

16th February 2024

## INTRODUCTION

Hello All,

We must start this newsletter with a formal apology and redaction. Two newsletters ago, you may remember us mentioning that lower school had built a bridge in the forest. I have been reliably informed that this was not lower school, and was in fact two members of Pathway Two. Please accept this formal apology, Jacob and Jude. What we did learn though, was that the younger students in the school have thoroughly enjoyed their time using the new section of our forest school, so we need to thank the two older boys for their fantastic contribution to the school environment.

It feels like that half-term has flown by, and we know the next one is super short too. There's been so much to celebrate, from first time exams to students making big life choices. It feels like despite the short amount of time, we're seeing some brilliant progress being made in the lives of the young people here. Across the whole school, there are things to celebrate.

Currently, there is a challenge amongst the staff and students at The Fusion Academy to complete an online video game. This game is highly frustrating and incredibly challenging, and what is even more impressive is that it was created by one of our pupils. So far, the best we've seen is someone reaching the final level, but no one has completed it. We're all waiting for the first person to beat Dylan's game!

Over half-term, we will be making some adjustments to the school, developing one room into a media suite for the students to use. The students have worked with Sam to design their perfect room and we'll be using this as a guide for our renovation. Once this is complete, we'll send out our updates so you can see what we've done.

We hope your half-term is full of enjoyable activities, see you all on the 26th!

Katie & Tunde

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## JUNO - Annabelle

What a busy week in Juno! We have progressed our learning in Maths and started to look at fractions. We were able to use our leftover pancakes really well to show halves and quarters.

We have continued with our work on the book 'Tuesday', interpreting the images and making predictions on what is happening and what might happen next. There has also been so much role play! The new favourite theme is doctors and infected zombies, it was fully child led, and involved lots of interactions and all students involved enjoyed working on the same idea. They showed understanding of some Science and RSE topics we are yet to cover and also how well they can communicate and play together when they let their imagination lead them!

Everyone is well and truly ready for the little half term break, it has been a really successful start to the year so far, well done Juno.



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## GENESIS - Aimee W

We have seen lots of amazing teamwork and communication in Genesis this week. Firstly, on our visit to the park where students took turns on the equipment and supported each other whilst using the climbing wall. Next, they made a big pancake mix as a whole class and shared this out between them. On Wednesday, students worked in pairs to bake some chocolate cakes. They were very yummy! One student was kind enough to share some of his cake with a peer that had missed the cooking session. We were all very proud that he had been so generous and kind. On Thursday, we all took part in playing lots of games where the students demonstrated some great resilience, concentration and communication skills.

We have made some changes to our Quiet Room, it has been filled with lots of lovely sensory items for the children to explore and experiment with. The students decided together to call it 'The Calm Room' and created their own expectations for the room.

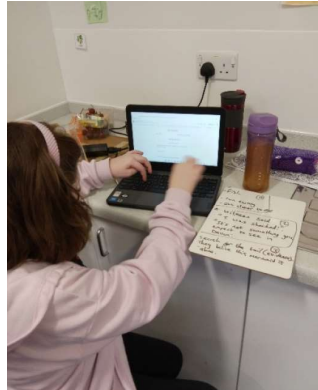
We hope you all have a lovely half term!!



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## GATEWAY - Christina

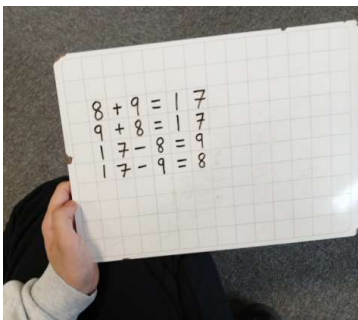
We had a fantastic last week! In Science, we have concluded our learning on animals and food chains. We fed the school tortoise and guinea pigs, exploring its diet and what teeth they have. In English, we have been creating our own newspaper reports, emails or letters. We have had some interesting pieces of work completed. In Maths, we've been practising converting fractions to decimals and percentages. We have been doing this in a range of ways.



