

31st January 2025

INTRODUCTION

Hi All,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the calendar year. 2025 has started and we have so much to celebrate in terms of engagement and learning.

In KS3, the students enjoyed a trip out to the New Walk Museum in Leicester as part of their art project work this term. Look out for future announcements of our own art exhibition in Hinckley!

The students have also recently adapted well to their timetable changes. These changes will help prepare them better for KS4 where they will be transitioning between classrooms to do their learning.

In KS2, the young people have been spending time being resourceful in the local community by helping Tesco recycle their boxes. Using their brilliant social skills, some of the students took themselves to the local shop and then asked to use their old boxes for their artwork.

At the very top end of the school, in KS4, the young people are gearing up for their exams, and there is excitement around a school prom in the summer term. The level of engagement across KS4 has improved massively, and it is clear that students are beginning to realise and recognise their potential. They should be very proud of their efforts and endeavours.

Today, it is our 'Pens Down Day', where students will be engaging in learning that encourages them to learn without writing. We have drama, storytelling, scavenger hunts, and sessions in the forest for everyone to enjoy. We hope your children will come home and tell you all about it.

Over half-term there will be some structural changes to our perimeter fences. In KS2, we are adapting the fencing to make it easier to adapt the area for outdoor learning, and we will also be securing the forest by adding extra fencing there.

We hope you enjoy reading what everyone has done this month, and we're looking forward to February.

Katie & Tunde

JUNO - Annabelle & GENESIS - Aimee W

We are excited to share the latest happenings in our classrooms where our students have been engaging in a variety of subjects, building new friendships and getting ready for an exciting school event in the summer.

Our two classes have been looking at plants in Science. The students have been learning about how plants grow, their different parts and how they adapt to their environments. Hands-on experiments have helped bring these lessons to life, planting cress seeds and watching them grow has been an important part of daily routines.

In English, our students have been busy developing their writing skills through diary entries. We have been putting a real focus on the skills needed for this writing and mastering what the students already know.

We are seeing new friendships emerging across the two classes with students sharing spaces to learn and playing together and we are starting to see a sense of community between them.

Our school disco is a new event taking place in the summer and the excitement is building! To make the event even more special, the students have been working together to create a playlist of their favourite songs.

We can't wait to see everyone come together for a night of fun, music, and dancing!

We continue to be inspired by the hard work, creativity and positive spirit of all our students. As we approach the end of the term, there are still plenty of exciting things on the horizon. We are so proud of everything our students have accomplished and we look forward to more shared experiences, learning and fun in the coming weeks.



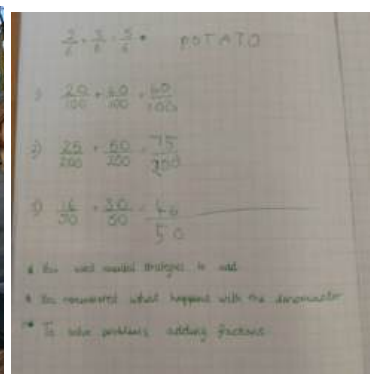
GATEWAY - Sam S

In Gateway, we have all been working hard and have been enjoying our new Forest School session with Claire. We have been making and creating tools and digging a new bunker. It is getting very deep now! We always work up an appetite in the afternoons! In our Friday session, we have been exploring different types of flint and steels to find the one we like the best. We have also looked at different types of tinder and how they can keep a fire going for longer or to help to refuel a dying fire.

We have been working hard on our skills and knowledge of adding and subtracting fractions and understanding the terminology associated with them. During English, we are up to our final stages of the unit where we are researching information about a key scientist to write a biography for them. We have already found out some really interesting facts.

In PE, we continue to explore a range of invasion games and put into practice the skills we have learnt about dribbling and passing. We have also learnt about the words 'attack' and 'defence' and have tried to develop these different roles in what we do in a game. We were determined to get a successful rugby pass.

In Computing, we have been learning interesting facts about search engines and how to make a page come at the top of the list. We've learnt about key words and how this can help a page become number 1 on the list. We are, over the next week, developing some video scripts for adverts so stay tuned next month for an update on our stop motion and green screen work!



Elphie the Tortoise also visited our Geography lesson alongside our learning about the Galapagos Islands and Lonesome George the giant tortoise who was last of his kind. We have been thinking about Charles Darwin's journey and how he came to his theory of evolution.

