

2025-26
ISSUE 4: DECEMBER 2025



LIPSON ACADEMY YEAR 7 NEWSLETTER



2026 AT A GLANCE

Monday, January 5
Return to school

w/c Monday, January 12
Reports issued

Friday, February 13
Break up for half-term

Monday, February 23
Back to school

Wednesday, March 25
Non-Pupil Day

Tuesday, March 31
Year 7 Parents' Evening

Friday, April 4
Break up for Easter Holiday

Monday, April 20
Back to school

IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE

From Miss Mcvicker, Head of Year 7

WOW!

I cannot believe that is the end of the Autumn Term already!

It has been an absolute pleasure guiding our Year 7 students through their transition to Secondary School. There have been a few teething problems along the way as can be expected but, overall, they have embraced the changes and the vast majority of students have enjoyed it.

Staff continue to comment every week about how hard students are working in lessons and this was put to the test during our recent Assessment Week, when students showcased their knowledge and skills in all their subjects.

We hope this hard work is reflected in their progress reports that you will receive in January.

To all of our families, I thank you for your continued support and hope you enjoy the festive period.

Students return to school on Monday, January 5.



CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY EVENT

WE welcomed more than 35 elderly residents from our local community into school for a festive celebration. Year 7 and 8 students prepared for the afternoon including: wrapping presents (donated by Tesco); laying tables; decorating the Muse; preparing food; serving drinks; and, most importantly, talking to the residents and listening to their Christmas memories gone by.

The residents also enjoyed listening to our Year 7 choir and Year 8 band and watching a performance from our upcoming show - *Matilda*. Entertainment was provided by Santa Claus, with 'Play Your Cards Right' and we even had time to play bingo! A great time was had by all and the residents commented on the polite manners and helpfulness of the students, stating that nothing was too much trouble.

A special mention to the following Year 7 students for making it happen: Athena Lagosarino, Harry Buckley, Makayla Okwuma, Laurel Pittman, Sophia Peard, Bella Nimpar, Zac Sprague, Reuben Messenger, Jasmine Ibrahim, Poppy Libby Maguire, Dylan Koffi-young, David Adebayo, Minnie-Beau Sullivan, Freddie Baker-Truelove, Freddie Clarke, George Thompson, Daisy Barnes, Hamish Bray, Cole Chambers, Jensen Hammett and Mia Burford.



YEAR 7 CHOIR



THE Year 7 Choir has been going from strength to strength this term, showing great promise with their ability to learn harmonies and sing some challenging two-part songs.

A busy end of term has seen them perform their two Christmas songs at the Lipson Community Christmas Celebration - "Amid The Falling Snow" and "One More Sleep 'til Christmas" (from *The Muppet Christmas Carol*).

Then, they took to the stage at the Plymouth Christmas Market to spread some festive cheer to shoppers.

Finally, they are showed their immense commitment to the choir by giving up the morning of their Inset day to perform in the Plymouth Youth Music Service Lord Mayor's Carol Service at the Methodist Central Hall alongside students from 10 Plymouth primary schools.

The choir have shown huge improvements since they first formed in September and there are lots of exciting opportunities coming up for them in 2026. If your child has not yet joined the choir but would be interested in doing so, please ask them to speak to Mrs Silvester.



OUR Junior Brass Academy (7GMN) have made a fantastic start to their musical journey since September.

This culminated in them getting through to the final of *Lipson's Got Talent* and their first public performance for the end-of-term Year 7 Celebration Assembly.



"The choir have shown huge improvements since they first formed in September and there are lots of exciting opportunities coming up for them in 2026."