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## CALIPSO - Sam S

What an amazing final week in Calipso. The students have all welcomed me into the classroom and have helped me with the routines of the class. We have continued our focus in English on the 'Hunger Games' and thinking about the perspective of Peeta and his emotions. In Maths, we have started to look at equations and use our knowledge of inverses to create algebraic equations. In History, we created mythical creatures linked to our lesson on Hercules and the 12 labours. To wrap off the week, we have enjoyed a visit to the park to explore the local community.



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## RANGER - Susie and Vicki

This week Ranger has continued to study the last section of 'The Hunger Games' and we are looking forward to moving onto non-fiction news writing after half term.

We have been looking at advertisements in Computing and the young people have enjoyed making their own advertisements - one of which involved Fusion's pet guinea pigs.

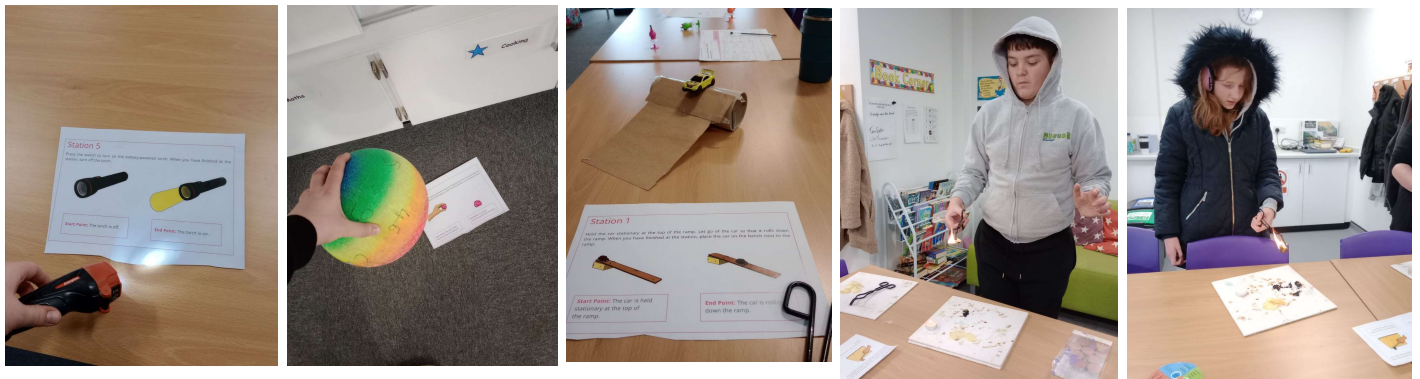
In Maths, we have been working on percentages and we have also enjoyed exploring love in our Art lesson this week with Jenni.

To end the week, most of us have been to the forest, whilst a few spent some time in the cooking room.



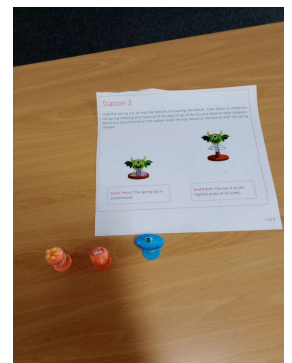
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## VIKING - Hilary



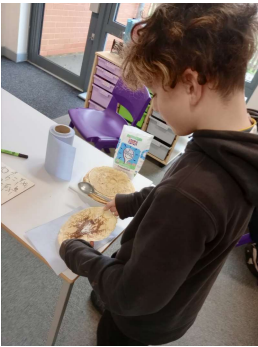
In Viking this week, we have been investigating different types of energy stores and transfers. The best bit was setting fire to crisps! We are coming to the end of our English Unit about 'The Hunger Games' and are looking forward to moving on to non-fiction news writing next term.

We have also been very skillful mathematicians this week working on Percentages and Fractions.



