Cultural Capital

“Did you know one of Britain's most famous soap-making families had strong connections with **Isleworth**.”

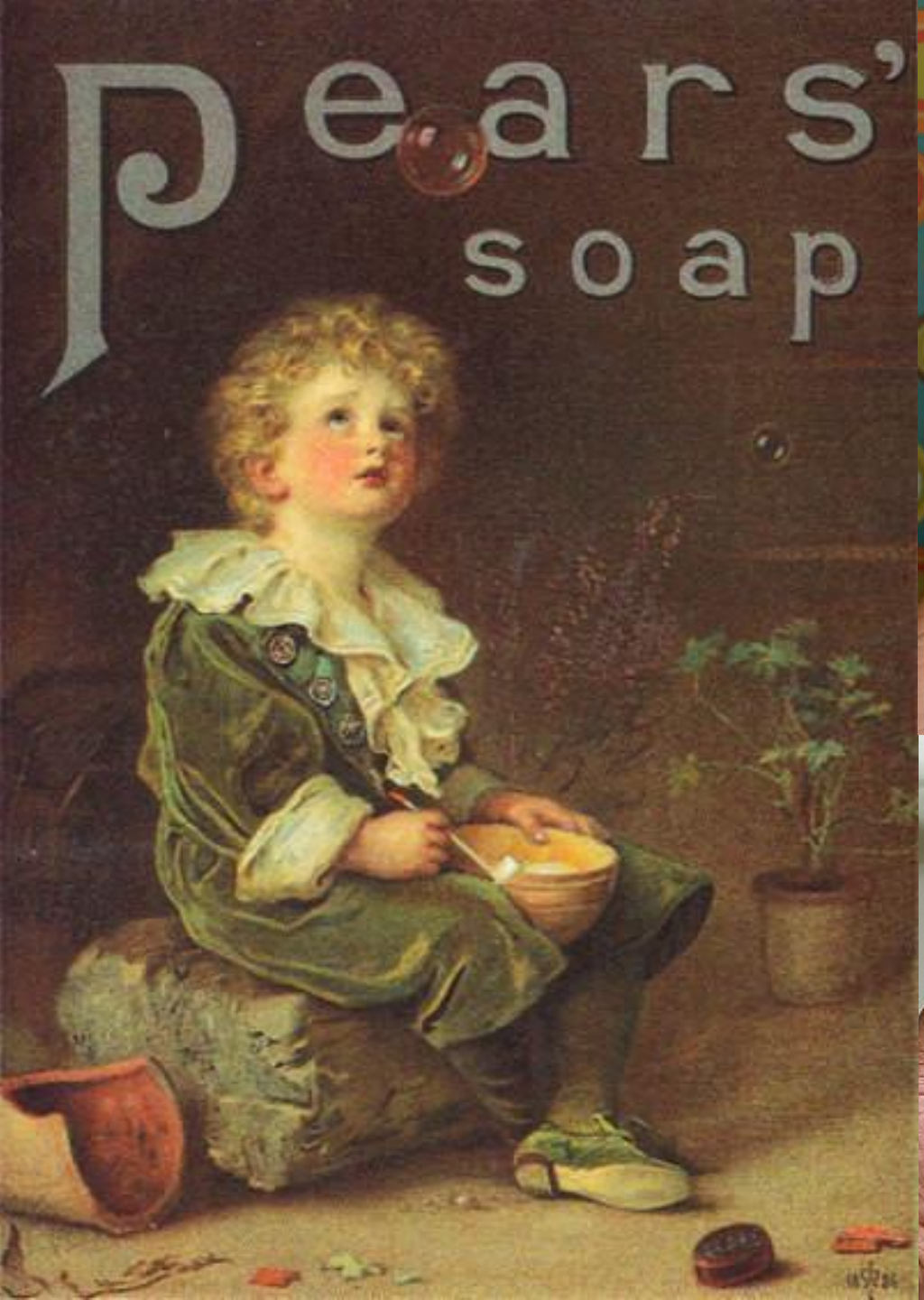


Andrew Pears, whose family became famous for Pears soap, bought **Spring Grove House** in Isleworth in 1887.

He later had the house substantially rebuilt and extended. The building is now part of **West Thames College**.

