



NEWSLETTER ISSUE 3 - 2020/21

A quick look at some Term 3 events, including Enrichment Week, Awards Day and all our graduations.

Find out more!
bsg.org.cn



THE BRITISH
SCHOOL
OF GUANGZHOU

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

@BSGNAE    

Message from the Principal



It is with a range of conflicting emotions that we reach the end of this incredibly challenging academic year. Firstly, there is a sense of relief that we have managed to remain open for face to face learning for almost the entire academic year. Then, there is a sense of pride that our staff have shown such an impressive degree of determination and flexibility to ensure that we continue to deliver a high-quality education to our students, despite the challenges. Finally, there is a degree of sadness with the awareness that some of our students, parents and staff are still going through such difficult times.

I realise that to some this may seem strange, but I actually regard this as being our most successful year since I joined the school in 2005. Every year is filled with achievements, but considering the challenges we have faced, this year's achievements feel that much more impressive. This was certainly the case with the performance of 'We Will Rock You.' The enjoyment on the faces of the cast and the audience as they finally got to perform was overwhelming, and there were more than a few tears. We received a number of emails from parents thanking teachers for the impressive commitment that is fundamental to any performance. For me personally, as much as I enjoyed the performance, I couldn't help feeling sad that our parents would not get the opportunity to see their children performing in person.

Staying with the arts, this week, 5 of our students received awards on Global Campus for their musical performances, and once again it was lovely to note that with the help of Nord Anglia, we are continuing to find ways for our students to showcase their talents. I also spent part of this week viewing the art examination work that is currently displayed in the reception area of our Secondary building. The art department have done an amazing job of displaying this work, but the real praise goes to the students who have spent so many hours developing their skills to achieve such impressive results. In a normal year, parents would be invited to visit and enjoy seeing work, so I can only hope that this is possible next year.

As always at this time of the year, we say goodbye to some of our students and teachers. For those of you moving on, we wish you every success wherever you go, and hope that you stay safe and healthy. Amongst our leavers this year is Shaila Samtani. At one stage, Shaila was the Head of EAL and the manager of our incredibly popular Cambridge Saturday English Programme. We wish Shaila every success in the future and I know that you will all join me in thanking her for her impressive contribution to BSG.

We are also saying goodbye to Jason Yu, our Head of MFL, Gemma Campbell, an Early Years teacher, and Lorna Hwang, a Primary teacher, who have been unable to return to China due to the restriction on visas for dependents, and have now accepted that they will need to look for alternative opportunities. These teachers have given years of service to our school and had no intention of leaving, so it is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye.

With the number of new infections in Guangzhou falling, we anticipate that we will be able to travel within China this summer. We urge everyone to continue to get daily updates, and to stay safe and healthy. We will have new teachers arriving throughout the summer, with the majority coming from within China. For those coming from overseas, they will be arriving early to allow them to complete the required length of quarantine. We fully anticipate BSG and our new Huangpu site being open for face-to-face learning on 23rd August, when we will look forward to welcoming all our students back to school.

There is no doubt that we will continue to face challenges next year related to the global pandemic, however, we are confident that our staff have the necessary levels of commitment and sense of responsibility to meet these challenges. I believe that we can rightly claim that no other school in Guangzhou has met the challenges of this year as successfully as BSG, and am confident that this will continue next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their ongoing support during 2020-21 — it has been appreciated and really has helped.

Have a great summer holiday and stay safe.

Mark Thomas

*Scan to view our
Virtual Art Gallery!*



TOP TERMLY Snaps



Thank you to parents who donated masks!



Early Years met the local firefighters to see how battle blazes.



Our new Wall of Fame celebrates student success, wherever they excel.



Year 11s build leadership skills by supporting our youngest learners.



We launched a Virtual Art Exhibition.



A record number of students became 'Reading Millionaires'!



PIRATES IN TRAINING

by Roslyn McConnell

Can you imagine how surprised the Year 1 children were when they met Captain Hook at the start of this term? He set them the challenge of learning how to become a pirate or he was going to keep all the treasure including their class mascots! The children were determined not to let Captain Hook win and agreed to start their pirate training.

