



Wembley High Technology College

Newsletter

Spring 1- 2025

Message from Mr. Tom Best, Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I read through this edition of our newsletter, I am once again struck by how accomplished and engaged our students are, thriving both inside and outside the classroom. Whether it is through academic excellence, creative pursuits, sporting achievements, or leadership opportunities, our students continue to impress. From the dedication shown in the Duke of Edinburgh Award to the enthusiasm of our Year 9 students embracing martial arts classes, there truly is something for everyone in our school community. None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our staff and parents/carers. I want to extend my sincere thanks to you all for helping to create such a rich and diverse environment for our students to flourish.

This term has also seen significant success for our Year 13 students in their university applications. I am incredibly proud to share that over 80% of students have already received at least one offer from a Russell Group university - a huge achievement that reflects their hard work and ambition. A special mention must go to the six students who have received offers to study Medicine or who have secured places at Oxbridge - an outstanding accomplishment. We wish all our students the very best as they begin preparation for this summer's examination series.

Finally, I am pleased to inform you that our application for candidacy to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) has now been submitted. This is an exciting step forward in expanding our curriculum, and I look forward to sharing further updates with you in due course.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you enjoy reading about the many achievements of our students in this newsletter.

Tom Best
Headteacher

Message from Ms. Beth Ragheb, CEO

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to share with you the latest updates, celebrations, and key information from across our school community. Your ongoing support plays an essential role in your child's success, and by working together, we can ensure they achieve their very best - both academically and personally. In this edition, you will find important dates for your diary, helpful guidance to support learning at home, and further opportunities to engage with school life. We are also delighted to celebrate the achievements of our students, whose commitment and hard work continue to inspire us all. We hope you enjoy reading about the excellent examples of student engagement and success that take place each and every day.

It has also been wonderful to welcome so many parents to our recent school learning walks, and we greatly value your participation. These visits are an important part of the collaborative culture we are building with our parent community. Further learning walks are planned in the coming weeks, so please do look out for future invitations and communications from the school.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can make this a successful and rewarding year for all our students.

Beth Ragheb
CEO

Cross-country

We are so pleased to be offering students the chance to join cross country club this year. This club offers our pupils opportunities to enhance their fitness and wellbeing, whilst also improving their skills of resilience, determination, and perseverance.

Running cross country is a very challenging sport, and this allows pupils to see what they are capable of and improve upon their fitness each week.

We were very excited to take 7 of our students in Year 7 and Year 11 to their first cross country event at Harrow school earlier this week.



This was an extremely competitive event at a very high standard, with our students not only representing Wembley High but also the Brent borough.

We are very proud of our pupils for competing to the best of their ability in this event, with some pupils running the furthest they have ran in one go!

We hope to be able to take more of our pupils to future events to continue deepening their race experience and ability to push themselves in challenging scenarios.

Any queries about joining cross

Any queries about joining cross country club please contact Ms. Robinson, Mr. Moreland or Ms. Blum!

“ Firstly, we are extremely grateful to Mr Moreland, Miss Robinson and Miss Blum for their dedication to running and organising the club and event; their expertise was invaluable and significantly impacted our performances during the competition. The event was a great experience to compete with some of the best runners across London, motivating us to train even harder for the prospect of similar future events. ”

Sam – Year 11

“ It was definitely a very eye-opening experience being able to run alongside and watch some of the best runners of our age in London. We learned a lot of new ways to perfect our technique and also where we are physically as individuals. It is one of the most mentally motivating events I personally have ever participated in and I can't wait for the next. A word of thanks to all the teachers who helped organise and commit weekly to training us. This wouldn't have been possible without them and they deserve just as much credit recognition as us if not more. ”

Tia – Year 11



Anti-bullying Workshop

The anti-bullying workshop was a very good introduction to bullying and how to spot and report it. We learnt about different types of bullying like cyberbullying and social bullying and what to do if someone is experiencing bullying. The person leading the workshop was very engaging and interacted with us to make sure we understood everything. They made up scenarios for us to respond in the best way for the situation; for example, if you witness someone being bullied numerous times, you should tell a trusted adult and comfort the person being bullied to see if they are okay.

I found the workshop very helpful in identifying the different types of bullying and I also believe it helped my classmates in understanding right from wrong so that they knew it was better to stand up to bullies rather than being a bystander.