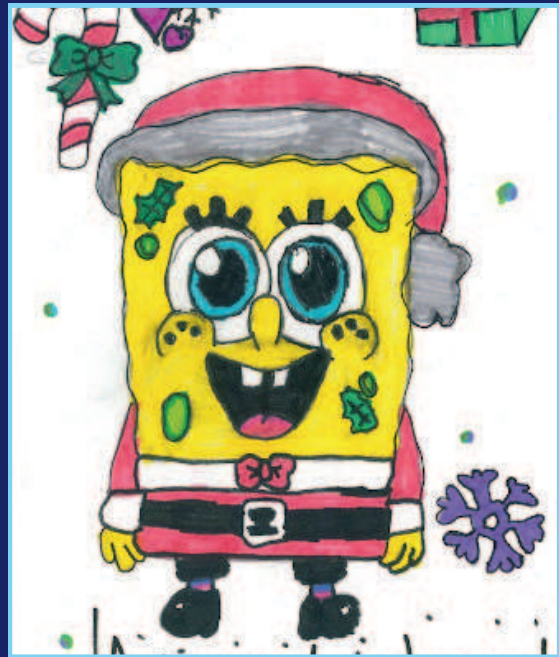
TED WRAGG CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

THE Ted Wragg Trust ran a competition for all schools in the Trust to design a Christmas Card, with the winning design being judged by a panel of artists from the South West Academy.

Although the top two prizes did not go to Lipson students, we had four Year 7 students who were commended.

Congratulations to Amelie Collins, Beau Winters, Julia Griffiths and Millie-Marie Wright. Their wonderful designs and included below.

Well done, girls! I hope you enjoy your chocolate treat.





IT'S BEHIND YOU

SOME of our Year 7 students enjoyed a traditional panto, 'Aladdin - Abanazer's Revenge, staged by Wranglers Theatre company in the Muse.

The show was fast paced, hilarious and included all the features of a traditional panto. The dancing was superb and choreographed by our very own, talented Miss Nettings!

We had a great time - oh yes we did! Thank you to Miss Billings for giving up her time to support this trip.



"This has been a fantastic achievement and a brilliant example of creativity, technical skill and entrepreneurial spirit."

TECH CLUB CHRISTMAS DECS

Mr Abrams

THIS term, Tech Club has been buzzing with creativity as talented students from Years 7 and 8 designed and produced their very own Christmas decorations. From the very first ideas to the final polished product, students showed outstanding enthusiasm, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

They began by using a range of hand tools to carefully create prototypes, learning the importance of precision and craftsmanship. The designs were then taken to the next level using computer-aided design and manufacturing, resulting in professional-quality, laser-cut decorations that would not look out of place in a shop!

The students' hard work and dedication truly paid off, as their decorations were sold to raise funds for future Tech Club projects. This has been a fantastic achievement and a brilliant example of creativity, technical skill and entrepreneurial spirit. Well done to everyone involved – we cannot wait to see what Tech Club creates next!

COOKERY CLUB

COOKERY Club is a termly six-week club where we make six savoury or sweet foods, learning new skills such as baking, frying, mixing, weighing, decoration but mostly having loads of fun and creating yummy food to take home, such as shortbread, quesadillas, choc chip muffins and sausage rolls!

At the end of the six weeks, everyone receives a recipe book with all the recipes that we have created throughout the club and room to add some of your own favourite recipes at the back.



100% CHAMPIONS

ON Monday, we held our PERK Champions celebration at break and lunch. Students were invited to a tasty treat with Mr Goodman to celebrate their 100% attendance this term alongside a 100% positive PRAISE points record. What a fantastic achievement!



RISE AND SHINE

Mrs Westlake-Brown and the Learning Mentor team

A GROUP of 30 Year 7 students have been partaking in a literacy-based breakfast intervention to boost confidence with reading, comprehension, and phonics.

The Literacy Intervention 'Breakfast Club' is in place to help improve academic success; prevent learning gaps; and embed long-term life skills. This intervention is targeted to assist all of our learners to achieve equitably and begin the installation of a lifelong love of learning.

Our amazing Learning Mentor team leads and co-ordinates the students to work co-operatively on their reading in targeted sessions, improving their understanding of complex texts whilst simultaneously boosting social and emotional feelings.

