

LGS Headlines

5 February 2021



Dear Parents

One more week to go until the half term break - which we know will certainly be appreciated by staff and students alike.

As we move into February, and there is increased media discussion of the vaccination programme and the possible 'road map' out of lockdown, there does seem to be increasing reason for thinking positively about the future. However, we also know that infection levels remain high - particularly in our local area - and that we must all continue to be patient and abide by the lockdown restrictions for now.

We know the continued monotony of lockdown has an impact and this week has had a national focus on mental health. Our student Young Health Champions have written to all students, and we have been able to signpost students to sources of support. Please ask your son or daughter to show you the resources guide they can now access directly on their iPad.

The theme of the mental health week has been 'Express Yourself' and it is good to see so many of our students doing just that, whether that be through the creativity of some of their work, the videos they may have made, the art they may have completed, or the cooking they have done. One positive aspect of lockdown has been that many students have had time and opportunity to explore their own creativity in different ways, and this newsletter gives you a few examples of that.

Students have generally remained very motivated and engaged in the remote learning. However, we have noticed two things recently: some students, particularly the older ones, seem very tired and we know some are staying up very late at night. One of the key things for their own mental health and wellbeing is to ensure they get enough sleep, and we would be grateful for your encouragement in making sure that your sons and daughters do this. The other thing we have noticed is an increased reluctance to turn cameras on during live lessons. This is not helpful to the staff, who really want to be able to see students, particularly at the start of the lesson, and at other times to judge how they are learning. Please would you encourage your son or daughter to turn their device camera on at the start of each lesson, and to turn them off or on again only at the direction of their teachers?

Thank you to those of you who have given us encouraging messages about the online learning provision - your support is certainly appreciated by the staff.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher

The best way to contact us during the school closure period is to email school@lgs.slough.sch.uk.

Your query will be passed on to the most appropriate member of staff.

Langley Grammar School
Reddington Drive
Langley
Berkshire SL3 7QS
01753 598300
school@lgs.slough.sch.uk

Please visit our website at

www.lgs.slough.sch.uk

Follow us on Twitter @lgs_news



Reminders

Current timings of the online school day....

8:20 to 8:40	8:40 to 8:50	8:50 to 9:45	9:45 to 10:00	10:00 to 10:55	10:55 to 11:10	11:10 to 12:05	12:05 to 12:20	12:20 to 13:15	13:15 to 14:15	14:15 to 15:10
Morning reg	Break	Period 1	Break	Period 2	Break	Period 3	Break	Period 4	Lunch	Period 5

Aquaro is our school's Year 12 **Young Enterprise** team., providing biodegradable water bottles made of wheat - unlike plastic water bottles, these have no negative impacts on the environment and are made of solely biodegradable biomaterials,

Our Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aquarobottles/>

Our product site: <https://www.ye-tradingstation.org.uk/product/biodegradable-wheat-water-bottle>



Focus on mental health and wellbeing

This week has been **Children's Mental Health Week**, organised by the national counselling charity Place2Be, with the overall theme of 'Express Yourself'.

During this week....

- ⇒ Our Year 13 Young Health Champions have circulated newsletters to all year groups, giving advice and guidance on coping with lockdown and acknowledging the different concerns that each year group might have.
- ⇒ Our Behaviour and Welfare Practitioner, Ms Burns, has put together a guide for students, including signposting to sources of support, which can be accessed through a link on their iPads.
- ⇒ Mr Constable circulated some thoughts on developing resilience through the pandemic.
- ⇒ Form tutors have undertaken some activities with form groups.



Ask for ANI

'Ask for Ani' is a national scheme to provide safe spaces to seek help for those who may be targets of domestic abuse. ANI stands for 'Assistance Needed Immediately'.

Participating local pharmacies display the Ask for Ani logo, and on request can provide a space to talk to someone confidentially and seek help.

