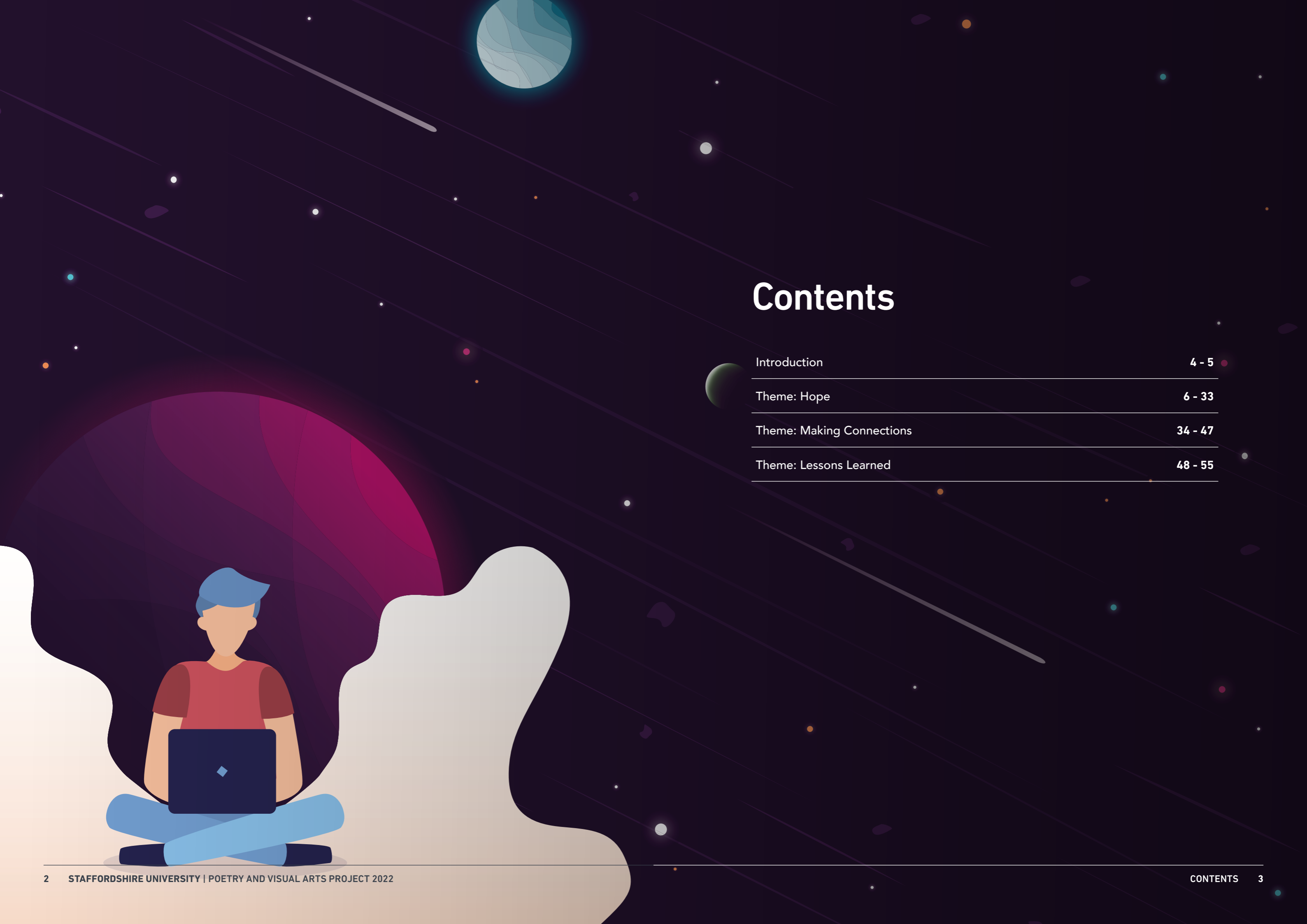


# Poetry and Visual Arts Project 2022

## A collection of poems and artwork

Exploring the themes of 'Hope', 'Making Connections' and 'Lessons Learned'.





# Contents

Introduction	4 - 5
Theme: Hope	6 - 33
Theme: Making Connections	34 - 47
Theme: Lessons Learned	48 - 55

Welcome to Staffordshire University's

# Poetry and Visual Arts Project

## 2022

This collection of poetry and visual artwork was created largely by students from Staffordshire University's PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education) partner schools. I'm sure you'll agree that we have some very talented young people in our creative county.

The collection includes poems or visual art based on one of three themes:

HOPE

MAKING CONNECTIONS

LESSONS LEARNED



Students from years 7-13 were invited to write a poem or create a piece of visual art based on one of three themes: Making Connections, Hope, Lessons Learned. The themes this year were also chosen by young people from our area. Everyone's contribution was welcome, with all work submitted included in the anthology here. Poems and artwork are also presented in the raw format in which they were sent; there has been no editing.

The aim of the project was to give students the opportunity to be creative and have a voice or an outlet in these unprecedented times. Submissions were not assessed and there were no mark schemes; we wanted students to enjoy being creative and use it as an opportunity to voice their opinions, vent their emotions, have a little fun and challenge themselves to do something

they've never done before. Sadly, we don't often get the chance to offer this kind of creative opportunity in secondary classrooms.

Finally, thank you to our colleagues in the PGCE department at Staffordshire University who have been supportive of this project from the beginning. Thank you also to the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 PGCE trainees, for creating the student handbook and to the teachers in local schools who have encouraged their students to take part. The most important thanks, however, go to the students who participated and created some amazing, thought-provoking and emotional poems and artwork, leaving a legacy and reminder for future generations.

**Rebecca Sherratt**

PGCE English Course Leader  
Project Organiser  
May 2022

**Katie Leonard**

PGCE Art and Design  
Course Leader  
Project Organiser

# HOPE

---

---

## Unwanted Pain

What is this unwanted pain?  
Digging deeper inside my veins  
"Was I expecting this" I said  
It hurts but i still smile like her  
The feeling of pain is like a storm  
It hits me hard I  
cant ruminate

## MM

---

Year 9 - Co-op Academy

---

## Hope

Hope is that you will carry,  
Hope is that will to carry on,  
When you are down and out of life,  
Hope is that flame that burns,  
Where there is darkness around you,  
Hope is a smile which brightens ,  
Even a dull in your life ,  
As that is the only way to life ,  
Just keep your hope alive!

## AA

---

Year 7 - Co-op Academy

Having hope for the future is something that you have  
 having hope for happiness and delightful times  
 Opening the door, hoping for a good day, the  
 sunny sky, tall trees and the peaceful flowing breeze  
 Perfect day ahead of you; lots of socialising  
 walking into school hoping to see some smiles  
 Every day is like this and I wouldn't  
 change a thing I hope this doesn't change  
 because my life is a thrill.

