



Here are my pencil and oil pastel drawings of peppers. I decided to develop on from my thumbnail sketches by producing larger pieces using the same medium. Both A3 drawings I believe are very good and I am very happy with how they have turned out. Using these pieces of art, I will go onto Photoshop to improve them. I am happy I started off with the thumbnail sketches and A3 drawings as it means I have practiced creating art with fruit and vegetables.

Challenge Partners – Quality Assurance Review: Outstanding Again



“Students are typically self-focused and highly engaged in learning activities. They take pride in their work.”

For the second year running, the school has been described as “outstanding” in all areas following the external review that took place at the end of November. The school was one of the founding members of the Challenge Partners organisation. The annual review, whilst different from other external inspections such as Ofsted, is led by a fully qualified Ofsted inspector and is a valid indicator of how well the school is performing. The full report can be read on the [school website](#). A few extracts from the report are below.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES – OUTSTANDING

“Senior leaders have a long-term view of school improvement. They focus primarily on securing the capacity to provide high quality teaching and leadership.”

“School leaders are collectively of the view that all of the school’s continued improvements, particularly those that have led to the sustained improvement in Progress 8 (P8) scores, are underpinned by the school’s ethos and values.”

QUALITY OF TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT - OUTSTANDING

“Teachers plan lessons that quickly secure student engagement and provide challenge within the learning activities. Their pedagogical and subject knowledge is strong, which allows them to develop students’ knowledge and understanding.”

“Teachers have a comprehensive understanding of expectations at GCSE level. As a result, they plan and deliver skills-orientated lessons and share essential information to enable students to reach the highest grades.”

OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS – OUTSTANDING

“The school’s Progress 8 measure at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2017 was above average and showed an increase, where nationally boys’ performance declined.”

“The biggest improvement was in English, demonstrating that the actions undertaken by the school in this area had a positive impact on outcomes for students.”

“Core science continued to perform in the top 10% of schools.”

AREA OF EXCELLENCE: LEADING A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT KEY STAGE 4 – ACCREDITED

In addition to our programme of initial teacher training, this area of the school has now been

accredited as one which is worthy of national recognition. This will mean that we will host leadership development days for science leaders from across England.

“Leaders within the science department have a clear vision for the subject and its continued development within the school.”

“...the department has a full complement of highly skilled specialist teachers.”

“Progress in science is significantly above national averages for all students, disadvantaged students, and low, middle and high attainers.”

“The school has consistently been placed in the top 10% of schools for progress in science between Key Stage 2 and 4 for the past five years.”

“Attainment at A-A grades at GCSE is significantly above national average.”*

OVERALL ESTIMATE - OUTSTANDING

The school has been judged, overall, as outstanding. This is a testament to the leadership within the school, the excellent teaching and the skills and expertise of the support staff.

“Relationships between staff and students are trusting and built on a culture of positivity and learning.”

Developments Update

NEW TEACHING BLOCK

The new teaching block is nearing completion. Whilst there has been a delay in finishing the interior, we hope to be able to move into the new facility before the Easter holiday.

ART & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY BLOCK

As soon as we move into the new teaching block, work will begin to replace the curtain walling and high-level windows in the Art & DT block.

A contractor has been chosen to undertake this work and this will vastly improve the learning environment. The final phase of the project will take place over the summer and will see some interior improvements to the flooring, décor and lighting.

IMPROVEMENT BID

As part of our continuing ambition to be 'outstanding in every respect', we have just submitted a bid to extend our dining facilities. This will involve some exciting internal re-modelling that will improve our drama and music provision.

We hope to hear whether we have been successful in this bid, by the end of next term.

This Month's Cover

The cover this time was designed by GCSE student Shaan Mahal (11D). Mr Carpenter was very impressed with the quality of this work - well done Shaan!

Get in Touch!

A key strategy for Isleworth & Syon School is the use of electronic communications. Our primary mode of communication with parents/carers is via email, so please do check it regularly and let us know immediately if emails are not getting through.

Some mailboxes automatically filter the system-sent emails as 'spam' or 'junk', so check those folders if you haven't been receiving emails from us.