We were also taught the difference between bullying and discrimination, and how bullying is usually about something you can change whereas discrimination is about a part of your identity and something you can't change. I think that we should have more workshops like this take place in WHTC as they are beneficial to making us aware of the world around us and that there are problems out there, but we have the power to help change them.

Mathila L.



Brilliant Club Graduation Trip to Wadham College for Year 8 and SOAS for Year 10 and 12

The Brilliant Club Graduation Trip was a memorable experience for our Year 8 students, who visited Wadham College, Oxford, and Year 10 and 12 students, who toured SOAS. Both events celebrated the hard work and achievements of the students, with student spokespeople speaking at the graduation, sharing their pride in the journey they had undertaken. They expressed how much they had grown academically and personally through the programme, highlighting the valuable insights they gained about university life. The students had excelled in their final assignments, demonstrating exceptional effort and understanding of their PhD tutors' chosen topic. It was a fantastic opportunity to recognise their dedication, showcase their accomplishments, and inspire them for the future. We are very proud of our Brilliant Club students!

Nancy B.



The student anti-bullying workshop was beneficial. I believe that I learnt so much about antibullying: what to do if I witness bullying, who to tell and how to not be a bystander. The workshop itself was very interactive and engaging. The speaker made the workshop very fun and at the same time very educational. For example, the speaker made up scenarios and asked us what to do in this situation. I personally found this part very informative as these were scenarios that could potentially take place so if they happened I would know exactly what to do. The speaker was also very understanding as he told us that standing up for bullying was hard however we have stand up for what is right even when it is scary. If we witness bullying and we do nothing, that makes us a bystander. Even if you are too scared to stand up to the bully, doing nothing and ignoring it will help no one; instead you could report and talk to the person who was bullied and make sure they are okay. I hope we can experience workshops like these in the near future. Workshops like these are very helpful as we can use this information in real word situations. I know that what I have learnt will be relevant for years to come.

Yashvi M.

Road to Maths Challenge

The Road to Team Maths Challenge Club is a space where students get together to tackle exciting and challenging maths problems. Each week, students are presented with maths concepts and challenges from outside their typical syllabus, giving them an opportunity to explore new topics. These activities not only boost their individual maths problem-solving skills, but also equip them with strategies for effective teamwork. At the end of the year, four students will be chosen to represent our school in the national Team Maths Challenge competition. This presents a fantastic opportunity for students to apply their learning, all while enjoying themselves and forming new friendships along the way.

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Road to Team Maths Challenge Club is an excellent club for a number of reasons. One being the opportunity to work as a team and overcome difficult maths questions. This is essential as not only are you building your maths skills but also stimulating your mind.

Another reason is you can also learn from your mistakes to push yourself forward. By getting something wrong, you can understand where you went wrong and this helps to get a question of the same type right because you can correctly do the part you got wrong last time.

In conclusion, I recommend this club if you want to challenge yourself and work as a team as it could also help you beyond the curriculum.

”

Kian P. (7.2)

Last term, our school hosted an exciting and competitive in-school chess tournament, with 30 students from across different year groups coming together to showcase their strategic thinking and problem-solving skills.

The event was a resounding success, filled with intense matches, great sportsmanship, and moments of brilliance.

Over several rounds, players demonstrated impressive focus and strategic planning, carefully considering every move and anticipating their opponent's next steps.

After several rounds of fierce competition, Vishveshh R. (Year 11) and Vinayaka R. (Year 7) emerged as the winners of the tournament, having both fought hard to secure their places at the top.

Their impressive performances earned them well-deserved recognition for their skills and determination.

Chess Tournament

The tournament was not only about winning - it was about bringing our school community together, celebrating intellectual challenges, and encouraging every student to grow and excel. We are incredibly proud of all the participants, from the seasoned players to the newcomers, and we look forward to upcoming events later in the year, which promise to bring more exciting challenges and opportunities for growth.

The event was organised by our dedicated chess club, run by Mr. Ralphs and Ms. Murphy, with students stepping up to assist with the running of the tournament.



Their hard work and enthusiasm helped ensure everything ran smoothly, contributing to the overall success of the event.

A big thank you to all the students who attended and assisted with the running of the tournament, helping to make it such a memorable experience, and we look forward to continuing to support and celebrate our students' love of learning, both on and off the chessboard!



