

2nd February 2024

INTRODUCTION

Hi All,

We have had another wonderful week at The Fusion Academy, with plenty of enjoyable moments across the school.

On Monday, some of our older students completed some mock exams for the very first time. Understandably, there were some nerves and stresses, but in the end, every student was able to complete it. We do not want to understate this feat, as we know how hard a lot of our students have to work to be able to work under exam conditions, especially when they've had to think about it all weekend! Whilst we know exams do not represent the full child, we also know it is a part of the expectations of life, so we know how important getting the practice in is.

The forest has been another popular space for the students this week, as the weather has started to improve. On Thursday, we were privileged enough to see how Juno were beginning to clear out and utilise a new space down there. Between four of them, with a little help from the support staff, the children used old fencing to create a bridge across the brook. It was great to see such focussed teamwork on show.

We've both spent some time in classes this week supporting PSHE lessons and it's been great to see how the young people of the school access some, sometimes tricky topics. A debate around mobile phone use really got us thinking, and some time spent discussing healthy and unhealthy relationships showed a fantastic understanding of what is important in friendships. All of this leads to students being able to self-advocate as they get older.

You'll be pleased to know, we are seeing a real reduction in the fire alarms again, and we are hopeful the strategies put in place will see this continue.

As ever, we hope you have an enjoyable and peaceful weekend,

Katie & Tunde

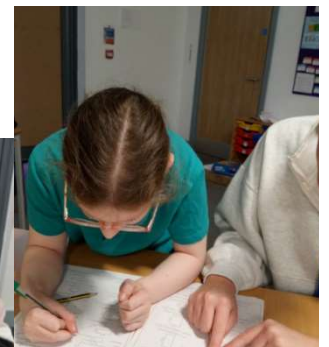
JUNO - Annabelle



We have started a new book in English this week called 'Tuesday'. It has been a huge hit with our students and due to having hardly any words, just very detailed pictures we are able to return to it again and again to interpret what we think is going on and possibilities there are around what might happen next. Science was fantastic at the end of last week as we got to try foods on different textures and talk about what teeth we used to break the food down and chew it. We also had a go at brushing our teeth! We discovered that we really enjoy strawberry flavoured toothpaste and that we can make lots of bubbles when brushing our teeth. We also have something called 'Bucket time' with one of our speech and language specialists a couple of times a week, as you can see above the whole of Juno are present and engaged, sharing this space and listening to what Michelle has to say about the toys she has in the bucket. This is part of our attention autism group and has been a huge success in the classroom, and we are seeing an increase in engagement and enjoyment each week.

GENESIS - Aimee W

We have had lots of fun in Genesis this week. We have spent lots of time developing our friendships through social interactions and play. Some students have enjoyed their weekly hydrotherapy swimming sessions, they have all come back very excited. Our focus for English this half term is an Alex Rider spy story. Students created a 'secret laser maze' in the classroom using ribbon and then had a race to see who could get through it the fastest without touching the lasers. We continued with our Greek cooking theme this week by baking some olive oil cookies. All students worked really hard to follow the recipe accurately and the cookies went down very well! On Thursday afternoon, we joined Gateway and enjoyed a trip out to the local park. One memorable moment from this trip was when a student got themselves stuck in the baby swing and Tunde had to come to the rescue!



GATEWAY - Christina

This week, we have been continuing to explore the plot of our text, Alex Rider. Students have been completing a scavenger hunt to find out more about the main villain and their plans. They were able to crack the clues to find the hidden information. We have also been exploring newspaper reports and their features. One student has written an amusing news report and released it round the school. In Forest Schools, we have been exploring digital photography. One student made an amazing video on littering and campaigning for less litter and a cleaner forest.



CALIPSO - Sam S

We have loved exploring 'The Hunger Games' in more detail this week. We have delved into the relationships between Katniss and the other characters, and how her experience differs to that of the tributes from the different districts.