Emails are sent from PARS@isleworthsyon.org. These emails are system-generated and the mailbox is not monitored. We politely ask that you **do not reply** to emails sent from this address; if you have a query, it should be directed to school@isleworthsyon.org, at which point a member of our administrative staff will forward it on to the appropriate member of staff.

Please be advised that due to our large school body, our phone lines are often busy. It is far more efficient to access information via the website or Twitter account, rather than by telephone.

Website: www.isleworthsyon.org
Email: school@isleworthsyon.org
Twitter: twitter.com/IsleworthSyon
Facebook: facebook.com/IsleworthSyon
Parent Portal: <https://parent.isleworthsyon.com>
Telephone: 020 8568 5791

News

INDUCTION ASSEMBLY

We were delighted to welcome over one hundred Year 7 parents/carers to celebrate the end of a very successful first term for our youngest students. This year saw the award of a platinum medal for the first time, in order to adequately reward the very top students for an outstanding start. It was a pleasure to hear reps from each form reflect on their first term in such glowing terms. We hope that the year group use this as a springboard next term.



BADMINTON BOROUGH SUCCESS

The school's outstanding badminton performance continued this term, as both the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 teams were crowned borough champions. Unbelievably, this is the eleventh year in a row that our senior students have been the best team locally, a phenomenal achievement that is a testament to the work done by the team and their coach, Miss George. Students have now qualified for the regional stage, which will take place next term. We can't wait to see these students continue to reach for the heights!

'PRIVATE PEACEFUL'

This year's school production of 'Private Peaceful' was a great success on the evenings of Thursday 30 November and Friday 1 December. Stuffed with an ensemble cast and crew of over sixty students, this was our most ambitious production yet! Mr McDonnell and the rest of the performing arts department put on a show that was at once thought-provoking and poignant, inspiring excellent performances across the board from his young cast. Particular mention must be given to Aadi Mudhar (11B), Harry Wells (10E), Quinn Goodliffe (8F) and Cade Nation (9E) for bringing their characters to life with such aplomb. Audience response was overwhelmingly positive afterwards, and it was a pleasure to see such talent on show in school.



CAROL CONCERT

Our Carol Concert on Monday 18 December was a fantastic way to end the term and spread some festive cheer. New Head of Music Mr McKeever led a great concert featuring students of all ages, and it was a lovely evening for all involved. A marvellous £170.40 was raised, which will go to the Great Ormond Street Hospital charity.

PGL

120 Year 7 students had a wonderful time on their PGL excursion in the second week of October, with those present lucky enough to enjoy a number of thrilling activities including aeroball, abseiling and the giant swing! Mr Dargan commented afterwards that they had been our best Year 7 group ever!



ANNUAL REVIEW

In October, we published the latest edition of our Review magazine, an annual look back at the highlights from the previous academic year. This year's 60-page publication is chockful of successes and achievements from all areas of the school, and is a great way for us to celebrate the students. You can access it at www.isleworthsyon.org/review.

REMEMBRANCE



Our remembrance commemorations this year consisted of a series of assemblies in school, reflecting on the importance of remembering the fallen soldiers who gave their lives for our freedom. At 11.00am, a small group of students took part in the local Borough Road memorial (pictured above), at which David Carter and Matthew Nunan (both 8F) played 'The Last Post' with aplomb.

SAFE DRIVE, STAY ALIVE

Year 12 visited the Questor's Theatre on Friday 13 October for the annual 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' event. We are regular attenders at this poignant and powerful two-hour event, where students hear first-hand about the importance of staying safe when driving - a pertinent message for the students, many of whom are considering learning to drive. Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive afterwards, with many seeing driving in a whole new light.

PTA QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 17 November saw our annual Quiz & Curry Night, which was very well-attended and raised funds for educational projects in school. Our thanks to everyone who came along for this memorable evening!

Noticeboard

END OF TERM

Term finishes on Thursday 21 December, with students dismissed at 12.30pm. We return on Monday 8 January at 8.25am. We wish everyone a peaceful holiday.

SIXTH FORM PRE-PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS – JANUARY



The timetable for these examinations has been published on the school website and circulated to students and parents/carers. The full timetable can be found at www.isleworthsyon.org/examinations, a page which also contains important information about conduct during examinations that students in all year groups should read.