KO

Year 7 - Endon High School

H - Happiness is the best  
 O - only if you could do this all the time  
 P - positivity is something you should always have  
 E - every day you should encourage people to be happy

CF

Year 7 - Endon High School

Hope  
 Hope for the future  
 Hope for the environment  
 Hope for the planet

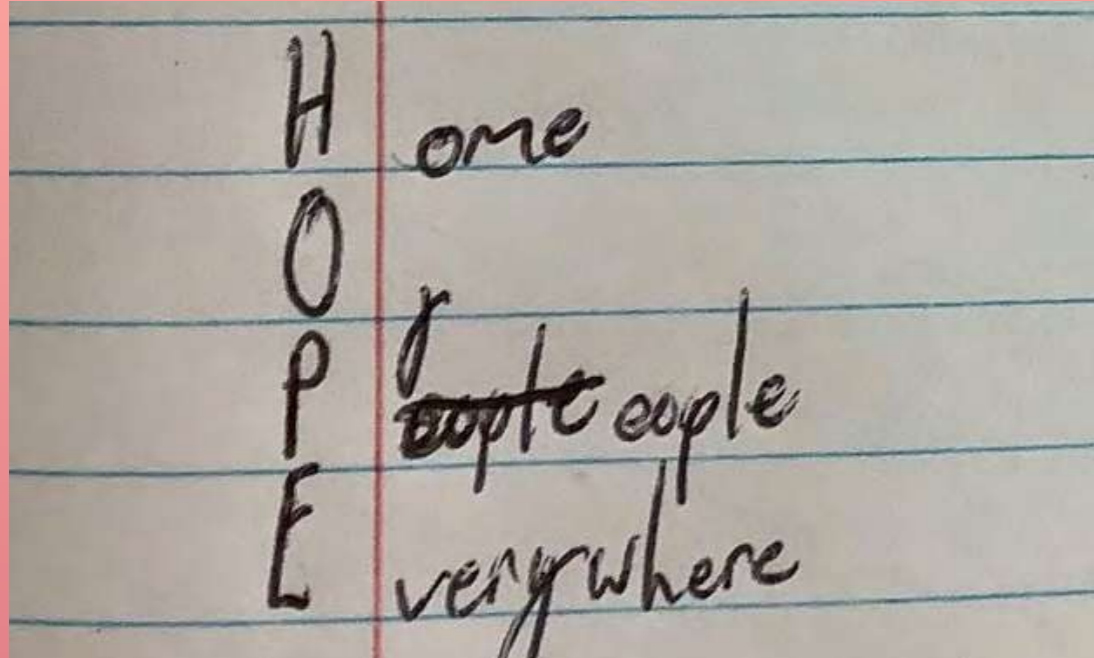
GG

Year 7 - Endon High School

Hope Haiku  
 Have faith in others  
 Believe in everyone  
 Positivity

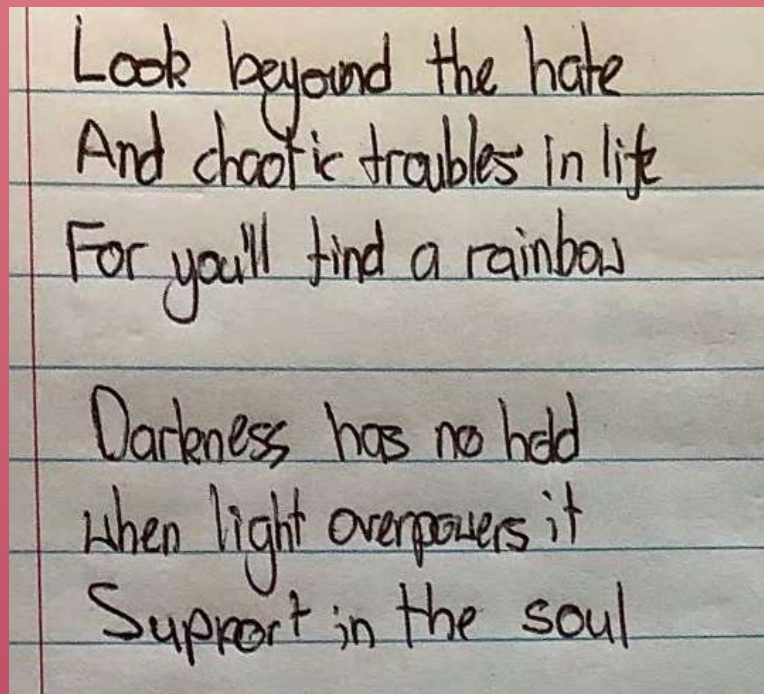
NA

Year 7 - Endon High School



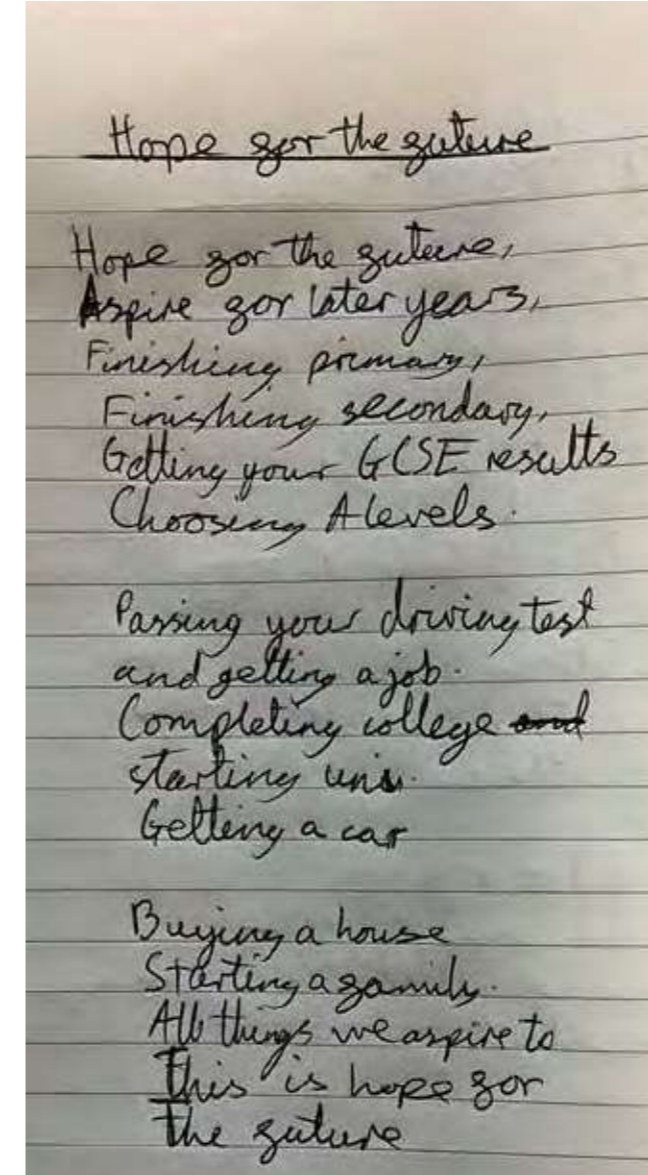
EP

Year 7 - Endon High School



TC

Year 7 - Endon High School



BC

Year 7 - Endon High School

IH

Year 8 - Endon High School

Hope jumps in the air  
 Freedom flowing into all,  
 It will warm your heart

Sunlight breaks open  
The silence of the dark night,  
Bringing hope again.

## HF

Year 7 - Endon High School

There is always hope  
Always believe in yourself  
Should never give up

## AS

Endon High School

Loving the way you live and the way you look.

If you feel down, just remember – life is like a new page, you never know what will happen.

Fear is just a word. Be brave.

Ecstasy is a feeling of intense joy: embrace it.

## LAB

Year 8 - Endon High School

Begging on his knees,  
Praying that he will not die.  
Hope will bring him back.

