



Highlights from EPCS

Issue 3, 21 May 2020



Take care, stay safe and look after one another at this challenging time.
From everyone at Easthampstead Park Community School.

#respect #pride #kindness

Highlights from EPCS during COVID-19



Issue 3, 21st May 2020

Despite the unprecedented challenges, uncertainties and turmoil the nation is facing, the EPCS school community remains strong and active, working and learning together - albeit from a distance! Find below some messages from our Heads of Year, and some extracts from work our students have been producing at home which will hopefully make you smile and brighten your day.

Curriculum update from 1st June

In line with Government guidance, from 1st June, we are planning to provide some face to face support for students in Years 10 and 12 to complement their distance learning. These year groups are being prioritised next (we are already offering school to children of key workers and vulnerable students) as they have external exams to sit in summer 2021 and the Government is concerned that if they are not accessing any form of provision to further their studies they will be disadvantaged. We are in the process of writing to parents of students in these year groups, setting out exactly what this provision will look like and how this will be managed. We encourage parents of Year 10 and 12 students to carefully consider whether sending your child to school at this time is right for your family circumstances. We understand this is a big decision given the current climate and will support whatever decision you personally make. The above provision is, of course, dependent upon the government confirming that national criteria have been met. We understand confirmation will be issued on 28th May, at which point we will write to parents again to confirm details.

The school will continue to provide a comprehensive distance learning curriculum for students in Years 7-9 and any students in Year 10 and 12 not attending the in school face to face support through BeReady and ClassCharts, and teachers will continue supporting students as best they can with their distance learning by email.

We thank you for everything you are doing to support your children with distance learning at this difficult time - we know this isn't easy - and remind you that you are very welcome to get in touch with us if you have any comments or questions by emailing info@epschool.org.

Messages from our Heads of Year

<p>From Ms Preston, Head of Year 7</p>	<p>From Miss Swift, Head of Year 8</p>
<p>Year 7 have continued their impressive commitment to their distance learning. Their hard work and perseverance is being recognised by staff on a regular basis and I appreciate all their dedication. They continue to strive to be the best year group in the school and I am very proud of them. I am sure this pattern will continue into the summer term.</p> <p>Through our bi-weekly emails it is lovely to have regular contact with students and I enjoy the emails that I receive from them. It has been great to hear about their acts of kindness, learn about their pets and generally hear how they are keeping busy. I think many students are appreciating a bit more freedom, embracing the sunshine and being more active. Half term break should provide an opportunity to spend some quality time with loved ones without the stress of distance learning!</p> <p>It has also been nice to be in contact with parents and carers during this strange time.</p> <p>Year 7 are busy thinking about advice that they can give to the new year 7s and have been given the opportunity to volunteer to be a buddy/peer mentor for a new Year 7 student joining EPCS in September. I cannot believe that it is a year ago that I was visiting the current Year 7 in their primary schools, time flies!</p> <p>I wish you all a lovely half term break and look forward to working closely with you in the final term.</p>	<p>Year 8 continue to impress me with their engagement and resilience to the changing situation. Their hard work and effort that they are putting into their distance learning is being recognised by lots of staff and I hope this can continue into the final summer term.</p> <p>It has been nice to be in touch with so many students and parents recently and I will continue to try and make as much contact as possible. It is nice to receive so many responses to my weekly year group emails and I have tried to mix up the quizzes to try and get all family members involved where possible. I do hope you have enjoyed these.</p> <p>Lots of Year 8 students are staying active and have been sharing their activity with me, this is so nice to receive and I hope with the Government's relaxation on being outside, students can continue to be active, both for their physical and mental health. However, it remains very important that everyone sticks to the social distancing rules and stays safe at all times.</p> <p>Although distance learning is important, I also want Year 8 students to spend time doing other activities, which is why this week I have sent out a list of 50 activities / acts of kindness for students to complete. I have challenged them to complete 5 a week! We are the biggest year group and I am sure will continue to prove we are the best year group! Thank you for all of your support.</p>
<p>From Mrs Fear, Head of Year 9</p>	<p>From Mr Ayliffe, Head of Year 10</p>
<p>Year 9 have continued to show commitment to their learning since our last newsletter. 87% of Year 9 students are accessing BeReady lessons and are definitely preparing themselves for Year 10 by doing so. I know that our Year 9's couldn't do this without the support of those at home and their subject teachers, so I want to take this opportunity to thank everybody behind the scenes for encouraging every individual in this cohort to be the very best</p>	<p>I'm glad to see that the vast majority of Year 10 are continuing to work hard at their distance learning on BeReady and ClassCharts. It's wonderful to see so much fantastic work across a range of subjects.</p> <p>Times are changing with some students able to receive some face to face support in school from 1st June, and unless the Government changes their minds, it is looking</p>

they can be.

I have really appreciated the communication with students and their families during our absence from school. Many of you have stayed healthy and made the most of the great weather. I am happy to hear that lots of you are carrying out extra activities alongside your learning such as taking daily walks, cycling, gardening, drawing, cooking and even camping in your own gardens!