STUDENTS CYCLING TO SCHOOL

It is pleasing to see the increased number of students cycling to school. We ask that all parents/carers ensure that their children wear a cycle helmet to school and encourage your son(s)/ward(s) to cycle safely at all times.

There is a current fashion for some cyclists to do “wheelies” on the roads. Clearly, this is dangerous behaviour and students will have their cycles confiscated in these circumstances.

PARKING AROUND THE SITE

We would as a matter of urgency and common decency, ask some parents/carers to review their own behaviours especially in relation to dropping-off, or picking-up students at the start and end of the school day. It is illegal to park, or temporarily stop, on double-yellow lines or the zig-zags outside the school entrances.

Local enforcement officers have been attending the site before and after school and issued a number of warnings to parents/carers. Future visits by the enforcement team will result in the issuing of fines.

Please read the full letter on road safety, from Mr Ferguson, on the school website [here](#).



Coming Soon...

Please find below a summary of the next two months in school. All events for this year can be found in the [school calendar](#) on the website.

You can also view the full list of [term dates](#).

DECEMBER				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8	9	10	11	12
Start of Spring Term	KS5 PPEs	KS5 PPEs	KS5 PPEs	KS5 PPEs
KS5 PPEs				
15	16	17	18	19
KS5 PPEs			Y7 Parents' Evening	
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31	1 Feb	2 Feb
			Y9 Parents' Evening	

FEBRUARY				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5	6	7	8	9
			Valentine's Disco (TBC)	
12	13	14	15	16
Half-Term	Half-Term	Half-Term	Half-Term	Half-Term
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	1 Mar	2 Mar
			Y9 Immunisations	Y9 Immunisations
			KS4 Courses Evening	

Houses

HARVEST CHALLENGE – OCTOBER

At Isleworth & Syon, we try as much as possible to give back to the local community. A key tenet of the house system is our charity drives, in which students and the school community are mobilised to help those who are vulnerable and in need. To that end, we once again organised our Harvest Challenge in October, with two parallel campaigns.

The first involved students collecting donations of food from their cupboards at home, all in aid of the local IvybridgeLink foodbank. The amount of donations was staggering, with a fantastic haul of 295 items which was very gratefully received by the Ivybridge representatives. The second campaign was entitled 'What Can Your Spare Change, Change', with all monetary donations also given to Ivybridge. Again, the level of generosity was simply outstanding, with over £360 raised! A huge well done to the boys for a fantastic effort!



CHILDREN IN NEED – DECEMBER



The central activity was the Pudsey Bear Treasure Hunt, with posters around the school asking Children in Need-related questions which needed to be marked down on a sheet and put in the Pudsey postbox at the end. Year 7 took part on Tuesday 14 November, while Year 8 had their turn on the Wednesday and Year 9 on the Thursday. It was great to see so many students throwing themselves into the challenge and giving the donation required to take part. The Bear Hunt challenge raised a fantastic £181.17.

Year 9 and 10 hosted an inter-house football tournament; competitors donated to take part and raised £65. On Friday 17 November, Sixth Form students went around the form rooms asking students to guess the amount of sweets in a jar; several students went close! The Sixth Formers raised £55.50. Overall, we raised £420.64 for Children in Need - well done everyone!

Writer's Corner

Miss Cox nominated this lovely piece of creative writing, written as part of an English lesson. Year 10 were tasked with picking an object and writing about it.

'The Briefcase'

By Ben Roberts (10D)

Gentle eyes gazing. Worn hands outstretched.

"Take it," he said.

"A briefcase?" I asked. "Really?"

He nodded.

"What's even inside it, anyway?"

"I don't know."

I was dumbfounded. Trying to search for the words that could begin to express this to him was futile. My two sisters each got £1,000, and I get a briefcase. A probably empty one, at that.

Grandad was always a prankster. He'd do anything for a laugh. But even from beyond the grave, he was going to do this to me. How could I be angry? He was dead.

"Well? Are you going to take it?"

Briefcase in hand, I shut my bedroom door. Time to see what was really in here. The briefcase and I, sat on my bed staring at each other. My face suddenly became damp. I couldn't help it. This would be the last of his many surprises. I needed to relax. Grandad would tell me to suck it up. I'd do it for him. The latches clicked open. The hinges creaked. The briefcase then locked in an open position...



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