## AW

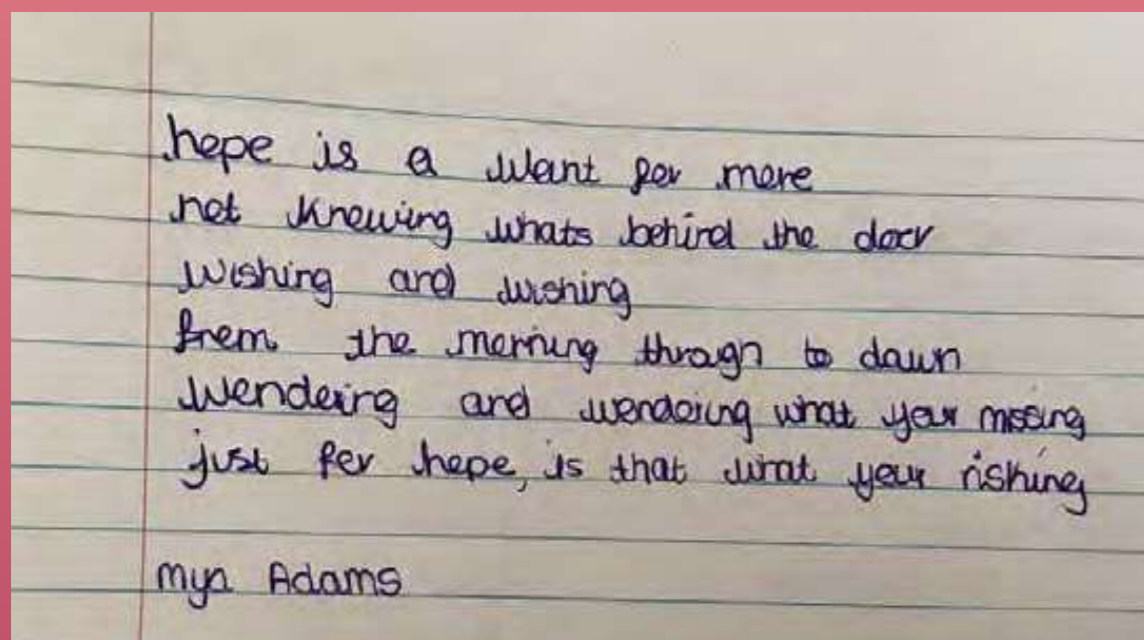
Year 8 - Endon High School

Sunlight breaks open  
The silence of the dark night  
Bringing hope again

Having  
Only  
Positive  
Energy

HF

Endon High School



MA

Endon High School

Moonlight is coming  
We better go to sleep  
Before we get tired

Hope

Hardwork at school  
Opinions and facts  
Positive energy  
Excellent education

OA

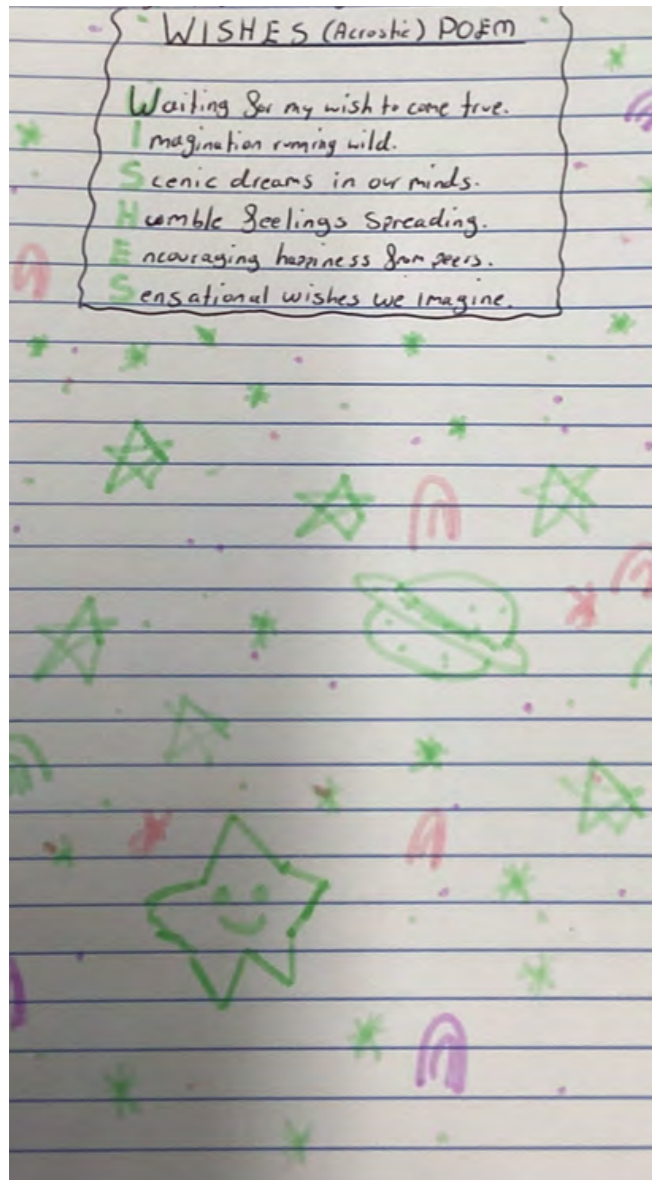
Endon High School

There is always hope  
Even the darkest of times  
There will always be light

Community is great  
Only for the best of people  
Never  
Not making new friends  
Everyday new experiences  
Connections  
To past experiences  
In communication  
On a journey  
Never  
Sad

ZP

Endon High School



Hoped that I would get a new game  
 Optimism filled me up  
 Please, please, please  
 Expectations dropped, she didn't get me one



SO

Endon High School

LH

Endon High School



RS

Year 9 - The Hindu Senior Secondary school, Chennai, India



E

Year 7 - Madeley School



A

Year 7 - Madeley School

D

Year 7 - Madeley School



E

Year 7 - Madeley School



F

Year 7 - Madeley School



H

Year 7 - Madeley School

I

Year 7 - Madeley School



J

Year 7 - Madeley School



M

Year 7 - Madeley School



O

Madeley School

IA

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



O

Year 7 - Madeley School



S

Year 7 - Madeley School



S

Year 7 - Madeley School



TA

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



AC

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



DD

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



KN

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



DP

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



CP

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



HT

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



MF

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



PM

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



AS

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



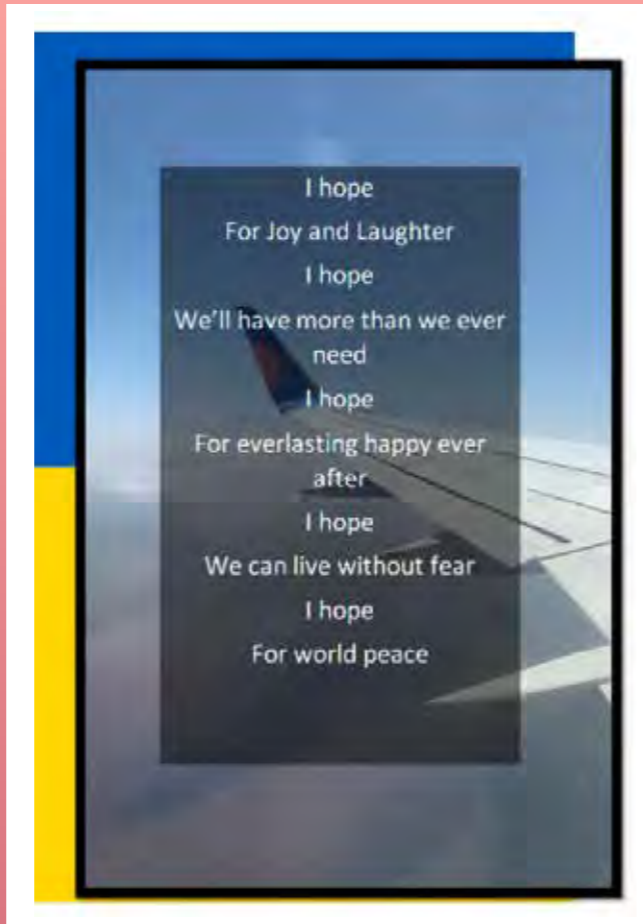
EB

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



JW

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



JB

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



MG

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



AG

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



IM

Year 9 - St Joseph's College

LS

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



TS

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



MS

Year 9 - St Joseph's College

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## Love from day one

When you're born you are all alone.  
Not a single known soul around you.  
You grow up nurtured by one's you 'love'.  
Yet vague strangers in your view.