Most notably, the students are coming on leaps and bounds in their questions, asking questions of one another whilst reading together, which, in turn, scaffolds the learning of the others that they are reading with.

The group has already seen incredible results and we are all so proud of the learners!

The intervention will continue whilst we assess our learners regularly and invite new students along over the coming terms.

Shiners: Tiwa Aka, Abdulmalik Durodaye, Hamish Bray, Hiruka Jayawardena, Brian Popoola, Sonny Taylor, Poppy Mcquire, Clare Onuga' Hesriya Roji, Olivia Winters, Lelah Eden, Annie Cooper, Riley Mcquire, Sonny Newton, Jimmy Owen and Lexi Birrell.



Demelza Brown
Jack Deacon
Isla Eddie
Daisy French
Llewyn Meyer
Milo Moyle
Mason Smee
Lilly-May Smith
James Berry
Tobias Everett
Oliver Gallop
Jessica McGowan
Victoria Olarinloye
Frances Opoku Afriyie
George Thompson
Jessica Akhalumemo
Emileigh Gray
Bibi Hameedi
Asiah Ishaka
Kacey Middleton
David Adebayo
James Bain
Kyra-Leigh Coath
Ivan Evans
Aron Gellen
Bobbi Laming
Zac Sprague
Cole Chambers
Zoe Jenkins
Samir Karimov
Isla Landricombe
Adam Ali
Fikayomi Bamigboye
Fareedah Popoola
Riley Williams
Henry Buckley
Boluwatife Coker
Annie Cooper
Agnese Parupiete
Laurel Pittman
Lacey Rice
Jack Starr
Isabella Warner
Freddie Clarke
Caspar Crawford
Elijah Foster
Gethin Hopkins
Austin Khaowiset
Olivia Quick
Leo Vlad
Beth Warner

NETBALL

Mrs Law

THE Year 7 girls recently took part in a series of netball fixtures, demonstrating excellent teamwork, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship throughout.

The team showed growing confidence in their passing and movement, with strong efforts in both attack and defence. Various players stood out for their determination and willingness to support one another on court. Whilst the results did not always show the team's determination and hard work, the girls should be proud of their positive attitude and clear improvement over the course of the matches. Overall, it was an encouraging set of fixtures and a great foundation to build on for future games.



“The team showed growing confidence in their passing and movement, with strong efforts in both attack and defence”

THE TEAM

Ellie-May Jewell (GS): The cool-headed goal machine! Lives in the shooting circle and loves nothing more than watching the ball swish through the net. Ellie was responsible for accurate shooting and quick movement within the shooting circle. She worked closely with the Goal Attack to create many scoring opportunities.

Nawelle Mendy (GA): The creative scorer, fast, clever, and always popping up where you least expect. Half shooter, half playmaker and all energy. Nawelle is a versatile attacking player who supports shooting and helps move the ball into the circle. Requires strong passing, agility, and good decision-making which Nawelle was showing in all her matches.

Maddie Mouele and Beau Winters (WA): The master feeder! Zooms down the court delivering perfect passes and dodging defenders like it's a game of tag. Maddie fed the ball into the shooting circle and linked the centre court to the attack with confidence, whilst also showing great speed, dodging skills, and accurate passing. Beau also gave this position a go, with Beau intercepting the ball on many occasions and feeding it back in towards the centre circle with confidence.

Isla Eddie (C): The engine of the team — everywhere, all the time. If there's a sprint to be done, Isla was already halfway there! A key linking player who covered the entire court except the shooting circles. Isla was responsible for restarting play and supporting both the attack and defence.

Gracie Edmonds and Elodie Periou (WD): The sneaky interceptor! Loves getting in the way, causing chaos, and making attackers work extra hard for every pass. Gracie worked hard to disrupt the opposition's attacking play and prevent clean passes into the shooting circle. This position required anticipation, speed, and strong defensive skills, which Gracie showed in abundance. Elodie also gave this position a go with her confidence building throughout each game which saw her disrupt any attacking play and prevent successful passes from being made by the opposition.

