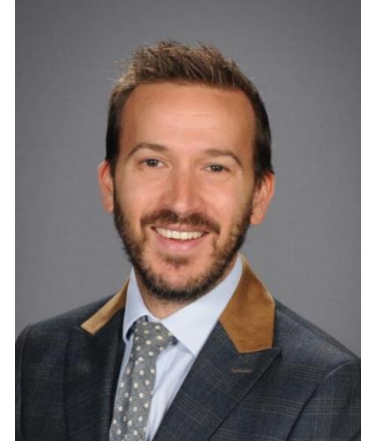




# NEWSLETTER – 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

## MESSAGE FROM MR COOPER, SENIOR DEPUTY HEAD

This week in assembly I spoke about the idea of being stuck in a feeling of rightness, and why we do not like to be wrong. Sometimes it is difficult to give answers in class for fear of being embarrassed or denting our pride if incorrect. However, I was keen to make the students aware that being wrong sometimes is not only okay but also an essential part of our growth and development. Indeed, making mistakes is a fundamental aspect of learning, not just in our studies but in relationships and our worldviews.



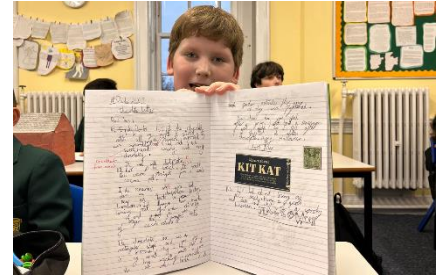
Mistakes are not signs of failure, but instead they provide us with opportunities to learn, improve and innovate. The key idea I spoke about was that discovering we are wrong is an update, not a failure, and that our worldview is a living document meant to be revised. In fact, some of the most ground-breaking discoveries and inventions in history emerged from initial missteps and errors. Consider the invention of the light bulb by Thomas Edison; it took him thousands of attempts before achieving success. Each mistake was a lesson, bringing him closer to his goal.

In our relationships, being open minded to other people's perspectives is another key reason we should come out of the feeling of rightness. We watched a clip from an excellent TED Talk by Kathryn Schultz, who is a writer for the New Yorker and the author of *Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error*. I recommended having a watch, and in particular the thought I paused on was her point "Think for a moment about what it means to feel right... and causes us to treat each other terribly." The aim is not to suggest people should change their views and opinions to that of the alternative perspective, but to consider how their own perspective is even more narrowed by not understanding the other side.

So being wrong is perhaps more important than being right. It helps us learn because our idea is challenged and our brains are forced to make new connections. It helps us understand the world more fully, with at least a chance that we might see fewer challenges between us. It also can help in our daily lives, strengthening our relationships with other individuals. I hope we can all celebrate being wrong because in that moment, something new is learnt.

## NEWS FROM THE ENGLISH FACULTY

This term, year 7 have been learning about stories of childhood. They have read some short stories, but mainly focused on the novel *Carrie's War* by Nina Bawden. The book tells the story of two evacuee children in World War Two who are sent to a small village in Wales to live with the kind-hearted Auntie Lou and her hard, older brother Mr Evans in his grocery shop.



Whilst reading the book, children researched rationing for homework. However, to bring the realities of rationing to life, they were set an imaginary task. After writing home as an evacuee, they received a letter back from their parents which included a Kit Kat wrapped in the original 1940's blue wrapper.

They were asked in the letter to write back describing what it was like to receive some chocolate, having not eaten chocolate for so long. Students responded well to the task. Empathy tasks are an important part of English, enabling students to be expressive in their writing whilst still following a certain context, in this case writing as an evacuee. This develops into understanding 'point of view', again another important element in English.



All pieces of writing have a 'voice' – a point of view. Being able to present a point of view, either your own or that of an imagined voice is a crucial skill to acquire in writing. From the selection of writing below, I am sure you will agree, year 7 students have produced some great pieces of writing with convincing voices.

*Dear Mum  
Thank you for replying and the awesome gift of chocolate in a rectangular size and looks a bit chunky.  
Angelo*

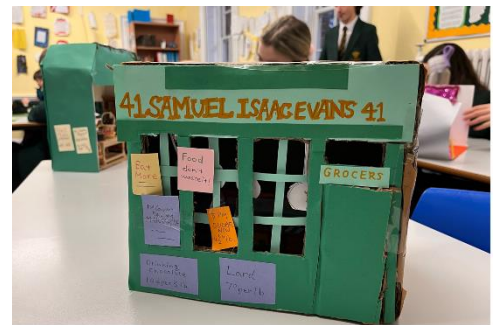
*Dear Mum and Dad  
Thanks so much for sending me a letter, it means so much to me. Also, thanks for the present of chocolate. It tasted wonderful. I was so happy, I wolfed it down and afterwards I felt so happy for the rest of the evening.  
Miki*