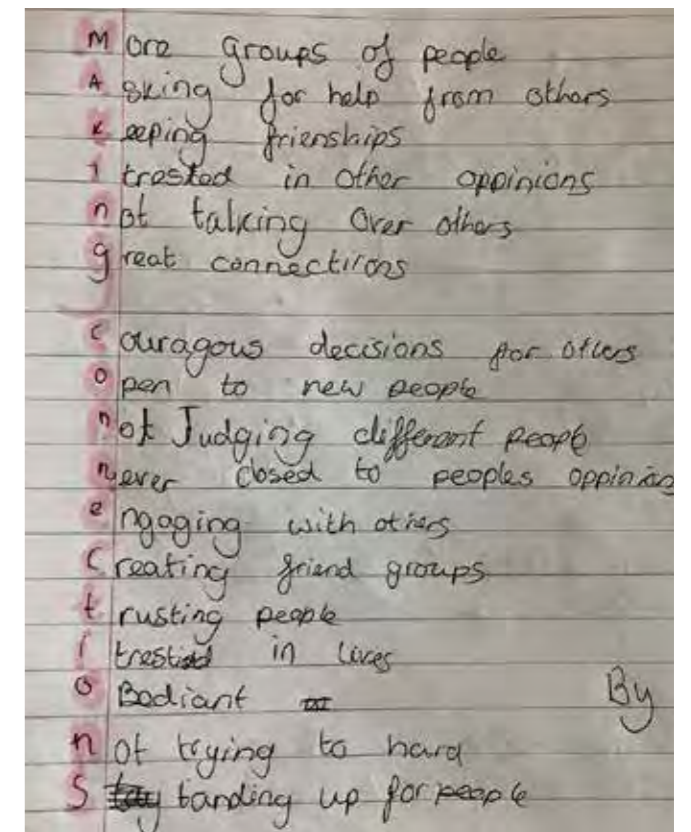
You slowly get to know them.  
Find the love they possess within.  
Suddenly your turn comes to make connections.  
To love people as they loved you.

Cherishing those close to you.  
Are like small keys to your heart.  
Bring you happiness and joy.  
Not always forever but that's okay.

Some people stay longer in your life.  
Some stay much shorter.  
But it was never about time.  
But the memories and love shared.

