



Welcome

Christmas and New Year can be a reflective time for many and as we enter the final two weeks before the holiday, I think we can look back on what has been another very productive and successful term at SBL Academy. This week we welcome our Year 11 students back from their work experience. They have been a credit to themselves and the school over the past few weeks, conducting themselves impeccably during their recent internal exams. Before the holiday comes, information will be shared with families regarding the progress they have made in each of their subjects and they are already receiving advice and guidance from their teachers around what they need to do to further improve.

This term we have continued our 2030 vision and values work and parents who attended the recent evening session on this have been effusive with their praise for the quality of our provision at SBL. Last week we were visited by our [Voice 21 partner](#) to support our ongoing work on oracy. We are really excited about the scope and impact that this long-term project can have in further supporting our students to become confident and articulate speakers in the classroom and in their future life beyond school.

‘... we can look back on what has been another very productive and successful term ...’

Looking ahead, we are all very excited to see all of the hard-work that students have been putting into their performances at this year’s Christmas Concert on Wednesday the 13th of December. After it’s tremendous success last year, we will again be collecting food for a local Foodbank during the last week of term. On the final day of term, students will also have the opportunity to come together as houses to celebrate their successes with prizes awarded for those students who have been awarded the most praise points in their lessons this term.

To sign off the year, I’d like to give the final word in this month’s lead article to one of our students and cadets, Aurora Mackay who is also part of our extra-curricular ‘Young Reporters Scheme’. She has written her own account of the act of remembrance which took place on Friday the 10th November. The event was an incredibly moving experience attended by members of the Royal British Legion and the trust. We were all touched by the respectful and dignified behaviour of our students who conducted themselves impeccably. We are incredibly proud of them all.

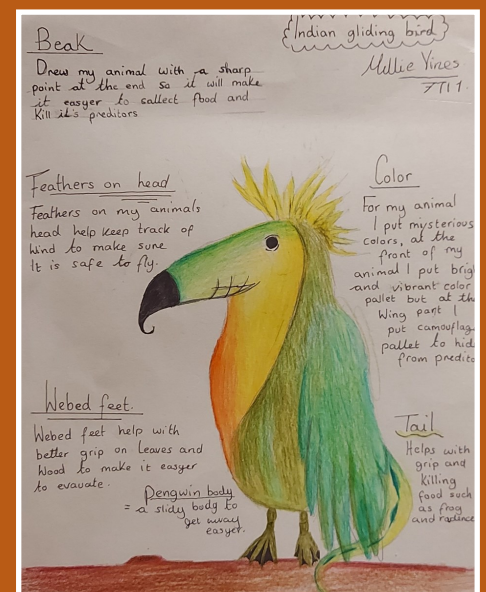
On Friday the 10th November at 10.30am Student Leaders and Army Cadets met to stand on the sports hall balcony in front of the Standard Bearer, who stood below in the centre row of the astroturf, being the representative of the Royal British Legion.

At 10.40am students and teachers of SBL gathered to their allocated areas on the astroturf connected to SBL sports centre to line up in their houses: Titan, Callisto, Europa and Atlas (cont.)

Key dates

- 6th and 7th December: nasal flu for years 7 to 11 inclusive
- 13th December: Christmas Concert (see page 6 for details)
- 15th December: last day of term (school closes at 1:25pm to all students)
- 2nd January: Inset day
- 3rd January: term 3 starts

Year 7s fantastic animal adaptation creations



See page 9 for more details



The Sir Bernard Lovell Academy school community then held a two minute silence at 11am to reflect on the democratic freedom and security we have thanks to the sacrifices of our armed forces.

Before the silence there was a moving and impeccably delivered speech from Dr Robin Bassford, our newly appointed headteacher of SBL. A beautiful poem by the name of *In Flanders Fields* was also read by one of the Year 11 Student leaders.

At the end of the two minute silence the bugler played "The Last Post". Afterwards, the wreath was laid by two local army cadets.

Thanks to Aurora for writing this and wishing you all an enjoyable and restful holiday when it comes. A very happy Christmas and New Year

Mr Jones, Assistant Headteacher

Congratulations to our Year 10 students collecting their Duke of Edinburgh award certificates



Yule have a Dickens of a good time!

