

19th January 2024

INTRODUCTION

Hi All,

We're well into 2024 now, and it's been a wonderful week of learning experiences.

For the newsletter this week, we'd like to focus on how the students are engaging with science across the school. In lower school, we have adapted the way we teach science and this has seen engagement improve massively. The students have been coming up with their own hypotheses, and then investigating them to find out whether their predictions have been accurate. Their use of technical vocabulary whilst doing so has also picked up, and we are starting to see the students speak scientifically in context.

In upper school, the students were learning about chemicals and their reactions, measuring how much heat they released. The experiment was a success due to the safe, and accurate work the students produced.

We are continuing our efforts to give the students as many out-of-school experiences as possible and this week four of our students went horse riding. This was a huge success for the quartet, as they learned about looking after the animals, whilst also supporting their social communication goals. This trip came to fruition due to parental engagement, so if there are activities you feel your child would enjoy or engage in for educational purposes, please do get in touch. These collaborations are always welcome.

With the weather sitting in the minus figures, please do ensure you send your students in with coats and warm clothing. Whilst we know some of our students find regulating their temperature difficult, we do spend a lot of time outside, or in the forest, and it's important we have everything we can to keep them warm.

As always, we hope you have a restful and peaceful weekend,

Katie & Tunde

JUNO - Annabelle



Juno class has returned after the winter break fresh, energetic and with a real openness to new learning and to enjoying different spaces with independence and focus. Maths has been a real strength this week. We have made the most of the quieter spaces around the school and it has led to some really focussed learning. We have used concrete and colourful resources to help our young people enjoy the subject rather than feeling too daunted by the tasks.

Students have enjoyed books; both new and old, and have really engaged with little trips to the library to find and look at new texts and images.

There have been lots of beautiful moments this week that we haven't been able to capture on camera, but there have been some wonderful interactions, kind and positive relationships being built and so so many giggles.

GENESIS - Aimee W

We have had a lovely week in Genesis. We have started reading 'Alex Rider Stormbreaker', which we will be using as our focus for English over the next few weeks. Our final piece of work will be to produce a mystery narrative and we cannot wait to see how brilliant they are. In Maths, students have been working extremely hard to divide large numbers using short division. We have seen some great independent work from all students in these two lessons.

In Science, we continued to look at teeth and why dental hygiene is so important. We conducted an experiment to see how different liquids can affect our tooth enamel using eggshells to represent this. We also had lots of fun using disclosing tablets to colour our teeth so that we could spend time brushing them effectively.



GATEWAY - Christina

We have had a messy week in Science exploring the digestive system. Students have been able to recall experiments and recall organs that are part of the digestive system. Students have been working together and with students from other classes to design and make a model train. They showed great teamwork and creativity. We have engaged in Forest Schools

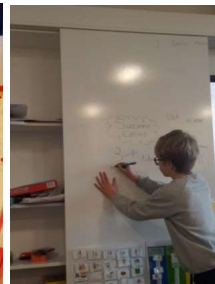


this week where students have been working together to use natural resources to build a bridge. They have also been practising digital photography and some students have been practising their tool skills in Forest Schools too.



CALIPSO - Sam S

The students in Calipso have been working hard this week to learn about the different types of teeth and what happens to our teeth when exposed to some everyday liquids. They are excited to see the results of their experiment. They have practised building activities for their friends in PE and enjoyed having a go at these in a circuit. We have had a strong focus on reading skills this week and they have all done a fantastic job at searching a text for the answers. We have settled back into routine and we are all excited for more amazing moments.



RANGER - Karen, Vicki and Susie

We would like to thank the students for a warm welcome into Ranger. The students have helped us settle in and remind us of the expectations that they follow in the class. We are looking forward to getting to know them more as the weeks progress and look forward to meeting you.

We have enjoyed digital photography in our forest school session and trying to make interesting photographs. In Ranger, we have been exploring thermal equilibrium by heating different items. The students have particularly enjoyed tin can cooking and melting butter and buttons. In Maths, we have been learning about fractions and converting mixed numbers. In English, we have been finding out about Prim and Katniss in the 'Hunger Games' and are looking forward to finding out more about the games and symbols in the text.



VIKING - Hilary

In Computing this term, we have been thinking about how people used to communicate with each other before the invention of telephones and computers. We used musical instruments to make up our own codes in Morse Code and International Telegraph Code.