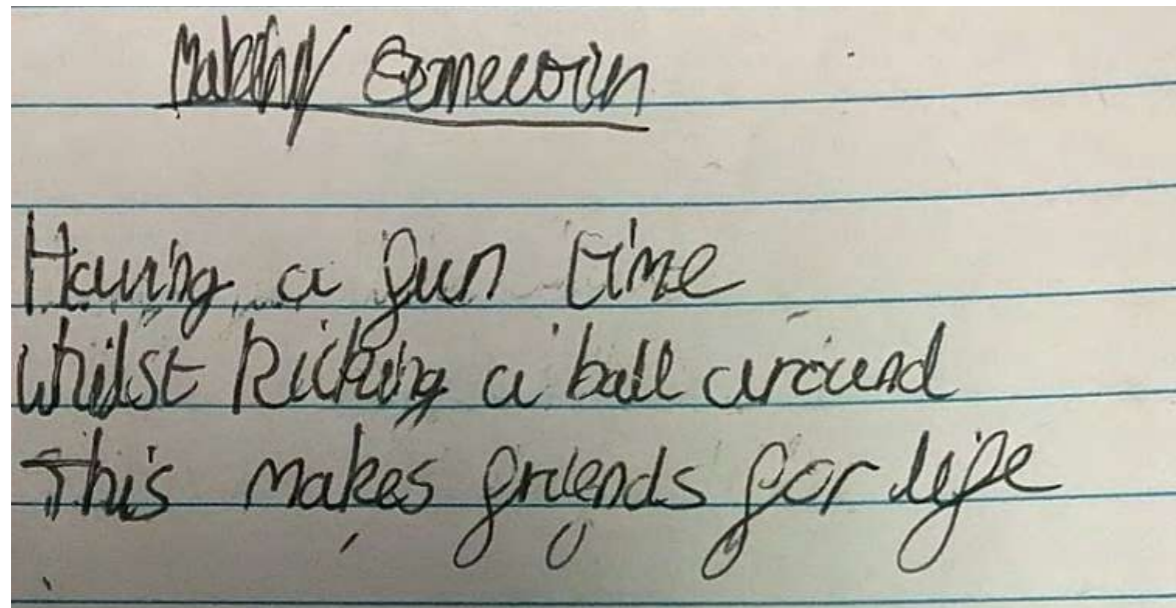
ANONYMOUS

St Joseph's College



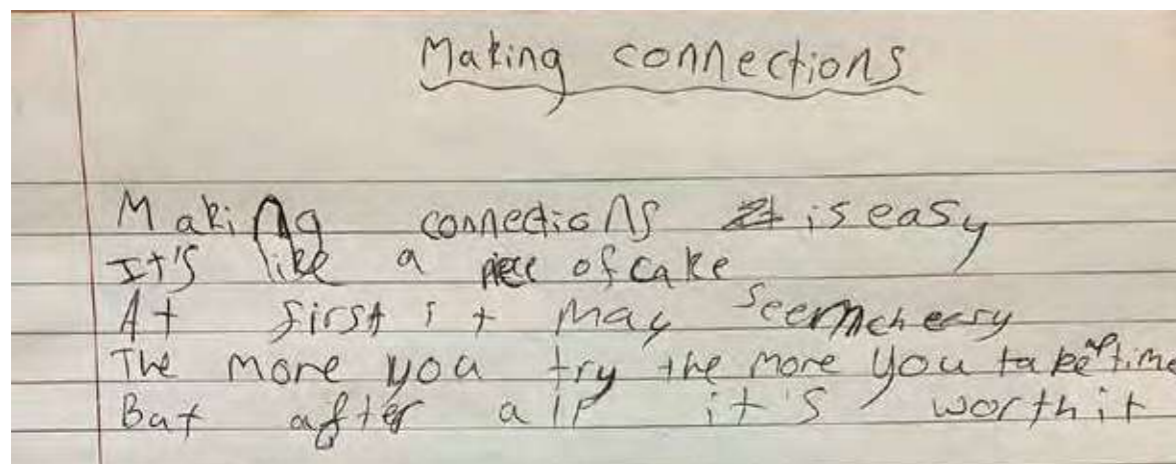
MC

Year 7 - Endon High School



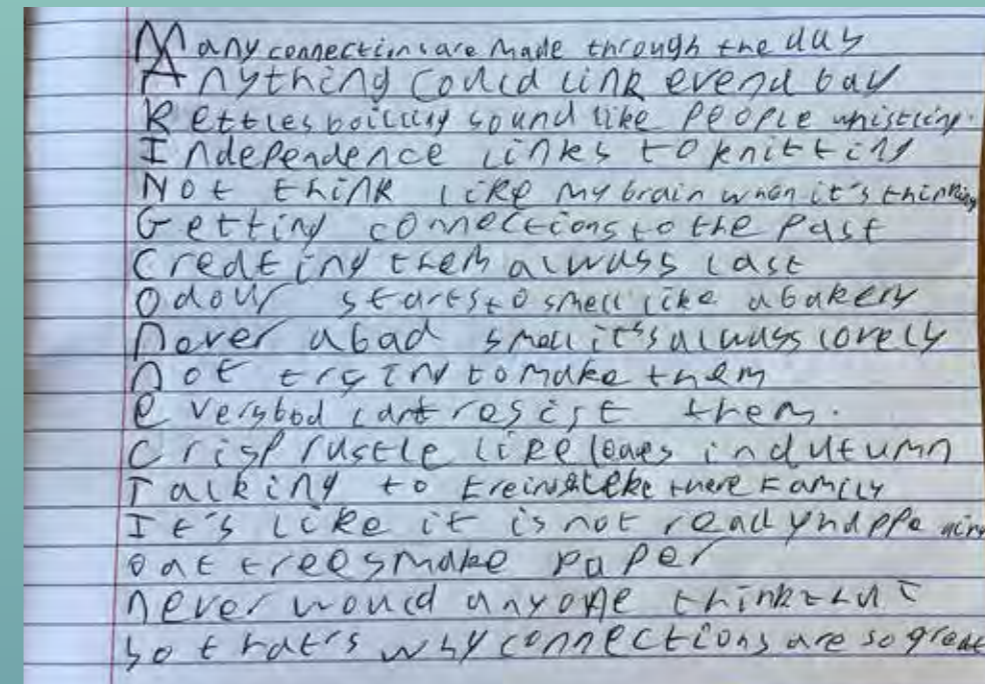
GW

Year 7 - Endon High School



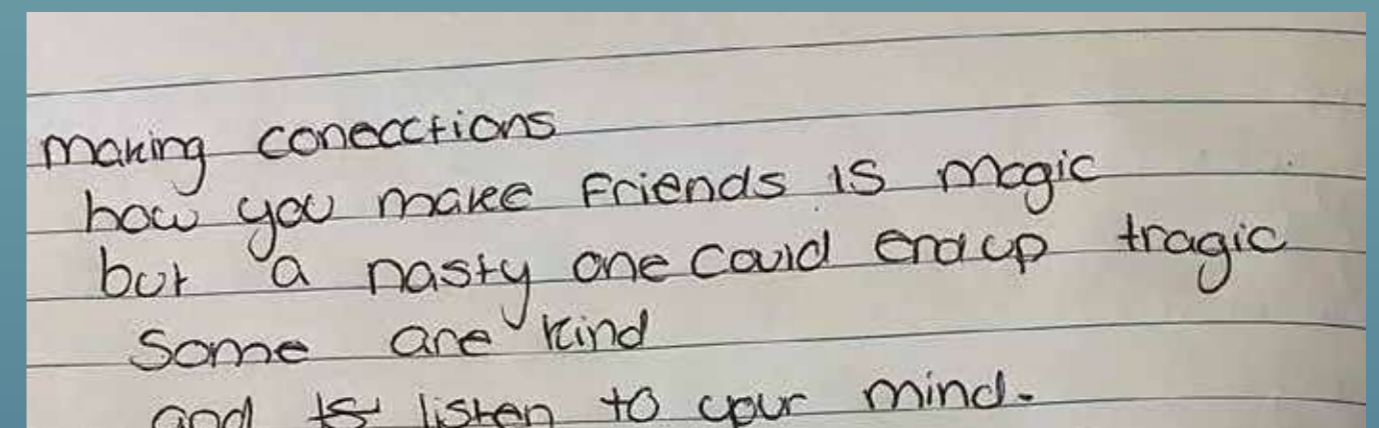
DO

Year 7 - Endon High School



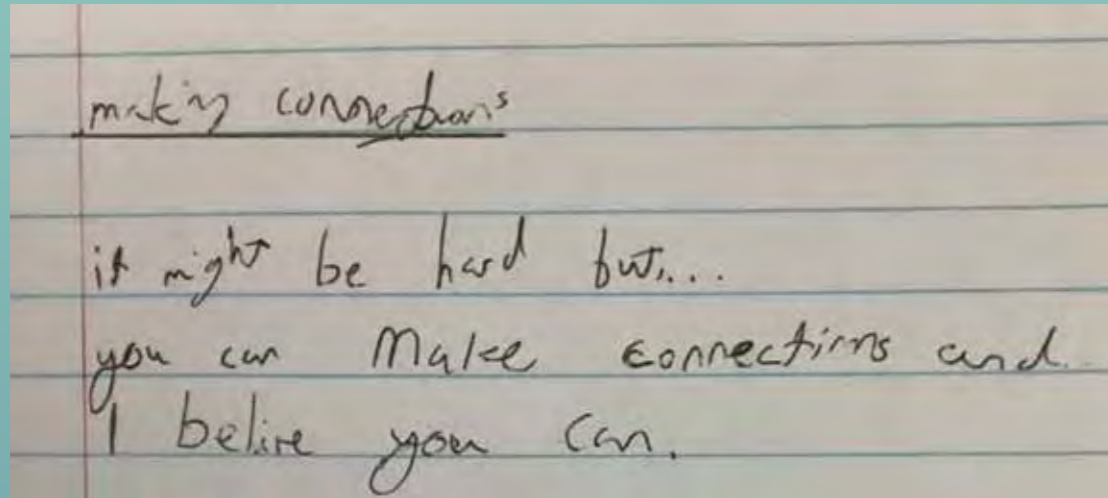
MM

Year 7 - Endon High School



EL

Year 7 - Endon High School



AH

Year 7 - Endon High School

Kindness is good as  
It is amazing  
Never forget that you are important  
Don't Judge others and share the message

Helping out others  
Kindness is always needed  
As it is amazing

Helpfulness from others  
Opinions shared together  
Personality kind and respected  
Excitement of holidays and friends

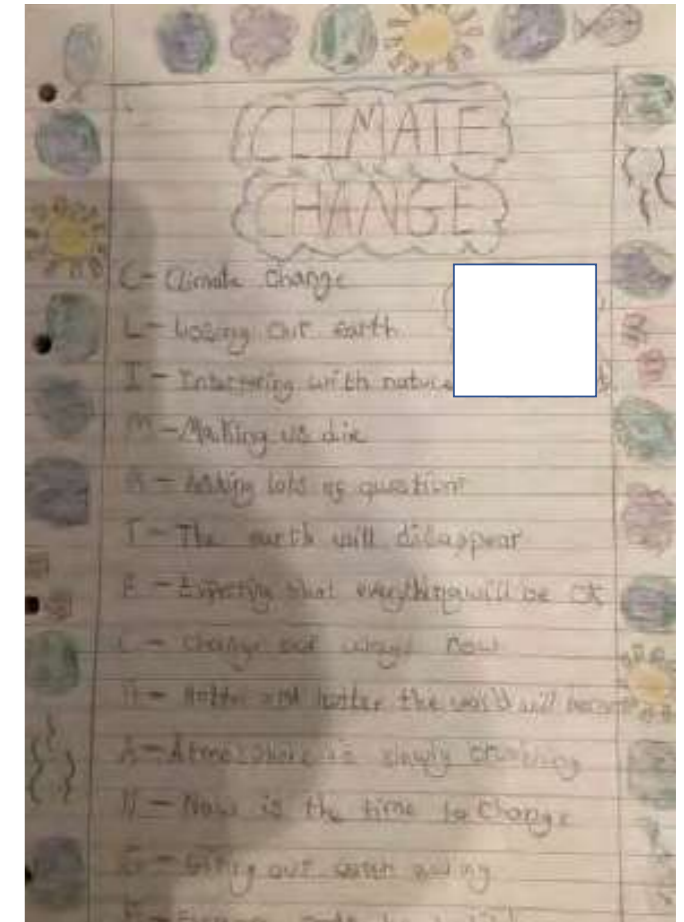
AW

Endon High School

## Making new friends

Are you speaking to others?  
Knowing what to do  
Inside and out.  
Not knowing enough,  
Getting to know new people.

Can find anywhere  
Outside,  
Not in one place  
Not in one room.  
Everywhere you go,  
Can you find a new friend?  
Today?  
In a million years?  
Out of this world?  
Now find your new friend.