'Pet of the week' has been a popular feature in my bi-weekly communications with students and many year 9's have shared their photographs from home. So far we have met several dogs, cats and even a horse! I hope that I have lots more animal photographs come my way for the next half term. My 'Mrs Fear's diary' section has continued and students have been hearing all what I have been up to, including; making a cake that looks like a jacket potato and of course animal stories!

Everything is still very uncertain when it comes to a return to school, so distance learning will continue after the half term holidays. I wish you all a relaxing and well deserved break.

From Mr Puttick, Head of Year 11

A large number of the Year 11 have continued to share what they have been up to since lockdown. I have really enjoyed hearing their stories of projects and activities they have been undertaking, and ways in which some have been helping those more vulnerable than themselves. Please keep on sharing these with me!

The Year 11 hoodies have finally arrived, and it's been wonderful to catch up with so many students and parents when they've come to collect them this week. Alongside their hoodie, students have received a leavers newsletters, featuring pictures of the year group from their time at EPCS. We continue to offer support for all students, writing references and talking through options for their future.

Students still have access to on-line learning portals that some students

like Year 10 will be a part of these changes. I encourage Year 10 parents and students to stay informed as best you can with the national picture. We want to make sure Year 10 students are safe whilst also helping them in every way we can to stay on track with their education. Whilst certain aspects of the lock down are being gradually eased, I implore Year 10 parents and students to remember to strictly follow the social distancing guidelines and to only socialise within the parameters the government has specified.

I hope you spend the half term recharging and getting some quality time with your family.

From Mr Tamale, Head of Sixth Form

Over the last couple of months, the sixth formers have been working hard towards achieving their final grades and next steps beyond EPCS6.

Many of the Year 13s have been confirming and finalising their choices regarding which university courses they will be studying next year. This has included arranging student finance, their accommodation and all of the other university preparation that goes with it! Others have also been contacting us to discuss apprenticeship offers and plans. Some have decided to wait for the end of lockdown to search for full time employment within the local area. We will now look forward to A Level Results Day. A huge good luck to you all!

The Year 12s have been working hard on their current A Level and BTEC studies. We've been really impressed with the engagement that the vast majority of students have shown. Some students have already started to look at how their current

have continued to use ensuring they are ready for their next step come September 2020. Those Year 11 students who are staying with us next year continue to be sent their transition by the EPCS6 subject teachers. Please take an interest in the transition work your child is being set and make sure they complete the task they have been set fully.

I wish Year 11 parents and students a happy half term and remind you that you are welcome to email or call me at school if I can be of any assistance.

Stay safe and be kind to all.

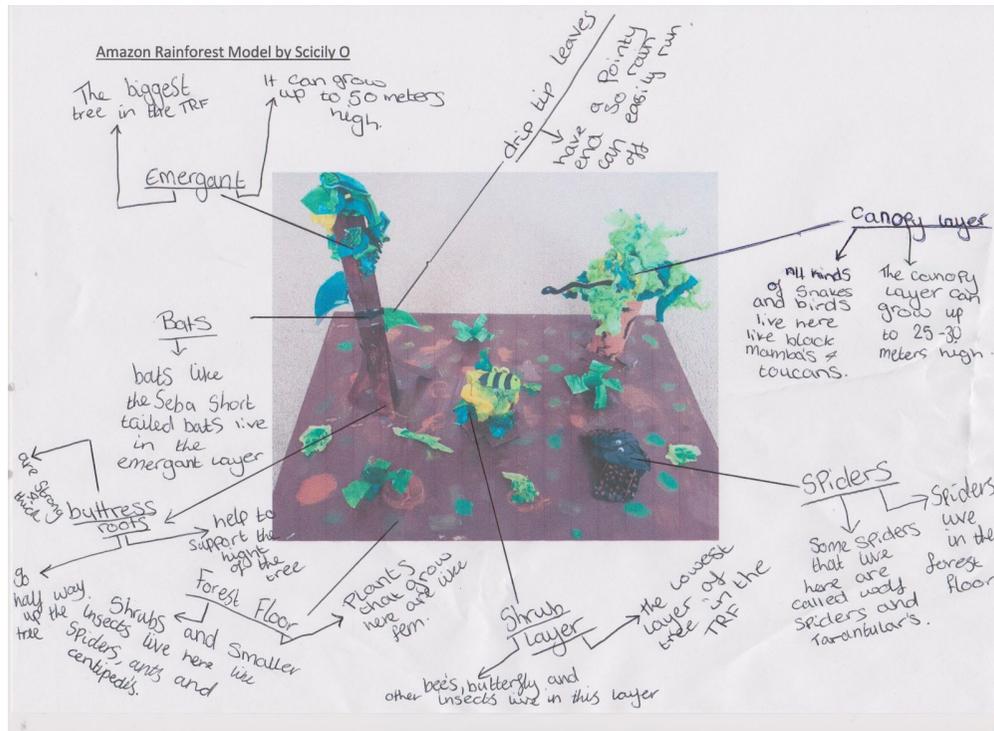
subjects could lead onto different career pathways and how to make these a reality. For example, some students have signed up for online work experience whilst others are engaging with extra-curricular and enrichment courses online to boost their CV and personal statement.

Although many have already begun their research, next half term we will officially start writing our personal statements, CVs and covering letters to help students plan for when they leave EPCS6.

