

June 2021



Dear pupils, parents, carers and friends,

2020/21 has been some session and although we were back in school from August to December, it was not as per normal by a long way and the second lockdown from January to March was a real body blow to our usual activities. Pupils' learning was disrupted and the chance to do the many other things, for which Grove is famous, also had to be greatly curtailed. Nevertheless, although our young people were not allowed to participate in the usual cycle of school events, we still managed to do a variety of restricted activities, mainly on-line, but all worthy of note. So please enjoy reading about what our young people and our staff have been up to, particularly since we returned to school after Easter.

Staff Changes

Three of our staff are retiring in the summer and all three have a good number of years' experience behind them. Mr Calum Edwards retires as Principal Teacher of Modern Languages after 28 years of steadfast service to the school. Mr Edwards is the longest serving male member of staff and has made an indelible mark on the school and particularly the Languages department. Mrs Marion Maclean is also hanging up her HE apron and retiring at the end of August and after two spells at Grove. She has been a well-kent face all these years and her legendary Fashion Shows have been well recognised in the annals of Grove Academy. Mr Martin Walker is also calling it a day after 16 years' service at Grove. He will switch off the lathe and stride out purposefully to retirement pastures. He has always been the quiet, thoughtful member of Design and Technology and we shall miss his dry sense of humour. We wish all three of our retirees a very long, happy and above all, healthy retirement.

We shall also bid farewell to two members of the Music and Drama department. Mrs Nicole Tonner is leaving us after 7 years to take up post as Head of the Expressive Arts faculty at Carnoustie High. Mrs Paula Benbow is also leaving to teach at Morrison's Academy in Crieff. Both teachers have made a huge contribution to the Music Department, especially in Music Technology and we shall miss their expertise in this area, and inf fact across the Music department. We wish them both all the very best in their future careers.

Every year we accommodate a number of Newly Qualified Teachers in their first year of teaching. Sometimes we are able to keep them and employ them permanently, but this year we have not been able to do so and thus we must bid farewell to all five of our Probationers: Miss Claire Bowman, Miss Sophie Campbell, Ms Liz Dand, Ms Keren Green and Mr Ben Talbot. We wish them all the very best for the future and hope that they will all soon have permanent post, and possibly will at some time in the future, return to Grove to a substantive post!

By the time we return in August, we shall have over 20 new staff joining the Grove family – including 10 new NQTs, a new Depute (Mrs Larkworthy), a new Business Manager (Lynn Barry, who has already joined us) as well as new teachers of Business, Music, Chemistry, Modern Languages, Home Economics, Numeracy and Nurture, Mathematics, in addition to Mr Boyd (Physics), Ms Hunt (History) and Ms Haggarty (English), who joined us at the change of timetable.

And with that after a very stressful and exhausting year is coming to an end. I'd like to wish all the former S6 pupils the very best in the future and we were very disappointed we could not celebrate at a Final Fling this year again!

I hope you all have a very relaxing and enjoyable summer!

PE

Last week our Fitness Industry Training Academy pupils achieved their National Pool Lifeguard Qualification. Congratulations to our FITA candidates who gained three qualifications this year: SQA Level 6 in Exercise and Fitness, RLSS National Pool Lifeguard Qualification and Active IQ Fitness Instructor Level 2. All this in the most challenging of years!



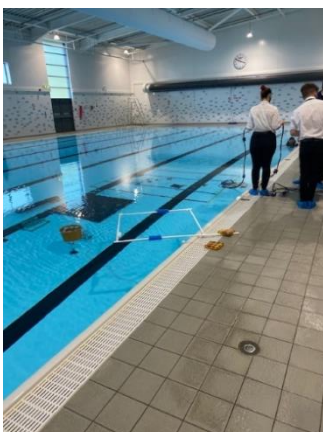
Design & Technology Advanced Engineering program

This term saw three teams from Grove compete in the Scottish heat of the world ROV competition. Two of the teams have just finished S6 and the other team were invited back to compete after last year's competition was called off only a week before it was due to happen.

The three teams did Grove proud placing 1st, 3rd and 4th. This is quite a remarkable achievement given that for a large part of the year they were working towards this online.

This is the third consecutive time Grove have triumphed in this competition. The previous winners went on to represent Scotland in Seattle and Tennessee.