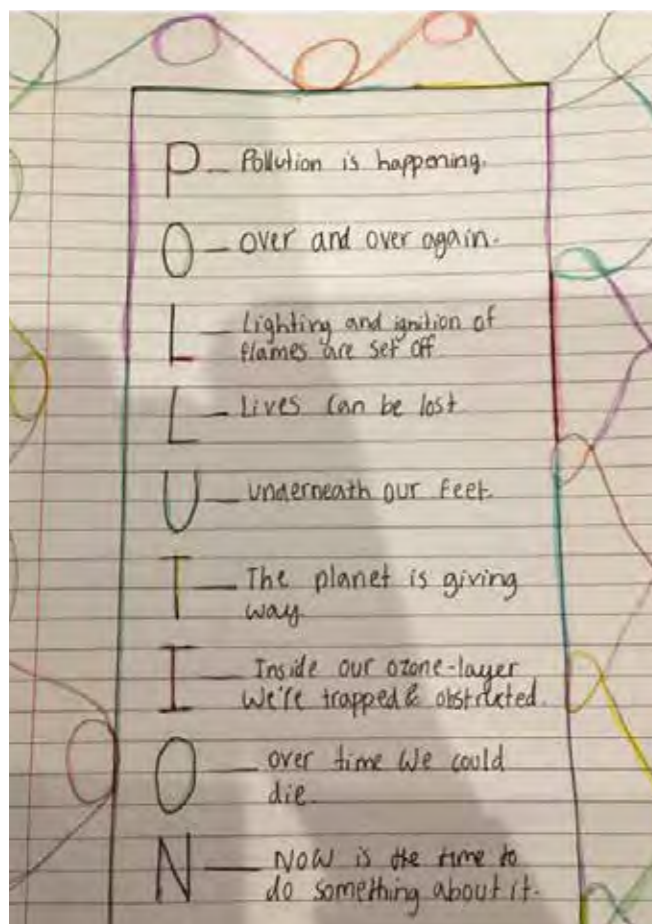
KH

Year 8 - Endon High School

CMF

Endon High School

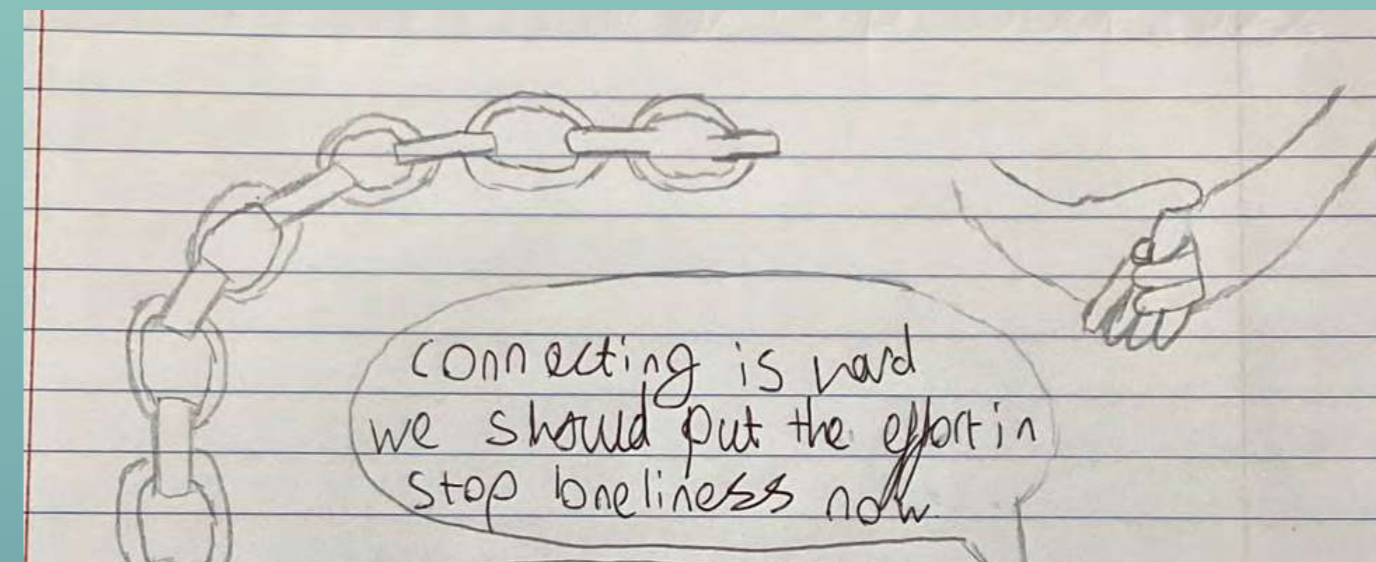
## Endon High School



## Year 7 - Madeley



# Endon High School



# Endon High School





Her art choice is based on Making Connections within the local community and features our local St Thomas's Church.