Cheerleading

A huge well done to our cheerleaders who get together once a week to practise their skills. As you can see, this sport is not for the fainthearted!

We are so proud of our students and their resilience and determination, and bravery!



Year 7 PE



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In PE this term, we have been learning about table tennis and flag football, I have found this really interesting as they are new sports that require different levels of teamwork and strategy. Next term, I am looking forward to learning about football and basketball! Football is my favourite and I can't wait to show off my skills in lesson. My lessons are really fun because of teachers' planning of activities and the great personality from teachers who are making lessons fun. We have the opportunity to make mistakes when we practice and get better. Activities are entertaining and engaging and this is why PE is my favourite subject.

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Robert S. (7.2)

Year 7 Girls' football

Well done to our Year 7 girls footballers who played in their first tournament against North Brent School this half term.

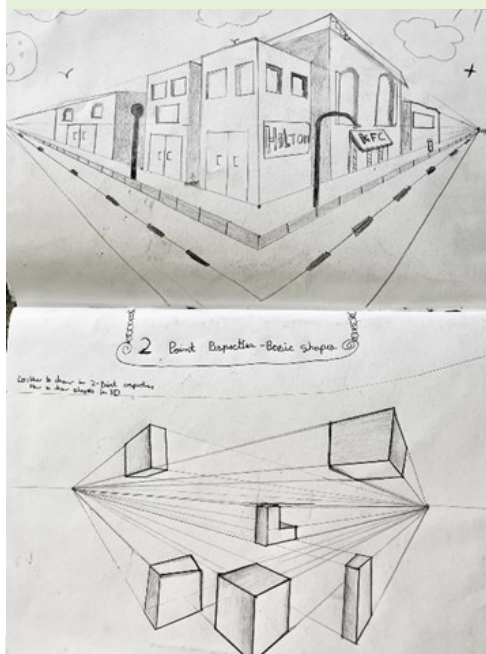
We look forward to them competing with more schools during matches after the half term.



Our diligent GCSE Art students continue to work with thought and ambition, creating some really impressive outcomes in relation to their coursework project 'Distortion in Portraiture.' It is really encouraging to see students working at such a high level when they are just at the start of their GCSE studies – Well done!

Creative Arts

Year 7

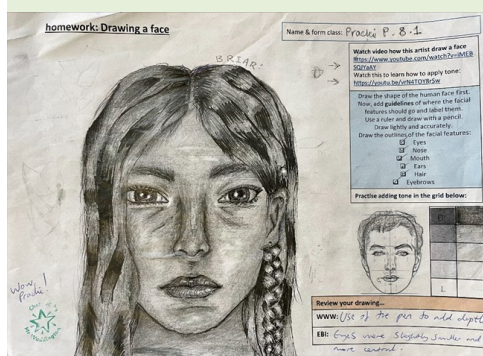


In Year 7, students have been working hard on a Design and Technology project called 'Tiny House.' The Tiny House movement aims to promote the simplification and reduction of living spaces using ecological methods. Students have been developing technical drawing techniques such as, isometric and perspective drawing, which they have been using to design their own tiny houses. They are all looking forward to building their tiny house models after the half term break.

“ In crotchet club, I really enjoyed it and we made slip knots and have done lots of different things. I enjoyed it because it was a new experience and fun to learn.
Miss Yatin explained it all really well.

Farisha (7.7)

Year 8

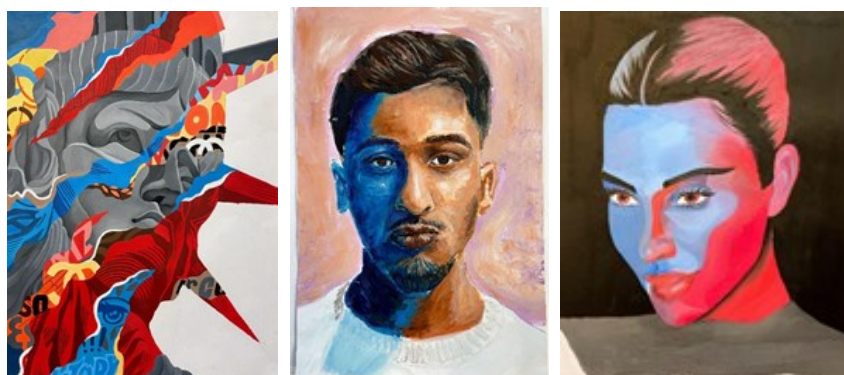


In Year 8, students have been exploring the world of portraiture and the possibilities within the art form. Throughout the term, they have been experimenting with a range of techniques and materials such as, pointillism and impasto painting, and are showing pride in their outcomes.