To contact the **school safeguarding team** directly, email safeguarding@lgs.slough.sch.uk



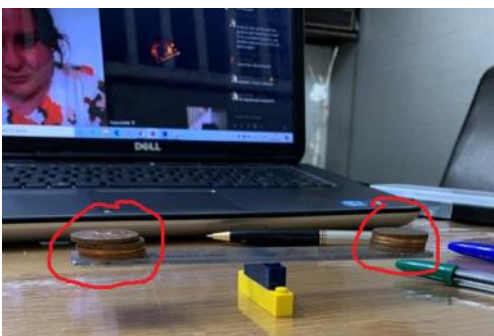
Remote learning during school closure

A selection of this week's comments and examples from our staff

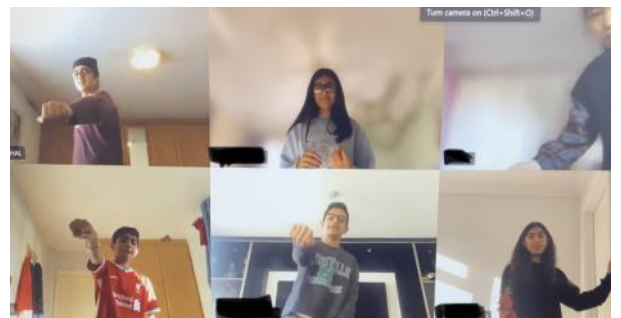
Remote learning is challenging for those subjects which include a significant element of practical skill development. Without access to the normal specialist school equipment, staff and students have been highly creative in using what they can....

"Dorina, one of my Yr 11 GCSE Art Textiles students, used her ingenuity to achieve a stencilled background colour rather than waiting to use the school's screen printing equipment. She cut out a cardboard stencil and then mixed acrylic paint to get the colour she wanted, she applied the paint with a large brush and with her dad's help holding the stencil in position so it didn't slip."

Mrs Young, Design Technology



"7C were given a list of equipment they needed to conduct their own experiments on moments and turning forces. Here is Aayan getting his see-saw balanced, with the forces on each end and distance from pivot point being equal." **Mrs Close, Science**



"Year 8 have been rehearsing for a virtual pantomime performance! Here is a group from 8S rehearsing their song and dance in an MS Teams breakout room....." **Mrs Andrijasevic, Drama**

Others have been working on the design phase of projects which can be completed when we return to school.....

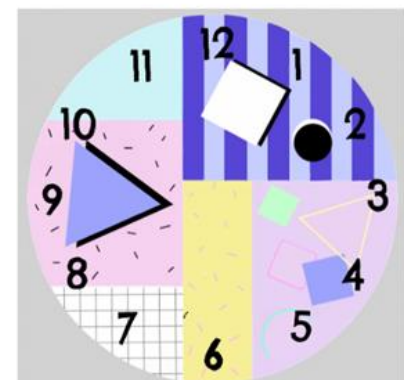
"Two excellent designs for clock faces following the design brief, "In a recognised design movement style. These are from Varshia and Anoosh in 9C.

One is a superb example of using computers to combine different elements to produce a Minimalist clock, with a splash of colour to enliven the design. The other shows a deep understanding of the Memphis design movement style.

These clock faces will be laminated, attached to a backboard, hole drilled and mechanism fitted when we return to school.

The lockdown may have cause many difficulties, but students are still able to produce great work."

Mr Harper, Design Technology



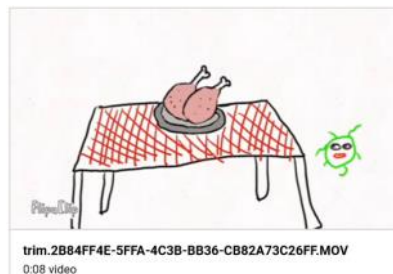
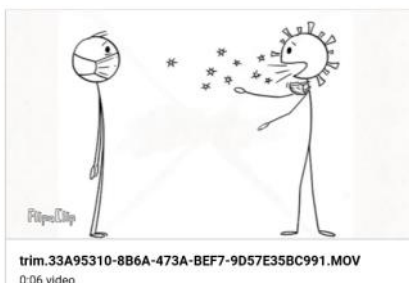


Remote learning during school closure

More comments and examples from our staff this week.....

One of the difficulties with remote learning is trying to replicate 'whole class discussion', ensuring that all students contribute in lessons and share ideas. Staff use a range of apps to do this, enabling a whole class to share ideas quickly or demonstrate understanding of a particular concept.

