

12th January 2024

## INTRODUCTION

Hello All,

Firstly we'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year! It's been great to welcome the students back after the Christmas break, especially hearing about all the different activities everyone got up to and what presents they received. It's been a fantastic first week back, and it's clear students have come back in a positive frame of mind.

Reflecting on 2023 and what our goals are for 2024. We'd like the young people to also take this opportunity to reflect on what their aspirations are for the year - whether that be personal, or educational. Please try to have these conversations with your children, as it always gives us an insight into what their thought processes are, and how - and sometimes why - they might have chosen those goals.

This term, we have our first ever residential! We want to thank all the parents who attended the meeting this week. Everyone is very excited about the trip and we know these positive experiences are going to live long in their memories.

As always, we hope you have a peaceful weekend.

Katie & Tunde

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## JUNO - Annabelle

Juno has done such a fantastic job on returning to school fresh and ready for new learning, new challenges and lots of play. They have adjusted well with the introduction of some new expectations, as we are now ready to take that next step up in our school journey. This will involve slightly more challenge in learning tasks and us building on these relationships that we are seeing form and strengthen them.

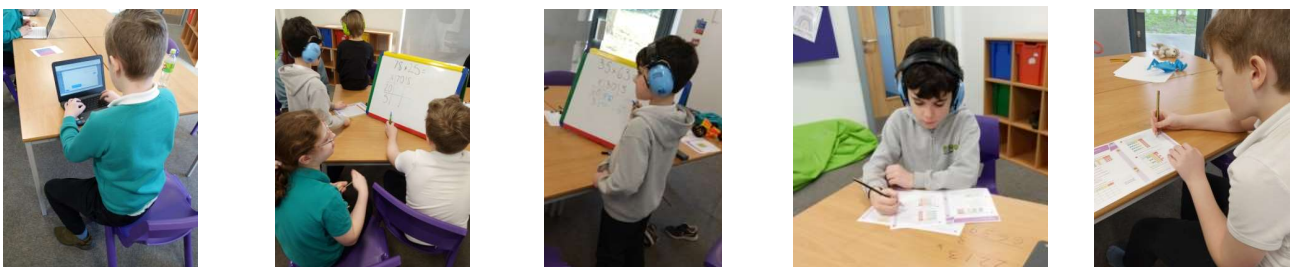
We have worked really hard in Maths, embraced the weather and explored the ice and forest and decided that our new favourite role play is placing orders to McDonalds! This has been lots of fun for students and staff and has meant lots of lovely interactions.



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## GENESIS - Aimee W

We have had a lovely first week back in Genesis. It has been wonderful to see the students catching up with their friends after the Christmas break, they have all settled back in really well. We went straight into our new English topic by looking at formal and informal emails, our final task was to write an informal email. Students chose a peer or an adult to send their emails too. In Maths, students have worked extremely hard at multiplying 3 & 4 digit numbers by a 1 digit number and using the area model to multiplying two 2 digit numbers. They have worked really hard this week using new methods we have learnt independently. In our Social Communication times, students have continued to play games, take turns with each other and interact with students from outside the classroom on soft play.

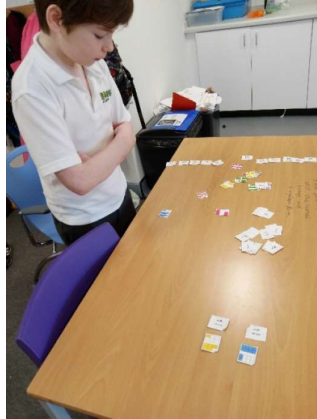


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## GATEWAY - Christina

What a fabulous week back! The students have been telling staff about their amazing Christmas and the fun they had over the holidays. We have been exploring mixed number fractions and improper fractions in Maths.