Makayla Okwuma (GD): The determined defender who never gives up and remains strong, focused, and always ready to leap in for a clutch interception. Makayla defended against the opposition shooters and helped to win back possession. She showed good marking, timing for interceptions and communication throughout the games.

Julia Griffiths and Laurel Pittman (GK): The fearless last line of defence. Calm under pressure and brilliant at rebounds — not much got past both Laurel and Julia that easily! Both girls were focused on preventing goals and rebounding missed shots. It required strong positioning, reach, and composure under pressure, which Julia and Laurel showed consistently throughout all the matches.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

YEAR 7 students took part in a RISE event on Thursday-Friday, December 3-4. This event was a part of their aspirant careers education which in Year 7 focuses on their understanding of skills in the workplace.

The event itself saw the students working in small groups to overcome challenges such as AI and marketing challenges for businesses, as well as hearing from a range of employers about what life in different job sectors is like.

The behaviour and engagement of the Year 7 students was fantastic, with the event organisers leaving Lipson eager to come back.



“The behaviour and engagement of the Year 7 students was fantastic, with the event organisers leaving Lipson eager to come back.”

ATTENDANCE CONTACT

Mrs Usher

TO report your child absent from school, please choose one method only.

You can either message on MCAS or go through to the Year 7 office by calling 01752 671318 and pressing 1. Then press 1 again and leave your child's name, tutor group and a brief summary of why your child is unwell.

Please make sure you have access to My Child at School by using [this link](#) to make sure you do not miss out on any communications. This is also where you will be able to top up lunch cards as well as sending messages about your child's absence or for any appointments, etc.

To save you some time, please know if you have left a voicemail OR sent a message on MCAS that is enough - you do not need to give this to us in both ways.

Many thanks for all your support.

Aaron Kusuma
 Abdulmalik Durodoye
 Adam Anderson
 Ademide Ehioghae
 Agnese Parupiete
 Alfie Jim Thomas
 Anderson Emenike
 Annie Cooper
 Aron Gellen
 Asiah Ishaka
 Athena Lagomarsino
 Austin Khaowiset
 Baleigh Rae Burke
 Bodhi Partridge
 Boluwatife Coker
 Brandon Nicholls
 Bryan Anosiri
 Caison Appleton
 Dalton Walmsley
 Darcy Tuckwell
 David Adebayo
 Denzil Robinson
 Dylan Koffi Young
 Edna Lewis
 Elijah Foster
 Elsie Fitch
 Emily Evans
 Ewan Palmer
 Finn Fitzpatrick
 Freddie Baker-Truelove
 Freddie Clarke
 Freddie Sutton
 George Thompson
 Gethin Hopkins
 Harper Tinley
 Harry Buckley
 Henry Buckley
 Ibrahim Ayomide Balogun
 Isaac Ellery
 Isabelle Kingston
 Ismail Suleiman
 Jacob May
 James Bain
 James Berry
 Jameson Millington
 Jayden Green
 Jaylen Watering
 Jimmy Owen
 JJ Jones
 Kadya Brewer
 Leo Cordy
 Leo Vlad
 Leo Zdrojewski
 Lexi Birrell
 Lily Lawman
 Lola Toms
 Maisie Turner
 Makayla Okwuma
 Marcel Zdrojewski
 Mia Burford
 Mia Svetova
 Minnie Sullivan
 Nawelle Mendy
 Noah Dapkevicius
 Noah Hamlyn
 Oliver Gallop
 Olivia Winters
 Oskar Kalend
 Owen O'Kane
 Piotr Rybarczyk
 Poppy Libby McGuire
 Riley Libby McGuire
 Robert Rybarczyk
 Rowan Lock
 Ruby Gilmour
 Shine Amuh
 Sienna Tight
 Sonny Newton
 Sophia peard
 Tanu Saravanan
 Tilly Tasker
 Tiwatope Aka
 Zac Sprague

← BIKEABILITY

Mr Stubbs

WOW! All 83 students that completed either their Level 2 or Level 3 Bikeability training were amazing.