VUE Cinema is showing a theatrical version of the much-loved (and much-studied!) 'A Christmas Carol'. Here is what VUE have to say about the film: 'Based on Dickens' own performance adaptation, Simon Callow and director-designer Tom Cairns have created a one-man theatrical extravaganza of festive story-telling that is both heart-warming and deeply moving. A Christmas must-see! Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol is one of the most beloved books in the English language. It has become a classic Christmas tale for generations of grown-ups and children alike. This treasured story offers a celebration of goodness, a plea for justice and the promise of redemption. Following critically acclaimed, sold-out theatre seasons, Simon Callow (Four Weddings and a Funeral, Shakespeare in Love) returns to wow audiences with this tour de force performance.'

The film will be shown from the 14th December and is PG rated. It's perfectly timed for our Year 10 who are studying the novel this term and for our Year 11 students for some extra recall and revision.

What a lovely thing to do together to start the Christmas holidays.

For more information please see [Vue cinema's website](#).

Miss Roberts, English

Student Leadership and Remembrance

Our moving and impeccably observed remembrance event on Friday the 10th of November was also a great opportunity for our Year 11 student leadership team and school council to represent the school up on the Sports Hall balcony which they did superbly. Natasha Kington, Lucy Clay, Josh Miles and Liam Francis all gave impressive readings to the whole school during the event, something that they should all be very proud of.



The rest of the school were also united in remembrance and a number of our students showed their creativity both in and out of lessons. Lucy Butcher-Moore expertly made the poppies pictured here herself and other students designed potential war memorials as part of their PSHE work.



The SBL Academy Student Leadership Team



Mia - Year 8

U13's National Cup Round 4 SBL vs Oldfield

Wednesday 22nd November 2023

2-0 Win to SBL (home fixture)

A solid performance from the girls, never in doubt that we were winning that game. I Hallett scoring a goal in the first half. Followed by L Jones in the second half. Great team performance with E Bevan as Miss Mills' Player of the match, for her amazing defensive efforts. A Templar also performed some incredible saves, keeping another clean sheet, A Templar Player of the match from opposition.

The girls are now into Round 5 of the cup, the Final 32 in the country, keep up the amazing work girls! Great performance from all, our new additions to the team also did an incredible job.

Miss C Mills

The Big Ambition Survey

Dear Parents and Carers

Dame Rachel De Souza, Children's Commissioner for England has launched this campaign to give you and your child the opportunity to tell political decision makers what is important to you ahead of the General Election.

This survey is for all children aged 0-18, parents, carers/other adults can complete on behalf of children who are under 6 or for children who need extra assistance.

[The Big Ambition survey](#)



 **CHILDREN'S
COMMISSIONER**



Utilita Cup 7 Aside Tournament

Monday 27th November 2023

Our U13's team had the opportunity to compete in a 7 aside tournament at Imperial Sports Ground against 8 local schools. The girls played well under some cold conditions, this was an excellent opportunity for the girls to play and practice as a team for our national cup games. Player of the tournament L Butler for stepping up as goalkeeper and for her superb penalty save.

Miss C Mills



A festive winter scene with snow, musical notes, a reindeer silhouette, and buildings. The background is a light blue sky with falling snow. At the top, a black silhouette of a reindeer is leaping across a string of red Christmas lights. Above the reindeer, several musical notes are scattered across a curved staff. Below the reindeer, a string of red Christmas lights hangs across the scene. In the foreground, there are several buildings with snow on their roofs and windows. The buildings are in shades of blue and brown, with some windows glowing with a warm yellow light. The overall atmosphere is cozy and celebratory.

Christmas CONCERT

SBL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER, 7PM

GIOTTO ARTS CENTRE (M90)

SIR BERNARD LOVELL ACADEMY

TICKETS: ADULTS £3/CONCESSIONS £2

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BERNARD-LOVELL-ACADEMY](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/SIR-BERNARD-LOVELL-ACADEMY)**



Starting a life-long love of music

Learning a musical instrument can open up a world of possibilities – to perform at festivals; to travel; to make friends, or simply to develop a love of music you never previously knew existed. At SBL we currently offer instrumental lessons on piano, keyboard, drums and guitar. We asked our instrumental teachers what started their love of music, and where it's taken them.

Mr Elston - Drums

At a young age I attended rock concerts with my family and this sparked my passion for music. I decided to take up drum lessons in secondary school and have been playing for around 20 years now.

I've played with multiple original projects, tribute acts, and function bands over the years and this has provided some fantastic work opportunities. As someone who loves to travel, I have been fortunate enough to perform all around Europe including Spain, France, Holland, Italy, and Malta. A particular highlight of mine was a three-week tour in France playing at different ski resorts. I travel around the UK on a regular basis to play some fantastic events and festivals. There's also weekly gigs in Bristol, which arguably has one of the most exciting music scenes in the UK!

