

PREPARE | ASPIRE | SUCCEED  
EDITION 4



*April 2023*



*Mr Jones*

The world continues to be a difficult and different place for so many people. In my role, I have the privilege of talking to many people, both locally and nationally who are involved in education and other services. Listening to them, more than ever I feel it is important that we should truly value education. Particularly, the people who are at the heart of it; the staff, both teaching and support, who help your children to grow and develop into successful young people.

Many of our members of staff live locally and play an active part in our communities. They invest significant amounts of time both inside and outside of school supporting young people - often going beyond what is expected of them.

This edition of the Prepare, Aspire, Succeed captures some of the wider experiences we offer our students to supplement the traditional 'taught curriculum'. Our Beacon School status for the Centre for Holocaust Education reinforces our philosophy that it is so important to learn 'from' as well as 'about' the world. The historical details of such events should never be forgotten. Equally, we must learn from this moment in history to continue to ensure that our students understand the importance of tolerance, equality, empathy and democracy which are cornerstones of our Healthy Relationships in the school community.

When the world becomes a difficult place it is easy to withdraw and focus on ourselves. Supporting charities that are close to our hearts is so important to our school community. Each of our year groups has selected a charity as a focal point to raise money. I would like to thank the wider school community for donating time and money to support these causes, especially in such challenging economic circumstances.

Despite the funding challenges education faces we will continue to create as many opportunities for our students to grow and develop along their Cottesloe Journey.

*Jones*

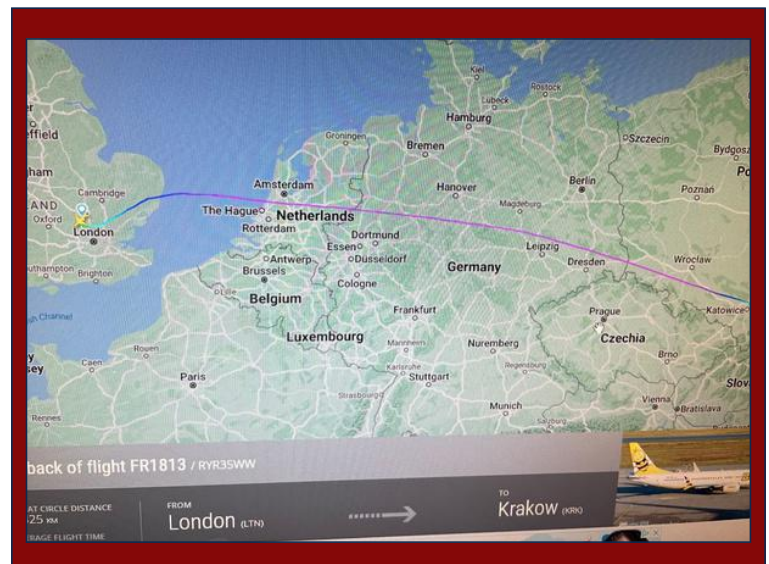


## Miss Lay

Head of Ethics and Philosophy

As a Beacon School for Holocaust Education, we strive to give students opportunities to learn about and from the Holocaust. In January we had the privilege of taking 50 students from Ethics and History to Poland to get an insight into Jewish life before the war, and to visit Auschwitz. They also had the chance to meet Monika Goldwasser, a survivor whose parents had been brave enough to entrust her to others as a baby. Her story tied in with others that we had learned about those who had stood up for the Jews and were recognised by the Holocaust Remembrance Centre, Yad Vashem, for doing so.