The weather was against us during the week of Bikeability training but this did not put off all 83 students that completed the training. It was wet, cold and windy, which made the training that much more difficult. Students were first put through their paces on the school site before being taken out into the community to learn about riding their bikes on the road safely.

Hopefully, now the training has been completed, we will see lots more students riding their bikes to school safely. Massive well done to all who completed!



MASTERS OF MYTH, MYSTERY AND READING!

Miss Ford

YEAR 7 have been working hard this term and have made excellent progress in English.

Our focus has been on the art of storytelling, where students have explored how authors create memorable protagonists and antagonists, and how careful story structure can build pace and tension to keep readers engaged.

Alongside this, pupils have been developing their reading and analysis skills through the study of Greek myths and Biblical allusions. These rich and influential stories have helped students deepen their understanding of symbolism, character motivations and themes, supporting them in both their reading and writing.

We are also proud to celebrate some fantastic achievements on Sparx Reader. Congratulations to the following students:

Highest SRP on Sparx Reader:

- 1 Vivian W: 23,910 SRP
- 2 Bryan A: 15,137 SRP
- 3 Makayla O: 12,000 SRP

Most words read:

- 1 Vivian W: 225,944
- 2 Adam Ali: 122,089
- 3 Caspar C: 116,222

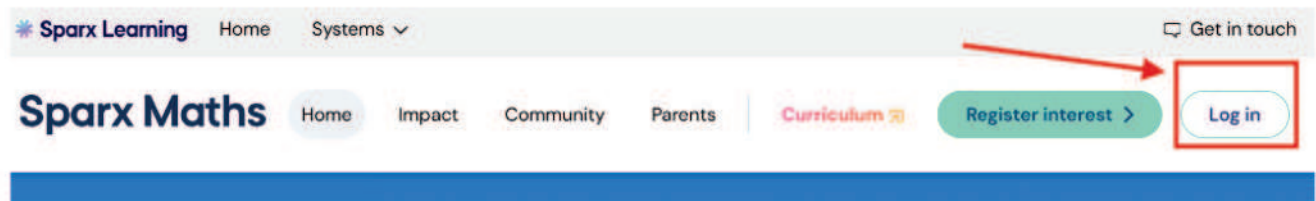
Most quiz questions answered accurately:

- 1 Safa Ismael
- 2 Willow Grosvenor
- 3 Aron Gellen

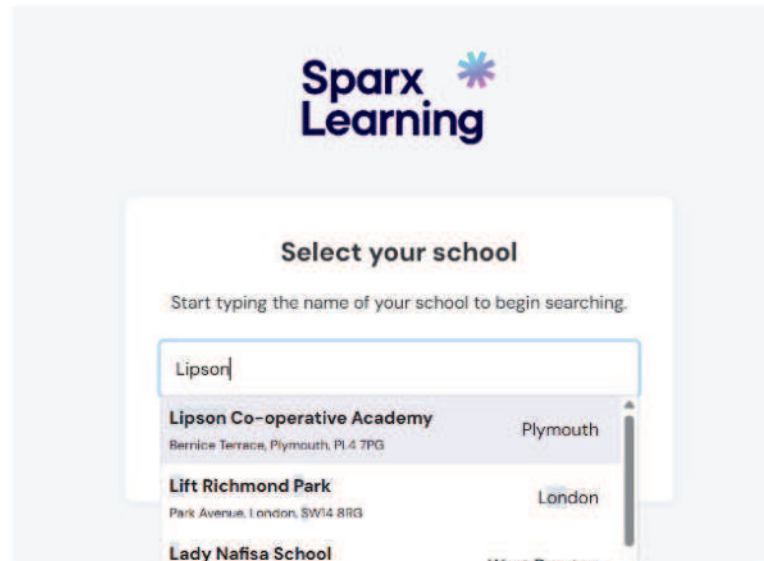
These impressive accomplishments show a real commitment to reading and independent learning. Well done to all Year 7 students for their enthusiasm, creativity and effort this term – we look forward to seeing how their storytelling skills continue to develop!