I am predominantly a rock/pop player, however I love all genres of music and adapt my playing to the style that is needed for the gig. In my lessons, I offer an insight into all styles and genres of music. Drumming is an accessible, social activity that students at SBL love. Seeing students go on to achieve their musical goals is incredibly rewarding as a tutor.



Mr Hare - Keyboard



I teach piano, trumpet and singing. I come from a non-musical family and started playing the trumpet aged seven because my GP had read some research that it could help ease the symptoms of asthma! Forty years later, I'm still playing and no longer have asthma, so they might have been correct.

I work as a session musician with several bands. I'm out on the road most weekends gigging, have recently toured Europe supporting legendary folk-rock band the Levellers. I regularly play at all the big UK festivals, including Glastonbury Festival last summer.

My favourite styles of music are classical (I love the symmetry, balance, elegance) and folk rock (I love the roots, instrumentation and the stories). I enjoy teaching my pupils the fundamentals of improvising in a variety of styles and learning to play pieces of music that inspire them. Learning a musical instrument like the piano or trumpet will give you joy for the rest of your life; you'll make lifelong friendships and build confidence to succeed, in music and beyond.

Mr Baker - Guitar

I've been playing guitar since the age of 12, and have been a professional musician since leaving university. The guitar is an awesome instrument because it's so versatile.

From the acoustic guitar that George Ezra took with him to Budapest to write his hit song, to the beaten up electric that Eddie Van Halen plugged into a wall of Marshall amps cranked to 11, you can pretty much make any style of music using these six strings. Mine has taken me to stages all over the country playing in front of thousands of people, and has played approximately 500 first dances at weddings in the last 10 years. I love it when my students bring new things I've not heard before for us to learn together, so make sure you bring along a list of your favourite tunes when you come for your first guitar lesson!



Ms Oughten - Piano

I took my first piano lesson at the age of 9, and by the age of 13 I knew I wanted to be a music teacher! I studied for my Grade 8 piano and Grade 7 violin, and went to music college to study for my degree in music. I then spent 25 years as a classroom music teacher. As a pianist, I have accompanied soloists and choirs, and have played for operas and musicals.

As a piano teacher I enjoy working with others so they can aspire to do the same. Learning any instrument is of huge benefit to brain function and mental health. The piano in particular challenges you to develop dexterity and coordination across both hands, while reading two lines of music at the same time. I love playing classics, from Mozart and Chopin; current composers such as Einaudi and Yurima; film themes by the great John Williams, and pop/rock by artists such as Queen and Elton John.

How to sign up

If you would like to begin learning a musical instrument at SBL, lessons begin in January for terms 2 and 3. Lessons cost £77 for 10 x 15-minute lessons, or £148 for 10 x 30-minute lessons. All lessons are taught one-to-one. To apply, or if you have any questions, please contact Mrs Cox, SBL Admin team, via enquiries@sblacademy.org.uk.