*Dear Mum and Dad*  
*Thank you so much for the gift, I love it! When I first saw the chocolate, I was so overwhelmed with joy. I was fit to burst.*  
*I really hope that you and dad are safe. Let me know when you can come and see me, for seeing you is better than any chocolate in the world!*  
 Daniela

*Dear Mum*  
*I am glad to hear that you are alright. I am glad Dad has made it safely into Germany, too.*  
*Please let Hermia know I miss him as well, and hope Dad will be back very soon.*  
*When I first sunk my teeth into the chewy, breath-taking chocolate, my taste buds danced with joy and my tongue melted with happiness. I can't thank you enough.*  
 Isabella

*Hello Mother,*  
*Thank you for the tasty chocolate. It's been a long time since I have had chocolate. Though it wasn't big, it was the right size; creamy and crunchy.*  
 Brenden.

In addition to students' writing, they also responded creatively and made models of Mr Evans' shop. I think you will agree that they are amazing. Here are Queenie's, Isabella's and Oscar's shops.





## ISA NATIONAL SWIMMING FINALS 2023



The ISA swimming national finals took place on Friday 1st December at the London Olympic pool.

I was selected to swim for the school in the North London team, representing the year 8 girls in both the individual breaststroke and the medley relay.

In the breaststroke I swam a personal best time and came in 4th place, which I was extremely happy with as the level of competition was so high with it being a national event. Our year 8 girls' medley relay team also did well.

Isabella D

## CO-CURRICULAR

This week students enjoyed making banoffee crumble during baking club after school. This bake was a success for everyone - including Mrs Petinou, whose pudding looked and smelt delicious.

Students have been preparing for today's Carol Concert - it has been lovely to hear the year 7 and 8 students singing a cappella.

Mr McCormick is the teacher who everyone wants to beat when it comes to scrabble. It looks as though he might hold the title for this year, meaning students will have to wait until the new year to challenge him.

We had a great time at trampolining club this week, with students working on accuracy in their skills.

## LAMDA

There are two spare places in the LAMDA lessons (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) run by Ms Cesena. If you are interested, please email her [lauren.a.cesena@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.a.cesena@gmail.com) for details of times and prices.

# LAMDA



## FOOD TECHNOLOGY

This week in Food Technology, year 9 and 10 made apple crumble. They will next be looking at how to make custard from scratch.

Year 12 were asked to create a puff pastry dessert with custard. On Wednesday **Jessica & Sienna** created cinnamon swirls. Then on Thursday **Jessica** made an apple crumble with custard.



**If you left any containers at school for Culture Day, please could you collect from the food lab by 15th December.**

## CENTURY TECH – WINTER CUP

Today is the start of the fourth and final week of the competition. Students have until this Sunday at midnight to complete as many revision assignments as possible.

### Top Ten leaderboard

1. Year 8 Yuna
2. Year 8 Jasmine
3. Year 9 Owen
4. Year 8 Nathan
5. Year 7 Jesse
6. Year 7 Brendan
7. Year 7 Amari
8. Year 8 Jake
9. Year 8 Leo
10. Year 8 Isabelle



Congratulations and keep up the hard work this week for the final push!



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### MENUS NEXT WEEK



## Weekly Menu

Week 3

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p><b>Soup of the day</b> served with freshly baked bread</p> <p><b>Dish of The Day</b> Grilled Sausage and Creamy Mash with Fried Onions</p> <p><b>Vegetarian option</b> Celeriac Gratin with Mushroom, Kale and Leeks <i>Vegan Friendly</i></p> <p><b>Snack Option</b> Baked Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p><b>Served With</b> Spicy Baked Rive Sweet corn and Spring Onions Braised Savoy Cabbage</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Vanilla Iced Slice</p>	<p><b>Soup of the day</b> with freshly baked bread</p> <p><b>Dish of the day</b> Crispy Topped Cottage Pie With Garlic and Herb Gravy</p> <p><b>Vegetarian option</b> Indian Lentil Dahl with Coriander Naan</p> <p><b>Snack Option</b> Baked Potato with Various Fillings Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p><b>Served With</b> Fresh Broccoli Courgettes and Peas</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Seeded Carrot and Apple Cake</p>	<p><b>Soup of the day</b> served with freshly baked bread</p> <p><b>Dish of the day</b> Indian Chicken Madras With Mini Naan Breads</p> <p><b>Vegetarian option</b> Falafel with Lemon and Coriander Dressing in a Warm Wrap</p> <p><i>Vegan Friendly</i> <b>Snack Option</b> Baked Potato Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p><b>Served With</b> Steamed Coconut Rice Fresh Green Beans and Fennel Roasted Carrots</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Very Fruity Granola Bars</p>	<p><b>Soup of the day</b> served with freshly baked bread</p>
<h1>Themed Day Menu Student Choice</h1>			