First, the children had to master the art of talking like a pirate with “Ahoy” or “Aye, Aye Captain” being heard around our Year 1 classrooms for many days. Obviously if you can talk like a pirate, you must also look like a pirate and preparations were made to design our own swords, telescopes, and eye-patches. New skills were fully embraced by the children when they tie-dyed their bandanas. Patience and perseverance were required to apply the many rubber bands to the fabric, but the results were fantastic. Having the opportunity to create your own pirate t-shirt, using fabric paint, was always going to be great fun and the children are now set to set sail and join any pirate crew. But the training didn't stop there.....

Next, our young shipmates learnt important geography skills from famous pirates as we explored the seven continents and five oceans, but they had no ship to set sail! So, plans were made to design and create their own pirate ship using a range of materials and workshop skills to ensure the ship stayed afloat when launched to sea. The final imaginative and creative pirate ships are awesome.

Finally, after making and being able to follow a ‘real’ treasure map, the Year 1 children were successful in completing their pirate training. Receiving their certificates, beating Captain Hook, and having their class mascots back in the classroom made it all worthwhile.

What a wonderful journey we've had and along the way, sharing the core text 'Penguins make bad Pirates' which was a great story but fictional as we have proven that Year 1 Foxes, Giraffes, Pandas and Penguins are now all amazing pirates. Aharr!



A FINE STATE OF MATTERS

by *Tim Hogg*

Year 4 children certainly got their fill of scientific investigations and theory during our last science topic – Changing States of Matter. Starting with categorising items into Solids, Liquids and Gasses, the children were surprised to learn that solids do not have to be hard, and liquids are not always very runny. Whilst exploring how items change states of matter, the children carried out various investigations, understanding the importance of carrying out a fair test using consistent variables.

They compared the melting rate of dark and white chocolate, the mass of fizzy and non-fizzy drinks and timed the degree of evaporating water. Setting this against our exploration of Rainforests, the children discovered how changing states of matter can be applicable to why the rains come and go so often in the Amazon – the amazing Water Cycle. They even used the process of evaporating and condensing to grow their own cress seeds – a mini rainforest almost!



BIG SHAKESPEARE ARTS FESTIVAL

by Emily Hart

During term 3 the Global Campus launched a Performing Arts event “The BIG Shakespeare Festival” which encouraged students to complete different performing arts challenges. The Festival had over 1000 entries from Nord Anglia Education students around the world covering dance, drama, music and visual arts categories. All the students that entered into the festival were reviewed by a team of Nord Anglia teachers who then selected some of the entries that stood out as outstanding in their categories to receive a special commendation.

We were excited to hear that 5 BSG students were selected as outstanding in their category and they are as follows:

In the age 5-7 Costume Design category, Oscar Walschewski for designing a costume for Miranda, a character from The Tempest

In the age 8-11 Music Performance category, Wenhui Li for his piano performance of Love Theme from Romeo and Juliet by Henry Mancini

In the age 12-14 Music Performance category, Shu Wen Yong, Insiya Vakharia and Anna Yang for their ensemble performance of Love Story by Taylor Swift

Their work is showcased on the GC and can be viewed on the Global Campus / Performing Arts / BIG Shakespeare Festival / then scroll through the categories.

A huge congratulations to all the BSG students who entered and we encourage them to keep looking on the Global Campus to get involved in new and exciting Performing Arts opportunities.



BOOK WEEK BUZZ

by Vilo Elapata

Battle of the Books is normally a competition held between schools but this year, due to the impact of COVID 19, the event could not take place as it typically does. Instead, BSG Secondary held the event as a House Competition to celebrate Book Week. Run by Mr Magson and Ms Heron, a round-robin style competition was held through lunch times, where students showed off their knowledge from the books read. Competitive reading became a spectator sport!

Well done to the students, in groups of 6, who read all 10 Battle of the Books novels between them, showing excellent team-work and competitive spirit. The final, held on Book Dress Up Day, was enjoyed by all!



SECONDARY HOUSE UPDATE

by Tom Hart

It has been a busy year for the House System with lots of events for the students and staff to get involved in! The participation numbers have been outstanding for the Friday lunch time activities with over 100 students and staff entering each of the individual competitions.

The Houses has been in close competition for the overall prize all year with Normans, Vikings and currently

Romans all having been in first place. There are a number of competitions still to go and it is still all to play for in the remaining few weeks! A big thank you to all the students and staff for their involvement and particularly to the student and staff House captains, who have done a fantastic job of organizing and supporting the numerous events and activities.