Thomas Pears, Andrews son died in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

Pears soap became famous for its distinctive transparent appearance and was an important example of how chemistry and manufacturing could transform an everyday product

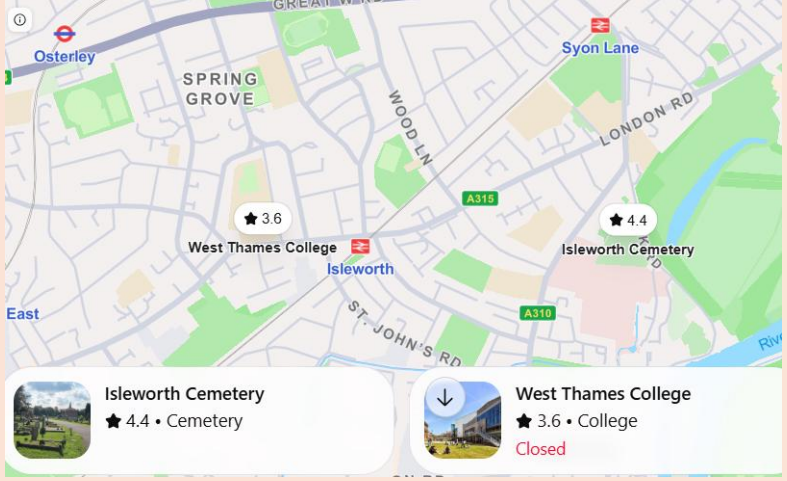

Pears'
soap


Pears
EST. 1807
Net Wt. / Poids Net / Peso Neto 3.53 oz. (100 g)
Pears
POIDS NET WEIGHT 100 g 3.53 OZ
Pears
POIDS NET WEIGHT 100 g 3.53 OZ


Pears
Pears
Pears


PEARS'
SOAP
PEARS
INVENTOR
Produces
Soft, White
AND Beautiful Hands
PEARS
TRANSPARENT
SOAP TABLET
SMALL TABLETS (unscented)
6d. ea.
Sold Everywhere
LARGE TABLETS (scented)
1/- ea.
Delightfully
Fragrant.







CULTURAL CHALLENGE:

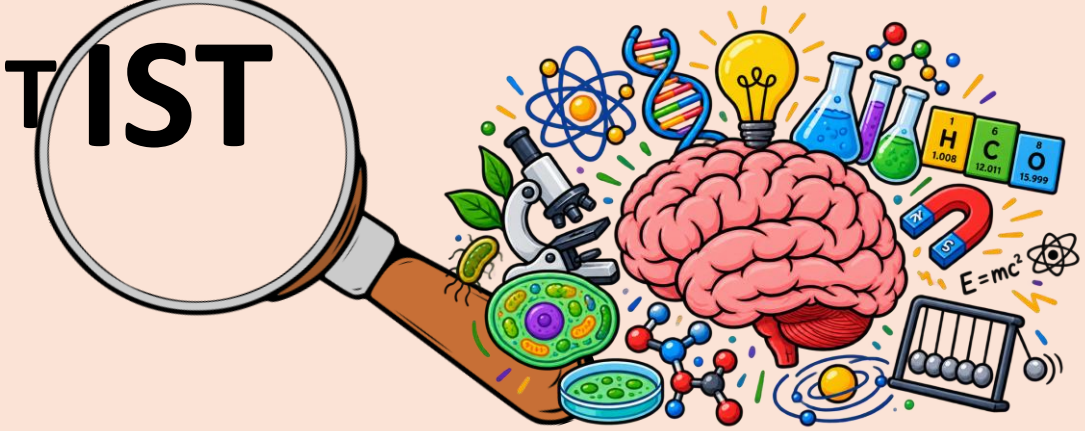
Step 1 — Find the Pears connection: Take a photo of yourself outside the gated entrance of Spring Grove house, located at the back entrance of West Thames College, on Harvard Road.

And/Or

Step 2 — Find the Pears family: Visit Isleworth Cemetery and take a photo of you at the Pears family memorial.

e-mail it to nstead@isleworthsyon.org

EXTENSION: THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST



Research the science behind soap.

Answer these questions:

1. What is soap made from?

2. How does soap help remove grease and dirt?

3. Why doesn't water alone remove oily substances particularly well?

4. What does the word "mixture" mean in chemistry?

⭐ BIG QUESTION

How could improvements in soap-making have helped improve people's health and hygiene?

🏆 BONUS CHALLENGE

Pears soap was displayed at the **Great Exhibition of 1851**.

Find out:

What was the Great Exhibition, and why would winning recognition there have been important for a British company?

e-mail answers to nstead@isleworthsyon.org


William


IN
5
IN
5
Henry



Haider





Toby..he even bought the soap!






Isleworth
Cemetery


West Thames
College London
Welcome
START HERE GO FAR
APPLY NOW
OLDS & ADULTS
Visit our campus
Explore courses
how to apply
your pathway
ment support

Alex


Hayden


Wilbur



Samuel



Ravi



Rayan





Ethan



Pears Soap



CULTURAL CHALLENGE:
Step 1 — Find the Pears connection: Take a photo of yourself outside the gated entrance of Spring Grove house, located at the back entrance of West Thames College, on Harvard Road.