This year's winners are heading to Tennessee again, if travel to the USA is permitted!



School Mock Courts Project Debating Programme- Grove Academy Crowned Winners with International Success!

The School Mock Courts Project trialled a virtual debating programme earlier this year which involved school pupils aged 13-18 from across the globe. Five Grove pupils signed up to the Competition and were treated to a series of online lectures on the topic of 'Should we rid the world of plastics?'

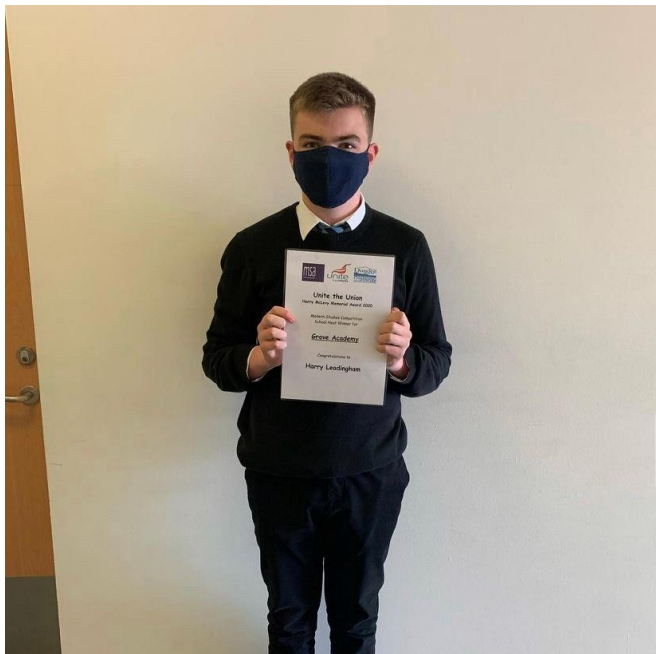
The Grove Team, made up of Jack Anderson, Ella Matthews, Harry Leadingham, Iqra Altaf and Finlay Ross were drawn against Holyrood High School and debated against the motion on Tuesday 13th April. The competition saw almost 200 pupils take part from countries including Spain, Holland, and Bahrain. Each team member gave a sterling performance resulting in Grove Academy being the overall winner! Ella was also awarded First Summary Speaker overall for the opposition – well done for a sensational performance!

This is a fantastic achievement, and we are so proud of our Grove pupils who took part.



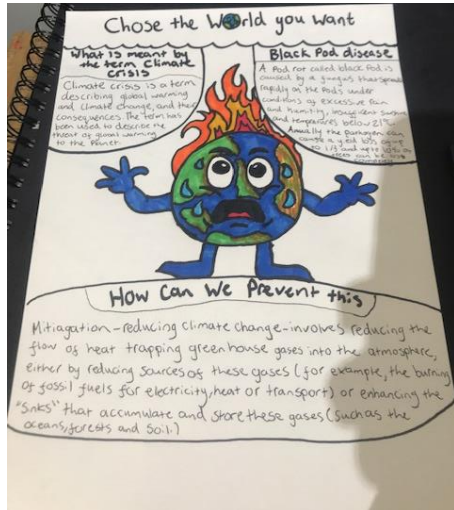
Harry McLevy Award – Grove Academy Winner Harry Leadingham

At the end of 2020, the Harry McLevy Award was run across the city – this is a competition supported by Unite the Union and Dundee Modern Studies Association. S3 pupils were asked to investigate a Modern Studies topic of their choice and produce a structured report in their own time. The successful winner from Grove was Harry Leadingham with his research project into Immigration. Harry won a certificate and £20 prize money – well done Harry!



Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight took place between 22 February and 7 March this year and the theme was 'Choose the World You Want'. As part of lockdown learning, S1 and S2 Modern Studies pupils learned about the Climate Crisis and were then set the challenge of creating a poster, poem or video on the theme. The best entries were included in Fairtrade Fortnight's online Gallery. A couple of excellent examples from Aidan Cooper and Darcie Steel (S2):



Equalities Group

The Grove Equalities Group has been unable to meet in person this year due to Covid restrictions so has gone online. The pupils themselves set up social media accounts where they have posted helpful advice and information where you can keep up to date with all thing's equality related. Examples of the topics they have covered include Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ+ rights, and Ableism. Pupils also participated virtually in LGBT Youth Scotland Purple Friday Pass the Torch relay and

have organised a dress down day and school kahoot challenge for Pride Month in support of the Dundee Branch of LGBT Youth Scotland.