How to complete my Sparx Maths homework

1. Open the website <https://www.sparxmaths.com/>



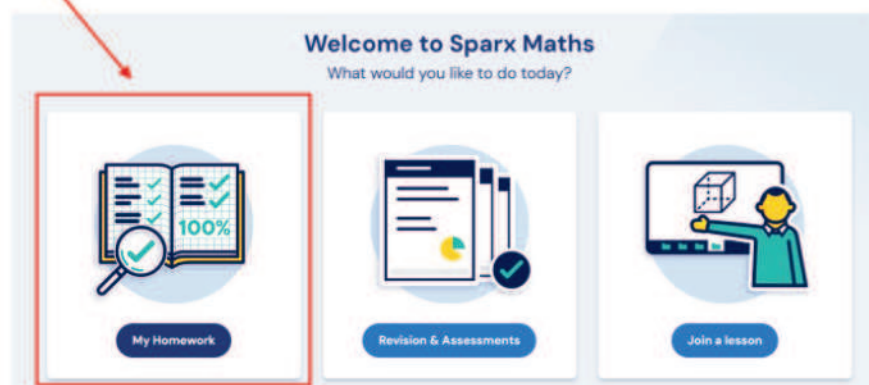
2. Click Login
3. Type in our School and select it in the list



4. Click the blue button at the top that says Log in to Sparx using Google



5. Log in using your school email address and password.
6. When logged in click "My Homework"





Talking Turkey Over Christmas Lunch

IT was great to enjoy a Christmas Lunch together recently. Not only did we enjoy our festive meal with all the trimmings, but we had time with friends and pulled our crackers!



Lights Down, Pass the Popcorn

YEAR 7 were treated to a film screening in the Muse instead of lessons after the Media and English departments ran a film review competition in October.

The winning review, of Jurassic World - Dominion, belonged to Caspar Crawford. As well as time off the timetable, students were treated to a tuck shop.

GOLDEN TICKET

MANY of our Year 7 students were rewarded with Golden Tickets last Friday for their commitment to our PERK values. Students were treated to a Lindt Teddy bear for their efforts - yum!



BRILLIANT AMBASSADORS

A HUGE thank you to the following Student Ambassadors who gave up their own time last week to help out at the Year 8 Parents evening. Not only did Mrs Lockhart tell me how brilliant you were, many parents commented on your calm, friendly and helpful manner. You are an asset to the school:

Cole Chambers
Jack Deacon
Daisy Barnes
Makayla Owuma

CONTACTS

PLEASE remember, if you need to contact school, your first point of contact is your child's tutor. I am lucky enough to have an incredible team of tutors and I have listed their email addresses below. In addition, you can also contact our Progress Team, who will be pleased to help you:

studentservices@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk

7ABS anna.billings@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk (Miss Billings)
7HNG helen.netting@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk (Miss Netting)
7SDN simon.diskin@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk (Mr Diskin)
7RAS richard.abrams@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk (Mr Abrams)
7GMN gavin.martin@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk (Mr Martin)
7SSS sam.stubbs@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk (Mr Stubbs)
7SWN steve.watson@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk (Mr Watson)
7SJO sam.jones@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk (Mr Jones)

PLEASE make contact if you would like to celebrate/query/ask a question or bring our attention to another matter. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year!

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Miss Mcvicker HOY 7, Mrs Jones Deputy Head,
Mrs Usher Year 7 Progress Team

*"Thank you -
you are an
asset to the
school."*



Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



#LipsonLife 