

Working with Bessemer Grange on their creativity week, was really different to anything I'd done before. Usually I'm the one sitting behind the desk being taught, but now I was being called "Miss." The children were energetic and inquisitive, and keen to find out about life at Jags. It was great to get involved, and help out. We helped create huge life-size models of cars, fighter planes, and even a camper van for their "Throughout the Decades" themed parade. It was great to see them working on each stage, until their final unveiling at the parade. The parade itself was an amazing gathering of teachers, students, friends and family. All the children had put a lot of effort into making their costumes, which they showed off as we made our way around the streets of Dulwich. I was amazed to see people who'd come out of their houses to see the children. There was such a strong community, which I felt lucky to be a part of.

Alice Gane, Year 11

During the first week of the summer holidays I worked as a volunteer at Bessemer Grange Primary School. I was assigned to the nursery and reception classes, where I was to help the pupils prepare colourful costumes and banners for their annual parade on the Friday, the end of their "Creativity Week". The children made T-shirts, hats, wands, cardboard planes, cardboard submarines and many more imaginative inventions. Seeing their enjoyment in creating these arts and crafts and the display of the hard work of both the pupils and staff on the Friday parade was very rewarding. Their enthusiasm and eagerness has encouraged me to work with children again in future.

Suzanne Bristow, Y11

Bessemer Grange

Bessemer Grange has always been a school at which I love volunteering. The children are always excited and talkative and, during the summer, it was great being able to return there and help out during the creativity week. On the first day I was with a reception class where I over saw the kids making submarines. It was great being able to listen to the children talk about their submarines, using their favourite colours and showing them off once they were done. On the second day I was with a year one class. This day was particularly unforgettable. I was able to see the children in PE and watch how they ran faster as I egged them on from the side-lines, or play 'Duck- Duck- Goose' with them and have to keep having to expand the circle as more and more kids wanted to join in. However, the best part is without a doubt preparing for the parade. It was great fun being able to help make hats, paint the girls faces in 60s style and dress them in the ties and flower head bands which they had made themselves. Then there was the fun of going around the block while the band played the drums and the kids showed off their arts and crafts to passers-by. I particularly remember trying to get the children to dance and embarrassing myself in the process. My couple of days at Bessemer Grange brought me back to the fun we have as kids and gave me the chance to help out during this unique and exciting week.

Freddie Camerlynck, Y12