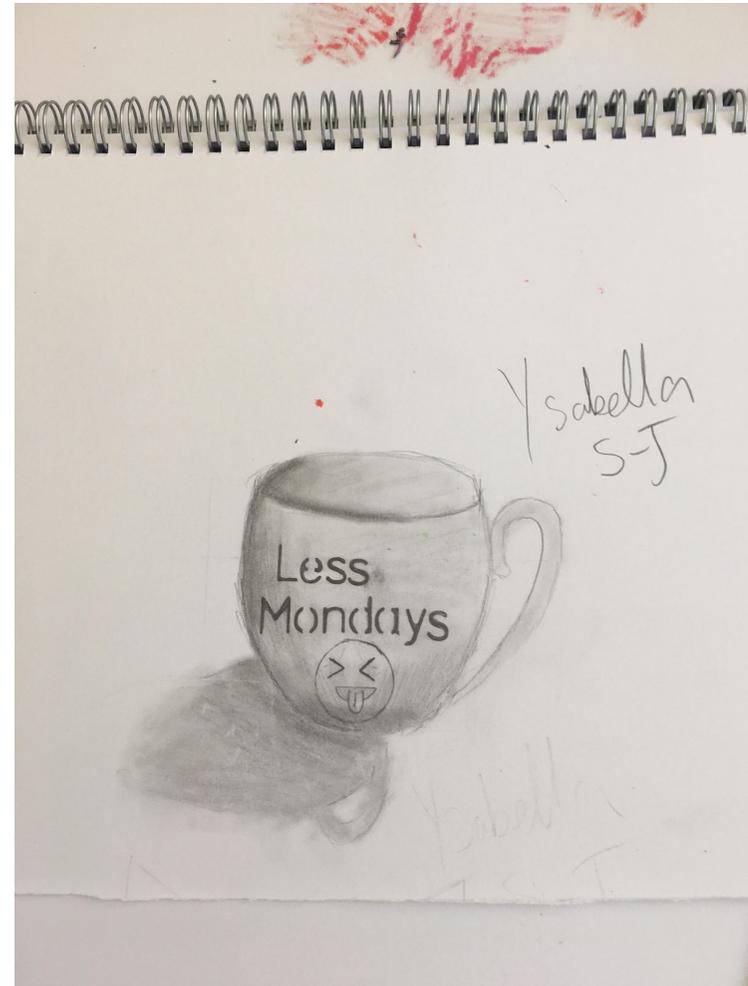
Year 11s who have applied to EPCS6 have also been sent their Transition to Sixth Form work. Engagement with this so far has been really positive and many have been emailing their teachers to discuss the work. We will shortly be sharing a roadmap with the students too and the current Sixth Form Student Head Team are preparing some videos for the Year 11 students, advising them about how to prepare for A-Levels. We look forward to working with them all when lockdown measures are eased.

Examples of excellent home learning being produced by our fantastic students (well done to you all!)