The algebraic skills of the students have been amazing! They have been substituting values into single and two-step expressions and have found a variety of ways to solve the problems.

During PE, the class have worked together to design purposeful sensory circuits with alerting, organising and calming activities.

In Science, we had an absolute blast while exploring the digestive system! We worked through an experiment to show how food is digested through the body and how waste products are made. We were all in agreement that it was disgusting, but cool.

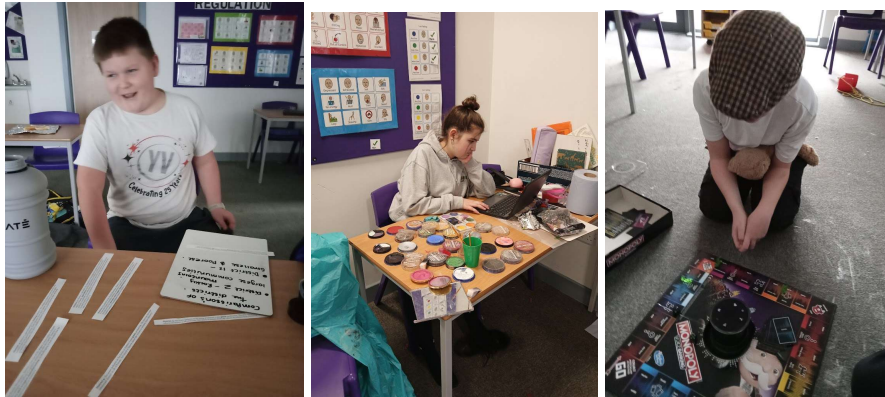


RANGER - Susie and Vicki

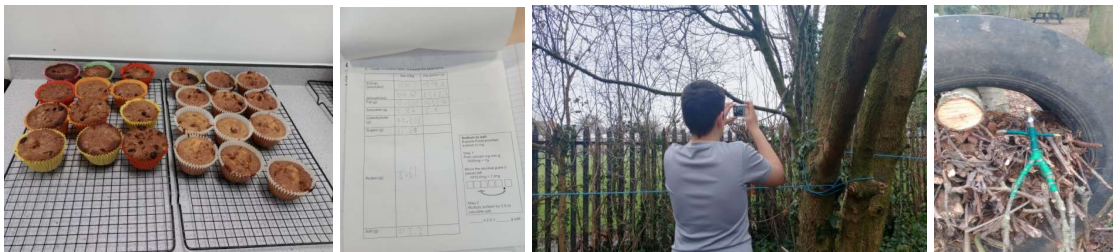
This week, we have been continuing to explore the themes and characters in 'The Hunger Games' book. We have been thinking about the concept of Dystopian and Utopian literature. Students identified what the 'districts' looked like and even came up with their own ideas.

We enjoyed exploring our creativity in our Art lessons using mediums that ranged from junk modelling to face painting.

In PE, we looked at achieving our personal best. This week's focus was on pushing yourself to beat your previous score.



VIKING - Hilary



In Viking this week, we made mini carrot cakes and analysed the amount of energy they contain. This is linked to our Science unit in which we have been learning about the amount of energy in Kilojoules that are found in different foods.

In Forest School, we made stick people using sticks and wool. We then photographed them in a lot of different ways around the forest.

In English, we wrote our own pieces of Dystopian Fiction. Our results are really quite impressive!