Students at Animation Club have been producing a stop motion animation using paper cut outs as the medium. Students started the club by looking at forms of paper animation for inspiration, then creating a set of characters to base their animation around. Characters were designed to be easily cut out of paper and easily animated. The characters were then put into a story board where the narrative of the animation was explored. Students then began to cut out all the necessary parts for the animation out of paper, including the characters, objects and backgrounds used. In the final week, using the school cameras, students will create the animations using stop motion techniques.

Our hard working Year 12 students have been continuing with their exploration into their chosen theme and are making some outstanding outcomes. Students are exploring their themes 'Pop Culture', 'Phobias', 'Portraiture' and 'Identity' through artist responses, whilst working with a range of styles, materials, colour palettes and techniques.

Year 10



Year 12



Mock Speaking Exams (French and Spanish)

A huge well done to the Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 students who completed their first mock speaking exam this half term! Your dedication and effort have been truly impressive and this experience will be invaluable in building your confidence ahead of the exam in the Summer term.

Keep pushing yourselves, stay motivated, and continue making great progress!

Year 11 Spanish

“ This term, in Spanish, we have been concentrating on the speaking component of the exam, which happens to be my personal favourite; dedicating ourselves to polish our speaking skills, with the goal of securing the top grades of 7s, 8s, and 9s. During our three weekly lessons, we have been focusing on mastering the essential techniques required to excel in every aspect of the speaking exam.

As part of the speaking exams, we are encouraged to incorporate grade 9 phrases to enhance our speaking. This includes the use of idioms, which are not only captivating but also incredibly rewarding to learn and utilise, or in other words, they are ‘estupendo’.

Learning about idioms, in particular, is truly fascinating, as it not only educates us about the culture of different countries but it also offers us an insight into how each country finds humour in unique ways.

Additionally, every country has its own set of idioms, for example, here in London, many people say "It's raining cats and dogs," which humorously highlights the often tragic weather. It's intriguing how a collection of seemingly unrelated words can come together to form a comical expression.

Next term, as we approach closer to our exams, I am especially excited to further develop my Spanish skills, primarily focusing on improving my reading and listening abilities. This will not only boost my performance but also significantly increase my fluency.

Personally, I particularly enjoy Spanish because it offers the opportunity to learn and grow in a positive and supportive environment. I am surrounded by kind, encouraging classmates and hardworking, dedicated teachers, which enables me to thrive, while also enjoying the learning process. ”

Shreya (Year 11)

Year 12 Psychology

Year 12 Psychologists, who have progressed to the final round of the Psychology Olympiad, have been conducting their own research projects. Students designed their own experiments, gathered data, analysed the results and drew relevant conclusions. From which, they summarised their study and wrote a psychological report. Students explored the following topics: the impact of media framing on Eye Witness Testimony, gender differences in the serial position curve and the impact of auditory/visual distractions on our memory.

A student wrote the following review:

‘Deciding to participate in the British Psychology Olympiad filled me with much reward and achievement. Completing each round has been a challenge. However, it allowed me to engage in higher thinking and expand my psychological knowledge into unfamiliar territory. The excitement of knowing I was able to get through to the global round was almost unexplainable and incomparable- one of my greatest achievements to date. The global round provided me the opportunity to expand and apply my knowledge on a practical level by designing a psychological study.’

Student Book Reviews



Black Hole Cinema Club by Christopher Edge

'I love all the excitement and adventure of this story - it is so interesting from the beginning, as the friends meet at the cinema for an epic film marathon and are swept up by this tsunami of darkness by the end of the second chapter! It throws you right into the mystery and wonder of what the whole book is about. This is why I like this book and why I find it so interesting. I highly recommend it to other pupils!!!'