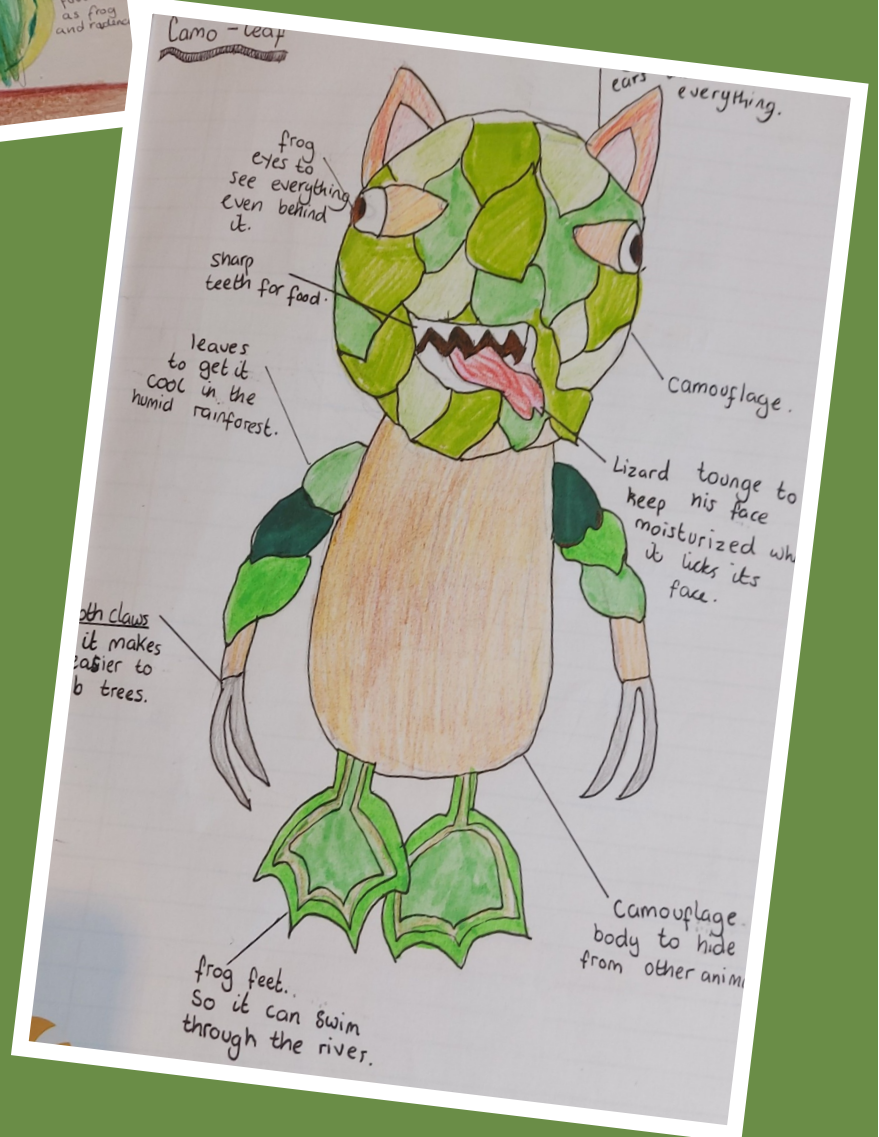
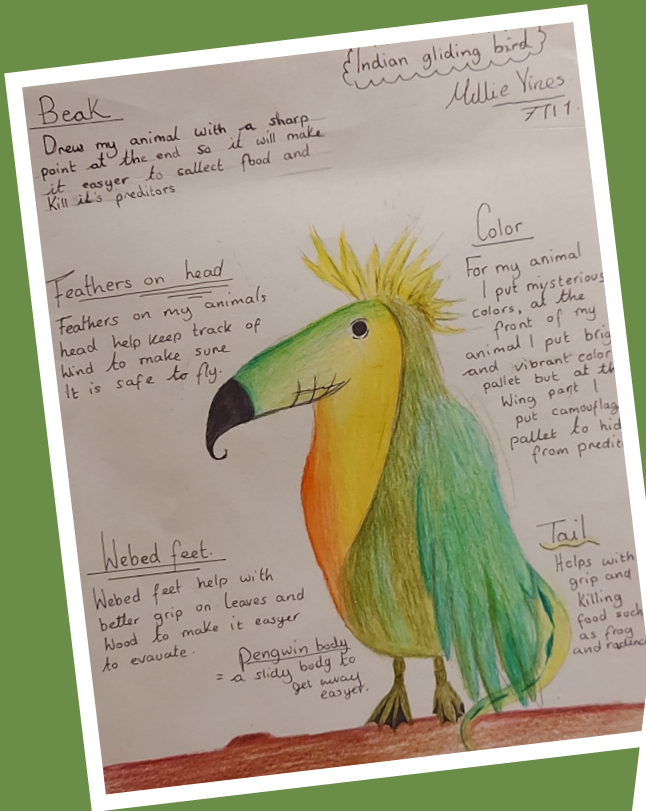
Mr Alderson, Creative and Media

Year 7s fantastic animal adaptation creations

In geography, year 7 have been learning about the rainforest. In a recent home study, students had to design an animal that had suitable adaptations for living in the rainforest.

I'm extremely proud of all their work. Here are a couple of the amazing animals created.

Mrs Stapleton



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Adult Relationship Counselling

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The Sleep Charity

At any given time up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with their sleep. Yet in a recent survey, almost 60% of adults felt there was a lack of support for sleep issues. Sleep problems can leave people feeling isolated and lonely.

Our free helpline is run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. We can talk to young people directly, or parents (we can also talk to adults, including older people, about their sleep issues).

The helpline is open 5 times a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, and Monday, Wednesday mornings 9-11am. The number is 03303 530 541. You can read more on the [Sleep Charity website](https://thesleepcharity.org.uk).



Liz Wilson

Helpline Project Manager

Helpline Number: 03303 530 541

thesleepcharity.org.uk



Winner of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2020



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