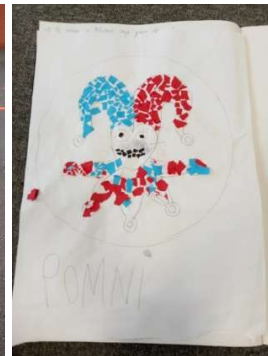
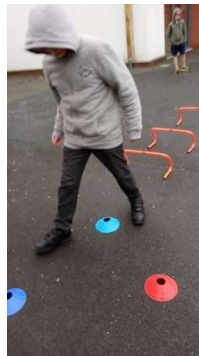
In English, we have started an exciting new book - Alex Rider. We have been looking at the gripping events at the beginning of the book and discussing the characters and why some of them are suspicious. In Science, we have been exploring the digestive system. Students have been completing experiments to explore how each organ is involved in the digestive system.



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## CALIPSO - Sam S

It has been great to welcome everyone back after the holidays and we have all been sharing what we got up to in the break with each other. This week, Calipso have risen to many challenges and have shown that they can work as a strong team, helping and supporting one another in many ways. We have introduced 'The Hunger Games' as our new English topic and we are all really excited to discover more of the story. For Maths, we have been recapping our previous knowledge. We have started looking at teeth in Science and have all created some brilliant posters.



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## RANGER - Karen

We've had a really focused start back after the Christmas break and have enjoyed the start of all of our new topics. In English, we have been learning about dystopian texts and what they entail ready for our new contemporary fiction book 'The Hunger Games'. In Maths, we have been learning about fractions and how to find fractions of amounts. The students have built up a lot of resilience while they have been figuring out how to find these amounts successfully. We have enjoyed looking at food labels in Science and identifying how much energy different items have in them. We were surprised by the energy content of 'Pot Noodle' compared to the energy.



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## VIKING - Hilary

We had a lot of fun in the forest on Monday using digital cameras to take pictures of flora and fauna. We were amazed to find that we could make the fabric of our trousers look like a cheese grater by enlarging the image using a Phonoscope!

In Maths, we have been increasing our knowledge of Fractions and in English we have been exploring Dystopian Fiction. We are looking forward to writing our own Dystopian stories!

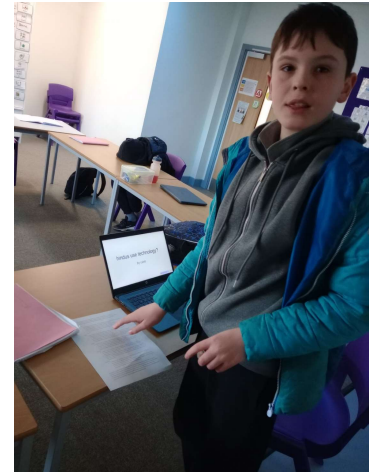
Thank you to everyone who came to Festive Fusion and to visit the Book Fair while it was there. We really enjoyed rummaging through the books to get ideas of what we'd like to read.



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## ACE - Zak

Happy New Year all, it has been a great first week back for Ace students! Some of our topics for this term are linked to the theme of technology which we are finding really interesting. We have done some research and made presentations in RE on how religious people can use technology to help practise their faith. In Computing, we have looked at the history of computing and how symbols have been used to communicate as well as braille for people who are visually impaired and sign language for people with hearing difficulties and/or communication difficulties. We found out that QR codes were created in 1994! In English, we are studying dystopian literature and are looking at 'The Hunger Games'. In Maths, we have been exploring fractions and looking at how they are relevant in our everyday lives. In Science, we have reviewed energy in food and how we measure it in joules and kilojoules. In History this term, we are looking at Britain between 1509 and 1745 and the development of church, state and society, in particular The Reformation and The English Civil War.



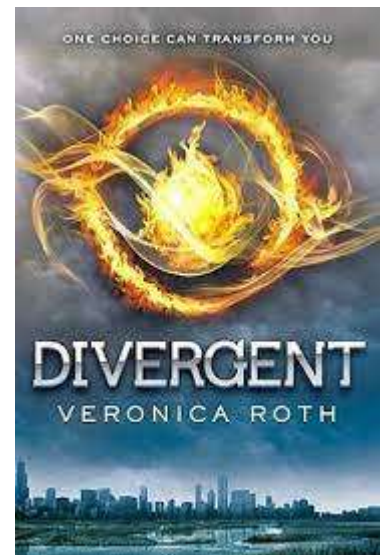
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## MARINER - Simon

Wow, what a whirlwind first week back. We have focused a lot on getting back into the routines of school this week and introduced our new topics for the term. This term in English, we will be focusing on the story 'Divergent', which comes with a film for you to enjoy as a family at home too. So far, we have looked at the genre of the story and briefly introduced the plot and the world that the story is set in.