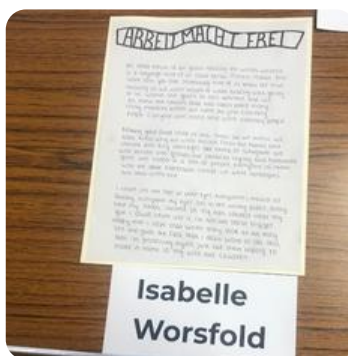
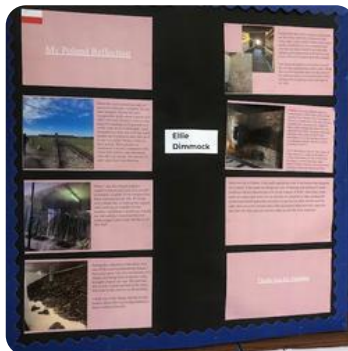
Both students and staff were moved by her story and others that we heard on the trip. At the end our Historical guide led us in a small service where Lewis Golding was asked to read the famous words of Pastor Martin Niemoller, reminding us that if we don't speak out for others there will be no-one left to speak out for us. I know from student feedback that this was a very emotional trip, and one that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.





Thank you to parents and students for helping to make this such a moving experience. The Historical guide was extremely complimentary about the behaviour from all involved.

We held a Reflections Evening before the end of term, where parents could see the work from the students giving an insight into what they learnt. You can see the whole [presentation](#) by clicking on the picture below.



For me the trip was so devastating and I definitely recommend it to the future year 10s and 11s as it is a memorable experience that we must all remember and never forget about. You don't realise what it is like until you have set foot into the camps and have seen around , what many people had to go through . It is so heart aching.

To hear from a holocaust survivor, Monica is so inspiring to know what she has been through and how she tells her story today.

**Nikita Ash**



The best part of the trip was the talk by the survivor.

One thing that I will never forget is the image of all the children's and adult's shoes that the Nazis had kept.

I would recommend the trip because although it was a truly heart breaking experience it has shown me that this could have happened to anyone and that we should be thankful everyday.

The hardest part of the trip was visiting Auschwitz one. Which held the concentration camp. This is where you could see some of the hair and only a fraction of the stuff that the Nazis had kept.

**Anonymous Year 11**

I think the best part of the trip was learning about Schindler and how he saved 1200 Jewish people. I will remember and take this away from the trip. I would recommend it to future 10 and 11 student because it is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

**Daniel New**

# Community Liaison Council



## Mrs Catling

Head of Year 11 and Community Lead

## Community Liaison Council

The Community Liaison Council was set up about a year ago. In that time it has been quite the experience for us all learning how to run a parish council ourselves and deciding which project to run!

We have decided that we will be refreshing the Jubilee Green. We are hoping to complete the project in the coming years and create a great space for the community. We have also been invited to attend the Parish Council meetings, which was a great experience and we would encourage other young people to go to their local one as it's the easiest way to create change in your local area.

We have had a great time discovering how to run something like this and it's been a great way for us to make change in our local area to hopefully benefit the local community!

Daniel and Frida

The Community Liaison Council is made up of 12 students:

- Frida Holmes (Co Chair)
- Daniel Thurston (Co Chair)
- Jack Bridgen
- Pippa Coulston
- Aoife Galbraith
- Ava Hallam
- Rory Keen
- Emily Peel
- Grace Lewis
- Oscar Priestley
- Emily Taylor
- Lucy Zelionka





*Why did you join?*

I joined so I can make a difference to the school and parts of the community to make it a better place and make the people happier to live in the community.

*What do you love most about being a part of the council?*

That I can share my ideas and be part of the community so that I can make a better community/place to live in.

*What changes have you made since being a part of the council?*

We have donated food to Wing and Leighton Buzzard Food Bank to help support people in need.

*What changes do you hope to implement?*

Hopefully, make new changes to make Wing feel better and happier for everyone who lives/visits there.



An application came up in my emails saying to fill out the form if you would like to join the student council and I decided to accept it since I love being an activist and making changes and love making plans and saying my own opinions so I attended my first meeting and I loved it and I am still enjoying it.



# Life in the Sixth Form



## Mrs Smith

Deputy Head of Sixth Form

NOT ALL  
SIXTH  
FORMS ARE  
THE SAME



The Spring term was a busy one in the Sixth Form. We focused largely on exploring future options and assessing student progress in mock examinations. The Year 12 students have been getting to grips with Unifrog and setting up their personal profiles to kick start the University/apprenticeship process. We encourage students to explore courses and Universities they are interested in early and book Open Days to ensure they make informed decisions and don't miss out.