Geography work on the Amazon rainforest, by Scicily, Year 9

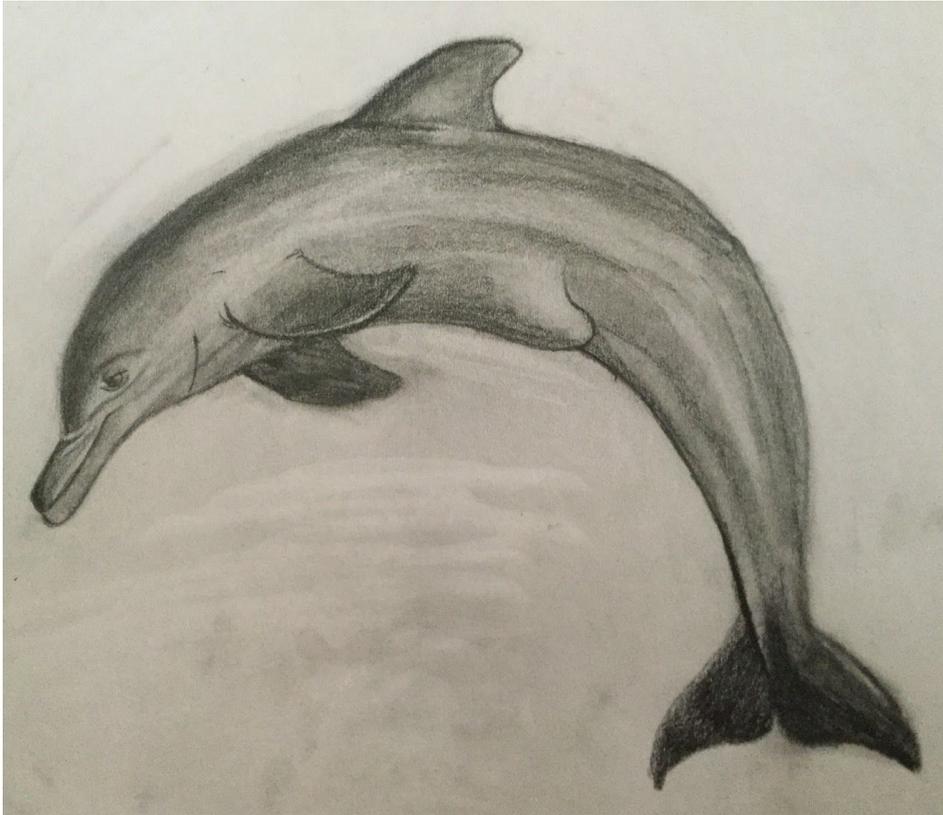


Artwork by Ysabella, Year 7



Artwork by Erin, Year 7

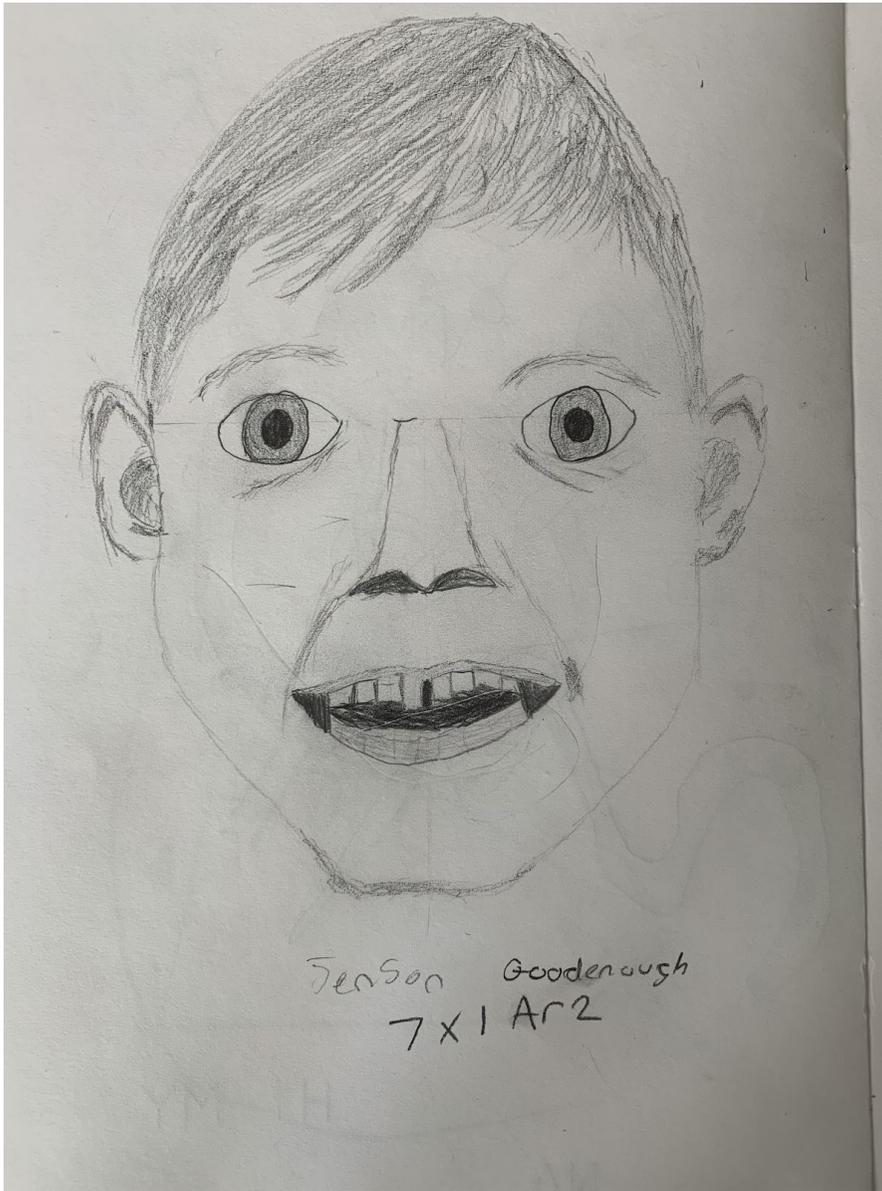
Art work in support of the NHS, by Chloe, Year 7



Self portrait, by Jenson, Year 7



History work on native American beliefs, by Erin, Year 7



Artist Copy by Frankie, Year 10

Native American Beliefs

One key feature of Native American beliefs was the Great Spirit. It was known as "Wakan Tanka" and they believed that success in farming and hunting came from the great spirit.

Another key feature of American beliefs was religion. The Sioux tribe believed in spirits which could bring good or evil to their tribe. The tribe spent much of their lives trying to please the gods to get help. They offered up their best possessions to keep the spirits happy.

Another key feature of native American beliefs was that some people in their tribe was especially good at dealing with the spirits. Each tribe had a medicine man who was in charge of all ceremonies and healing the ill.

I think the most important feature of native American beliefs that they were true lovers of nature. The reason I think this is because they respected the land calling it 'their mother', we could learn a lot from them.