A great example of pupil leadership – well done!



Grove Academy Dress Down Day

In support of Pride Month and as a celebration the Equalities Group has organized a Dress Down Day for the last day of term – Friday the 25th of June.

Donations are welcome in Tutor Time and will be donated to LGBT Youth Scotland's Dundee Branch to help and support the young people of Dundee.



Why Vote Week

In the run up to the Scottish Parliament Election, the department ran a whole school virtual voter registration drive to encourage our Grove Academy young people to be more politically active and register to vote. Staff members from all departments got involved including our very own Mr Hutton and made a short video on all the reasons it's important to use your right to vote. The video can be on the departments twitter (@_GAMS_) and Instagram (_instagams_). Thank you to all involved and well done to our students for using their democratic right!



School Mock Courts Project - Criminal Trial Programme

At the end of 2020, a group of S6 pupils took part in the School Mock Courts Criminal Trial. This involved the teams taking part in a series of tutorials virtually and taking on the roles of defence and prosecution lawyers as well as witnesses.

The case surrounded round a personal injury type action and a possible claim for injuries and loss of earnings. The students worked through a mountain of paperwork to try and ascertain the relevant facts and then consider the law applicable. Our expert teams had access to tutors from the project and real life solicitors to support them further.

The team were successful in winning 2nd place for their Pleadings and 3rd place for lawyers – well done!



YPI Final

S3 pupils are currently working on their final presentations for the Young Philanthropy Initiative Final. YPI is an active citizenship programme where groups of pupils chose a local charity to research and present their research in a creative format. The winning group wins £3000 for their chosen charity. Current charities being considered this year include Wellbeing Works, Taught by Muhammed, Tayside Council on Alcohol and Feeling Strong. Watch this space for the winning team!

Scottish Space School

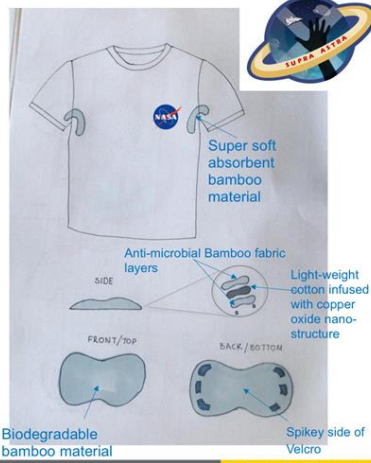
Last week Emily Flack and Fraser Levack attended the Virtual Space School. They had the opportunity to learn from some of the world's leading figures in space travel, including NASA astronauts and engineers. Throughout the week they took part in a group project. Emily was part of the winning team. They designed Biodegradable Antimicrobial Patches consisting of 3 layered patches, outer 2 layers are biodegradable bamboo fabric and the middle layer a lightweight cotton infused copper oxide nano structure. They were designed for maximum comfort and to be more sustainable than t-shirts for the astronauts.

Emily says: *The design brief was to make a product that will improve the lifestyle of astronauts on the International Space Station. The design we came up with is essentially a sweat patch but its a biodegradable antimicrobial patch. It has 3 layers, the 2 outer layers is biodegradable bamboo fabric which is super soft to skin, more sustainable than cotton and since it's biodegradable the bamboo can be used for plant growth or experiments, this will be useful on longer missions to mars. The middle layer is a light-weight cotton infused copper oxide nano structure, it has antimicrobial properties to help keep the astronauts healthy. We decided to make patches instead of T-shirt's because it makes the T-shirt's they bring last longer as they don't have to change them as often and astronauts can also bring their home clothes and just attach the patches wherever they want, this helps minimise homesickness and improve mental health."*

Our Design – BAP's

BAP's – (Biodegradable, Anti-microbial Patches)