WE WILL ROCK YOU!

by Lindsey Elkins

This term has seen the performance of our cross phase musical 'We Will Rock You'. Students from year's five to ten have been rehearsing for the past four months during the ASA programme, The production has seen over ninety students involved both on the stage and behind the scenes. For many of the performers, this was their first experience in a BSG production and it is fantastic to see so many of students from the school challenging themselves to get involved. The musical is based on the hit songs from the iconic rock band Queen. Students sung, danced and acted their way through the eighty minute show with songs such as 'I want to break free', Another one bites the dust' We will rock you' and of course 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. Many of the lead roles were double cast, allowing for more opportunities for students to perform. Some fantastic performances were seen from our lead characters,:

- ~ Galileo played by George He and Dhruv Daryani
- ~ Scaramouche played by Reva Devani and Airi Shinobe
- ~ Brit played by Lukas Prendi
- ~ Killer Queen played by Mona Prendi
- ~ Oz played by Alice Contestabile and Noemie Barthes
- ~ Buddy played by Grace Schmuelling and Kyra Garabedian
- ~ Khashoggi played by Dylan Keelin and Branden Xu

The cast would not be complete without our supporting performers and a huge congratulations to everyone involved on a fantastic performance. The students clearly enjoyed themselves both in the performances and the after show celebrations,

"Production was definitely the BEST part of Year 9 for me and if I had the chance to do it all again, I would. Everyone was amazing and it was so much fun working with all the teachers and students from Years 5 to 10. I just want to say thank you to everyone who made this show possible."
(Dhruv Y9)

"I really enjoyed working with the older students because they were really helpful and supportive which made me more confident and relaxed when performing."
(Fillipa, Y5)

During production students develop their performance skills in all three performing arts genres as well as developing their ability to be expressive. Students also work as part of a community developing self discipline, collaborative skills, team work, responsibility, commitment and respect. Production is a great way for students to enhance their learning and we look forward to starting the process again in the next academic year.



JUILLIARD VIRTUAL VISIT

by Emily Hart

The PA department have enjoyed interacting with Juilliard Curriculum Specialists, Paul Murphy, Donna Costella and Stephanie Cunningham this academic year. Their second visits in term 3 were again virtual, with Paul, Donna and Stephanie delivering all their sessions via video link.

Despite that, they still offered lots of exciting activities for staff and students to learn from. Paul led a brass workshop, sharing his skill as a professional trumpeter with our young brass musicians and then got jazzy with Mr Josh's Year 5 class, teaching them how to be a rhythm section in a jazz band. Stephanie and Donna led a workshop for year 8 and 9 students. The workshop was an opportunity to explore Physical Theatre and students managed to use their body language and expression to effectively create illusions on stage. Looking at forces needed to move objects and how this illusion of force can be effectively used in performance.

BSG staff and students appreciated the efforts that Paul, Stephanie and Donna made to engage us and we were impressed by how much we were able to achieve virtually. We look forward to many more opportunities to work with our Juilliard Curriculum Specialists in the next academic year.



STORY BY JAMIE, AGE: 10, THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF GUANGZHOU

