



## Dear Parents & Carers,

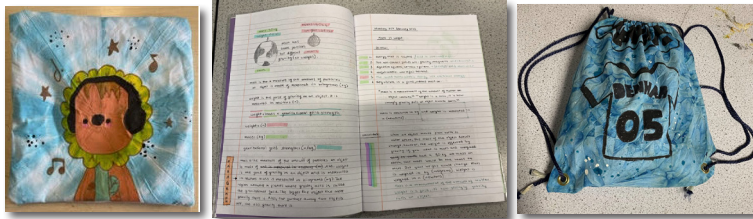
We are proud of our school community and there are so many fantastic things taking place in each and every lesson. Here's an update on some of the highlights!

The final mock exams sat by year 11 and 13 students have been a success and our students have equipped themselves brilliantly. The results will help with targeted revision for the upcoming exam season and whilst it is a nervous time for many we know that with continued hard work our students will achieve great things.

Lower down the school it has been brilliant to see our year 10 students cooking some amazing food in catering. The science department has been preparing for British Science Week with a flurry of practical experiments including paper chromatography, and thermal decomposition. In PE, the team has been gearing up for the summer sports of cricket, rounders and athletics. In maths, our KS3 students have been exploring fractions, probability and percentages. In History, year 7 have been studying the early Tudors whilst 8, 9 and 10 have been exploring WW1, the Cold War and Medicine respectively. Finally in Geography we have been learning about rivers, ecosystems and climate change!!

We celebrate student work in assemblies regularly but here are a few examples to give you an idea.

**Mr D Portsmouth, Deputy Headteacher**



## Reading, Reading, Reading

We encourage all our students to read as much as possible, not just to improve their academic ability, but simply for the joy of it. Any and all support and encouragement from home is appreciated and worthwhile. In school our Literacy interventions for years 7, 8 and 9 aim to develop their skills using a range of platforms such as Bedrock, Lexia and Rapid Plus. A recent introduction is our AQA Step up to English programme for year 9s that can lead to a certificated qualification. So far they are on track to attain Gold Certification with just Gothic Horror as the last topic to go!

We have had a number of successes with each of these programs and students are jumping up to higher blocks on Bedrock with some truly impressive point scoring. Great questions are stemming from the Year 8 stories in particular. These questions relate to the ideas and themes of the book and is supported by the increasing confidence in all students with their reading.

Keep up the hard work everyone!

**Ms C Day (Literacy Coordinator):**



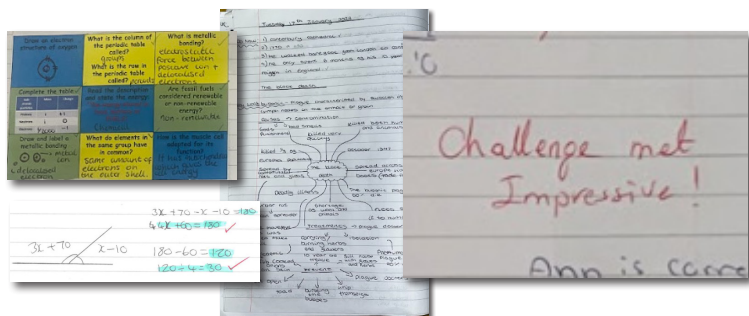
## Readers As Leaders - Sixth Form Enrichment

Late last term, 50 of our sixth form students signed up for **Readers As Leaders** enrichment. After hearing of the benefits to their own CV and UCAS statements, as well as the significant role they would play in the school wide community developing some of our younger and more reluctant readers, they attended a days training: supporting with phonics; asking the right questions; developing fluency; and encouraging reading for pleasure.

We now have these students in most KS3 library lessons, working one-to-one or in small groups, supporting teachers closing the reading age gap which exists for many of our students. Students have been reading a range of texts with their mentors, like Lord of the Flies, Wonder, The Lovely Bones, David Walliam's books; Proud of Me etc.

So far, the enrichment has been an overwhelming success, with sixth formers blossoming in confidence in this role of responsibility and younger students feeling excited about reading with and to their mentor.

**Ms S McCarthy, Assistant Headteacher - Literacy**



## Key Dates

**14<sup>th</sup> March - Year 8 Parents Evening (Online)**

**15<sup>th</sup> March - Careers Expo**

**15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March - Strike Days**

(see here for details of which Year Groups this affects)

**28<sup>th</sup> March - Year 7 Parents Evening (Online)**

**31<sup>st</sup> March - INSET Day**

**3<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Break**