- Bio-degradable (1 year – ideal for Mars)
- Sustainable
- Super-soft
- Light weight
- Absorbent (bamboo is 3x more absorbent than cotton)
- Anti-microbial
- Reduces the number of times clothing needs to be changed
- Breathable
- Soft side of Velcro is sewn onto clothes, spare sticky patches available if they fall off
- Last 1-2 weeks. Makes t-shirts last twice as long
- Dimensions – 10cm x 20cm (Men's medium)



Animation



Design, Manufacturing and Engineering Management

Delivering Total Engineering

Discover & Define

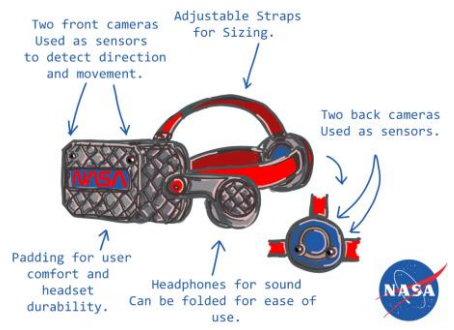
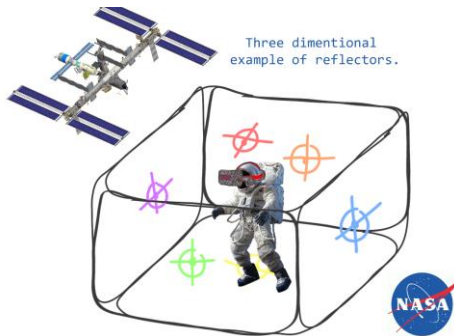
Problems that we discovered

- Unsustainable clothing
- No way of washing clothes
- Unhygienic to rinse toothbrush inside mouth
- Nails sit on air vent until someone vacuums.
- Shaving and cutting hair very time consuming.
- Unsustainable for female astronauts to stay on the pill over a long timeframe.



Design, Manufacturing and Engineering Management

Delivering Total Engineering



Stem Club

Some S3 pupils have been working remotely through 'This is engineering entertainment' modules from the Academy of Engineering.

Drama

S3 Drama pupils signed up for the project "Positive Stories For Negative Times". The project was run by Wonderfools Theatre Company in partnership with the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh. Six professional writers were commissioned to write plays for groups of young people and submit a recording of their final performance for screening. Unfortunately Lockdown 2 happened and by the time we were back at school we were very short of time to produce a finished article. However, Wonderfools made the decision that groups would submit anything that they had to date. S3 rose to the challenge, and in a week created and edited a short "Teaser" as a record of the ideas they had worked on and their interpretation of Stef Smith's script "The Pack".

Music and Music Technology

- Well done to all our instrumental pupils who have continued playing, via Teams lessons, throughout lockdown and have come back to school lessons with positivity and enthusiasm. A great deal of our pupils also took part in the Central Bands and Orchestras virtual concert last week. Well done to all those involved for participating.
- 4 vocalists and 6 instrumentalists from Grove competed for the Vocalist and Instrumental of the Year competitions which were broadcast via YouTube on Monday 21st June. Our Grove musicians enjoyed great success!
 - Instrumentalist of the Year - Eleanor Leydecker
 - Male Vocalist of the Year – Lachlan LattoRecordings of their performances are on the [school website](#).
- Eleanor Leydecker was accepted to join the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain – a phenomenal achievement for an S5 pupil.
- We have introduced Advanced Higher Music Technology for the first time this year with pupils joining us from Harris and Grove.

Burgess Short Story Competition

In the City of Dundee Burgess Charity Creative Writing Competition, Ruth de Villiers, was chosen as one of three 'Worthy Mentions' for her story entitled 'Outside my Window' which the judges said "was a pleasure to read".

iDEA Awards

The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, known as iDEA, is an international programme that helps students develop and demonstrate digital, enterprise and employability skills. Since its launch, iDEA has established itself as the digital equivalent of The Duke of Edinburgh Award. The iDEA awards are recognised by universities and employers so are a great addition to any student's CV.

The winners so far are:

Hana Yousaf (3G2)

Mark Lorimer (3G1)

Charlotte Berry (3G1)

Ashley Isles (3O1)

Eilidh Lorimer (3G1)

Mandarin Speaking Competition- National Winner



We are very proud and pleased about Emily Crawford's achievement in winning the UK wide Mandarin Speaking Competition. She beat pupils from schools across Great Britain, including a number from private schools, in particular Eton!!

