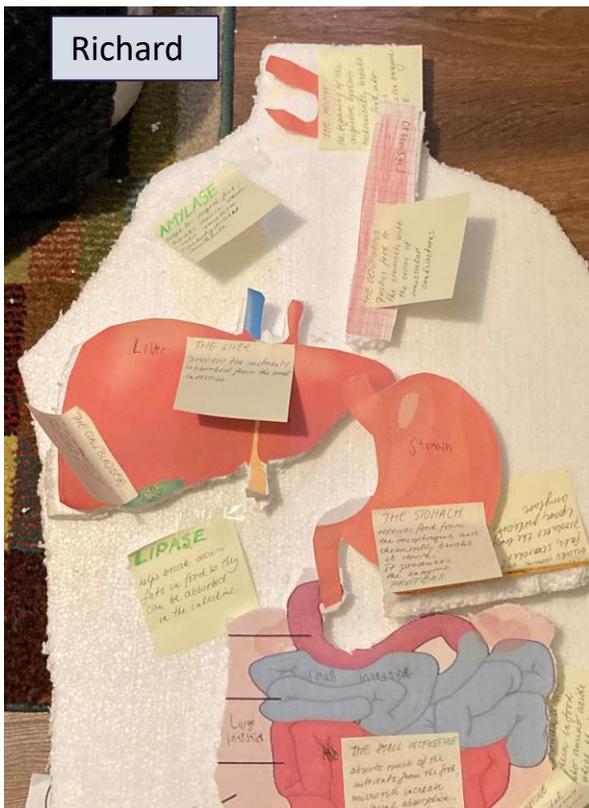
Liver:  
The Liver uses chemical messengers in the blood which excretes a product called bile. This can help as it takes all the waste product away from the liver.

Gall bladder:  
The gall bladder stores a product called bile which is produced by the liver to help break down fatty foods.

Rectum:  
The Rectum's job is to receive the feces. This tells you that there is feces to be let out.

Anus:  
The anus is where your feces come out. When the rectum is full it needs to relax before it lets it out.

Richard



Mrs Edwards received lots of photos of brilliant diagrams and models of the digestive system. Well done for all of your hard work!