LL

Year 8 - Kings C E High School, Kidsgrove



A

Year 7 - Madeley School



TS

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



ST

Year 9 - St Joesph's College



MB

Year 9 - St Joesph's College

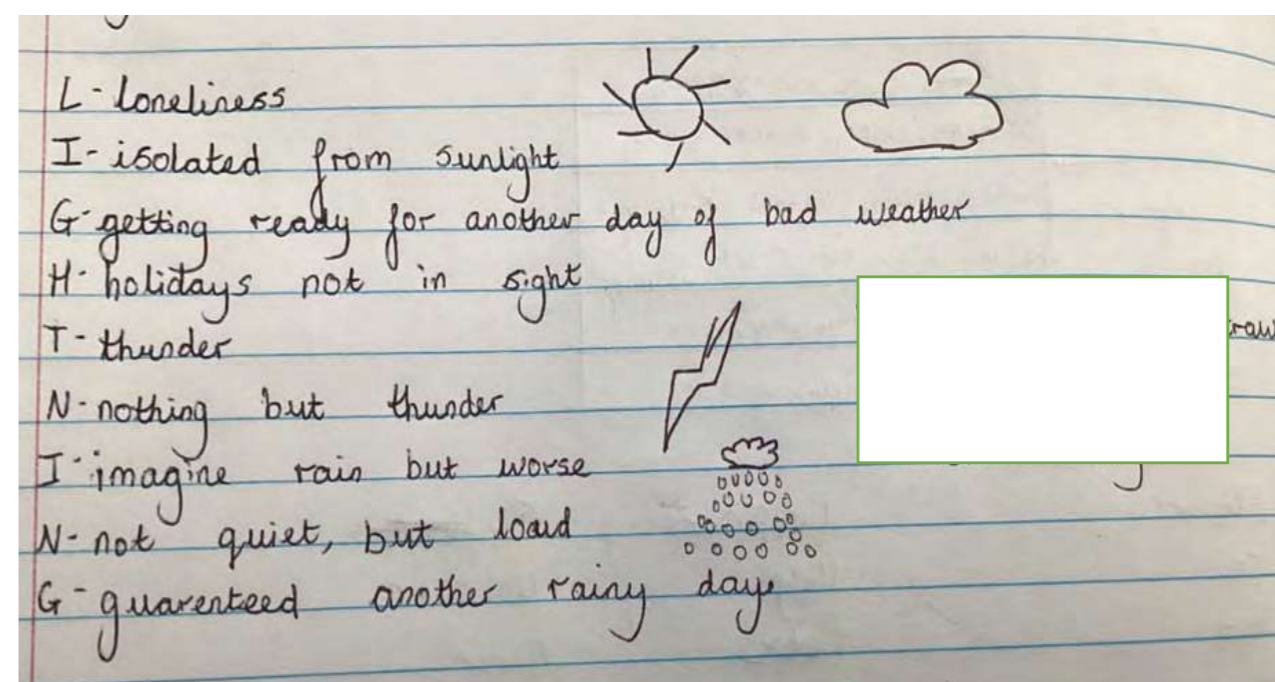
AB

Year 9 - St Joesph's College



SL

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



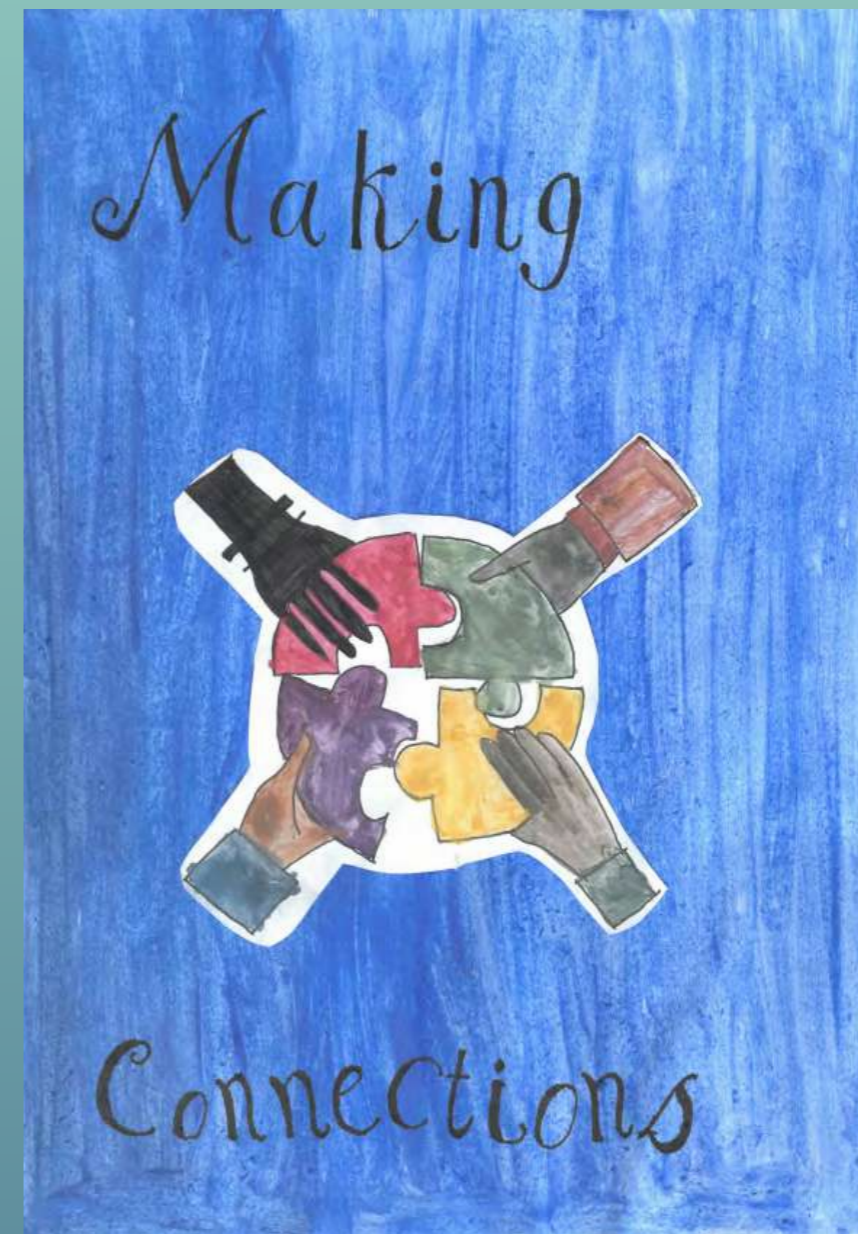
HG

Endon High School



ES

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



AG

Year 9 - St Joesph's College

# LESSONS LEARNED

## Oliver Twist

In the workhouse,  
Where it is damp and dark,  
There is nothing to light and spark,  
A hit will leave a very big mark.

It is very cold,  
But, we still eat the mold,  
If you ask for extra food,  
you are rather bold,

We are in a city,  
Where the truths and lies,  
Must come to an end,  
And sadly unfold.

ZE

Year 7 - Co-op Academy

## Lessons learned

Lesson learned  
Over all the bad things.

Consequences happen  
When you do bad things.

Realisation happens  
When you learn your lesson

AA

Year 9 - St Margaret Ward  
Catholic Academy

~~Like~~ ~~and~~ ~~you~~ lessons are great  
 Even if your bored  
 So I would do some lessons  
 So that I ~~can~~ learn and read  
 On Monday I went back to school  
 Now im going home  
  
 Lessons are know fun and  
 equal work is given out so people dont have to do more or less  
 a ~~ad~~ were had a new teacher and to the  
~~right~~ right of the class is a  
 new kettle and a  
 table

CT

Year 7 - Endon High School

Last resort  
 Eternal suffering  
 Surge of red anger  
 Sacred weapon  
 Omnipotent  
 Never again  
  
 Lethal wonder  
 Exploitation  
 Ache of others gone  
 Ruthless force  
 Naineness led to downfall  
 Exhaustion  
 Death of Millions

AR

Year 7 - Endon High School

Leaving  
 Everything behind  
 Standing tall knowing that  
 School has given us  
 Opportunities  
 Now realised we said we hated  
 School but it has given us choices  
  
 Life is now improved all because  
 Extra work was given  
 And  
 Restless nights were spent doing homework  
 Lessons not finished  
 Even though we hated it think of the  
 Degrees worked for just for us to complain  
 and how much these amazing people have  
 given to us