Artist Analysis by Rhiannon, Year 10



I really love this piece of art from the beautiful tones in the washes of watercolour topped with stunningly delicate sketches. The washes of colour drip down naturally creating an almost fantasy like feel to a realistic piece of art. The extreme detail forces the viewer's eye to look even closer at the painting, from the delicate spires and the woman stood in the window. The stark white background adds contrast to the piece. The contrast of the warm and the cold colours creates a balanced mood, however with the blue tinge to the grey it makes it have a colder, sader feel. I think the balance between hot and cold colors creates the atmosphere of peace. I love the technique of using a watercolour wash, it makes the watercolours look more interesting to look ast as the colours bleed into one another. It is uncontrolled and creates a stunning, atmospheric piece of art. The detailed sketch fades out in places which makes it less crowded and cates a few places of interest, forcing your eye around the painting.



Evaluation of factors bringing about the end of World War I, by Meryam, Year 8

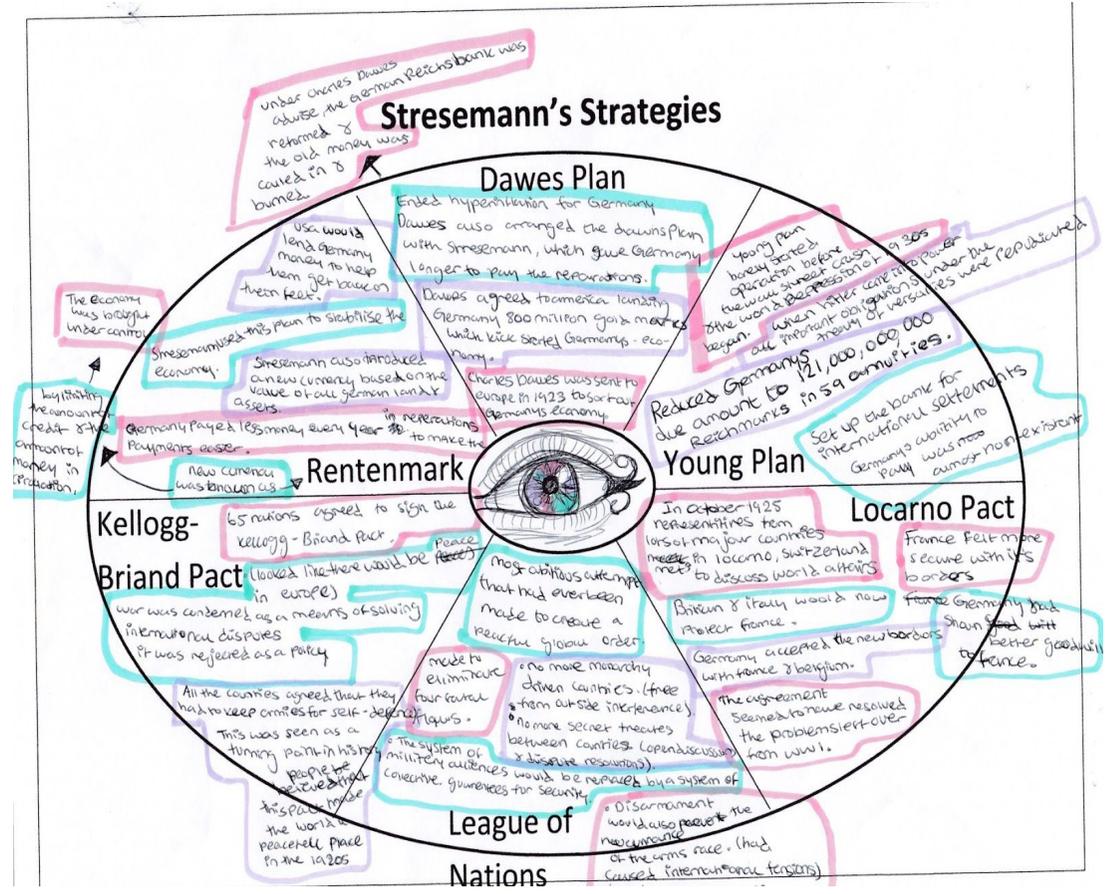
Monday 27th April 2020
The End of world war one

I think one of the most important reasons are thousands in Germany were starving due to lack of resources and food due to the British naval blockade for German seaports that caused the end of world war one. I believe this played a big role because not enough resources were being distributed to the public: if they didn't receive the resources quick enough there would be a decrease of population caused from starvation and possibly a rebel alliance could be formed against the German government.

