

# Year 7 Newsletter



## February Half Term

As we reflect on this half term, there is much to be proud of in the way the Year 7 students have conducted themselves throughout this difficult period. In my most recent assembly, I talked about the range of skills that students have developed during remote learning. These include independence, resilience, creativity, time management, organisation, confidence and many more. It's easy to remember the challenging parts of this half term but I want to encourage all students to take away the positives that have come from it.

As there have been no events going on in school this half term, I wanted to look back and make this newsletter a celebration of all the fantastic work that the students have produced. I'm sure you will agree that the level of talent, effort and skill is superb. I'm also so impressed at how dedicated and committed the students have been in producing the work. A huge well done to all the students.

I hope half term is a welcome break and a good time for the students to relax. Let's hope that it's not long before we can all return to school.

## Children's Mental Health Week

Last week it was National Children's Mental Health Week. Year 7 students worked on resources and watched a video assembly delivered by Miss Knox. The sessions and resources encouraged students to consider strategies to improve mood and wellbeing, to self-reflect on mental health and to learn key facts and figures as a springboard for thought on this topic. In addition, our Head Boy and Head Girl, Zetta and Jonah, have also provided some top tips on this topic to support students' mental health. Given the current national setting, it is ever more important for students to maintain contact with friends and family remotely and to take time to reflect on their thoughts. Therefore, I encourage students to make use of these insightful resources available on Class Charts and put the tips into practice, especially during the holidays!

## Study at home tips

Due to many different factors, it is inevitable that students in Year 7 are having different experiences of remote learning. After attending lessons via Teams this half term, here are some key top tips to implement as lessons continue after half term:

1. Develop a way to keep your notes for each subject organised. Write in your exercise book, or use a file to keep your notes for each subject in one place.
2. Try to work in the same space. Keep the area as tidy as you can, in a place away from distractions and with some paper or your exercise book and a pen to hand.
3. Before the lesson on Teams, have your notes from the previous lesson to hand so you can refer to them for future tasks.
4. Use break time and lunchtime to get some fresh air and take time away from the computer screen.
5. Be ready to join the team a few minutes before the lesson with all your resources. This will help to ensure a quick and effective start to the lesson.



## Celebration of Student work

### Science

The Science department have been encouraging students to carry out their own practical work at home. Students have been studying the topics of Acids and Bases as well as Electromagnets. The images below come from an experiment where students have made their own chemical indicator to test a range of household substances to find out whether they are an acid or base. The method is also attached to allow any students who have not tried this to have a go. The final image shows one student making their own home made electrical circuit.

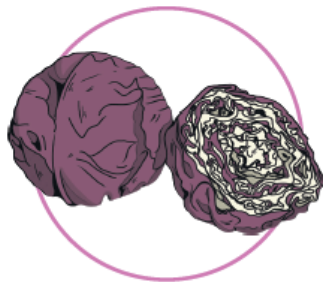
## Preparing Red Cabbage Indicator

### Equipment

red cabbage  
grater or knife  
pan or kettle  
sieve/colander  
large mixing bowl/container

### Optional:

ice cube trays  
coffee filter paper/kitchen towel/old white fabric  
scissors



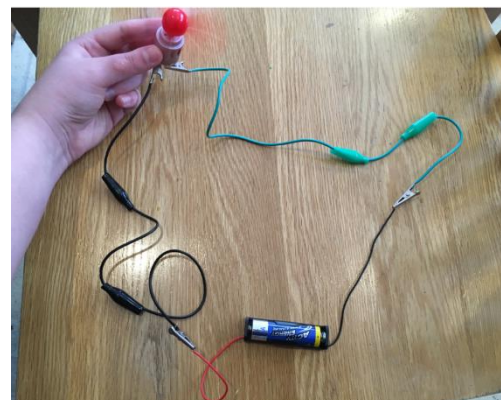
### Method

1. Chop, grate or tear the red cabbage leaves into small pieces.
2. Add the chopped leaves to a pan, cover with water and simmer for at least ten minutes until the water has changed to a deep purple colour. Alternatively, you could cover the cabbage with boiling water from a kettle and leave to stand for at least ten minutes. Allow to cool.
3. Pass the red cabbage leaves and water through a sieve or colander to collect the cabbage leaves and pour the liquid into a clean bowl or container. The liquid is now ready to use as an indicator.