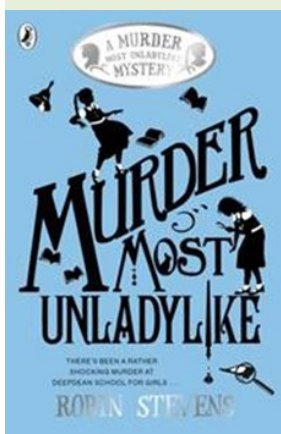
Hiya 7.4

Foxlight by Katya Balen

Katya Balen explores the themes of nature, belonging, and self-discovery. The protagonist, a child with a unique connection to foxes, embarks on a journey to protect her forest home from encroaching dangers. Balen's prose is richly descriptive, immersing readers in the natural world. The story resonates with themes of environmental preservation and the bonds between humans and animals.



Aarna 8.2



Murder Most Unladylike by Robin Stevens

I enjoyed the book 'Murder Most Unladylike' because it hooked me in from the very first sentence. It's a murder mystery full of twists. It made questions race through my mind and kept me guessing till the end. It's one of the best EVER books I've read.

Arya 8.1



The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy

In my opinion this is one the most funniest and majestic books I have ever read. There is a girl named Mildred Hubble, who is very clumsy and her spells always go wrong, she also crashes her broomstick every time she tries to fly it.

However, there is another girl who is completely the opposite, named Ethel Hallow. Even though she seems to be perfect, she is always thinking of ways to

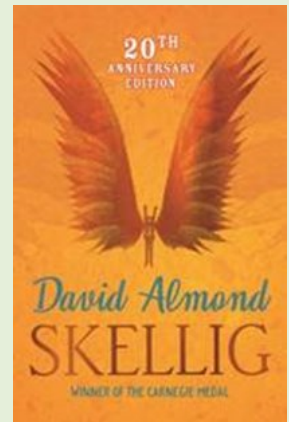
sabotage people to get to the top. I would definitely recommend this book. I hope you enjoy it!

Sainijaa 7.4

Skellig by David Almond

This book is about a boy called Michael. I really like the way David Almond creates tension in the story. It starts with Michael moving house, then he finds something amazing in the garage, a new friend. I liked this book, but it needed more action. I only say that because I am an adventure person.

Muhammad 9.10

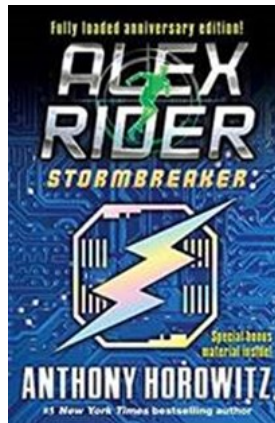


Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz

This book is about a fourteen-year-old boy called Alex Rider. He was at school when MI6 ask him to become a spy. He has to take part in training exercises and he is armed with special gadgets. He is then ready to start his first mission. Maybe his first mission will be his last!

I liked the descriptions, it made me feel as though I was in the book, being Alex Rider. At the end of every chapter it leaves you on a cliff-hanger, so you want to keep on reading. My favourite part is when Alex gets caught spying, but he narrowly escapes!

Aryan 8.1



A-Level History Trip: The National Portrait Gallery



On Tuesday 4 February we took our A-Level Historians on a trip to the National Portrait Gallery, where they had an opportunity to look at some of the portraits they have studied in their A-Level course. Many students were struck by the scale and detail in these portraits, which were a crucial element of the display of political power in the Tudor period.

Pia P. (13.2) said: *"Going on our first trip to the National Portrait Gallery set the bar high for future potential trips. We started off with viewing Tudor portraits where we saw many familiar paintings such as the iconic portrait of Elizabeth I standing on the globe which we studied in class. However, a class favourite was the optical illusion of Edward VI which really encapsulated the reign of Edward VI as it emphasised his child like nature and the memorial drawing of Henry VII and Henry VIII which we were all in awe at. After exploring the Tudor portraits, we had time to go explore the other rooms filled with an abundance of history from different periods where I was most surprised by the sheer size and detail in the Anti-Slavery Society convention in 1840 and the portrait of John Collier. Going on this trip was very educational as we got to see many of the paintings we study and also sparked an interest for many to explore different moments of past."*

GCSE Classical Civilisations and Latin Trip: The British Museum

On Friday 7 February, we took our GCSE Classical Civilisations and GCSE Latin students on a trip to the British Museum, where they had an opportunity to look at some of the artefacts they have studied in their respective GCSE courses. Students really enjoyed the opportunity to explore the Museum and to put these objects into their wider context.