ACE - Zak

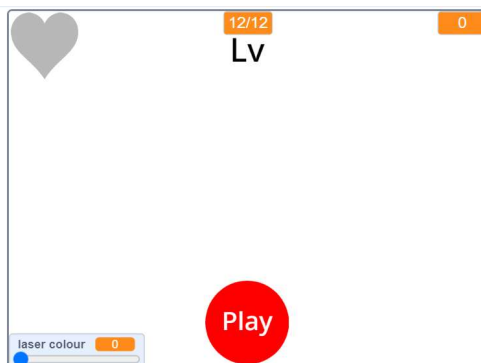
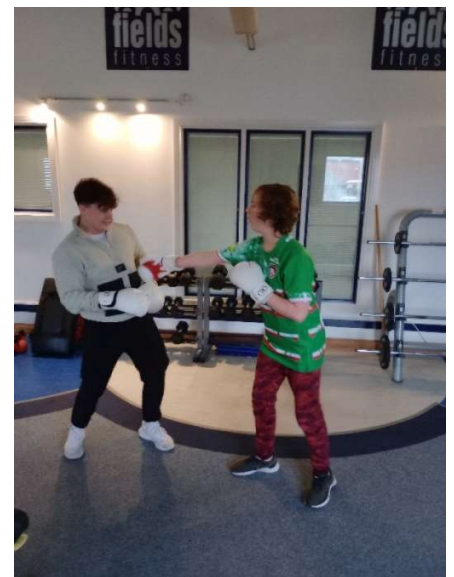
This week in Ace class, we have continued to be creative with technology by creating our own instrumental songs in Music lessons to make the listener picture a certain animal in their heads. For example, the bumblebee song has a high pitch and a very fast pace, pulse and rhythm. In RE lessons, we have been looking at how Hindus can use technology to make it easier and more accessible to worship. During Maths, we have been looking at improper fractions and mixed numbers. In Science, we have looked at thermal energy and in English, we have explored the theme of humanity whilst reading and reviewing chapter 6 of 'The Hunger Games'.



MARINER - Simon

In Mariner this week, we have had a really positive week, where we have had 2 new members of staff with us and our focus on building relationships and learning how we all work together. We have enjoyed trips to the gym and shopping and had a really engaging cooking session, where we made tiffin as a class. One student has also tested a staff member on their kickboxing skills this week and another student has engaged really well with the new staff, sharing their interests and football skills.

Another student has been showing off their coding skills in class too, creating a new game for others to enjoy:
<https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/951071624>



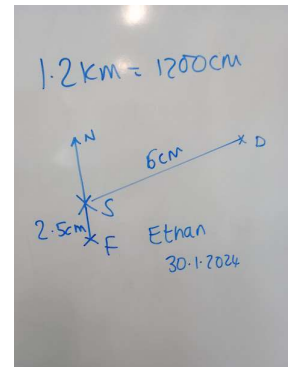
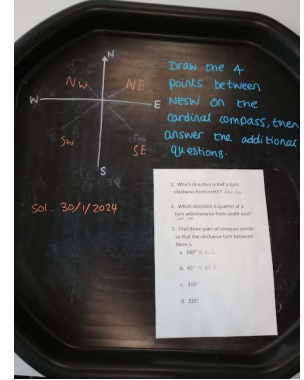
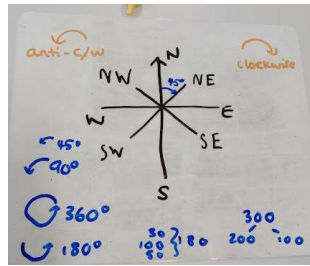
AQUARIUS - Katie



In Maths (after the end of unit assessment questions) and in social communication time, students have been working on collaboration with games - lots of problem solving and also helping each other to improve with a great deal of positive language being used and encouragement.



Our new topic in Maths has been Bearings and Angles - we've applied it to real life, discussing pilots, sailors and pirates! But, also constructing some scale drawings. I think that some students were very happy to put down the pairs of compasses for a little while and work with cardinal compasses for a change.



NEW HORIZONS - Jenni

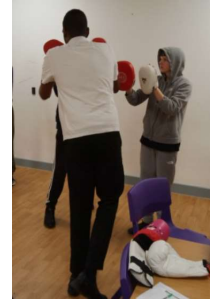
This week in New Horizons, we have been playing card games. Theo had a lovely time playing Uno with staff, even implementing some of his own rules. During Humanities, some of the students had a debate on whether mobile phones should or should not be banned in schools. They even shared their views with Katie and Tunde.