[Grove Academy pupil wins prestigious Mandarin competition - less than a year after starting language - Evening Telegraph](#)

S4 Prince's Trust

Starting August, the S4 Prince Trust group took on a project suggested by Craig Duncan, a local councillor. The aim was to enhance the white hoardings on the esplanade that surround McLaughlin and Harvey's work storage area. The group came up with a seaside inspired idea, drew sketches, and then started to paint the designs, which include dolphins, boats and a lighthouse down at the site. The wonderful big sun has an uplifting quote by Maya Angelou written inside. We hit a problem early on. The exterior wood paint we were using did not stick to the boards that had previously been painted with gloss. Our work washed off and spirits were somewhat deflated. The bad weather came and the job was unfinished. We then came up with the idea of painting on plywood boards, funded by the company. These were not coated in gloss. The paint should stick and now a variety of images depicting scenes associated with the using the waterfront make up the front of the hoardings. The boards were finished by Christmas but didn't get put up until May when the weather improved. One more outdoor painting session to finish off the other side was all we could manage due to second lockdown, but the overall effect is eye catching and a positive addition to the waterfront.



S2 Outdoor Learning

This group were asked to improve the outlook at Eastern Primary School by tidying up their borders and moving and painting the large planters outside the school entrance. This turned out to be a big job. It took one double period to empty and move one planter and refill it. There are three planters, each of them needed painting. The winter was approaching but still they worked on. The Techy Dept at Grove ordered and cut new tops for the planters as they had started to rot and have made a sign showing who has supported the project. Rotary Broughty Ferry kindly offered to financially support the project.

S1 Outdoor Learning

This group's latest challenge was to take on the creating of a pocket garden design for keep Scotland Beautiful. Natanya Lin, last year's S6 pupil created the award-winning design which should have been on display in Scone Palace last summer. The Scone Palace event was cancelled again this year but the making of the garden went ahead to make her garden a reality. The group made a vlog of the process and although they were voted in as winners, what they created, with help from one of our technicians, is well worth looking at and is on display at Queen Street Community Garden in the Ferry. It is marking the 21st year of Keep Scotland Beautiful being one of our foremost leading charities supporting local people improving their local environment.



<https://bit.ly/3vbMfAS>

Gold Ties

Congratulations to Angus Milne (S5) who received his Gold Tie as he represented Scotland in Hockey recently against Ulster. A fantastic achievement to play for your country, Angus!



UK Maths Trust's Junior Mathematical Challenge

At the end of April, 70 S1 and S2 pupils took part in the UK Maths Trust's Junior Mathematical Challenge. This competition requires pupils to use their problem-solving skills to answer a variety of mathematical problems. The top scorers across the UK are awarded certificates and it was a very successful year for the school with our pupils achieving 2 gold, 9 silver and 12 bronze awards. Two S1 pupils (Leila Botros and Jack Neill) scored in the top 5% in the UK and were invited to participate in one of the follow-on rounds – the 'UK Junior Kangaroo'.

There was also success in the Scottish Mathematical challenge with Robbie Low (S1) achieving a silver award and Jana ElWerdany (S2) achieving a bronze award.

UK award winners are:

Gold

Leila Botros
Jack Neill

Silver

Nathaniel Kelly
Finlay Burns
Euan Webster
Raven Callaghan
Eden Ngai
Adam Javed
Rory O'Brien
Caitlin Wigham
Cameron McNutt

Bronze

Miles Robertson
James Du
Robbie Low
John McLaughlin
Alistair Boath
Christian Hainey
Angus Robson
Siobhan Laird
Adam Blicharski
Trudie Scott
Findlay Duncan
Hailey Stellard

Calum McRae

The Department of Modern Languages say 'Au revoir', 'Auf Wiedersehen', and 'Adiós' to Calum McRae. Calum has been a truly outstanding language learner in his time at Grove Academy and leaves with Advanced Highers in French, German and Spanish. This year he has also been a member of the first ever Mandarin class at Grove. This was taught online by a lecturer at Strathclyde University. Calum has achieved a pass at National 4 from scratch. Calum's collection of qualifications in Modern Languages is an unprecedented achievement at Grove. He achieved Higher French already in S3 and Advanced Higher French in S5. Much of his Spanish has been self-taught. We wish him all the very best for next session when he will start his MA (Hons) in Interpreting and Translating at Heriot Watt University.