In English, we are continuing to work on 'The Hunger Games' and will be writing our own Dystopian stories eventually. In Maths, we found out about Improper Fractions and Mixed Numbers and used bread rolls with tasty fillings to help us to understand!



ACE - Zak



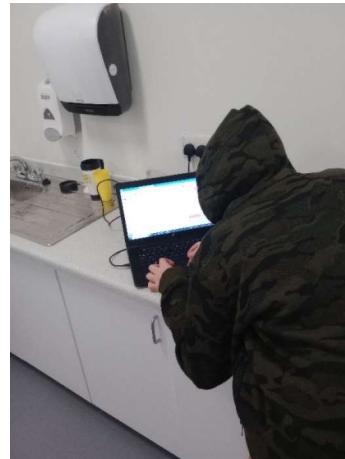
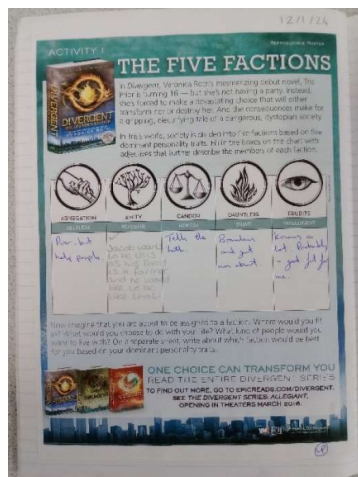
We loved taking interesting digital photographs in Forest School this week. It was like going back in time to when we didn't have cameras on phones! In English, we have been analysing the symbols on the front cover of 'The Hunger Games' and whether we should judge a book by its cover or not. We decided that the blurb on the back is much more informative!

MARINER - Simon

In Mariner this week, we have developed our routines again really well. The students have done some fantastic work in English, Science and Maths in particular.

English this week has focused on the factions in our text 'The Divergent'. People are sorted into factions, based on their character traits and we have done work around which faction we would all be in and why. In Maths, we have worked on decimal and fraction equivalents, whilst one student has continued to access their GCSE maths sessions.

Science this week has been really practical, where we have been exploring elastic energy and its effects. We did this by building catapults and a lollipop stick chain reaction.



AQUARIUS - Katie



In Aquarius this week, the students and staff have really enjoyed a plethora of games and have used some of the reading times to play some of them where you have to read the cards out and decide if the scenarios are true or false and another game where you decide the funniest sentence. In the afternoons, we've continued looking at our personal hygiene (I will spare you from pictures of our gross bacteria ridden bread... suffice to say, handwashing was not great, or maybe the drying was questionable!) So on Tuesday, we spent some time discussing this and re-did the experiment in the hope that the bread has a lot less bacteria this time around and that the boys have learnt something about washing and drying their hands, especially before eating or putting their hands to their face/mouth.



In Maths, we have focussed on lots of loci - equidistant from various things: points, lines and shapes. Each pathway group has really collaborated well with others within their group and managed to work out the shapes that would be made using post-it notes or counters to demonstrate these shapes... we even learnt a new shape name: discorectangle.



NEW HORIZONS - Jenni

New Horizons enjoyed watching 'Ready Player One' on Monday in preparation for our new English topic. We enjoyed some tasty popcorn and watched the exciting film together in the Common Room on the big television.

We have spent the time discussing the Easter Eggs and cool pop culture references - I was surprised at how many our students recognised for their age!

Elphie has enjoyed several lower school visitors coming to see her and help with her care this week - she especially enjoyed a creative maze that one student had made using pencils.



Social Comms Activities This Week

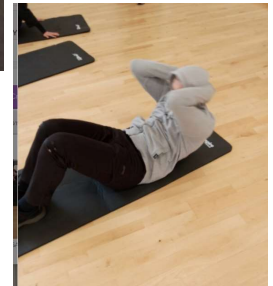
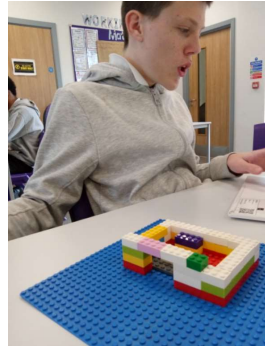
<p>Share your opinion on this picture</p> 	<p>Play a board game with Jenni, Bharti or Demi</p> 	<p>Get creative with Lego</p> 
<p>Plan a recipe for some cooking we can do together - Let Jenni know what to order!</p> 	<p>Do a job for Elphie</p> 	<p>How many star jumps can you do in two minutes?</p> 

SWIFT - Sam R

In Swift this week, the students have been using their artistic skills to create illustrations of animals and took part in class discussions on a range of topics.