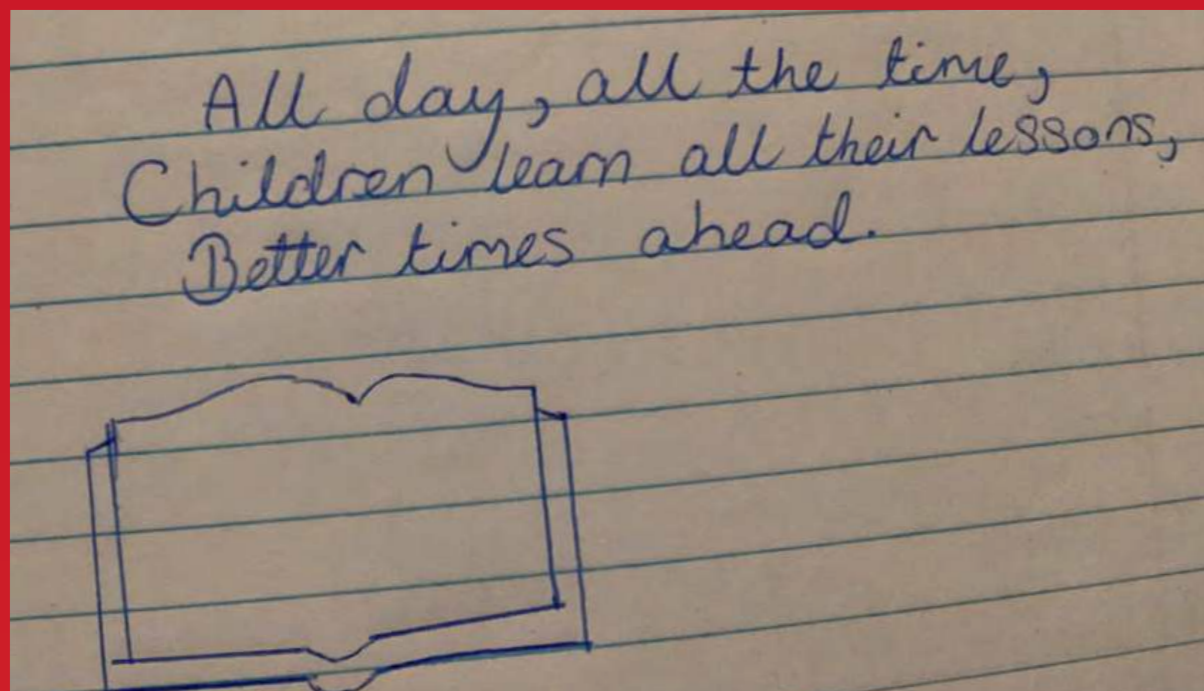
MC

Year 7 - Endon High School

**Learning a new lesson**  
**Think! It is a wake up call.**  
**Lesson learned now.**

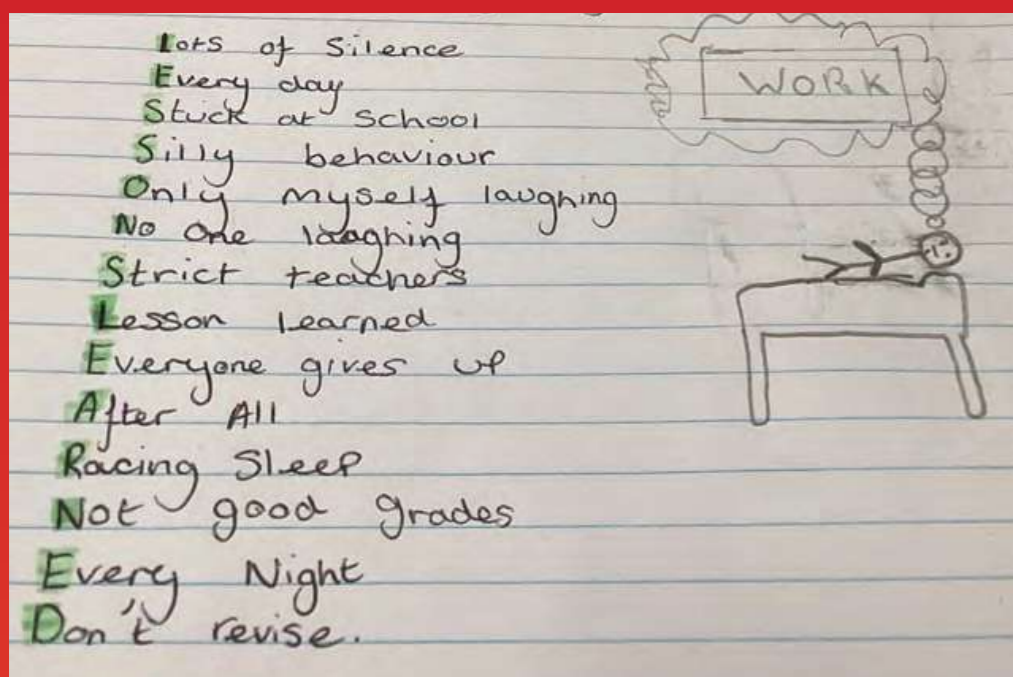
KC

Year 8 - Endon High School



EC

Endon High School



JK

Endon High School



EC

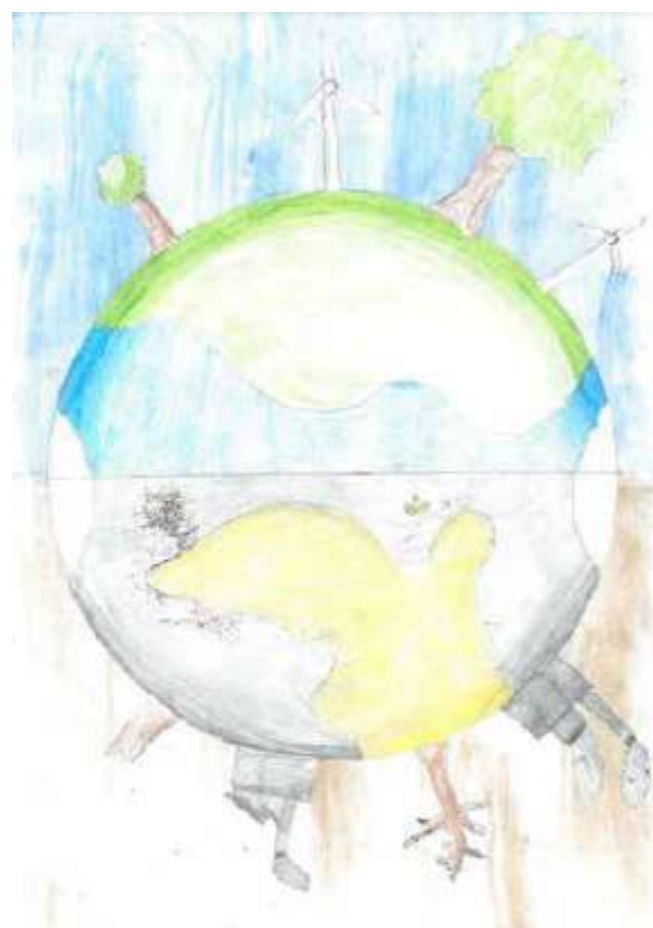
Endon High School

lots of corrections  
purple pens at the ready  
Learning from mistakes

Happy  
Opinions  
Positive  
Ending negative thoughts

ME

Endon High School

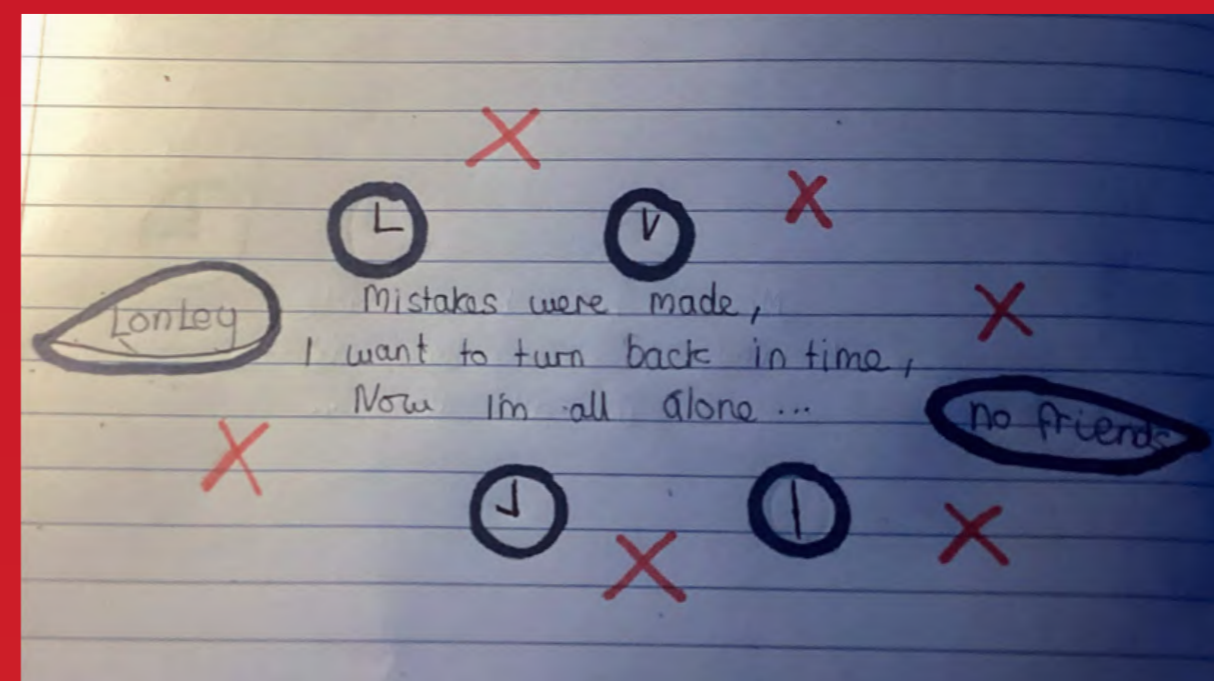


HM

Year 9 - St Joseph's College

EDS

Year 9 - St Joseph's College



RM

Endon High School




---

Staffordshire University's School of Education  
Poetry and Visual Arts Project 2022, created in  
conjunction with students from local Secondary  
Schools and supported by Stoke CEP.

---

Staffordshire University  
College Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
ST4 2DE

enquiries@staffs.ac.uk  
[www.staffs.ac.uk](http://www.staffs.ac.uk)