We have also spent time with both Year 12 and 13 exploring the apprenticeship options through our own careers fair and the local and National Apprenticeship shows.

Support for parents and guardians on the apprenticeship route can be found [here](#).

As part of our Futures Programme, we have also continued our University visits. We pride ourselves on having strong relationships with Oxford University. As part of this we took a group of Year 11 and 12 students to Somerville College for the day. To find out what life is like as an Oxford Uni student they were treated to a campus tour, a Law tutorial, time with existing students and of course a lovely three-course lunch in their grand banquet hall.



We hope to have a number of Oxbridge candidates competing for these sought-after places next year and plan to do another trip soon for more aspiring students.







The University entry requirement acts as an excellent motivator and we have seen an increase in the number of students attending after school study clubs. We are pleased to see not only Year 13 students taking up this opportunity, but it is becoming more popular with Year 12 students too. Staying after school to work in the Quiet Study Room allows students to complete homework and independent revision in a quiet space without games consoles, TV or siblings to distract them. We've awarded six students with a £20 raffle prize throughout the last term and will continue this for the Summer. The more frequently students attend the study club the higher their chances of winning the prize - **You've got to be in it to win it!**

In our Year 13 cohort 85% of students submitted an application to UCAS. Popular universities this year are Loughborough, Bristol and Birmingham with students applying to a wide range of subject areas.

Offers are coming in thick and fast and now is the time to secure first and second choices and make applications for student loans and accommodation. More information on the student loan application process can be found in the links below.

- [Understanding student loans \(PDF\)](#)
- [Student Loans Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF\)](#)

One student even spent his voucher on a flip phone to reduce the distractions on his smartphone during his study sessions; it's no surprise that his mock results reflect the admirable work ethic he demonstrates.



# EXAM!

The mock examinations for Year 13 allowed students to gain critical practice in the exam process and identifying crucial areas still to be developed in the coming weeks.

With only three weeks to the start of the formal A-level examinations we are now in the final stretch and students should be fine-tuning their exam technique. **Our message is practice, practice, and more practice!**

We have been encouraging habit-forming practices with our students, using our 'exam count-up strategy'. This is a structured time restricted period where students focus only on exam questions. We encourage all Year 13 students to follow a revision timetable and stick to the exam practice commitment we have set them.

Year 12 students should now also be addressing gaps in knowledge and areas of weakness by practising different revision techniques ahead of the June mocks.

**PRACTICE**  
PRACTICE  
PRACTICE

## News for parents

- Year 12 parents evening 26th April
- Year 12 mocks in June
- Formal examinations for the majority of Year 13 from 11th May onwards

## Sixth Form Taster Sessions

This year we have approached our key stage 4 into 5 transition/induction quite differently. We invited students to experience life in the Sixth form by becoming a sixth former for the day. This has allowed them to join in with lessons and study sessions and see how Sixth form study differs to the rest of the school. The response has been incredibly positive and provides even more motivation for our Year 11s to achieve the GCSE grades they need to secure their Sixth Form place.

## Work Experience

Year 12 students should be thinking of how to secure relevant work experience which will help to boost their application for university and apprenticeships. This work experience should be linked to their career aspirations. We advise students to check the universities they are interested in to see if they have specific requirements for work experience. Students should speak to a member of the Sixth form team if they need guidance on this.