CALIPSO - Christina

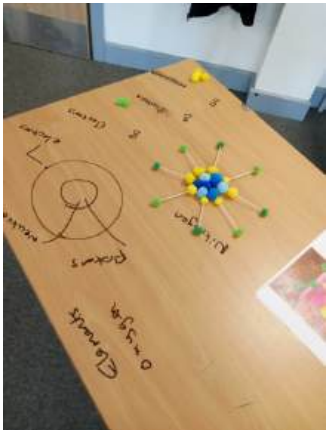


We have had a fantastic start to this half term! Our class has been finishing and starting new topics. During PE, we have been completing our topic on competitive sports. Young people have shown their capabilities of trying new sports. They have been supporting and encouraging their peers within the games and showing good sportsmanship.



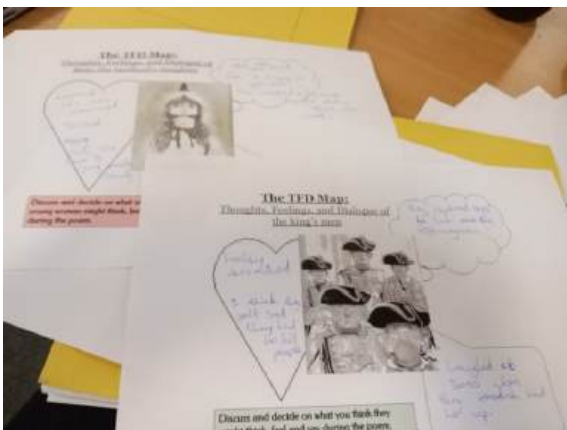
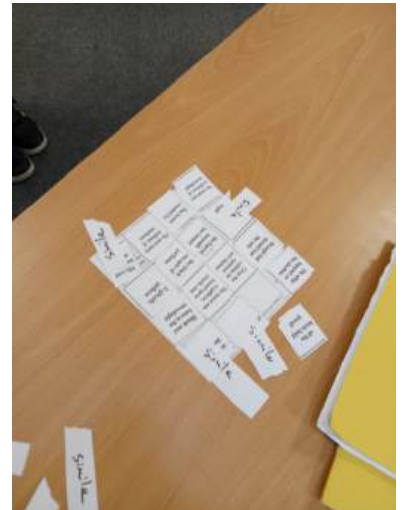
In Science, we have started to explore atoms, elements and compounds and mixtures. We have been learning about the periodic table and how elements are categorised using this. Through this, we have explored different groups of elements and how their properties link to their grouping. In our experiments, we have been creating mixtures and determining which substances are soluble and insoluble.

Most recently, we have been exploring the difference between a compound and a mixture. Students have been using their practical skills to investigate how to separate mixtures. Our class has been using fair methods, making predictions, observations and conclusions throughout their experiments.

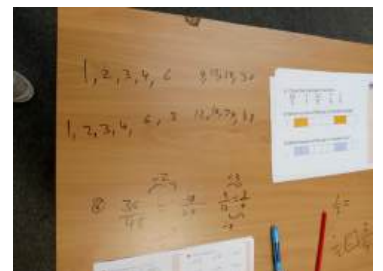


In our English topic, we have explored poetry through time, from Ancient Greece to the 1900s. Through this, we have studied different types of poetry, including epic poems and ballads. Students have been investigating themes, morals and language within these poems. They have been able to highlight and identify language techniques used in these poems and the effect they have. We have also been looking at the

structure of the poem and how the poet uses this to create atmosphere and tempo. Similarly, we have explored the use of rhyme to create tempo and discussed the purpose of this.



In Maths, we have been completing our topic on fractions. Students have been demonstrating their knowledge of how to use factors and multiples to convert fractions. They have also used this knowledge to find equivalent fractions. By using a common denominator, students have been able to show how to add and subtract fractions.



ARTEMIS - Jessica J-C & Kate

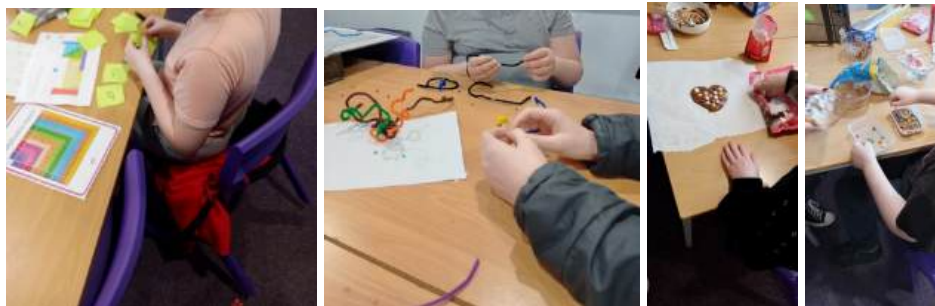
What an amazing month January has been! The class have all welcomed Jess and she has been given their seal of approval. This month has seen the end of Block 2 for most of our subjects.