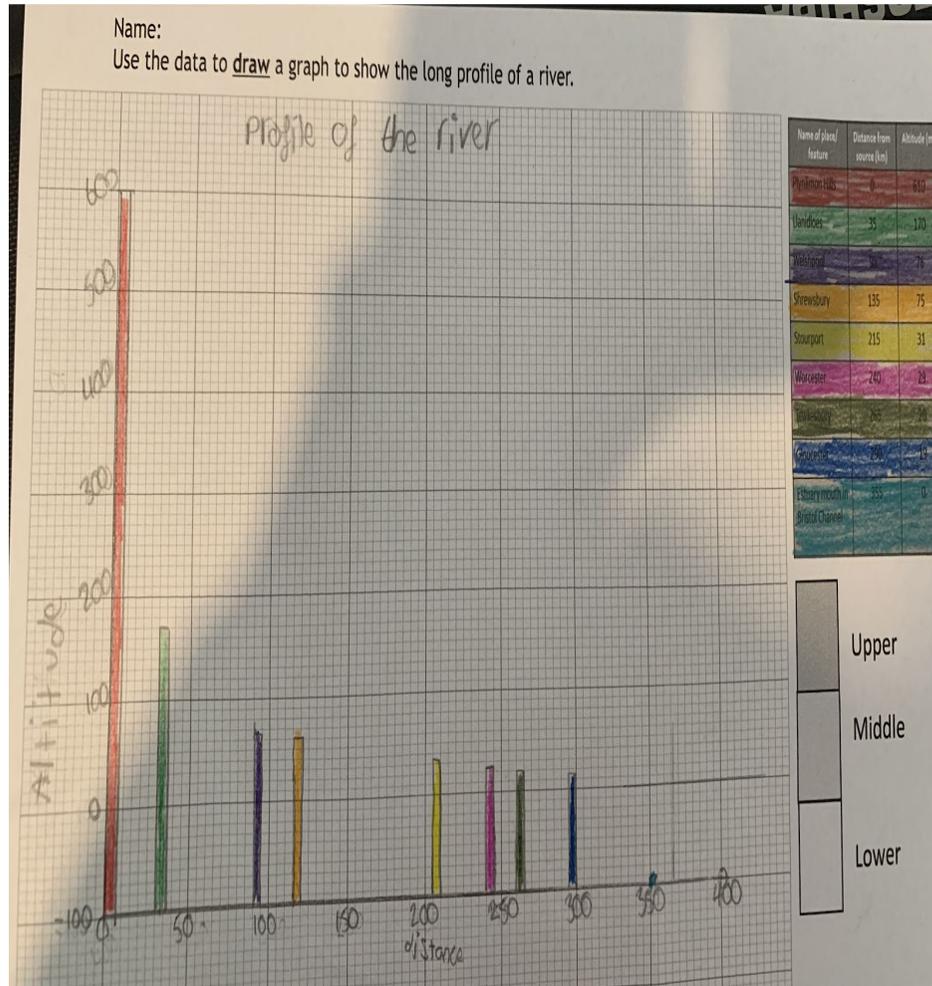
I think another important reason was in April 1918 the United States joined the war against Germany sending over half a million fresh troops that contributed to the ending of world war one. I believe this was an important reason because a new ally had joined outnumbering Germany and their allies giving out a decrease of chance of them winning as no one was joining their side.

The dip represents how both sides signed an armistice to celebrate on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 signal the end of the war. Most families had been

Notes on the Weimar Republic, by Alice, Year 10



River profile, by Ella, Year 8



Sonnet, written by Emilie, Year 7

Sonnet about my toys

Shall I compare them to a fresh-cleaned bed?
 But that bed you can't cuddle like a ted,
 Soft plushies and overrated fast food toys galore,
 There isn't an object that I love more.
 Their refreshing smell when they've just been washed,
 Some of them are old, some of them are posh.
 They make me think of times long ago,
 And it's all fun and games; run, jump, skip, throw!
 Each with their own special stories to tell,
 They brighten every day, and all is well.
 With these special toys I would never part;
 For they will always be right in my heart.

