

# Belong School Devon Spring recap

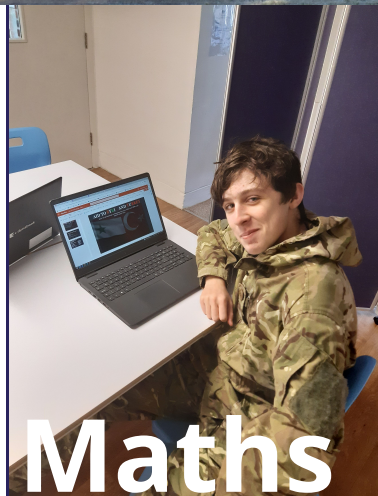
## From the Headteacher

Welcome to our Spring recap, covering another action packed term at Belong School Devon.

Our GCSE students have completed mock exams this term, with great results and a huge success overall. It was such a proud moment for us all, seeing students -who previously struggled to engage with exam questions- putting aside their anxieties to give 100% to multiple test papers in exam conditions.

Many students achieved their target grades or better, with GCSE mock examinations taking place in Maths, Physics, Biology, English Language, English Literature, Geography, History, Statistics, Photography and Art.

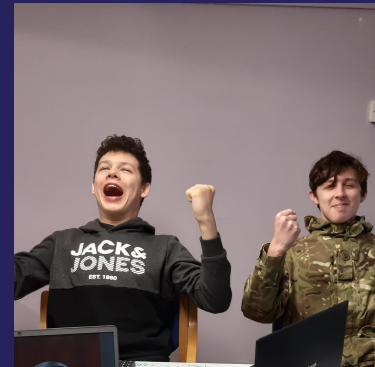
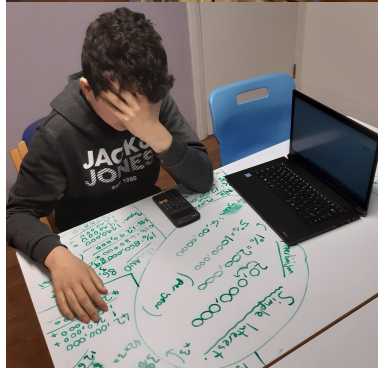
For regular updates, please see our website [www.belonglearning.co.uk](http://www.belonglearning.co.uk), as well as our Facebook page and twitter feed (@belong\_devon).



## Maths

Rocco and Rhys have been applying their Maths to real world challenges. They produced a presentation to send aid to Turkey and Syria after the earthquake disaster. They enjoyed the geopolitical side of it and came up with some interesting suggestions for aid, deciding which countries would give aid to each affected country and calculated the simple interest rate and total pay back over time.

As you can see from the pictures, it wasn't all plain sailing, but with a little bit of persistence they managed to come up with a solution - great work!



GCSE History students have been finishing their Crime and Punishment module with a case study into Whitechapel in the 1880s focussing on Jack the Ripper and why the murderer was never caught.

In GCSE Geography we have been focusing on issue evaluation and fieldwork analysis, including analysis of student's own completed Environmental Quality surveys.

## Humanities

**Jack the Ripper Murders**

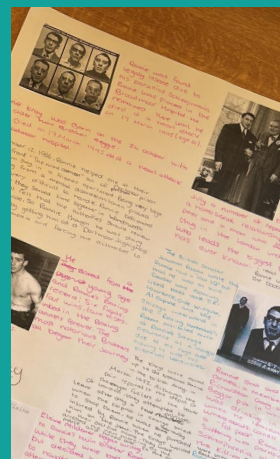
- 1888 - Mary Ann Nichols
- 1888 - Elizabeth Stride & Catherine Eddowes
- 1888 - Mary Jane Kelly

**Whitechapel**

**Timeline**

Date	Event
1888	1st Murder - Mary Ann Nichols
1888	2nd Murder - Elizabeth Stride
1888	3rd Murder - Catherine Eddowes
1888	4th Murder - Mary Jane Kelly

Entry Level Humanities students have been working hard on their individual study projects about a significant person in history, creating posters and powerpoints.



## Visual Arts

It's been the usual hive of amazing activity in Visual Arts this term, and we're going to showcase some of the fantastic photography work that has been produced by one of our students. With roses as the subject, she has carefully used composition, focus and aperture to create these striking photographs, with the ever-popular 'bokeh' style background effects.



We have recently been working with Acids and Alkalis, including learning how to neutralize an Acid when an Alkali is added to it. Students have been using universal indicator to identify and measure the pH of different substances.