Kitty K. says: *"The trip to the British Museum was very fun and informative. Having went with my Latin class, our teacher showed and told us about Roman sources such as the statues of the emperors. It was so interesting listening to Ms Gulletta talk about the artefacts and sources; she even prepared us a presentation with images of other artefacts to show us and being able to tell us all about them in detail without having to read off anything. Being able to go with a smaller group was much more comfortable and relaxing because we could all interact and talk to each other and Ms Gulletta. We finished earlier and went to gift shop and then practiced extra Latin! It felt so good not having to rush."*



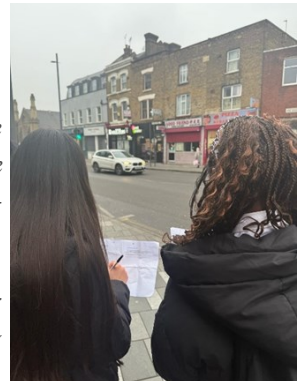
On Tuesday afternoon, we went on a field trip to the Olympic Park in Stratford to complete our GCSE Geography urban fieldwork. We visited two sites which were the Olympic Park, a regenerated area of London and The Grove Road, an area which has not undergone regeneration. At both sites, we collected qualitative and quantitative data using an environmental quality survey (EQS), land use surveys, a field sketch and public questionnaires.

The EQS enabled us to collect data on the overall quality of the area whilst the land use survey looked at the type of businesses located at each site. The data collection revealed the Olympic Park had more green space and high-end businesses in comparison to The Grove

Road which had more independent businesses and a significantly poorer EQS score even though they were only a 20-minute walk from each other!

The public questionnaire was the most insightful as we conducted conversations with members of the public regarding their perception of the Olympic Park. This encouraged us to have confidence in communicating with the public and it was very interesting to collect contrasting views on the same area from different stakeholders". **Anaia (11.10)**

Y11 GCSE Geography



Key Stage 3 Humanities Club

The Humanities Club this half term have all been great at contributing such high-quality presentations. Most recently, Rokaya Mohammed gave an amazing presentation on Baghdad, finishing it with a very engaging quiz that all the students loved! We have also been completing posters from topics on the history of Cats to the impact of the Dancing Plague. Everyone has been such a great asset to the club - keep up the amazing work!

Year 10 History: A Student's View

Sahaana S. says: "Currently, I am studying the Cold War and I love learning about the role of diplomats and the factors affecting international relations between countries. I am looking forward to learning about medicine throughout history and the theories and ideas that shape the way medicine is today. I love my history lessons and my teacher's ability to strengthen my understanding of complex topics throughout history and the structure of how to answer questions in my exams confidently."

Ibrahim A. says: "So far, I have enjoyed learning about the different moments and events in Germany after World War I, showing us what ultimately led to World War II. I am also enjoying learning about the Cold war and how the US and USSR try to avoid another war following the two world wars. Looking forward I would like to learn about Henry VIII and medicine including the various people who contributed to the development of medicine."

Overall, I enjoy history because it is enjoyable to see how one event leads to the next and it is interesting learning about how people's decisions in the past have impacts on us today."



Computer Science

"This term, we started by making flowcharts to represent algorithms, which was pretty cool. We got to make the flowcharts using PowerPoint in our Digital Learning Portfolios, which is a PowerPoint file that holds all of our coursework! Then we worked on earning idea badges on idea.org.uk to build our digital skills - I am trying to get a bronze award! I really like using computers instead of writing, and coding is fun too. Next term, I'm excited for the assessment because it's on the computer, not written. After that, I can't wait to do more coding! Our lessons are great because Ms. Jaff makes them fun and engaging, and we sometimes play Blooket to review what we've learned!"

Abinayan U. (8.5)

Year 9 Science

"I have been learning about enzymes and diffusion this term in Biology. I have found that some enzymes can still function under very harsh conditions like a low pH or sometimes at very high temperatures, which I find really interesting! I am also looking forward to the learning about Mitosis and Meiosis as I find them quite interesting as well. I think the topics are easy to understand and that our teacher Ms Chau explains everything in detail and makes it easy to understand!"

Chinmay M. (9SC5)