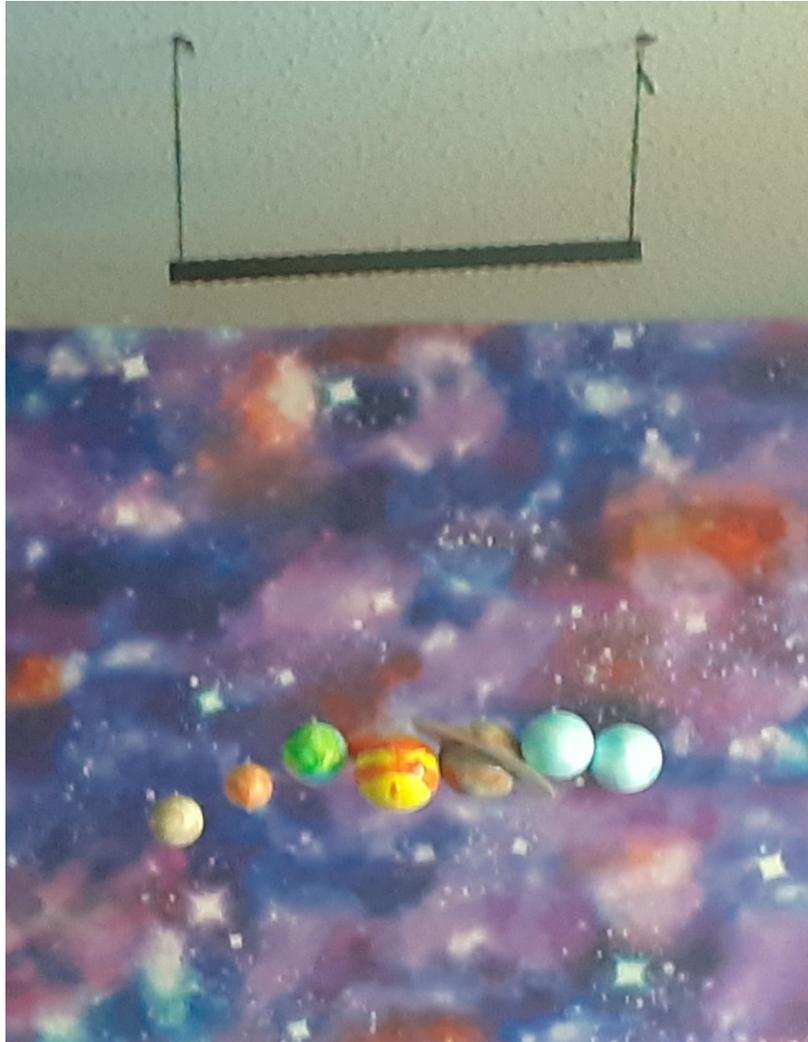
Creative Writing by Leah, Year 9

The clouds watched over Thornford Road as it swept up the last of the warmth. The Poor, embarrassed house stood limply as it urged to see some life through the overgrown bushes and it's peeling skin. With all its strength it persuaded the lifeless windows to not cave in as they threatened to do so. Like a cast on a broken hand, the splintered wood supported the glass as best as it could. Next to him stood his jubilant neighbour who previously that day had experienced the pleasure of being stroked with the smooth, expensive paint and was feeling nice and fresh. She stood vast and proud with her colourful door shining throughout the whole street. Her new metal fence out front was the replacement from the dying plants that her proximate had to offer.

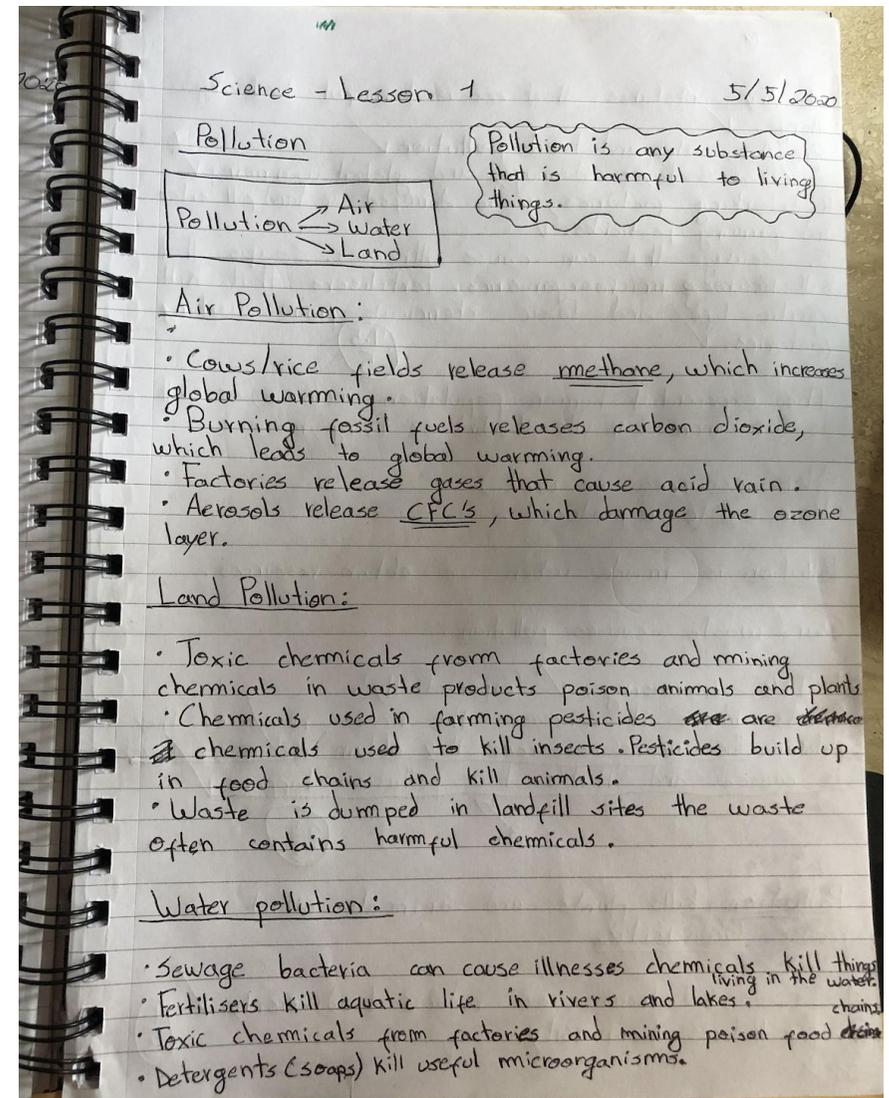
Textual analysis, by Kokwesiga, Year 10

What? (topic sentence)	How? (evidence and structural features)	Why? (effects)
Attention on setting and narrative.	3 rd person perspective "It was a pleasure to burn" • Short sentence	Intriguing and unusual. Making the reader want to know what the burning pleasure is.
The writer has zoomed in to more detail of what pleasure is being burned.	Contrasting pairs. "Special pleasure?.. blackened and changed" The writer used positive words to describe a negative & unusual scene.	The writer has done this to make the setting / Atmosphere a little less scary in order to lessen the readers worry.
Focus shift in atmosphere.	"The air seemed changed, with a special calm." The atmosphere quickly shifted from the unusual description to a more calm tranquil.	This gives the reader a break from the action and constant suspense.

