

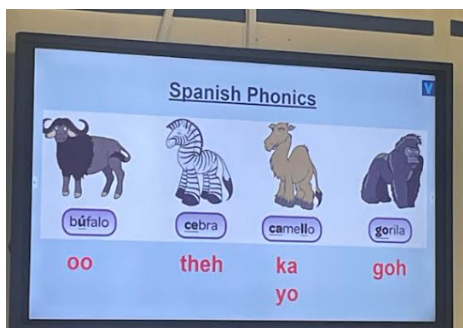
## Aim Higher Newsletter March 2025

Aim Higher has now concluded its final sessions for the Year 6 students as part of the 2024/25 cohort. Thank you so much to all of the students who have attended these sessions, it has been wonderful to welcome you to Borden Grammar School.



### Term 3 Sessions

Back in January, Aim Higher began with sessions put on by our lovely French department. Mrs Edwards led an engaging session with the focus on speaking in the Tuesday session. The Year 6 students did well to engage in French conversations led by Mrs Edwards, and then put this knowledge to the test via a matching game at the end of the session as shown on the right. Mrs Bailliez put on an exciting Thursday session involving actions and movement to help describe different hobbies and activities in French. This session was kindly helped by three wonderful Year 10 students: Harry, Peter and Ash, who excellently demonstrated how to pronounce the French words accurately. Thank you to the French department for providing these tasters of what French lessons are like at Borden!



The second week of Aim Higher in January was brought to us by the Spanish department. Both Mrs Bowker and Mrs Del-Rio on the Tuesday and Thursday respectively provided the Year 6s with an insight into Spanish history, before quizzing them on the Spanish pronunciation of animals. The students did excellently to understand that different letter combinations would result in different sounds in Spanish, demonstrated expertly by some of our brave volunteers who went solo to speak the new Spanish words learnt! Thank you to the Spanish

department for facilitating insightful sessions for the Year 6s, most of whom had never done Spanish before!

The third and final week of Term 3's Aim Higher was led by the Religious Studies department. On Tuesday, Mrs Mahoney focused on the concepts of looking forward and self-reflection, whereby students were challenged to create an A-Z list based on what they would like to achieve in their first year at Borden. For Thursday's session, Mr Sherwood-Farnfield got the students dressed up as Buddhist monks (as he is modelling in the image on the right!) The aim of this was to give them a feel for what it would be like, whilst researching more about the life and religion of a Buddhist monk in one of our ICT suites. The session finished with a crazy kahoot quiz,



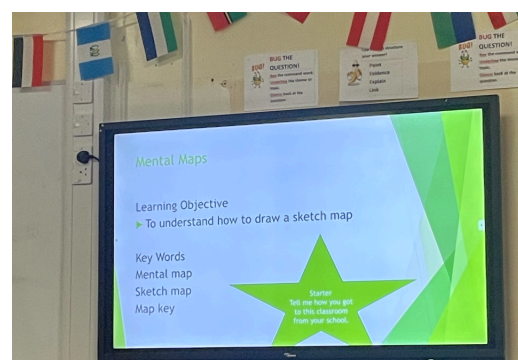
which certainly went down well with the Year 6s! Thank you so much to the RS department for hosting such engaging and diverse sessions.

### Term 4 Sessions



Aim Higher restarted in Term 4 with History sessions provided by Mr White and Mr Parrott. Both sessions looked into World War II sources, and how these sources can help us to understand what happened in World War II. The students even got to experience real life World War II artefacts (shown left) including a helmet, gas mask and water bottle, and were able to judge how useful these objects might be to tell us about World War II. Thank you to the History department for allowing the Year 6s to get a taste of what History at Borden has to offer!

Aim Higher continued into the second week with fantastic Geography sessions led by Miss Anthony and Mr Williams. Miss Anthony in the Tuesday session focused on the concept of 'mental maps', encouraging students to use their own surrounding geography to map out their journey to Aim Higher that day, including features of real life maps. On Thursday, Mr Williams held a geography quiz, providing students with an opportunity to see that elements of geography are always applied to real life situations. In exploring football clubs and key landmarks in the local area, the students were given an insight into how geography extends far beyond landscapes. Thank you to the Geography department for running such interesting sessions to really get the Year 6s thinking outside of the subject box!



In Aim Higher's third week, the Tuesday session was unfortunately cancelled due to illness. However, the Thursday session ran as usual with a Drama session. Due to staff unavailability, one of our fantastic sixth form students, Joshua, took the reins to run the session. Joshua, with his prior participation in drama club, knew of some fantastic and engaging drama games to play with the Year 6s and this was certainly well received. In particular, the game of 'Buzzy Bees' went down a treat, where Joshua shouted out a letter and the students had to become an object beginning with that letter, but anyone with the same object was out. The students absolutely loved this game and made it a real competition to come up with the weirdest objects and stay in the game the longest! A special thank you to Joshua for leading this session, he did such a fantastic job at creating an amazing atmosphere for all students to enjoy.



The fourth and final session of Aim Higher was a taste of PE at Borden. Using our brand new sports hall, Mr Weller led the Tuesday session. The aim of the session was for students to develop their understanding of attack and defence using a handball. Mr Weller led some activities and drills to help



develop these skills, before setting students up with 3-a-side games where they could put their skills to the test. Mr Beeson followed suit in Thursday's session, where he led the students through a number of drills to help them perfect their throwing technique, before setting them up with larger games against one another. Each team got an opportunity to play one another so everyone got a chance to interact. Great fun was had by all and a huge thank you to the PE department for giving up the time after school to lead these sessions!

Finally, as the Aim Higher cohort for 2024/5 draws to a close, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the Year 6 students for attending and parents for the support. It has been such a pleasure to welcome you into Borden Grammar School and get to know you all, and I look forward to seeing you all in September as Year 7s! A special thank you must also go to the wonderful team of sixth formers without whom Aim Higher would not be possible. Special thanks to Skye, Ariane, Naomi, Jayden, Finn, James, Tom, Myles, David, Joshua, Elena, Iqra, Rifaat and Rimaaz for giving up their own time to support in running the sessions. Likewise, I must give thanks once again to the Office staff who work behind the scenes, Aim Higher would certainly not run as efficiently without them and their hard work.

In term 5, we will be welcoming a new cohort of Year 5s to Borden, applications will open on Tuesday 22nd April 2025 on the school website!

All the best,

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