## ACE - Zak

We enjoyed Pancake day and Valentine's Day by doing some cooking and drama lessons this week. In English, we have explored themes of tension, human nature and feminism in 'The Hunger Games'. In Maths, we have completed our fractions summative assessments and looking forward to moving on to look at ratio and proportion after half term. During Science, we have been looking at energy efficiency and more specifically how to draw Sankey diagrams. In RE, we have looked at how Jewish ethics can be applied when using technology. We also did some research and created presentations on what data science is during our Computing session. We have worked hard and made lots of progress over the last 6 weeks!

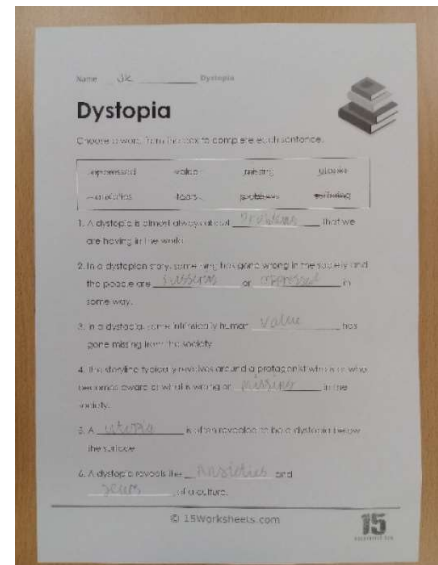


## MARINER - Simon

Another excellent week of turning our engagement into learning in Mariner. The students have achieved a lot in their lessons and have shown us that they are ready to learn.

In English, we completed our learning around Dystopian texts by showing our understanding of the theme. Oscar showed great understanding on what Dystopia means and had some good creative ideas to fit this. In Maths, we all completed our topic on Fractions, Percentages and Decimals with a knowledge check and Jacob moved on to learn about vectors.

In Science this week, we also summarised our learning about energy by making our own chain reaction machine. One student enjoyed helping with this and offered lots of constructive feedback on Simon and Max's efforts.



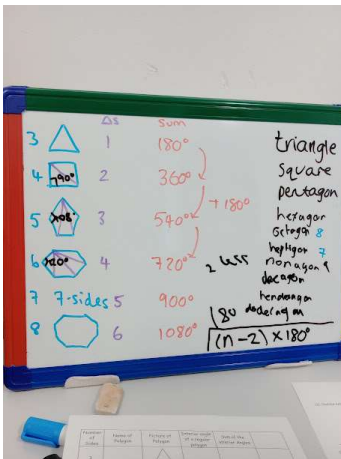
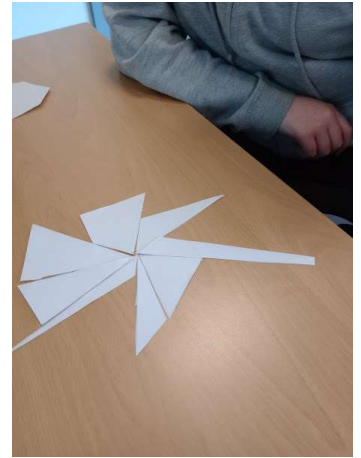
## AQUARIUS - Katie



In Maths with upper school this week, we have focused on exterior and interior angles of (regular) polygons.

We did a 'hands-on' task which involved extending lines of the polygons that students drew to see where the external angles are, then cut all the pieces out.

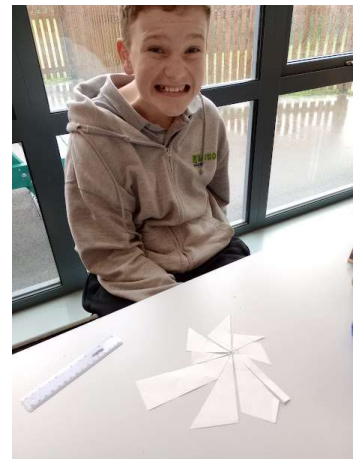
Students could then see that no matter what size polygon they had, they all created angles around a point, pretty much proving that all polygons have exterior angles summing to  $360^\circ$ .



Students then used this to calculate any missing angles in further images provided to them to practise knowing this new rule.

Lewis later used the little whiteboard to showcase interior angles by splitting regular polygons into minimal triangles, finally working out the rule  $(n-2) \times 180^\circ$ .