"This week my year 11's have been making 'flip a clips' about how diseases spread, as part of their epidemiology module. These are short animated videos of a few seconds" **Mr Pacha, Biology**

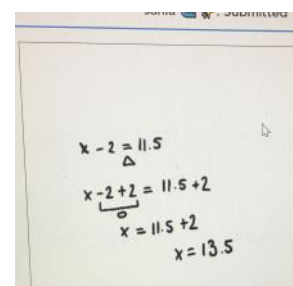
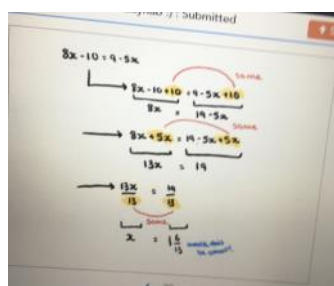
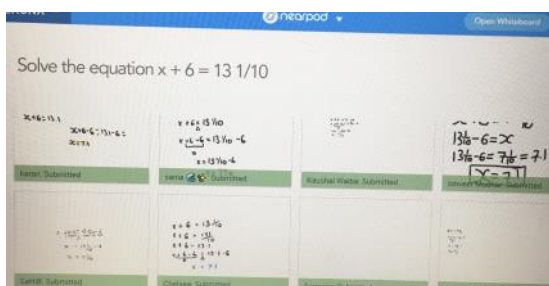
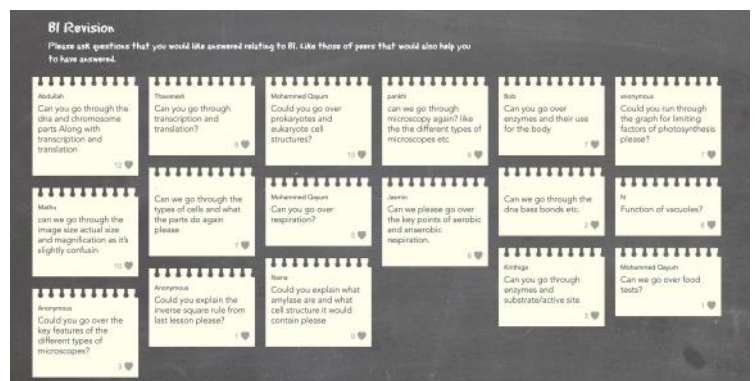


"This week I have used Nearpod to guide a successful student-led revision session."

Mrs Howard, Biology

"With my Year 8s, we used an app called Nearpod where I can check what students are writing. It has been really helpful as I can check students' working out rather than just their final answer. Students share their Nearpod board to explain to the rest of the class what they have done and why they have done it that way."

Miss Marian, Maths





Remote learning during school closure

More comments and examples from our staff this week....

"Drawing with dots! Art students from years 11, 12 and 13 have been creating drawings using stippling techniques this week." Ms Stanton, Art