1. What is soap made from?
Soap is made by mixing fats or oils with an alkali to produce soap and glycerol.
This chemical reaction is called saponification.

2. How does soap help remove grease and dirt?
Soap helps remove grease and dirt because each soap molecule has two ends:

- One end is attracted to water.
- The other end is attracted to grease and oil.

The soap surrounds the grease and breaks it into tiny droplets. These droplets can then be washed away with water.

3. Why doesn't water alone remove oily substances particularly well?

Water alone cannot remove oily substances very well because oil and water do not mix.

Oil is not attracted to water, so it stays separate instead of dissolving. Soap helps break the oil into tiny droplets so they can be washed away with water.

4. What does the word "mixture" mean in chemistry?

A mixture is made when two or more substances are put together but do not chemically join to form a new substance.
Example: Salt water is a mixture of salt and water.

BIG QUESTION

How could improvements in soap-making have helped improve people's health and hygiene?

Improvements in soap-making meant that soap became cheaper, better and more widely available. This helped people wash their hands and bodies more often, removing dirt and harmful germs. As a result, hygiene improved, diseases spread less easily and fewer people became ill.

BONUS CHALLENGE :
Pears soap was displayed at the **Great Exhibition of 1851**.
Find out:
What was the Great Exhibition, and why would winning recognition there have been important for a British company?

The Great Exhibition of 1851 was a huge exhibition held in the Crystal Palace in London. It displayed inventions, machinery and products from Britain and other countries.
Winning recognition there would have been important for a British company because it would:

- Show that its products were high quality.
- Improve its reputation.
- Attract more customers.
- Help the company sell more products and make more money.