# Art Studio@Cottesloe







Year 13





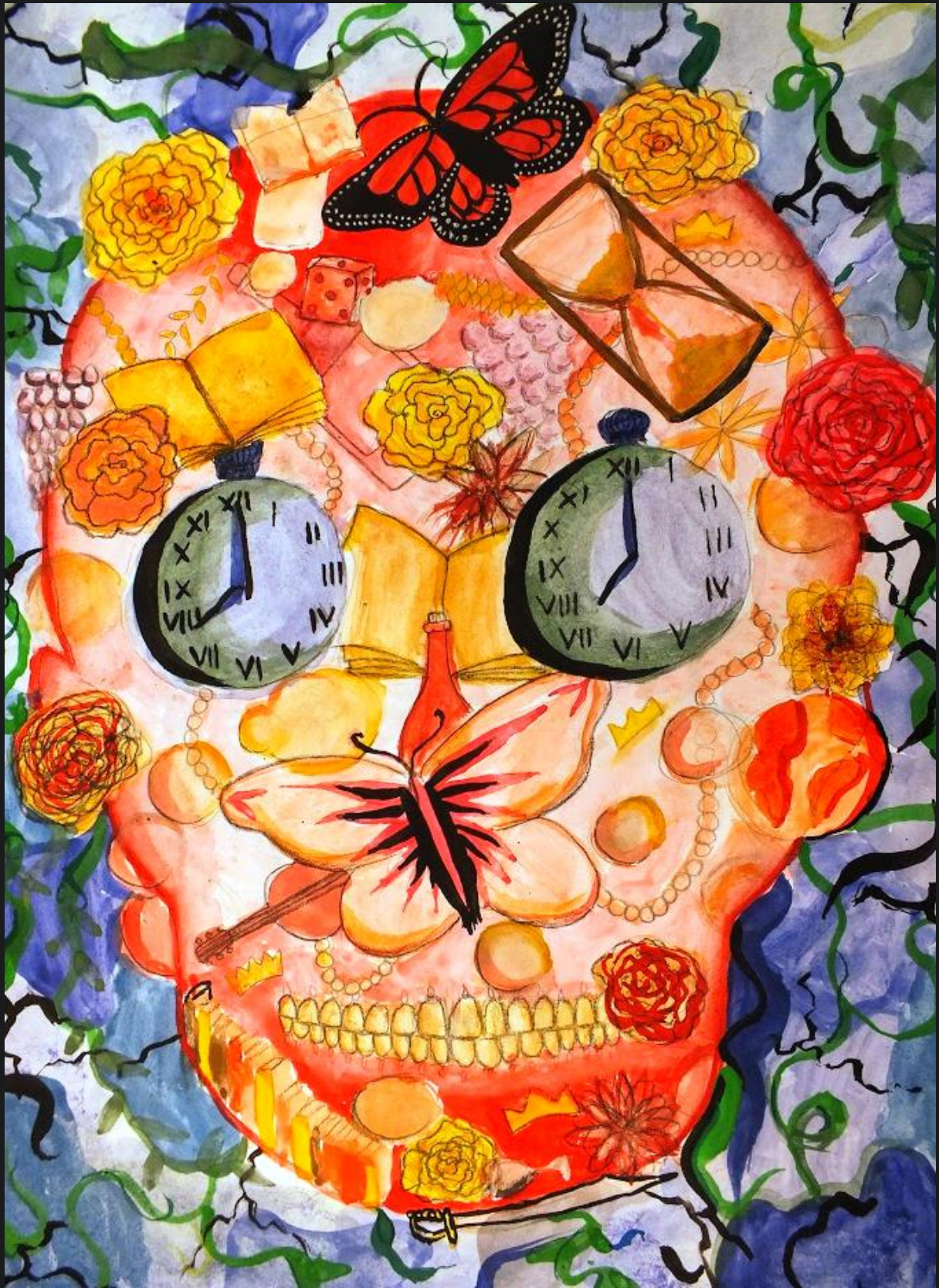
Year 13





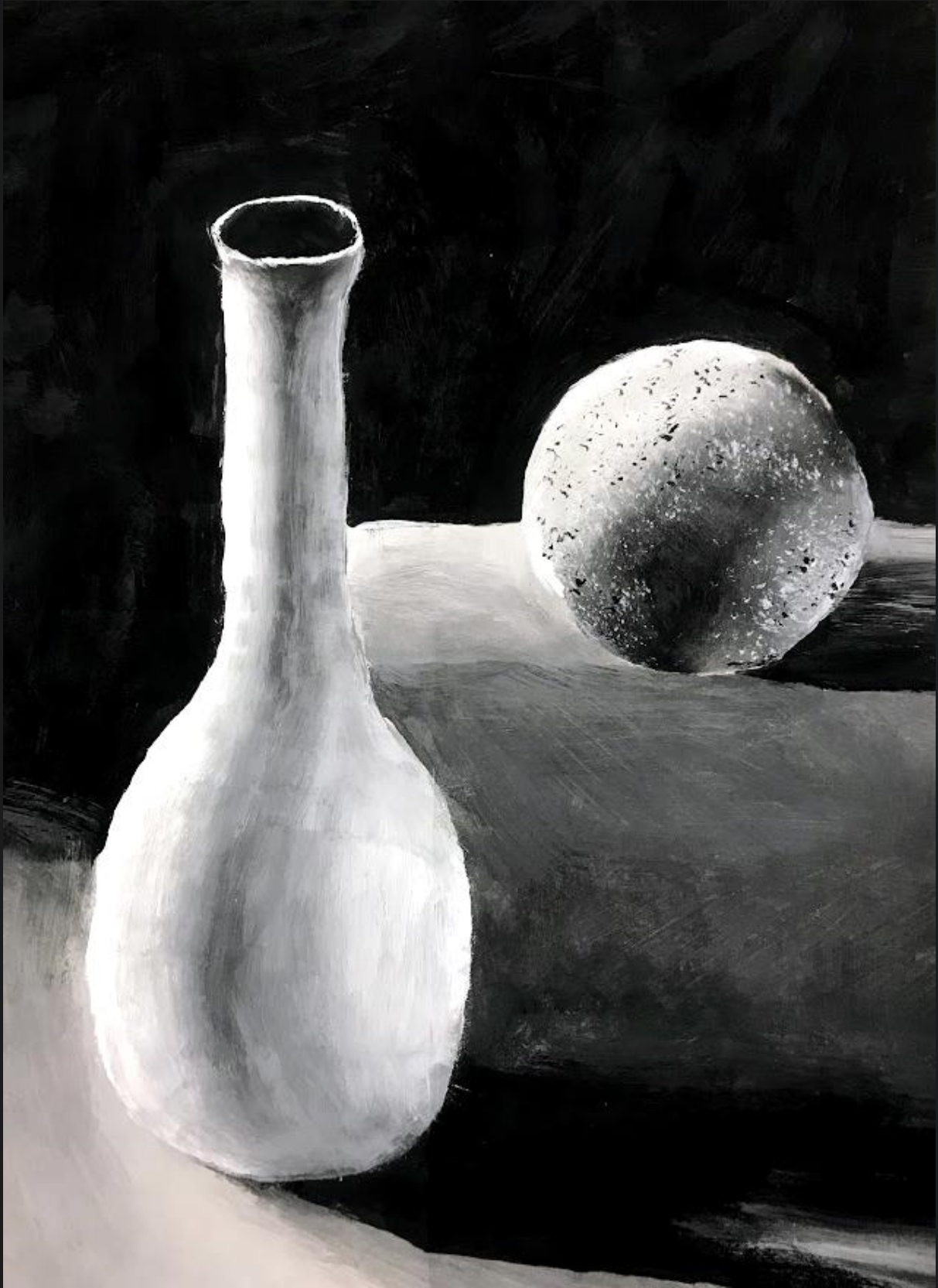
Year 10