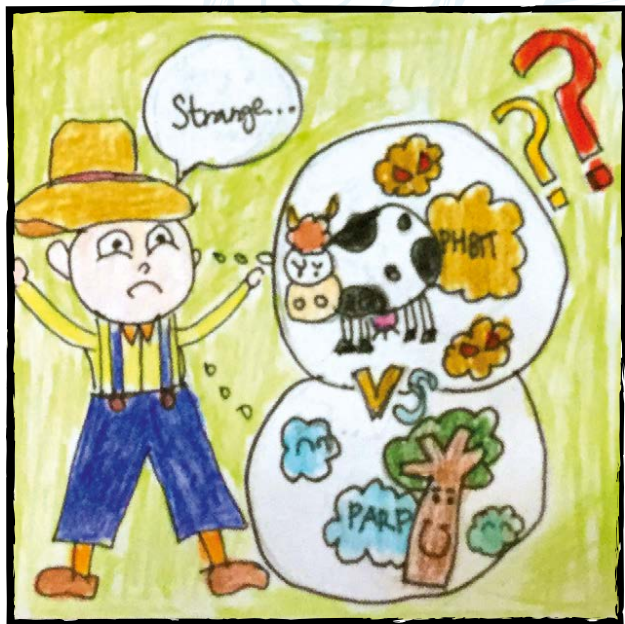
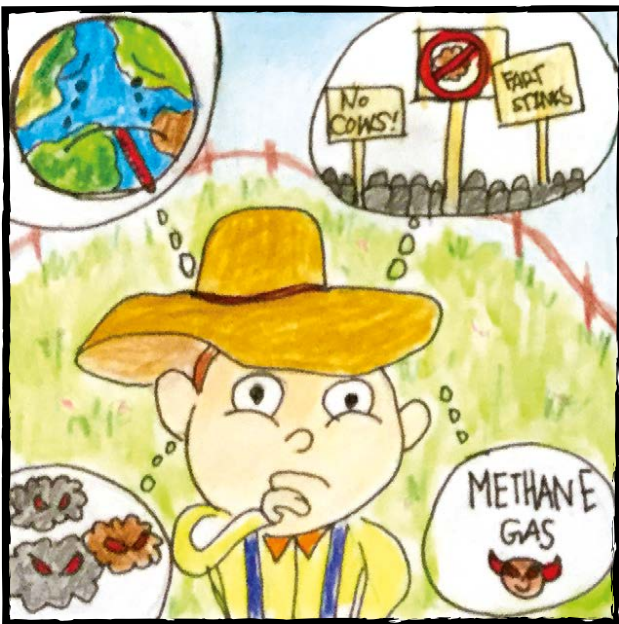
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GOOD GAS

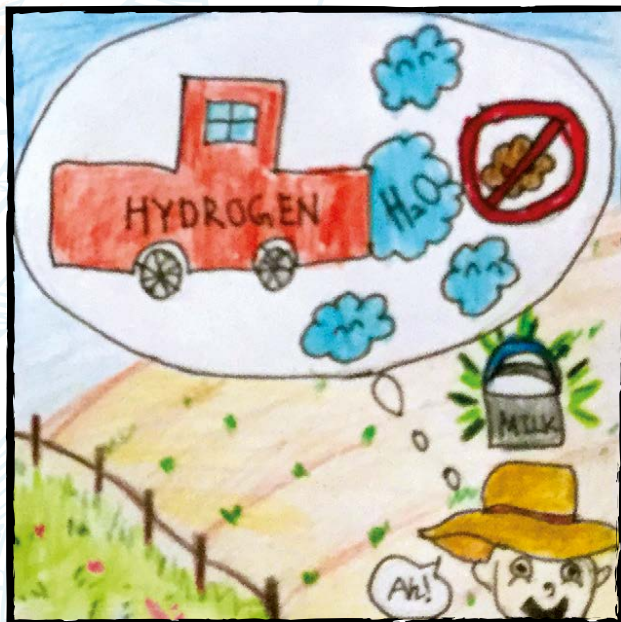
Jamie, 10, The British School of Guangzhou