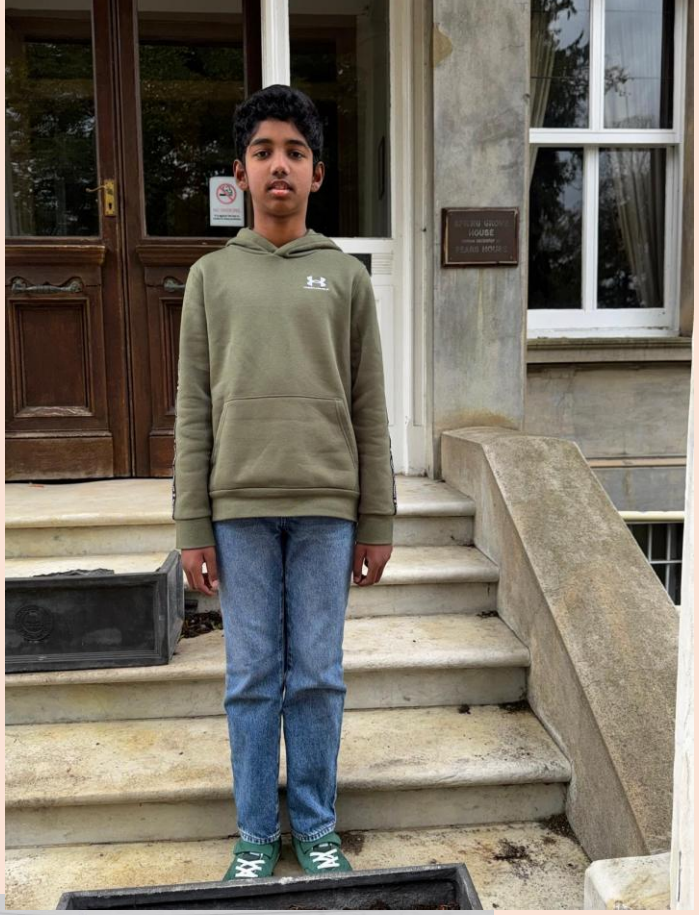
Taha

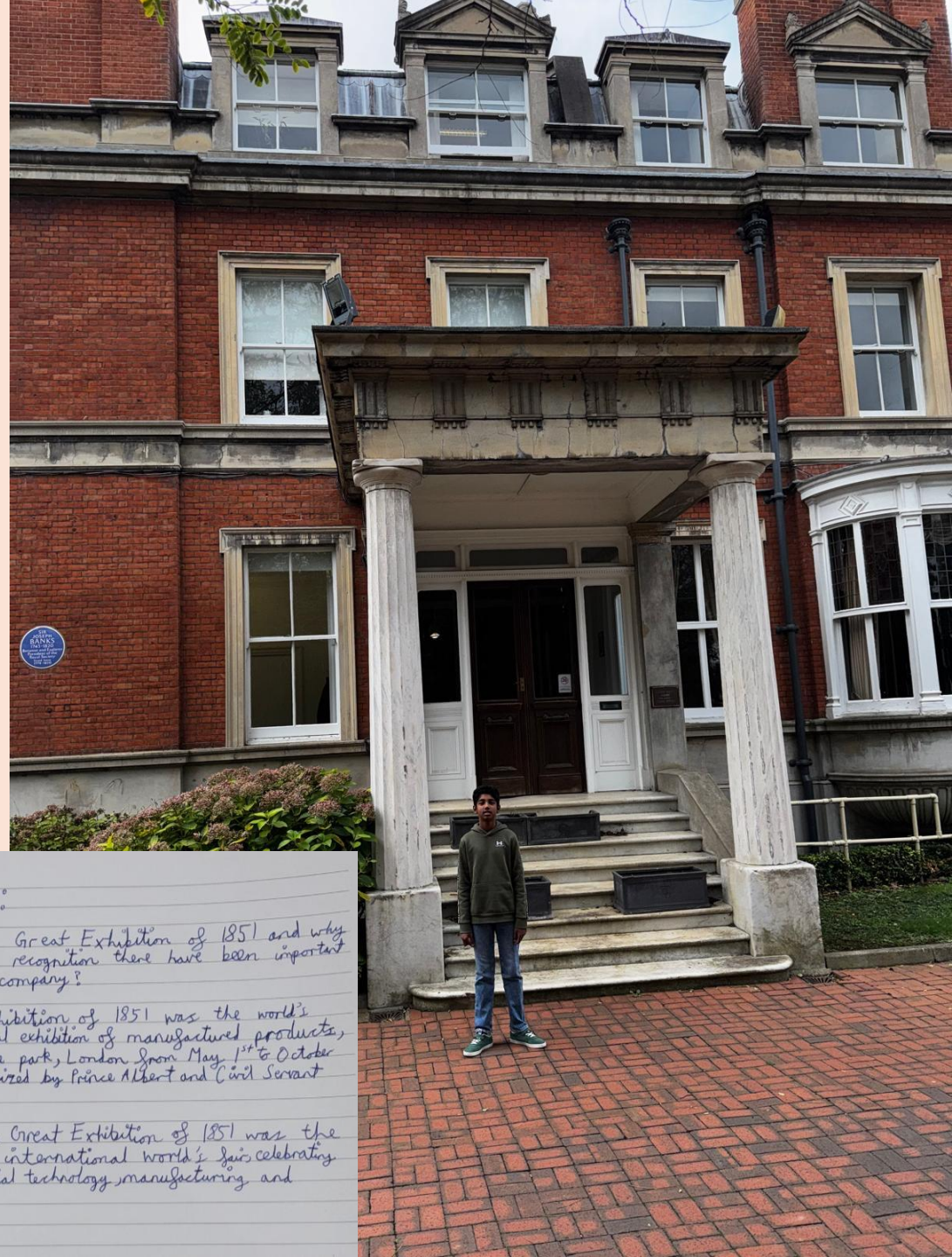

West Thames College London
Visitor and Staff Car Park
Deliveries
West Thames College London
Visitor and Staff Car Park
Deliveries


ANDREW PEARS

Wilf

Srivivaan





30/10/26

Extension: Think like a scientist

Research the science behind soap.

Answer these questions:

1) What is soap made from?
It's made from a ~~chem~~ chemical product called, ~~So~~ Saponification ~~that~~ ~~ratio~~ to that combines fats or oils with an alkaline base(lye) and water.

2) How does soap help remove grease and dirt?
It's molecules have a unique dual structure that acts as a bridge between oil and water.

3) Why doesn't water alone remove oily substances particularly well? Water alone ~~does~~ doesn't remove oily or dirty substances because of molecular polarity and how water and oil interact.

4) What does 'mixture' ~~mean~~ mean in ~~chemistry~~ Chemistry? A mixture in chemistry is a physical combination of two or more elements or compounds where no chemical reaction takes place. For Example, water and oil, Potions and different chemistry substances.

Continued →

Big Question:

How can improvements in soap-making have helped improve people's health and hygiene?

It can help by reducing ~~diseases~~ ~~Dis~~ disease transmissions and problems, protecting your skin barrier lead to toe, and phasing out harmful synthetic additives. In Addition, this helps out for:

- Lower Total Fatty Matter (TFM).
- Removal of harsh Synthetic and Antibacterials.
- Preservation of Natural Glycerin and Skin Microbiome.
- Destabilizing Pathogens that breaks down the fatty lipid membranes of viruses and bacteria.
- Mechanical Removal of harmful viruses and sticky microbes.