Another student has worked on using lots of angle rules to "prove geometric facts" which was impressive to watch!



## NEW HORIZONS - Jenni

This week, New Horizons have been thinking about our aspirations and our journey towards our goals. This is a challenging conversation for many of our young people, but they have handled the topic with great maturity. Next term, we will be starting to look into more details of how we can use the time we have in school to work towards achieving our goals.

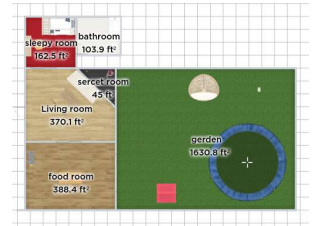
Pathway 2 Students received their mock exam results this week and have handled that well - Exam conditions were a challenge for several young people, but they now know what to expect and are mostly positive about the next time they will sit a paper.



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## SWIFT - Sam R

In Swift, our journey through musical history has been a captivating exploration. By deciphering snippets of songs spanning decades, students have showcased an impressive depth of musical knowledge.



Over in Computing, the culmination of our Graphic Design project has revealed the students' remarkable talent for intricate design details. Their creations speak volumes, complemented by persuasive written pieces promoting their innovative designs.

In PE, students have been refining their skills in Archery, focusing on precision as they adjust distances based on arrow placements. Additionally, they revisited their initial fitness assessments, measuring their progress since the start of term. Many students demonstrated significant improvements, a testament to their diligent efforts in enhancing their physical fitness levels.



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## STARDUST - Sam P



We started this week off with some healthy competition by way of a pancake (or tortilla wrap as they are more robust) throwing competition. John showed super concentration and managed to flip his 'pancake' 45 times in a minute. Students also had the opportunity to make some origami roses for Valentine's Day on Wednesday.

In English, this week we have been looking at different types of story endings and understanding the effects of each type of ending. We also read the final chapter of 'Ready Player One' before making predictions about what might happen in 'Ready

Player Two'. Damon was spot on with his predictions.



In Life Skills this week, Pathway 2 Group 1 students had a cooking lesson making burgers or spaghetti bolognese. Students were able to demonstrate their independence by following a recipe and using the correct equipment safely. Jacob challenged himself by taking his burger mixture down to the forest to cook on an open fire.

In PSHE, Pathway 2 groups have been looking at digital footprints and what information we might be leaving behind. We also talked about our reputation and why colleges, universities and employers may search our digital footprint when we apply for courses and jobs. We watched a video about students who lost their place at university due to the online activities.

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## SCIENCE - Laura, Nic and Tom

Pathway 1 students have been distilling salt water into pure water. One of the students is doing his practical work including making the salt crystals out of the saturated saline solution using an evaporating bowl. He chose to test the temperature of the boiling salt solution.

Pathway 2 students have had feedback on the tests they sat and how with perseverance there was a chance to gain extra marks. Then, they started to look at the new topic Ecology which we will start properly after half term.



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## FOREST SCHOOL - Karen and Penny

Another successful week in forest school, the mud and the mudslides have not dampened the spirits of the students. We have continued this week making our bridge on the other side of the forest school adding a handrail to stop people slipping into the stream. In Key Stage 2, we have been making fires and photographing them. In Gateway, we had pancakes in the rain for Shrove Tuesday.





## OTHER NEWS



### The Fusion Academy Celebrating Achievements

Everyone for a great half-term!



## Careers & Next Steps

★ Reminder for our upcoming 'Moving On Event' on Thursday 14th March - this will coincide with our parents' evening, where families are welcome to pop into our main hall to meet with Post 16 Providers to discuss options and find out information that can support the pathway for your young person. We will be sharing more information after half term.

★ When we return from half term, we will be having our second whole school 'Futures' day on Friday 1st March, focusing on all things careers. We will be sure to share photos of all the fun we learn about.