Model Solar System by Robert, Year 7



Science Notes on Pollution by Rodrigo, Year 8



German translation: "MEINE FAMILIE" by Kirsten, Year 10

Translations:

* Man sagt oft, dass Freunde die Familie sind, die man sich selber aussucht. Aber ich denke, dass Freunde wie Schuhe sind. Wenn man jung ist, will man so viele wie möglich haben und, wenn man älter wird, lernt man, dass man sich immer mit dem gleichen am wohlsten fühlt.

It is often said that friends are the family that you choose yourself. But I think that friends are like shoes. When you are young you want to have as many as possible and when you get older you learn that you always feel most comfortable with the same ones.

* I have a good circle of friends and friends are very important to me. We get on well because we have lots in common. I love my parents but they sometimes get on my nerves and we argue because they are too strict and don't give me enough freedom.

Ich habe einen guten Freundeskreis und Freunde sind mir sehr wichtig. Wir verstehen uns gut, weil wir viel gemeinsam haben. Ich liebe meine Eltern, aber manchmal gehen sie mir auf die Nerven und wir streiten uns, weil sie zu streng sind und mir nicht genug Freiheit geben.

Speaking Exam response:

- Kommst du gut mit deiner Familie aus?

Ja, ich verstehe mich gut mit meiner Familie, aber manchmal gehen sie mir auf die Nerven und ich streite die ganze Zeit mit meinen Schwestern. Ich liebe meine Eltern, aber sie streiten sich auch viel, was auch sehr nervig ist. Ich muss zugeben, dass ich sehr dankbar bin, dass ich eine Familie habe und dass sie nicht gebrennt sind.

46

Spanish knowledge organiser: "LAS VACACIONES", by Nathan, Year 8

LAS VACACIONES
Knowledge organiser

OPINIONS
Me gusta / I like
Me encanta / I love
No me gusta / I don't like
No me encanta / I don't love

¿Que horas invitasiones?
¿Que hora vas a las vacaciones?
¿Que hora vas a las vacaciones?
¿Que hora vas a las vacaciones?

¿Adónde vas de vacaciones?
¿Adónde vas de vacaciones?
¿Adónde vas de vacaciones?

¿Con qué frecuencia vas?
¿Con qué frecuencia vas?
¿Con qué frecuencia vas?

CONJECTURES
y and
pero but
o or
también also
sin embargo however
porque because

TIME ADVERBS
recientemente recently
en los últimos días in the last few days
hace un tiempo a while ago
hace poco a short time ago
hace un año last year

Las vacaciones
I go to the beach / I visit the beach
I sunbathe / I sunbathe
I visit monuments / I visited monuments
I swim in the sea / I swim in the sea
I spend time with my family / I spend time with my family
I listen to music / I listened to music
I take photos / I took photos
I eat a lot of food / I ate a lot of food
I read a book / I read a book
I shop at the market / I shopped at the market

Las vacaciones
The countries
Spain
England
France
Italy
Germany
Scotland
Wales
United States
Belgium
South America
Europe

Las vacaciones
normally normally
en el verano in the summer
en las vacaciones in the holidays
siempre always
a veces sometimes

Deconstructed strawberry cheesecake, by Evie , Year 9



German Wordle - "MEINE SCHULE", by Heidi, Year 7



Messages from Subjects

From Modern Foreign Languages:

Thank you to students and parents for all of the excellent work that we have been receiving - well done! Please encourage your child to keep up with their vocab learning on www.memrise.com and www.linguascope.com - aim for 10 mins a day if possible. Seneca Learning is also super for GCSE students.

WANT TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT? Why not listen to some German/Spanish music or have a go at watching a film in a different language (with English subtitles if you like!) I have also put the link to "Nico's Weg" - a series for German students - onto Google classroom for all year groups. It's good fun!

PARENTS: Thinking of learning a new language? It's never too late! There are plenty of resources out there but if you're looking for something that's quick and easy to use we would recommend DUOLINGO - why not have a go and let us know how you get on!

Please email me if you have any queries: kerry.lees@epschool.org

Miss Lees

From the PE Department

The last couple of weeks have been busy in the PE department. Lots of people have been active to complete a variety of challenges.

Firstly, the EPCS to Tokyo Olympic Challenge, where students, staff and parents were asked to walk, run, cycle (or swim in the earlier stages) the 5955 miles between EPCS and Tokyo has been completed! There were some amazing individual contributions across the challenge. A special mention should be given to Will (Year 9) who contributed steadily throughout but then completed 100 miles of cycling in just one week!

Secondly, students have been signing up to the British Triathlon Big Colour Challenge. You can still get involved by visiting www.thebigcolourchallenge.co.uk/ EPCS came 2nd in Week 1 of the Berkshire Virtual School Games! Last week, students participated brilliantly in the Sports Hall Pentathlon event and were narrowly beaten by Garth Hill College. All students that participated have received their certificate of participation. More competitions are on their way. Keep your eyes peeled for more information!

Congratulations and well done!

Please email me if you have any queries: sarah.burrows@epschool.org

Miss Burrows

Take care, stay safe and look after one another at this challenging time.

From everyone at Easthampstead Park Community School.