We have also been looking at rates of reaction when mixing sodium bicarbonate + vinegar. For this practical we tested reactions to find out whether they were endothermic or exothermic, as well as measuring and testing the gas produced when mixing these two substances. Students identified that a gas was produced when the balloon began to expand.

GCSE Physics students have just completed their waves module, including a range of topics: looking at the function of the ear, why glass will break at certain frequencies and animals' hearing ranges.





This has created a high level of demand for support organisations across Devon, leading to long waiting times to access support and services. At Belong School Devon our Learning Coach Champions Shannon and John have specific roles providing support to students and staff regarding trauma informed practice, mental health & wellbeing. At school, staff have been attending professional development training on the effective use of approaches and strategies to help support our students. We would like to extend this offer to parents and carers, who are invited to join Shannon and John to learn about the strategies and techniques we are using at school. The sessions are focussed around providing practical approaches and strategies to support your young person and help to support joined-up working between home and school.

The sessions are scheduled for Tuesday 7 March and Wednesday 14 March starting at 5pm or 6pm. Each session is planned to last 1 hour and will be held in Exeter and Newton Abbot.

To book find out more, or to book a place please email [nova.brown@belonglearning.co.uk](mailto:nova.brown@belonglearning.co.uk).

The last few years have been a very challenging time for young people. The impact of lockdowns and Covid 19 on existing trauma, anxiety, mental health & wellbeing has been a significant factor for many of the students who attend Belong School Devon.



## PSHE

Students all engaged brilliantly, working together to develop and practise a wide variety of skills, including wound care, CPR and casualty assessment. As a result of their hard work and careful attention all students passed and are now certified first aiders.

This term the year 9 and 10 students have been talking about their dreams and goals for the future. They've been looking at the importance of relationships and mental health for future goals. Our year 11 students took part in a First Aid course, which involved three days developing a variety of first aid skills, with a final assessment of their learning at the end of the last day.



## Home Cooking

A project this term has been to develop our sensory cooking approaches to engage with those students who find it difficult to interact in the kitchen space, working with them to pick ingredients they feel happy with and focus on sight, smell and feel. Our year 11 students undertaking their level two BTEC qualification are moving ever closer to completing the final assessment, using their sessions to hone skills and choose what to prepare. The pictures below show just how far they have come.

This term has seen the students progressing their cooking skills and working toward creating full meals on a budget. Simple ingredients have been used to create some wonderful dishes enjoyed by all.



# Leadership Team

# Dates and Notices

## Key Dates

13th-17th March

Functional Skills exams

Friday 17th March

Comic Relief - 80s theme

20th-22nd March

GCSE Art exams

20th-31st March

IEP reviews

Friday 31st March

Last day of Spring term

Monday 16th April

Non-pupil day

Tuesday 17th April

First day of Summer term

Monday 1st May

May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May

Coronation Bank Holiday

Tuesday 16th May

First day of GCSE exams

29th May-2nd June

Half-term Holiday week

19th-23rd June

Functional Skills exams

Monday 26th June

Year 11 reports

Monday 26th June

Year 11 Activities Week

Wednesday 28th June

Final day of GCSE exams

Friday 30th June

Final day for Year 11 students

3rd-14th July

IEP review meetings

Monday 17th July

Year 9 and 10 reports

Friday 21st July

Last day of the Summer term

The Leadership Team of Belong School Devon form the leadership and managerial backbone of the school. All members of the Leadership Team have many years of experience at all levels of education – many having been Learning Coaches themselves – progressing through their careers to lead this Specialist Provision school from the front.

Our Headteacher, Roz Harman has transforming the former mentoring-based and peripheral tuition service into a fully-fledged school, meeting OFSTED's rigorous standards and now fully able to offer qualifications to students up to GCSE level.

Roz is strongly supported within the Leadership Team by the Deputy Head Jon Dickinson, and the Assistant Head, James Harley, who have the responsibility for managing referrals of students to our provision, along with the smooth day-to-day running of the school.

Our SENDCo, Rebecca Edwards works alongside our Pastoral Lead, Calum Pillivant to ensure that our focus upon our student's individual educational and wellbeing needs are paramount, allowing all to engage and learn successfully.

Also within the Leadership Team sits the role of Site Operations Lead, who coordinates all levels of the school, maintains the running of the daily timetable, provides support to staff and ensures that students are working to the best of their abilities. Jen McCartney is our Exeter Operations Lead, Rachel Collett is our Bishops Tawton lead.

Leadership in some organizations can be distant and vague but over a couple of years of rapid progress, the Belong School Devon Leadership Team have grown, improved and expanded the school into a formidable learning environment for students and staff alike to learn, grow and thrive.