Bonus Challenge:

What was the Great Exhibition of 1851 and why would winning recognition there have been important for a British company?

The Great Exhibition of 1851 was the world's first international exhibition of manufactured products, held in Hyde park, London from May 1st to October 15th 1851 organized by Prince Albert and Civil Servant Henry Cole.

In Addition, the Great Exhibition of 1851 was the world's first international world's fair celebrating modern industrial technology, manufacturing, and Global Culture.

Extension

What is soap made of?

Soap is primarily made from fats or oils reacted with a strong alkali—typically sodium hydroxide (for bar soap) or potassium hydroxide (for liquid soap)—to form fatty acid salts, plus glycerin as a natural by-product.

How does soap help remove grease and dirt?

Soap removes dirt and grease by using amphipathic molecules—each with a water-loving head and oil-loving tail—that surround oily grime to form micelles, allowing water to lift and rinse it away.

Why doesn't water alone remove oily substances particularly well?

Water itself is poor at removing oils because of fundamental differences in molecular polarity between the two substances.

What does the word "mixture" mean in chemistry?

In chemistry, a mixture is a physical combination of two or more substances that are not chemically bonded and can be separated by physical methods.

Riyan

1. What is soap made from?
2. True soap is made from three basic ingredients that undergo a chemical reaction called saponification: fats or oils, an alkali and lastly water.
3. 2. How does soap help remove grease or dirt?
4. Soap removes grease and dirt because its molecules have a unique "dual-nature" structure that bridges the gap between water and oil.
5. 3. Why doesn't water alone remove oily substances particularly well?
6. Water alone cannot remove oily substances well because of a fundamental chemical rule. "like dissolves like."
7. 4. What does the word mixture mean in chemistry?
8. In chemistry, a mixture is a material made up of two or more different substances that are physically combines rather than chemically bonded together.
9. Big question: How could improvements in soap-making have helped improve people's health and hygiene?
10. Improvements in soap-making directly transformed public health by making effective hygiene affordable, accessible, and gently enough for daily use.

Mazin

1. What is soap made from?
Soap is made from fats or oils mixed with a strong alkali, such as sodium hydroxide.
2. How does soap help remove grease and dirt?
Soap breaks up grease and oil so they can mix with water and be washed away, taking the dirt with them.
3. Why doesn't water alone remove oily substances particularly well?
Water and oil do not mix, so water alone cannot easily wash away grease and oil.
4. What does the word "mixture" mean in chemistry?
A mixture is when two or more substances are mixed together but are not chemically joined.

How could improvements in soap-making have helped improve people's health and hygiene?
Improvements in soap-making made soap cheaper, safer and easier for people to buy. This meant more people could wash their hands, bodies and clothes regularly. It helped remove dirt and germs, reducing the spread of diseases and improving people's health.

What was the Great Exhibition, and why was it important for a British company?
The Great Exhibition was held in London in 1851 in a large glass building called the Crystal Palace. It showed new inventions and products from around the world.
Winning recognition there was important because it made companies famous and helped them sell more products. For Pears soap, it would have helped more people learn about the soap and trust its quality.