◀ WINNING ENTRY REDRAW BY COMIC ARTIST JAMES FOLEY

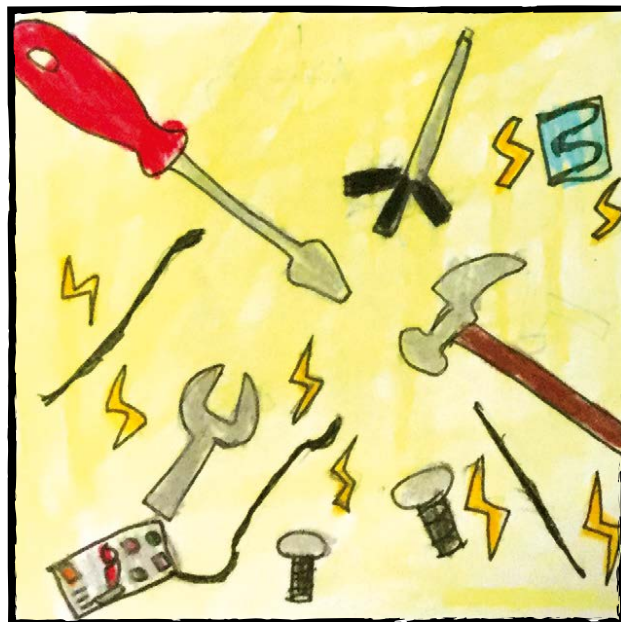


COMIC BOOK WINNER

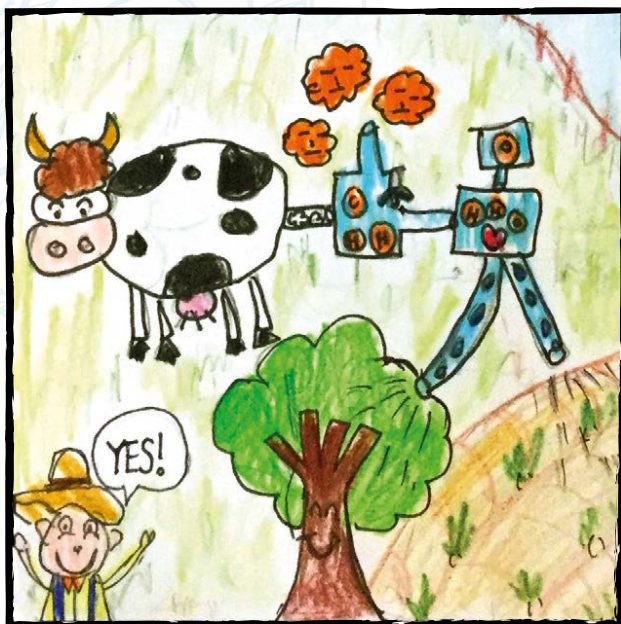
NORD ANGLIA
WINNER



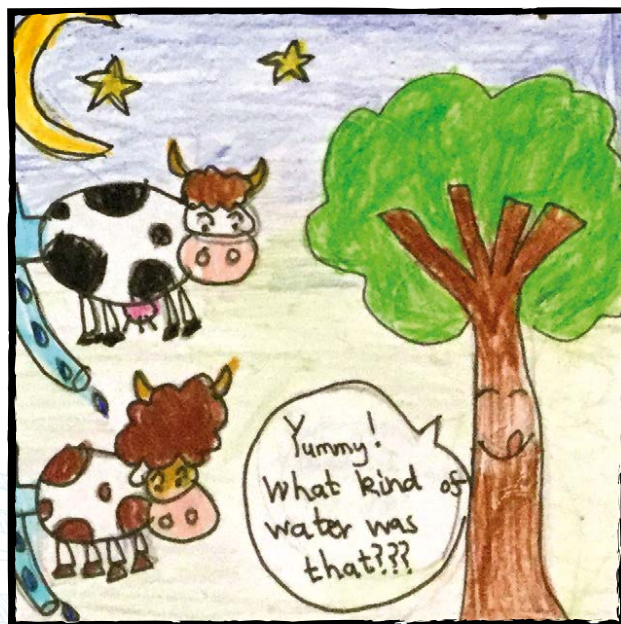
OUR FARMER HAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA. WHAT IF HE MAKES A MACHINE THAT CHANGES COW FART INTO WATER, JUST LIKE A HYDROGEN VEHICLE?



FARMER JOE GOT TO WORK IMMEDIATELY.



HE DID IT! NOW THE PLANTS WILL DRINK FART WATER.



FINALLY THE COWS ARE INNOCENT.