In Computing, we have been focusing on Algorithms and how they work in computers and in the outside world. Lego was used to create a physical understanding of algorithms and this helped in the students understanding of why clear instructions and order are necessary.

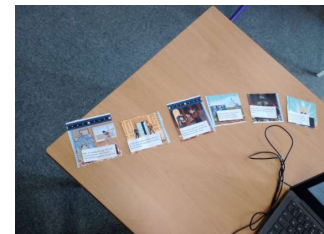
In PE, students have been continuing to assess their fitness by taking part in the 12 minute Cooper test and the Vertical jump test. All the students did extremely well with their focus and determination.



STARDUST - Sam P

Stardust students have been super focused this week in Social Communication looking at who and what we can trust online from fake news to scams. We have learnt two new terms 'smishing' (scams sent via sms) and 'vishing' (scams carried out over a voice call). They have all demonstrated a great deal of knowledge on the subject and identified ways to stay safe online.

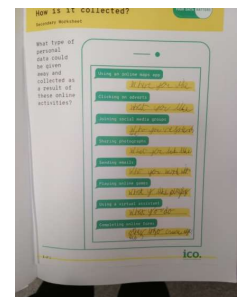
On Monday in preparation for studying the novel in class, all upper school students had the opportunity to watch a screening of 'Ready Player One' in the Common Room or participate in plot and character activities in the Stardust quiet room. Most students were brilliant and demonstrated great expected behaviours in the film viewing or engaged well in the quiet room activities.



In English lessons this week, Pathway One students have been looking at the setting in the opening of 'Ready Player One' and identifying what techniques the author uses to create a futuristic world. Caden had a great lesson on Thursday picking out implicit information from the text, Theo and Ade have also been brilliant by staying in for the whole lesson and completing all the tasks. In Pathway 1 Group 1, students showed excellent self-evaluation and advocacy skills when reflecting on new vocabulary and asking for more time to understand Jargon and Juxtaposition.



In PSHE this week, Pathway 2 groups have been exploring fake news and how to keep personal information safe online. All students showed a mature approach to the tasks and had some detailed discussions about how personal data can be collected online.



SCIENCE - Laura, Nic and Tam



Pathway 1 students on Wednesday brought their sensible heads and successfully managed the neutralisation required practical that demonstrates an exothermic reaction.

Pathway 2 students have been continuing with the energy topic with how energy is transferred and more importantly energy as food. On Friday, they will be burning food to work out which type of food manages to increase the water by the greatest temperature.



FOREST SCHOOL - Karen and Penny

It has been a chilly week in the forest, but an enjoyable experience. We have enjoyed over the past couple of weeks taking photographs of different things including creating abstract photos. We have whittled animals in our options sessions and some students have been pruning back the large Holly bush that keeps on annoying us. The students have got a little carried away with the pruning!

Our storm kettle from the 'Learning through Landscapes' grant has finally arrived so we are looking forward to boiling the kettle in the forest for our hot chocolate drinks.



OTHER NEWS



The Fusion Academy Celebrating Achievements

Jacob C for making his mum's day on Thursday



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

**MOVING ON
EVENT**

**FUSION
ACADEMY**

**THURSDAY 14TH
MARCH 2 - 6PM**

COME AND JOIN OUR FIRST MOVING ON EVENT. AN AFTERNOON TO MEET POST 16 PROVIDERS, INCLUDING COLLEGES, APPRENTICESHIPS AND EMPLOYERS.

NWSLC
NATIONAL WORKSCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

llep
Learner & Employer Partnership

CONFIRMED PROVIDERS:

- NWSLC
- LOUBOUGH COLLEGE
- LLEP
- SMB COLLEGE

**SMB
College
Group**
Mind of the group

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD AT
THE FUSION ACADEMY,
MOORE ROAD,
BARWELL,
LEICESTER,
LE9 8AG

01455 243689
office@thefusionacademy.co.uk



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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