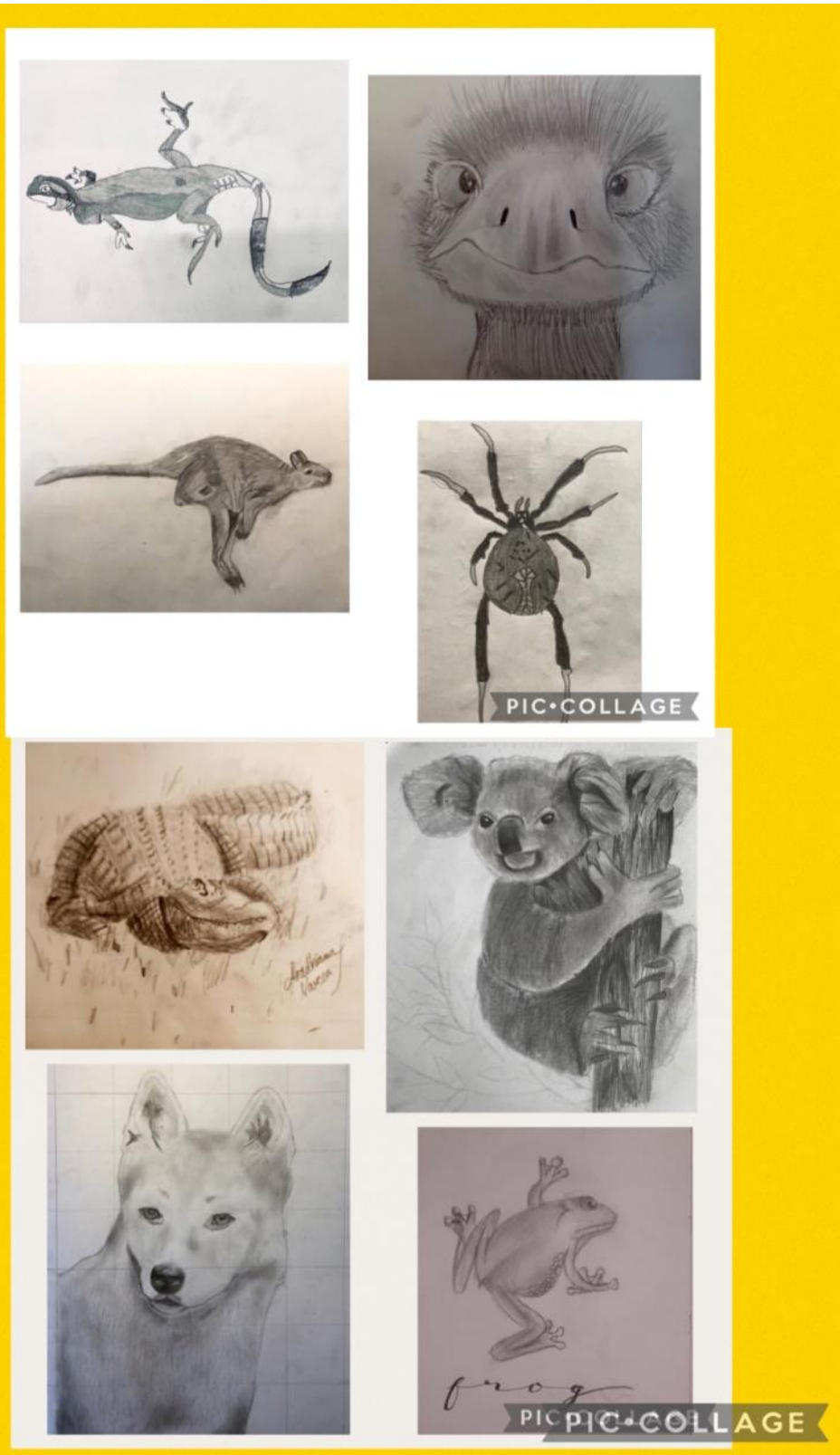




Remote learning during school closure

More comments and examples from our staff this week.....

"Year 7 students have produced some fantastic drawing studies of animals found in Australia as part of the Aboriginal art project." **Ms Stanton, Art**





Remote learning during school closure

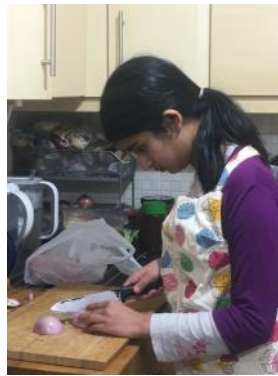
More comments and examples from our staff this week.....

"With Year 13, during the redundant Games session, we made madeleines, little French shell-shaped sponge cakes. The feedback from the students was very positive. I quote, from our Head Girl: 'Thank you very much for the session! I had a lot of fun!'" **Mrs Francis & Mrs Probert, Modern Languages**



"Year 7 students this week have been learning to prepare and cut vegetables. They all watched me deliver a stir fry practical lesson and after the lesson they got the chance to practise these skills with adult supervision."