★ Q&A with Hannah - Our Careers Advisor Hannah is on hand to answer any questions you have in

relation to anything post 16. We have created a Google Form for you to submit your questions. We will share the answers for the general questions received each half term, as it may support other families with the same questions. Click this link to submit your question; [Post-16 Q&A with Hannah](#)

**FUSION**  
ACADEMY

**MOVING ON  
EVENT**

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

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

**Above&Beyond**

**llep**  
Leicester & Leicestershire  
Enterprise Partnership

**CONFIRMED PROVIDERS:**

- SENSE COLLEGE
- LOUGHBOROUGH COLLEGE
- LLEP
- SMB COLLEGE

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

01455 243689

office@thefusionacademy.co.uk



## Support

Here are some resources that may be supportive for our families.

- ★ [leicspart.nhs.uk/autism-space](https://leicspart.nhs.uk/autism-space)
- ★ [healthforteens.co.uk](https://healthforteens.co.uk)
- ★ [BBC Actionline](https://www.bbc.com/actionline)



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>

## hole in the wall

### School Uniform

We have a new website and it's going live this week. The website comes with new branding and an added name, Learn In Style. The reason for this is local customers know us but new or far away customers think we are a cash machine! Don't worry though, our shop, staff and customer service will remain exactly the same and will continue trading as Bradwards Ltd. The Hole In The Wall shop will eventually have Learn in style added on the frontage.

Customers will be able to access Learn In Style at <https://learninstyle.co.uk/> and will also be redirected from our old website [holeinthewall.shop](https://holeinthewall.shop) for roughly six months. During this time the links to both websites will work.

We hope that you love Learn In Style as much as we do and enjoy the fresh look and feel of our new website. The size charts will be added before we go live to make it much easier to size up.



Birmingham  
**NOYO**  
Ensemble

**mac**  
Midlands Arts Centre

In partnership with

**B:Music**

Services  
For Education



## Call out for 11-25 year-old musicians

- Join the National Open Youth Orchestra's Birmingham NOYO Ensemble where brilliant disabled and non-disabled musicians rehearse and perform together - on acoustic, electronic and accessible instruments.
- Develop your musical skills within a pioneering inclusive ensemble.
- We learn music not only from notation, but also by ear and through improvisation.

Come to our Birmingham Open Rehearsals on 24 February and 9 March 2024.  
Apply online 23 February - 24 March 2024. More information at [noyo.org.uk](http://noyo.org.uk)



## SEND Hub

### COFFEE AND CONNECTIONS For parents run by parents

A group for parents and carers of SEND children in Leicestershire.

**10:30- 12:00pm drop in  
second and fourth Friday of the month**

9th February, 8th March, 22nd March, 12th April, 26th April,  
10th May, 24th May, 14th June, 28th June



@ The Hub, Tay Road,  
New Lubbethorpe,  
LE19 4BF

All welcome - join us  
for a hot drink and  
biscuits a chat and,  
information



Children of all ages  
welcome

Presenting  
**DICK  
 WHITTINGTON**  
 The Earl Shilton & Barwell Pantomime

**Fusion Academy**  
 Moore Road, Barwell, LE9 8AG

Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd February, 7pm  
 Saturday 24th February 2pm & 7pm

Adults £6  
 Concessions £4

Box Office:  
 07518273337

STAGEWORKS  
 PERFORMANCE  
*Community Theatre*

**Green Towers**  
 Hinckley Club 4 Young People

**Easter Club**

-  **FREE SPACES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE FREE SCHOOL MEALS**
-  **£1.50 PER SESSION FOR MEMBERS**  
**£3.00 PER SESSION FOR NON MEMBERS**
-  **BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROVIDED FOR ALL CHILDREN**
-  **DRINKS PROVIDED FOR ALL CHILDREN**
-  **LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES**

**8 - 18 yrs**

**25th - 28th  
 March  
 9am - 12pm**

**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE PLEASE CONTACT US ON  
 01455 230468 OR  
 EMAIL OFFICE@GREENTOWERS.CO.UK**

**Richmond Road, Hinckley LE10 0DZ**



## Diary Dates

- ★ 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/>

[office@thefusionacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@thefusionacademy.co.uk)

Contact Number: 01455 243689