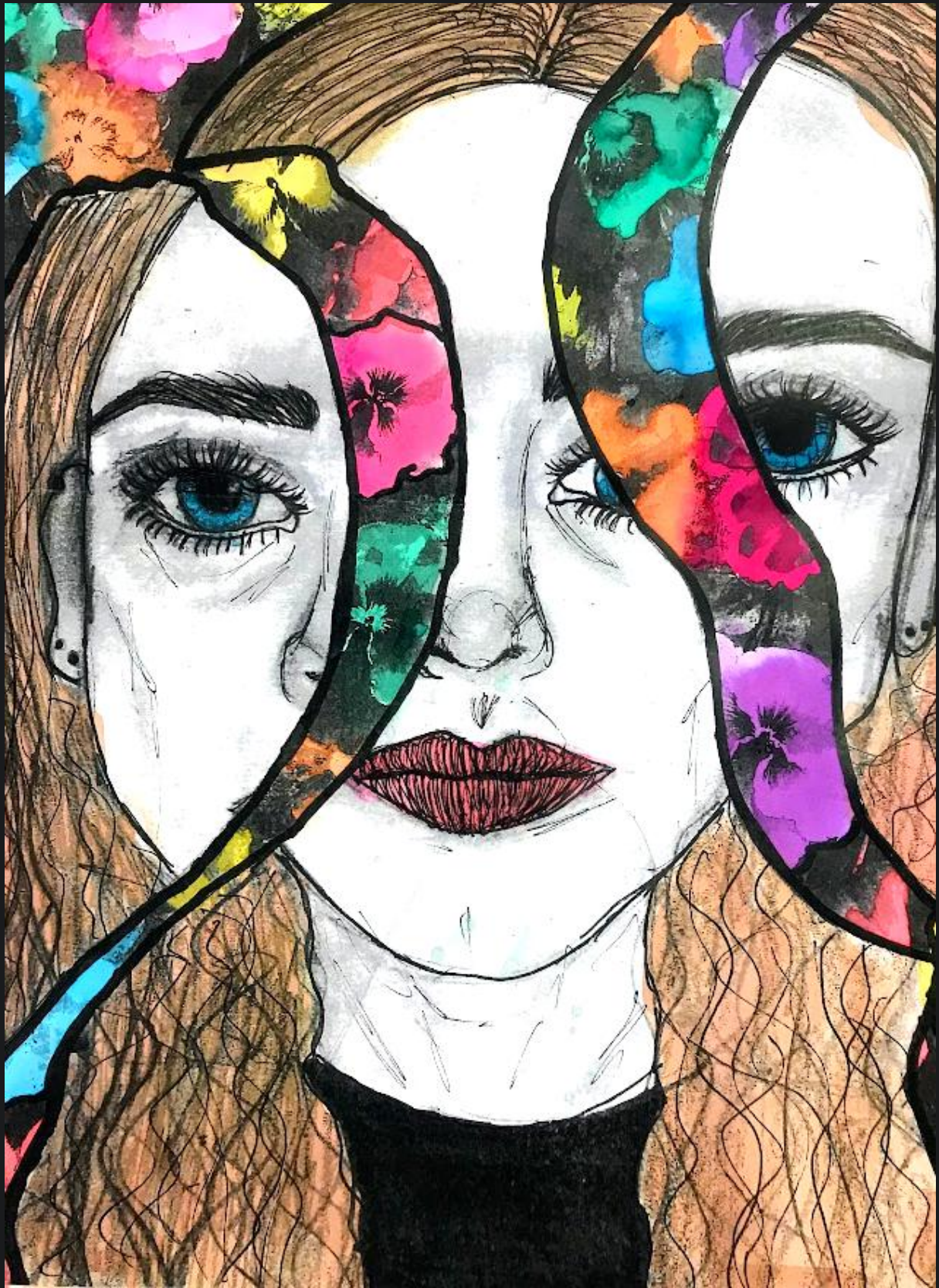
Year 9





Year 9





Year 8





Year 7

We hope you enjoyed this edition  
of Prepare, Aspire, Succeed  
Newsletter!

We welcome all feedback and any articles  
you would like us to include next time.

Email [agunn@cottesloe.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:agunn@cottesloe.bucks.sch.uk)

