

High School and Sixth Form

w/c 11.1.21

100% A* results for EPQ

This week saw the examination results of the November entries for our Upper 6 EPQ students and it was an absolutely outstanding set of A* grades across the board.

Not only is this a headline in itself, but 50% actually attained full marks for their projects!

In a year where a national lockdown prevented students from being able to attend school, our pupils joined weekly Zoom tutorials and diversified their research skills in order to continue writing their projects. In so doing, they managed to complete this two-year course in just 13 months making their achievements all the more significant.

A huge congratulations to Maesie Atkinson, Amrita Flora, Sara Hussain and Hannah Wilson for their exceptional accomplishments.



Lower 6 psychologists conform even when using Zoom!



Experiments are often incorporated into our psychology lessons in school, but would the results expected from psychological theory still apply when students were isolated at home and only interacting through Zoom?

In order to see, Lower 6 psychology students were shown a jar of jelly beans and asked to individually write down how many jelly beans were in the jar. They were then placed into small breakout rooms on Zoom where each member of the group had to read their value aloud. The group then had to decide on an average which was subsequently shared as a whole class. And now for the psychology...

Students were finally given the option of sticking with their own original value or changing their mind to the group's value. Just as psychological theory would predict, the vast majority of students (8 out of 9) changed their opinion to the group average, thereby demonstrating informational social influence. This led perfectly into our class discussion about the different explanations for conformity that exist and why not everyone may conform. A perfect result!

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Upper 3 brain training art



Upper 3 have been looking at how the brain influences how we draw. We have focussed on a range of activities that help to train the way we use our brain to improve our art.

Pupils completed a variety of tasks including continuous line drawing, blind contour drawing and upside down drawing in their first art lockdown lesson.

Examples of work include some upside down drawings of Picasso's 'Stravinsky' which involved pupils observing the image upside down and analysing the image as a series of lines and shapes.

Some impressive artwork from Upper 3...well done!

A Level Business Studies - Internationalisation

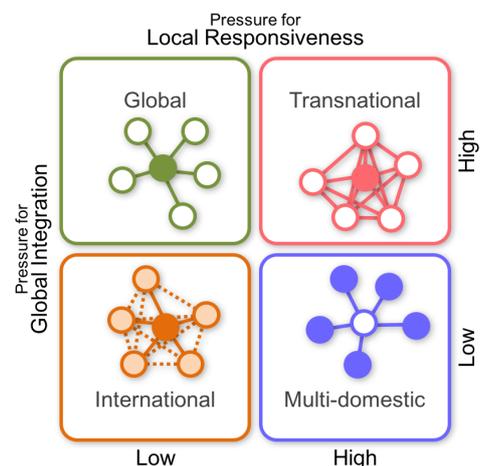
Upper 6 A Level Business Studies pupils have been looking at internationalisation, specifically Bartlett and Ghoshal's model of international strategic development as shown below.

The girls watched a number of news reports about the global strategies pursued by various companies then analysed the reasons behind the strategies and their likely success.

[Click here](#) to view Harriet Green's work.

Strategic Options for Multi-National Corporations

Christopher Bartlett & Sumantra Ghoshal



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Spanish pen pals make contact with Gateways pupils



Just before Christmas all pupils in High School were given the opportunity to have a Spanish pen pal from Mendebaldea school in Vitoria, Spain.

The school has done several school exchange visits with them in the past and it's a great opportunity for pupils to expand their cultural, social and linguistic experiences by having a Spanish pen pal.

We decided to start the old fashioned way and write letters to the Spanish pupils, all in Spanish and some with photos and beautiful calligraphy (Mrs Pease's influence!).

Apparently one of the Spanish teachers read out one of the letters, saying how good the Spanish was!

After that the pupils made contact via the school e mail and have been talking, videoing and messaging on various digital social media under parental supervision. Talking to them during Zoom lessons, the pupils are finding it really motivating and are making friends already.

They have been discussing the differences in Spain and the UK between schools, lockdown restrictions and life in general as a young person. It's wonderful that they can have real life conversations with real life Spanish young people, especially at the moment when we are all feeling that our world is getting more limited.

I do hope they keep in touch with their pen pal regularly and, who knows, they may even get to visit them when we can travel!