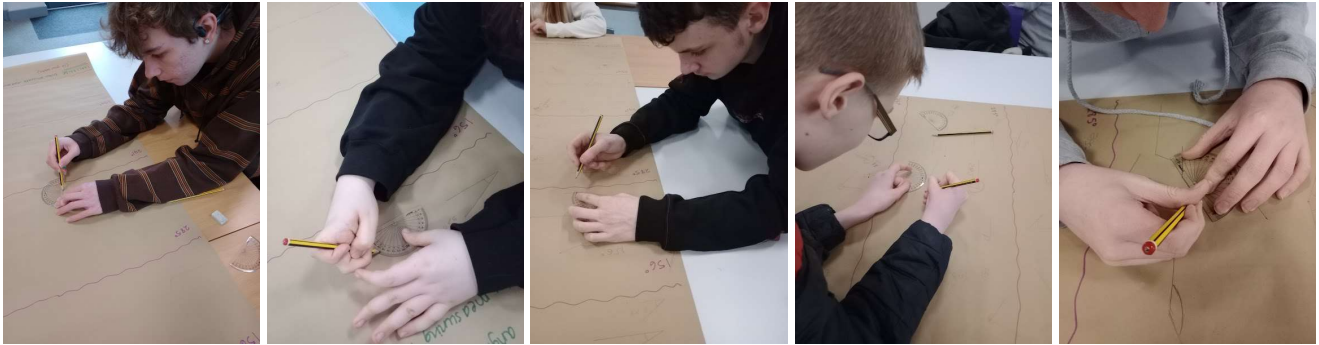
We have also done some work on fractions in Maths with Oscar and Jacob has been working on transformation factors and measurement. In Science, we have introduced and recapped the topic of 'energy' by exploring with elastic bands and introducing the language we used when discussing energy. We have also been discussing the use of social media in PSHE and SRE, in particular the fact that things posted online can never be fully deleted.

Looking forward to a fantastic Spring term in 2024!



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## AQUARIUS - Katie



What a great first few lessons of 2024 and Spring Term 1. Our overall focus this half term is Geometry and Measurement (shape) and we've started with "Construction and Congruency", so to begin with the lessons we're recapping angles: estimating and measuring sizes of angles and also accurately drawing different classifications of angles [acute, obtuse and reflex].

Lots of collaboration work by using big, brown paper rather than worksheets so that the students could discuss and share ideas; we have also looked at scales and scale drawings with maps and Lego designs.

In Aquarius, we have split our week up to look at hygiene at the beginning of the week (we've done an experiment to see how clean/dirty our hands are when touching different parts of the school, and then washing them - the students printed their hands onto bread and now we've got them in sandwich bags, waiting for any bacteria to grow, gross!!) and then the latter part of the week we are linking to our PSHE and Life Skills lessons which this week is about Online and Media: Bullying and Cyberbullying.

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## NEW HORIZONS - Jenni

Happy New Year! In the vibrant realm of New Horizons, we have been enjoying listening to our class members' Christmas holidays - It sounds like everybody had a lovely break.

As we gear up for the much-anticipated Red Ridge Trip, our classmates are enjoying researching into the activities on offer and looking at the sleeping arrangements!

In the enchanting world of literature, we've delved deep into the captivating lives of inspirational figures and how we could use their life journeys to inspire us.

But that's not all – Social Communications took a delicious turn as one of our culinary enthusiasts whipped up a storm of mouth-watering pancakes and has already been planning dishes for future weeks.

Happy New Year, New Horizons!



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## SWIFT - Sam R

Wishing you a joyful New Year! It's been an incredible beginning for Swift students who returned with enthusiasm and a positive mindset.

In our Computer sessions, we've delved into the exciting realm of graphical drawing using advanced software and digital drawing tablets. Students have been actively exploring the software's functions, gearing up for upcoming lessons where they'll tackle challenges to construct specific structures.