Climate Action Rebel: Nish Doshi

Harriet, 14, The British School of Guangzhou

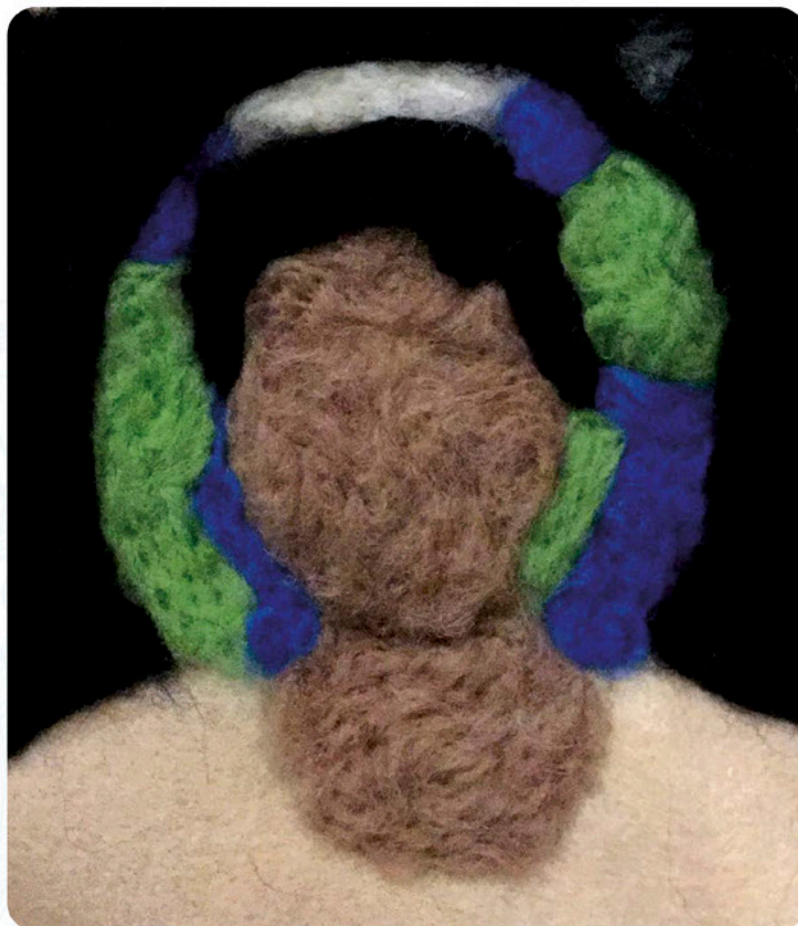
In the busy and bustling streets of Edinburgh, there was a young and kind kid named Nish Doshi ; who since a young age identified as Non-binary using the pronouns They/Them.

Nish had always learned that compassion was a main step of life, along with sharing and empathy. As they grew Nish realised that not everyone followed the rules of life that Nish had been taught from a young, and that not everyone could step into another beings shoes and see their problems This meant that people were mean and hurtful towards things and ideas that were different from their own.

After learning all about the planet and how it was sick, Nish chose to speak their thoughts on climate action but nobody took them seriously because they were young and a bit

different from the others that were putting ideas forward. But that didn't discourage them from trying their hardest to make a difference.

When entering adult hood, Nish decided that they needed to help teach others of their impact on the world , and its health to make sure everyone was heard. They started informing people through lectures and helping others to become more caring and compassionate in their ways. They taught others that it wasn't only the people with power that could make change but them. Right now, there are people saving the world by caring and we can all start caring and become the planets hero.



Portrait of
Nish Doshi,
Wool on Felt

CREATIVE WRITING

Haven Coleman

Jad, 12, The British School of Guangzhou



On the steps of the Denver City Council building, sat a girl bundled in an oversized jacket with her holding a sign. The sign read 'School Strike for Climate'. This is Haven Coleman.

13 years ago, young Haven Coleman was born. In her youth, she was bullied at school and a very shy person. She never liked talking or socializing with other kids, her parents described her as 'an antisocial individual', different from the teen we see today. Her activism started when she was nine when her teacher told the class about the Amazon trade and deforestation leading to animal endangerment. Most importantly the sloth which was Coleman's favourite animal. More of her inspiration comes from Swedish activist Greta Thunberg.

Coleman organised a massive event that took place in March 2019 where students from 50 states skip school on Friday and strike. This act was called the US Youth Climate Strike.

One of the hardest things about strike is people gaining attention about you. And that is especially hard for adults to pay attention because they say so many trial and error strikes that they lost hope in activists and strikes and most possibly, the climate itself.

Even today, during COVID19, she contributes to the Black Lives Matter protests taking place and still strikes against climate change.

Splash Day!



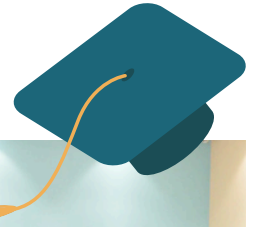
Year 2 Dinosaur Museum



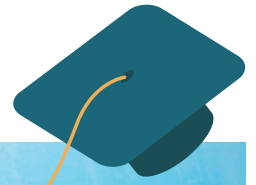
House Music Competition



Reception Graduation



Year 6 Graduation



Secondary Awards Day



Year 13 Graduation