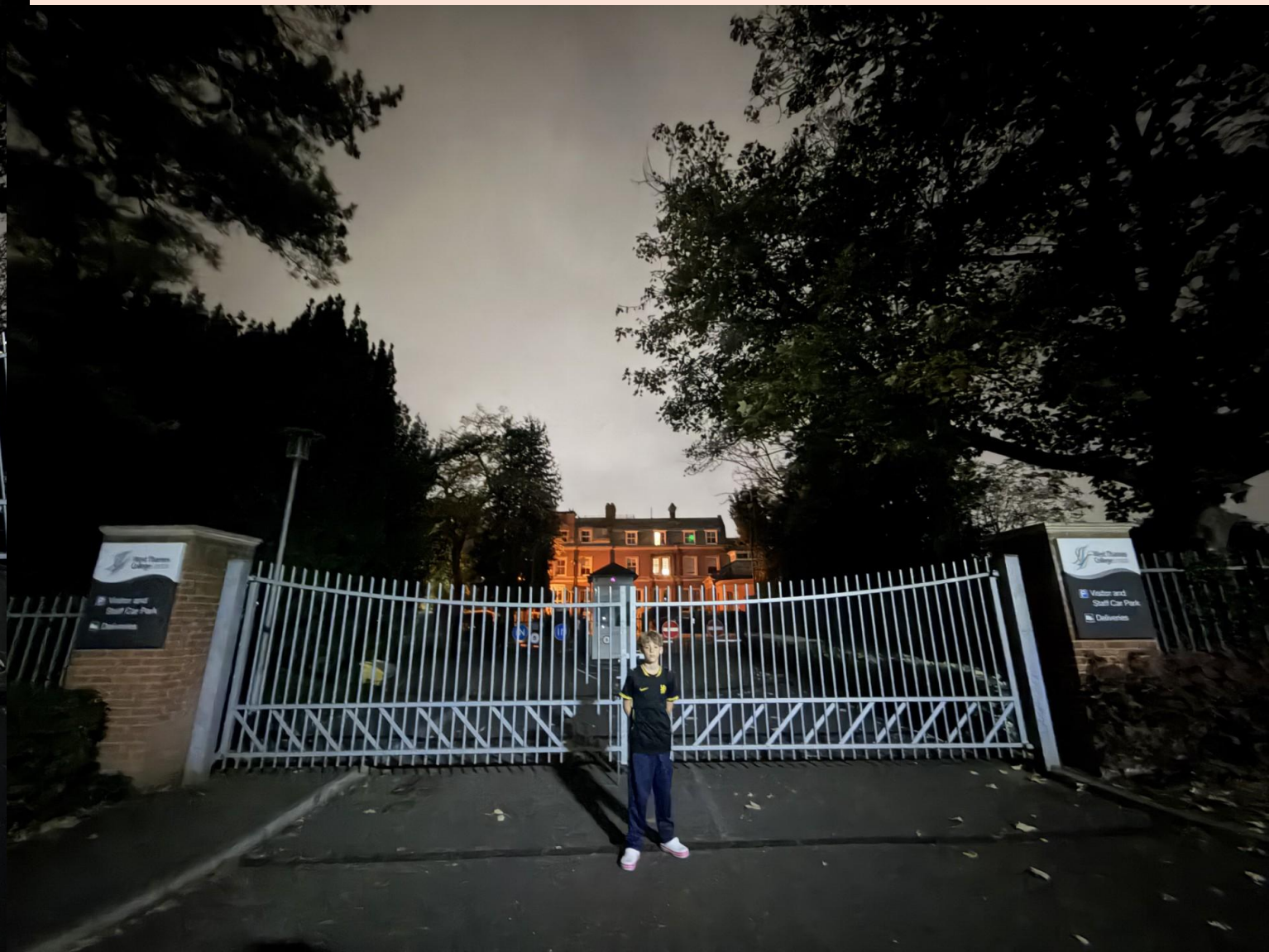
Aryan

1-What soap is made from ?
A chemical reaction between fats or oils and an alkaline solution [lye]
2-How does soap help remove grease and dirt ?
By acting as a chemical bridge between water and oil using molecules that have two distinct ends
3-Why doesn't water alone remove oily substances particularly well ?
While oils and fats are non-polar because polar and non-polar substances do not generally mix water alone cannot bond with or dissolves grease to wash it away
4-What does the word mixture mean in chemistry ?
A physical blend of two or more substances they are chemically bonded they can be separated phyiscally
5-How could improvements in soap making have helped improve people's hygiene ?
Made soap cheap and mass-produced everyone could afford it. Daily washing washing became common and reduce disease
6-What was the great exhibition and why would winning recognition there have been important for a British company ?
A massive global trade fair in 1851 winning brought international fame,prestige and higher sales

Huseyin

Isaac









Taye



Adil





Joey





Myles

What is soap made from?
Fats, oils, an alkali (lye) and water.

Why doesn't water alone remove oily substances particularly well?
Water is made of tiny molecules that like sticking to other water molecules. These are described as polar molecules.
Oil is made of different tiny molecules that prefer sticking to other oily things. These are largely called non-polar.
Water tends to slide past oily substances, not carry it away.

How does soap help remove grease and dirt?
Soap helps remove dirt and grease because each soap molecule has two ends (one which is polar, the other is non-polar) . The non-polar end sticks into the oil, and the polar end stays with the water, which lets water carry polar dirt away when rinsed.

What does the word "mixture" mean in chemistry?
A mixture is made when two or more substances are together but haven't changed into a new substance.

BIG QUESTION
How could improvements in soap-making have helped improve people's health and hygiene?
Improvements in soap making meant the soap was better quality, easier to make and easier and cheaper to get. This helped reduce the spread of illness.

BONUS CHALLENGE
Pears soap was displayed at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Find out:
What was the Great Exhibition, and why would winning recognition there have been important for a British company?
The Great Exhibition was huge show held in London in 1851, inside a giant glass building called the Crystal Palace.
For Pears, being recognised by the judges could have helped people trust its soap. It could also help attract more buyers.