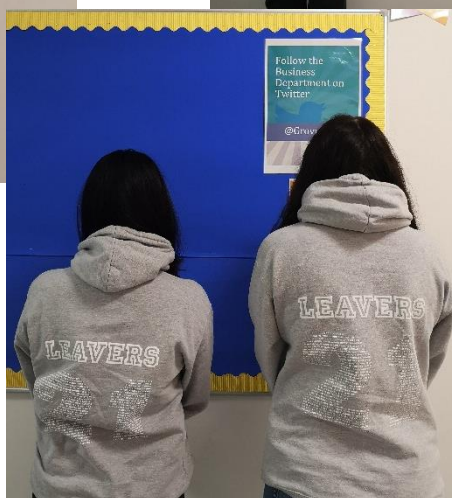
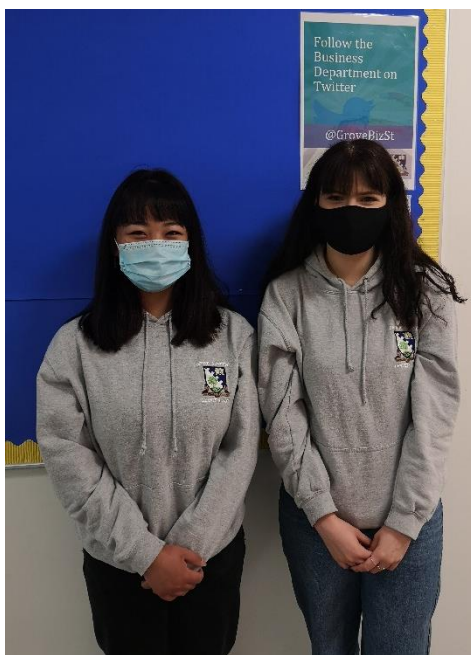
S6 Hoodies

S6 pupils who help to organise the annual Leavers Hoodies order normally have a tricky job gathering the details (colour, size, nickname etc) and collecting deposits and final balances from over 100 S6 pupils - and that is when everyone is in school!

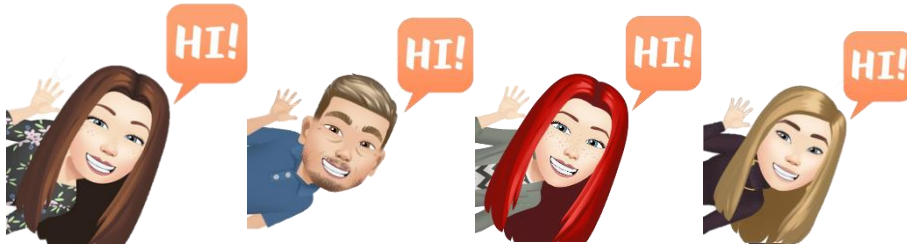
This year, two S6 pupils - Vicki Liu and Emily Lorimer - both did a fantastic job of managing this whole process online via MS Teams during lockdown. Both pupils collated all hoodie details from S6 pupils via a Microsoft Form and populated an online spreadsheet to gather the required info. Vicki and Emily were provided with payment reports from ParentPay and they kept accurate records of money received for each pupil. They worked together remotely via teams to double and triple check the accuracy of the data gathered and money paid. In addition, the supplier had offered to deliver hoodies to pupils' home addresses, so they had to gather all this information as well!

Vicki and Emily attended several virtual meetings on Teams with Mrs King during lockdown to discuss progress and resolve issues they were having. They worked together brilliantly during this time to process the order worth just over £2,500 and amazingly not one person had the wrong colour or size of hoodie.

Well done girls – an amazing job that brilliantly demonstrates the Grove values of responsibility and determination!



Art & Design



Mrs Mikkelsen

Mr Henderson

Miss Speedie

Miss Doyle

We wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the amazing work our young people at Grove have done this year. We have been extremely impressed and proud of all their hard work and from our senior phase pupils the dedication they have displayed in achieving their very best!

We also have some work from this years Art & Design competitions, again demonstrating our young peoples creativity and passion going above and beyond!

We hope you enjoy seeing a small 'Exhibition' of their work,

Well done all!