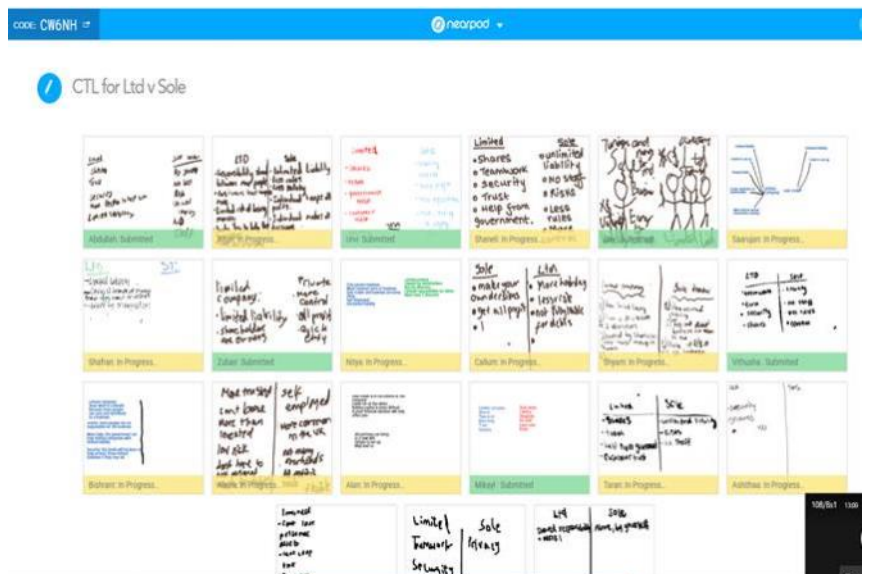
Mrs Toor, Design Technology



"I started today with this CTL (Connect the Learning) activity. I hid the five points on each side of an argument on my introductory slide and asked students to think about what they were, displaying their suggestions on Nearpod."

It meant everyone was encouraged to actively think and participate at the start of the lesson."

Mr Pascall, Business Studies





Remote learning during school closure

More comments and examples from our staff this week.....

"7R this week have been singing, playing instruments, writing poetry, drawing, crafting, debating and solving puzzles during registration to give the students a screen break and to encourage them to express themselves for Mental Health Week. Here are some examples of what they have been up to and some reflective comments about this week." Ms Arnold, 7R Form Tutor

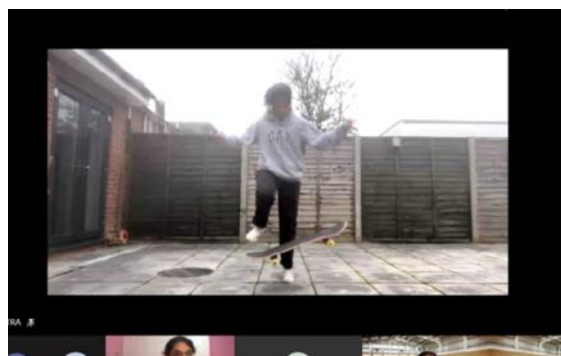


LGS is the best school you'll find,
There are lots of features in and outside.
You can see many buildings like the sports centre,
And we are also trying to make our school better!
We have new and old buildings and a construction site,
And a large field at the end of your sight.
You can walk in the buildings and through the class doors,
To see all the students, but that's not all!
We have amazing teachers who work very hard,
They mark tests and homework, and will never discard,
Any problems that we run into,
Because they will help us all the way through.
So now you see, LGS is really cool!
It would be great if you could come to our school.



"Year 11 students have been keen to report back on the activities they have been trying out from the PE Dept 'Tool Kit' during their lessons, as well as sharing some new skills that they are taking on as their own personal challenges. This is Aimee's 'How to Ollie - Skateboarding Tutorial!'" Miss Rae, PE

"A student emailed me this yesterday, wondering if we could put it in the parents newsletter. This was following the 'Thought provoking Thursday' activity students did which was to listen to some inspiring talks. Mrs Toor, Year 10 Form tutor



"The talk I listened too was 'Gareth Southgate shares how young people can thrive and make the most of their lives by being brave, being kind, and following their dreams.' I enjoyed listening to this talk and found it quite motivational; how you shouldn't give up on your dreams and how you should keep trying till you get there! Gareth shared many of his experiences in his career, how doubters said, 'You can't do it!' He proved them wrong and achieved his dream! He also said how you should be kind and brave along the way and respect people for who they are. Overall, I found this talk quite inspirational!"