Meanwhile, in PE, our focus is on fitness. We've kicked off the year by conducting physical fitness tests to establish a baseline. Looking ahead, these tests will be revisited as we embark on a fitness journey, aiming to track and enhance our overall fitness levels. Here's to a year filled with growth and achievement!

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## STARDUST - Sam P

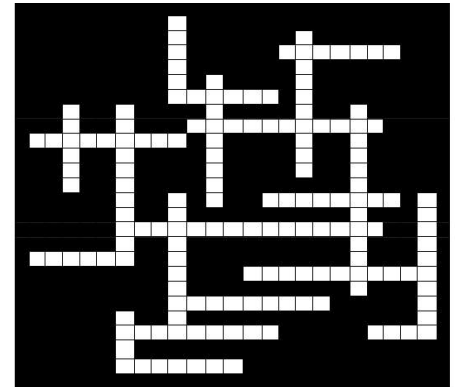
In Stardust, we have had a great start to the new term. In our Social Communication time, we have been building on the work in Life Skills and PSHE with activities linked to online safety. On Tuesday, students had a go at cracking some celebrity passwords using online information. They also watched a video made by the National Cyber Security Centre and identified where characters were taking risks with their online safety.



In English this week, we have started exploring the conventions of dystopian fiction in preparation of reading the novel, 'Ready Player One'. Students have explored a range of dystopian texts and films and identified the expected conventions. Later in the week, they applied these conventions to create their own dystopian book covers.

Our topic this week in PSHE has been Social Networking and Cyberbullying. All groups have engaged well with the learning activities and had some good discussions around banter turning into bullying. Students in Pathway 1 Group 1 were also able to point out that context is important when reading information online as what might seem like bullying maybe banter, so it is important to get the whole picture.

## SCIENCE - Laura, Nic and Tam



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|---|--|--|---|
| 4 letters<br>Fuel<br>Watt                         | 7 letters<br>Kinetic<br>Thermal<br>Turbine | Conserved<br>Generator<br>Renewable                  | 11 letters<br>Alternative<br>Temperature<br>Transducers |
| 6 letters<br>Energy<br>Finite<br>Joules<br>Sankey | 8 letters<br>Kilowatt                      | 10 letters<br>Dissipated<br>Geothermal<br>Mechanical | 13 Letters<br>Gravitational                             |
|   | 9 letters<br>Appliance                     |  | 15 letters<br>Electromagnetic                           |

Pathway 1 started C5 Energy changes. With the frost this week, we were able to look at whether melting is an Endothermic or Exothermic reaction.

Pathway 2 started the topic Energy, not energy drinks, but what is Energy, the different types there are and ways that energy is transferred, as energy cannot be created nor can it be destroyed. Both groups appeared to enjoy the kriss kross for the key words created by Tam.

## FOREST SCHOOL - Karen and Penny

This week, we have started to look at digital technology in forest school. The students have enjoyed creating interesting photographs of the flora in the forest. Some students found different objects and created abstract art as well. A few students have also enjoyed using the phonoscopes to magnify different objects within the forest as well. It has been a chilly, but fun start back after the break. A lot of the students have tried out the new swing, but would like another swing for the taller students! This looks like a project for next week!





## OTHER NEWS



### The Fusion Academy Celebrating Achievements

Juno Class - Coming back to school with a real positive frame of mind,  
especially in Forest School



### School Dinners

Please note, from January 8th 2024 the price of school dinners is £2.55

### Parking

When dropping off and/or collecting, please be mindful of our neighbours and be considerate when parking your vehicle.

Thank you for your support with this.

## Careers & Next steps



### \*Save The Date\*

★ We will be holding our 'Moving on Event' in school on Thursday 14th March 2024. This will be a great opportunity to come to see and speak with post 16 providers, including colleges and apprenticeships. More details to follow.





Please see the below link for the e-safety newsletter:

<https://openthinkingpartnership.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/OTP-News-letter-january-TK.pdf>



- ★ February Half Term Break: Monday 19th February 2024 - Friday 23rd February 2024
- ★ School Opens: Monday 26th February 2024

<https://openthinkingpartnership.co.uk/fusion-academy/>

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