Bruce Sankey 7TU

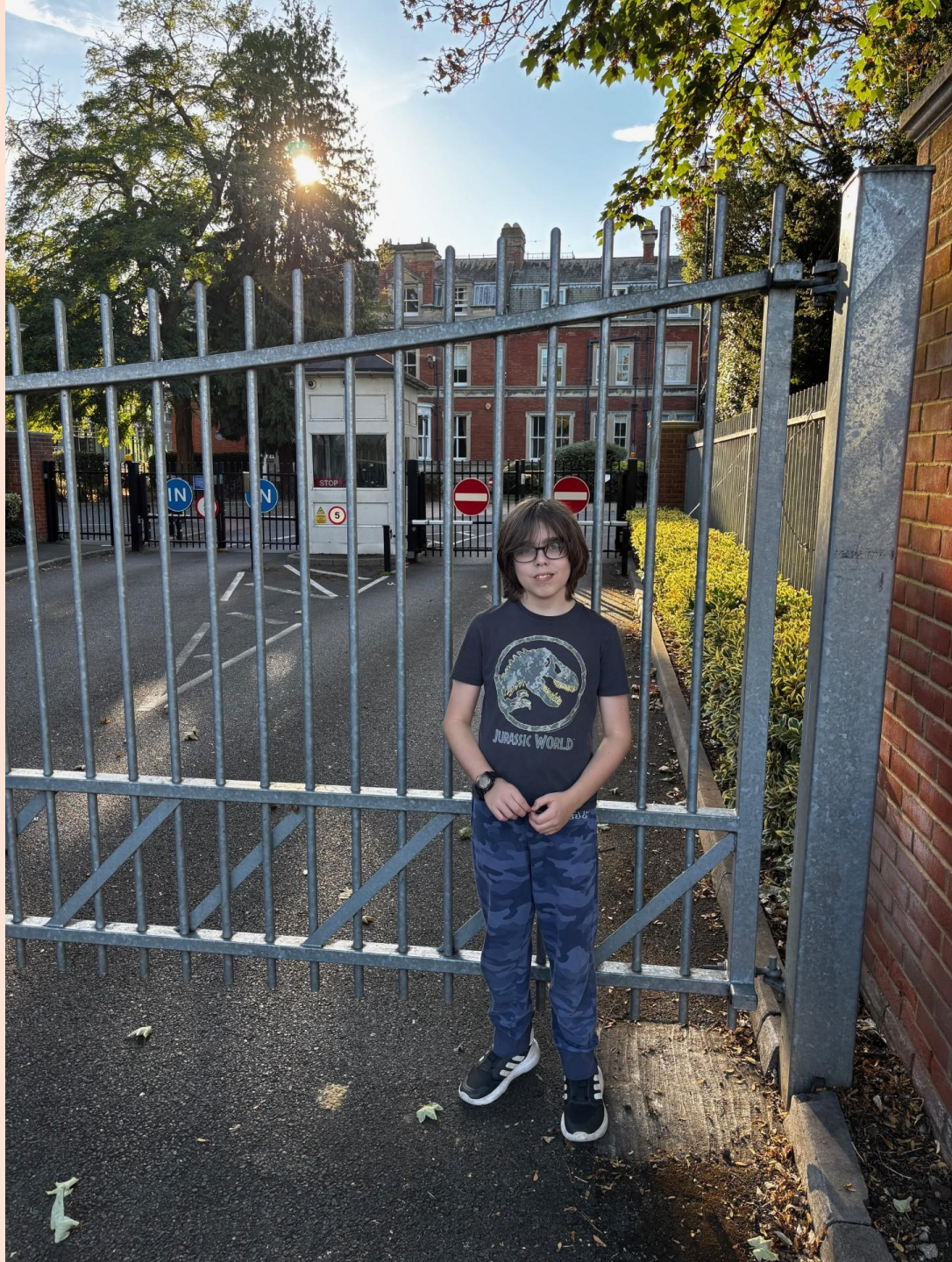


Gabby





Aaron



Essa


SPRING GROVE
HOUSE
KNOWN RECENTLY AS
PEARS HOUSE




ANDREW PEARS



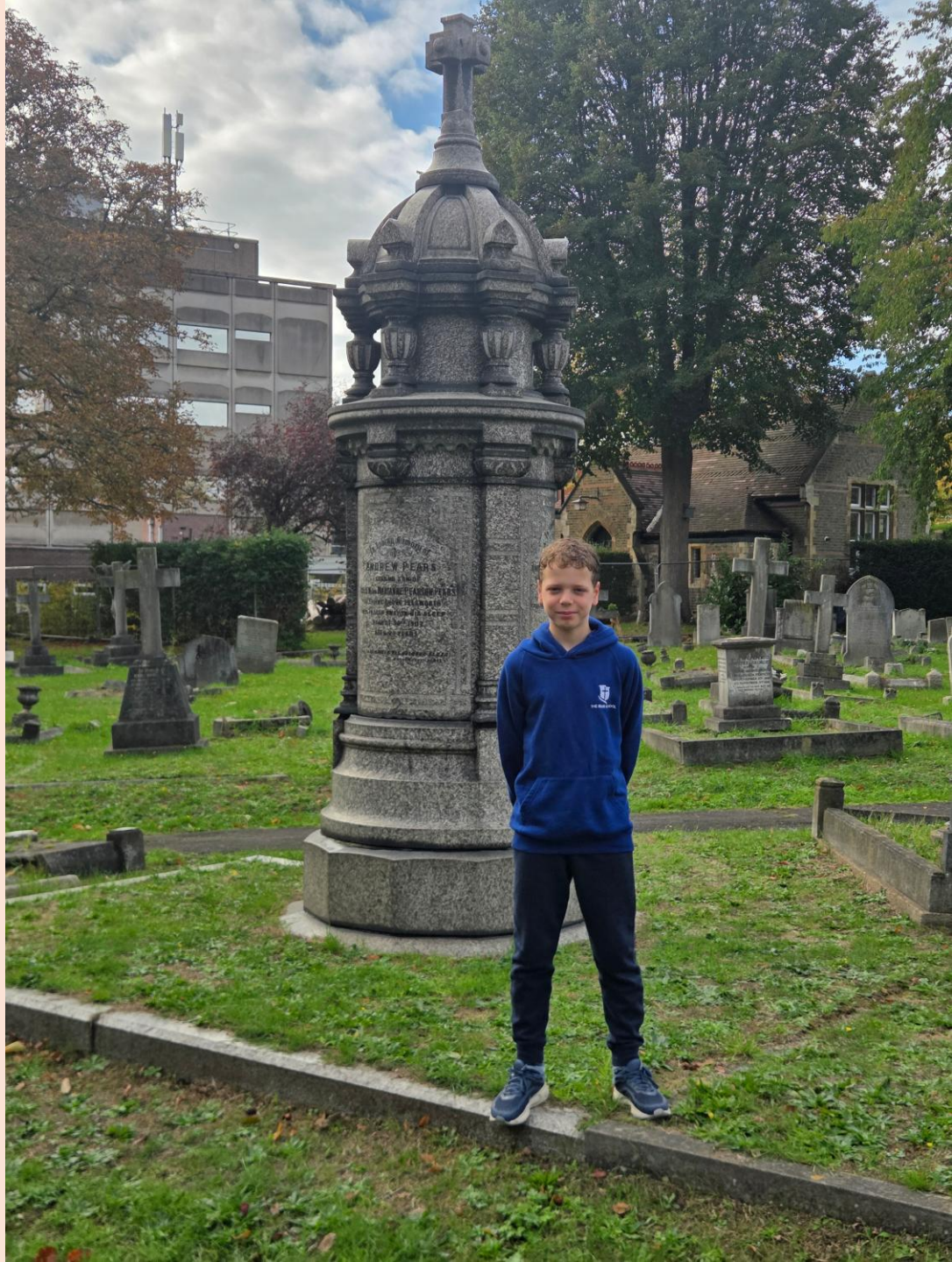
1. What is soap made from?
It's a chemical reaction called saponification which combines the fat and oils and lye.
2. How does soap help remove grease and dirt?
Soap helps remove grease and dirt by killing germs and acts like a bridge between water and oil.
3. Why doesn't water alone remove oily substances particularly well?
it can't because of mismatch in chemical structure
4. What does the word "mixture" mean in chemistry?
It means combining one and one of the things.
⭐ **BIG QUESTION**
How could improvements in soap-making have helped improve people's health and hygiene? It kills bacteria and can clean wounds so results with better hygiene and no infections.
🏆 **BONUS CHALLENGE**

What was the Great Exhibition, and why would winning recognition there have been important for a British company?

Pears' Soap was displayed at the great exhibition in 1851, and the company has earned a medal for the soap. Also, recognition is important because it shows quality and innovation and means that the soap sales could expand globally. It also symbolized an important achievement for industrial development. It is also important to mention that Pears' soap is the oldest continuously existing brands.



Oscar and James





Jai

Kai

Fred

Ben