PE Remote Learning Challenge100

PE Department Remote Learning Challenge100

The PE Department have come up with the ultimate remote learning challenge designed to keep students, staff and parents active! There are 100 challenges in total with plenty of rewards, prizes and certificates up for grabs for those managing to complete it.

LGS PE DEPARTMENT REMOTE LEARNING CHALLENGES
COMPLETE AS MANY OF THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ACTIVITY CHALLENGES AS YOU CAN REWARDS AVAILABLE FOR COMPLETING

REWARDS
ROW/COLUMN (10 CHALLENGES) – Achievement point
DIAGONAL (10 CHALLENGES) – Achievement point
FULL HOUSE – Lockdown Certificate

Download the HomeCourt and Strava apps on phone/iPad
Keep us posted with your progress by tagging us on Instagram and Twitter @lgspe1 @lgspe

Remember it is extremely important everyone remains active during lockdown so try and attempt to tick off a different challenge each day.

Once you have completed a line (10 challenges) of activities, send your evidence in to your PE teacher responsible for delivering your live lessons.

Rewards

- 10 challenges – Achievement points
- 25 challenges – Lockdown certificate
- 50 challenges – Lockdown medal
- 100 challenges – Keys to the school!!



Cyberfirst online competition

25 Year 8 Girls took part in the National Cyber Security Centre's Cyberfirst online competition where they worked together to solve problems online covering networking, cryptography, and cyber security.

The content for each category of the competition was consistent with subjects within the National Curriculum Computer Science syllabus.



National Cyber
Security Centre
a part of GCHQ

However, the competition contained some advanced cyber topics that are not covered in traditional education that seek to stretch the lateral thinking and additional cyber knowledge of the teams.

Team 'Did it for the Cookies' came top with over 5000 points. They were Pavleen, Amrita, Fida and Kierat, although honourable mention has to go to Shreelakshmi from one of the other teams for completing the most individual tasks. We wait to see if we've made the regional finals in March, that will be a day online. All the computing staff noticed real enthusiasm and competitiveness for the competition in lessons! We hope this bodes well for future GCSE computer science take up!

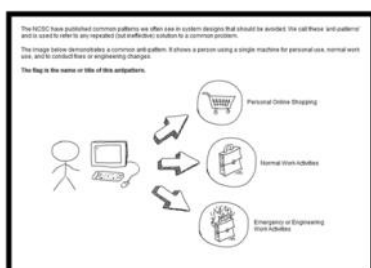
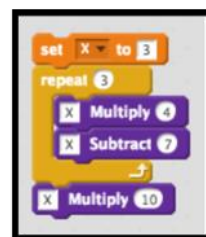
Mr Oakley, Computing Department

Here's what Shreelakshmi from team 'Noob' thought about the experience.....

This was a huge opportunity to learn much more about the world of coding, networking, cyber security and cryptography – all important to ensure we use the internet as safely and as efficiently as possible. A wide range of challenges were given in each of these four topics and their difficulties were measured in beginner, intermediate or expert levels. The variety of questions covered some information that my teammates and I had never even heard of, however we were able to use search engines and applications to help us.

Logic and coding:

In this topic, we were taught how to use basic commands in scripts ranging from Python to CyberChef. I think this was a great topic to introduce as not many people know how to read code and this would help educate more people on understanding the many types of programming language.



Networking:

This subject instructed us on how networks were created, how to defend networks from attacks and how information was transported between nodes – a connection point that can store, send, create and receive data which is identified by a unique IP address.

Cyber Security:

This was my favourite subject overall as it involved trying to crack passwords and keeping an eye out for any system vulnerabilities. Also, it involved learning how to protect our devices with personal information from theft or unauthorised access and that our software was safe to use.

Cryptography:

Cryptography is the way of keeping information secret from everyone except those with permission to access it. Information that has been encrypted can be decrypted into the original with the correct tools. The challenges in this topic included using metadata viewers and decrypting different hashes, morse code, atbash, binary, hexadecimal and more.

My teammates and I thoroughly enjoyed taking part while learning all sorts of new details that we had never known before. If any other opportunities like this competition are available, I'm sure we would all take part again.