SWIFT - Sam R

This week in Swift, our focus has been on honing social skills as we collaborated on solving word and music puzzles, and delved into identifying geographical locations. The students showcased remarkable abilities, demonstrating both skill and knowledge in these engaging activities.

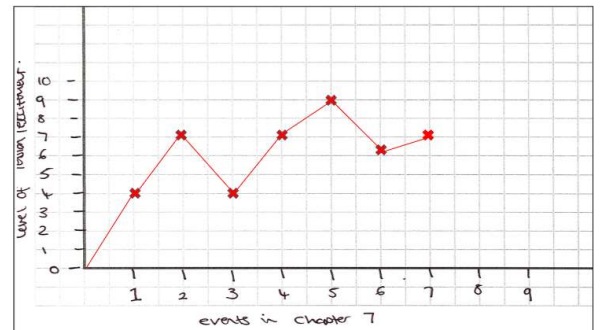
In Physical Education, our students persistently pursued fitness development, navigating through invigorating circuit training sessions and dynamic games that targeted their anaerobic systems, fostering both strength and agility.



Within the realm of Computers, the students have been channelling their creativity into graphic designs. As we approach the final weeks, they are now refining their ideas in anticipation of presenting and explaining their innovative concepts. It's inspiring to witness their progress and dedication in each facet of learning!

STARDUST - Sam P

In English this week, Pathway 1 students have continued their study of Ready Player One with a focus on how writers use structural techniques to hook the reader and create tension as Wade advances towards completing the first challenge.



During PSHE this week, Pathway 1 students spent some time in the kitchen making food that could be ordered using an app. They worked well together and made some delicious treats. Josh excelled being the only student to make two different treats. A big thank you to Owen and Luke for giving a helping hand with cleaning up the kitchen.

In PSHE with pathway 2 this week, we have explored healthy online relationships and had some interesting discussions around how we could manage difficult situations online.

SCIENCE - Laura, Nic and Tam



Pathway 1 students have been continuing the rates of reactions topic this week where they have been making copper sulphate crystals as shown in the photograph. They have also been investigating the rate of reaction by colour change which did bring about a discussion about when a cross can no longer be seen.

Pathway 2 students have been finishing off the energy topic and will have an end of unit test.

FOREST SCHOOL - Karen and Penny

This week, we have set the options group the task of clearing the right hand side of the forest so that all of the students can use it safely. The students have been problem solving and created a bridge from one side of the stream to the other. They also cleared rubbish from the area and cut down branches that were unsafe or at eye height. An amazing start on this area. Some students made a fire and had a go at cooking ration packs. Whittling skills and throwing skills were also put into practice.



In lower school, the students have continued to enjoy taking photos in the forest and creating images of items that they have created. We also had a donation of dry wood for our fires and the students kindly reloaded our log store and sorted out all of the logs.



OTHER NEWS



The Fusion Academy Celebrating Achievements

Albie and Henry for supporting each other every morning when coming to school



Emails

We have been made aware of some emails that might appear to show the name of Janet Thompson. These are not being sent by our schools or trust, and would ask that people check the email address to identify its authenticity and mark those emails as Spam.

Thank you.



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 WORKSHOPS & COLLEGE VISITS CENTRE

Llep
LEICESTER & LEICESTERSHIRE LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP

SMB College Group
The Way to the Future

CONFIRMED PROVIDERS:

- NWSLC
- LOUGHBOROUGH COLLEGE
- LLEP
- SMB COLLEGE

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

01455 243689

office@thefusionacademy.co.uk



Support

Here we will share useful websites that provide support for families.

- [CAMHs Resources](#) (Useful resource website for books, websites and Apps)
- [NSPCC - Support for Parents](#)
- [The National Autistic Society](#)



NSPCC





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
- ★ Holwell Pastures Residential Meeting: Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 4pm - 5pm

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

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