National 5- Expressive



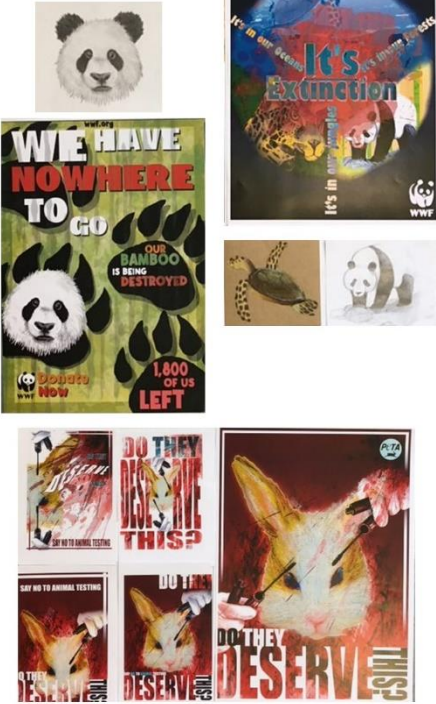
National 5- Expressive



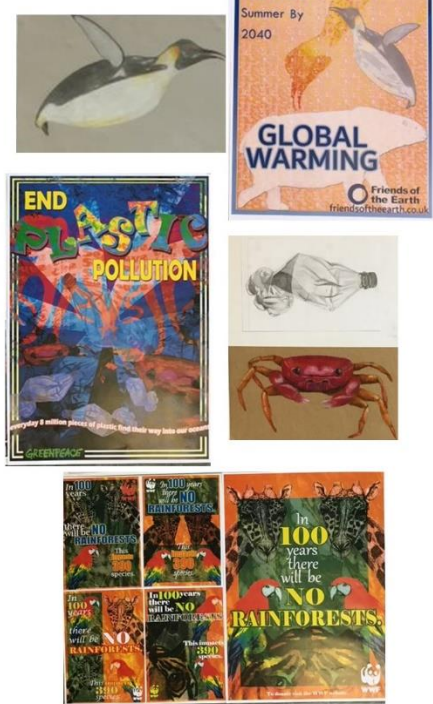
National 5- Expressive



National 5- Design



National 5- Design



National 5- Design



Higher - Expressive



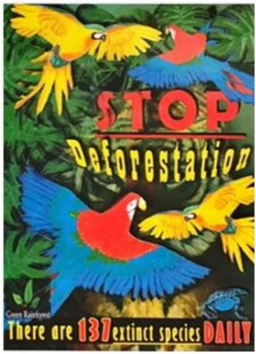
Higher - Expressive



Higher - Expressive



Higher - Design



Higher - Design



Advanced Higher - EXPRESSIVE



Advanced Higher - EXPRESSIVE



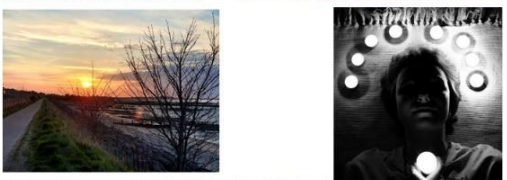
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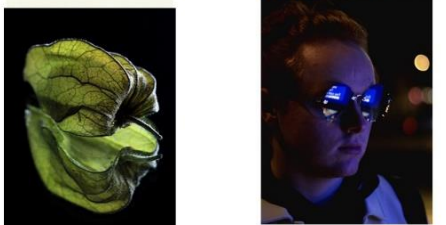
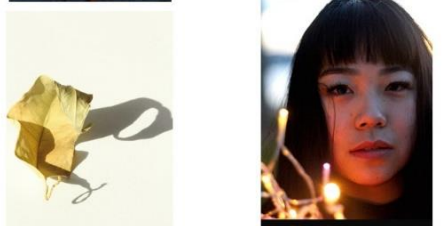
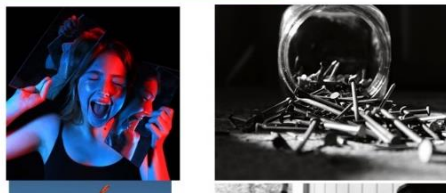
Advanced Higher - DESIGN



Higher Photography



Higher Photography



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