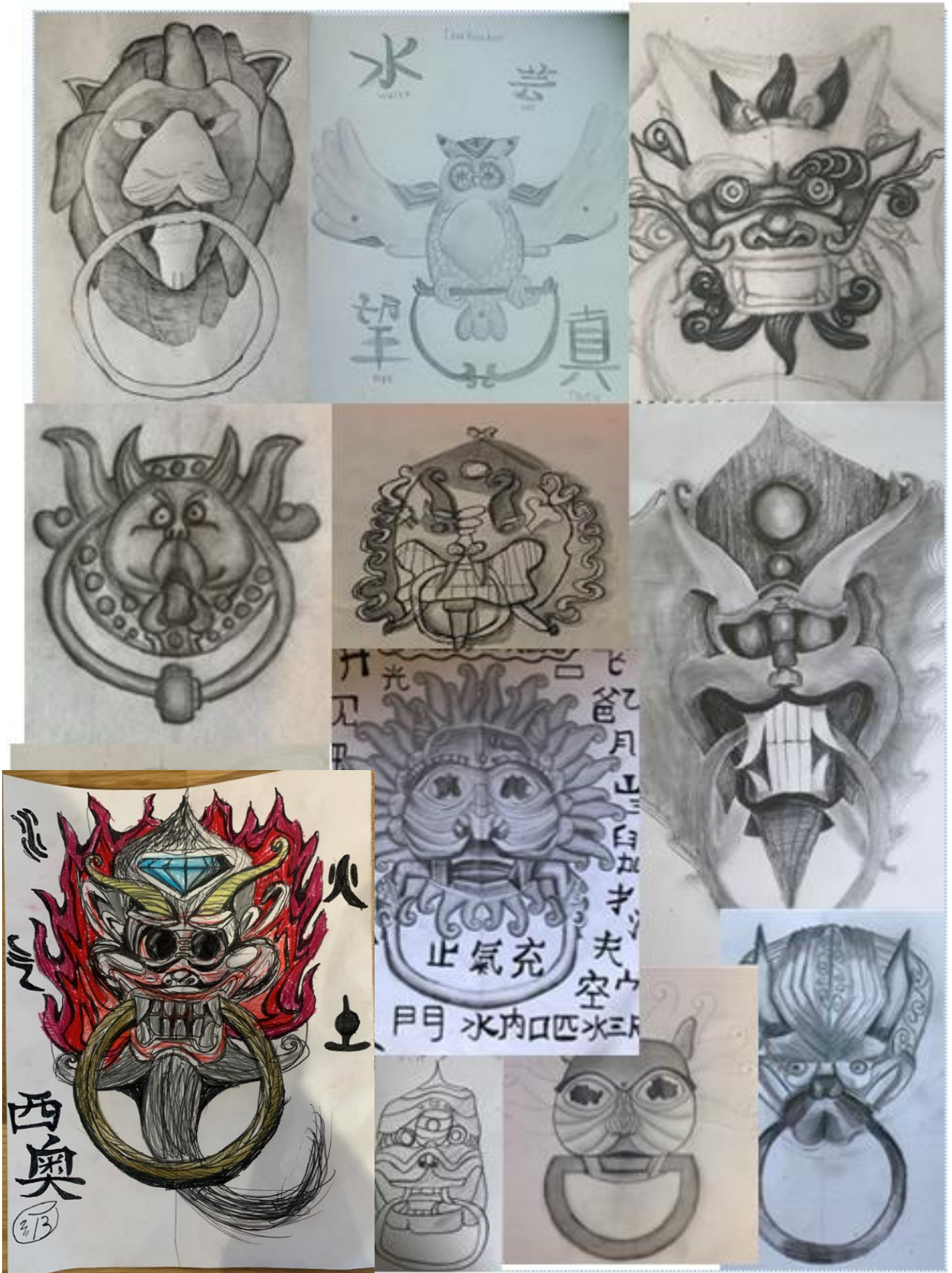
### Testing the results

Add a couple of drops of the red cabbage indicator to a range of household products and observe the colour change. If the substance is an acid the colour should change to a reddish-pink, if it's neutral it will be purple and if it's a base it will be bluish-green. Try as many household substances as possible to determine whether they're an acid or base.



Art

Students have been designing their own door knockers in Art. The array of styles and designs is amazing!

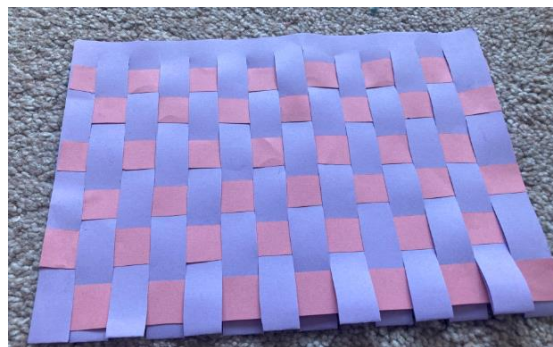


## Design and Technology

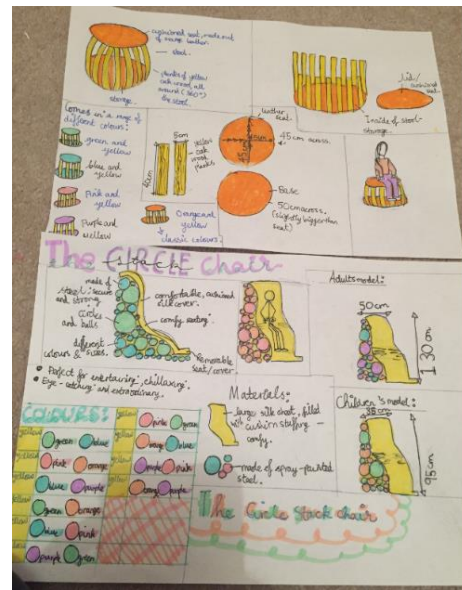
A whole host of different D&T projects have been taking place over the last half term. In Food Technology students have made a variety of dishes including fruit crumbles, pasta bakes and ragu sauces. There are some delicious examples in the images below.



In Textiles, students have designed and made pet pillows and created some different paper weaving.



Finally, in Product Design, students have had to come up with an interesting seating design taking into account comfort, practicality and style. Here is some fabulous design work and the finished prototype of a project from one of our Year 7 students.



## Music

It's not often that work can be demonstrated in music but remote learning has meant that students have been able to create their own musical pieces.

**the bird**  
(Subtitle)

(Lyricist) (Composer)

$\text{♩} = 120$

Piano

Flute

Flute

Piano

Guitar

Flute

Pno.

Gr.

Fl.

## Student of the Month

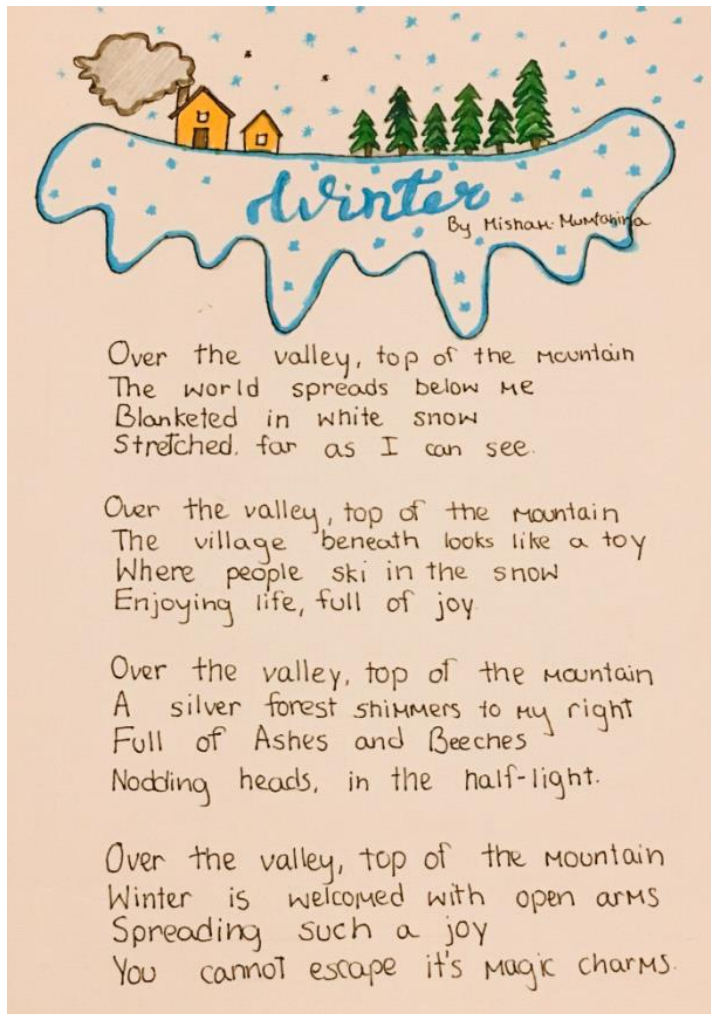
For January the Student of the Month winner was Evie Nasson for completing all of her science Educake tests to practise for her revision. Superb approach to learning Evie. Well done!



Runner-up Student of the Month was Elsie Butler for engaging so well with her remote lessons, delivering fantastic persuasive speech! It is fantastic to hear of their achievements, keep it up!

## Half Term Challenge!

A huge thank you for the submissions of poems based on the theme of winter. There were some fantastic entries showcasing some excellent writing skills. Given the recent flurry of snow and more anticipated to fall, here are a couple of poems on this theme to enjoy.



### The view from my window...

*The view from my window...  
Like The North Pole,  
With biting blizzards,  
Frosty footsteps,  
And soft snow all around.*

*The view from my window...  
A winter wonderland,  
With bright, colourful lights,  
Children, wrapped up warm, making snowmen,  
And snow angels on the ground.*

*The view from my window...  
Long, dark, nights,  
Puddles of ice,  
Creatures fast asleep,  
And robins in the tree.*

*By Joseph Hailstone 7SGa/NT*

The half term challenge for this Newsletter is all about staying positive and looking towards the near future. Remote learning has been difficult and we're all keen to get back into school. Hopefully this won't be too long so I want you to create something that tells me what you're most looking forward to after the COVID pandemic is over. This could be anything creative such as drawing/painting a picture, baking a cake, making something, write a poem etc. I'm excited to see what you come back with. For me, I'm most looking forward to seeing my family and playing badminton again. So this is my attempt at baking a cake showing my badminton bag!