During Maths, we have been working on revision skills and linking this with preparations for accessing exams in KS4. We are starting to get the hang of going back over our work to remind ourselves of how to approach different types of questions, and this has led to a much better level of engagement from the whole class. Tatiana has been the stand-out star with this, as she is developing her independence and working back through her books to remind herself of her previous learning without any adult support.

In English, we completed our topic of Epic Poems with some oral story-telling of our own Epic adventures. Of course, we were all the heroes of our own stories. Kate *may* have been the villain in a couple of them... No hard feelings, though!

Throughout Citizenship, we have worked to design our own "working village" similar to that of Bournville, with a big focus on what employees need and want to be able to give their best to their jobs. It'll be no surprise that Freddie and Laurence each created a village with a gaming building, while Bella created an island with designated space for music gigs. To end our topic, we combined different flavours to make bespoke chocolate bars. We thought carefully about allergens and cross-contamination, as well as texture and flavour of the different toppings. Nobody was impressed with Kate's choice of dark chocolate topped with salt and vinegar crisps, but as Vincent said, "It's actually not terrible."

Science is where the BIG successes have been this month. We are working on the periodic table and it has absolutely hooked the students in. Laurence began the topic by singing the periodic table song, and then created his own version of the table to go up on display - it's the one with pink post-it notes below. Laurence worked tirelessly on it and his enthusiasm soon captured the attention of the other students, prompting some of them to make their own versions. We've worked on creating models of atoms, calculating how many protons, electrons and neutrons each element has based on the atomic numbers and atomic mass. The concentration on their faces when they were stringing beads onto pipe cleaners was brilliant. Laurence is still working on his - he opted to make a model of Lawrencium, which needs 103 protons and 103 electrons in the nucleus, and 159 neutrons across 7 outer shells. The nucleus is currently the size of Kate's hand - we're not sure if the complete model will fit through the door, but we'll soon find out!



RANGER - Zak

The students have made a great start to the new year and their new topics! In Forest School, we have finished making shelters and now learning how to make fires. We also went to Leicester Museum's art gallery and found some of the original artwork from some of the original artists we have been studying whilst looking at textures. We are absolutely loving our English and Drama lessons on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and looking forward to our 'no pens' day on Friday for our whole day of different English related workshops. In Science, we have been learning about the rock cycle and all the different types of rocks. Our favourite lesson was the one where we used milk, dark and white chocolate to understand the processes, but also because we were able to eat the chocolate afterwards. We thoroughly enjoyed spinning discs in our Music lessons too with Jan. Enrichment has been brilliant too to see the students leading and teaching on their hobbies and interests. We are still shocked at how long it takes to paint each Warhammer piece. It was great to be introduced to this world even if a lot of us still don't understand all the rules it entails! Chess on Monday afternoon was a great session too. Not long now until Pancake Day where we will be making pancakes in the cooking room! In PE, we have been focusing on our long term health and looking at different ways we can stay physically healthy by not just doing cardio exercises, but by doing yoga, meditation, balancing and strength related activities too. We have been learning about the data handling cycle and looking at averages too during Maths where we have learnt some interesting information about the rest of our class. All in all, it has been a very exciting and productive few weeks for us at Fusion and it's been a pleasure to witness.



VIKING - Jess T

We are excited to share the latest updates from our wonderful Year 8 Viking class at Fusion Academy! The past few weeks have been filled with engaging activities and new learning adventures.

Our new topic in Forest School has sparked a lot of excitement! The students have been learning about the elements that make a fire and practicing the safe art of fire-starting. Soon, we'll be using our fires to cook delicious food, bringing practical skills and outdoor fun together.

In English, we have embarked on a journey through the Elizabethan era, focusing specifically on William Shakespeare. The students have created some amazing and creative fact files about Shakespeare's life and works. Our next adventure will take us deeper into one of his most famous plays, Romeo and Juliet.

We recently visited the Leicester Museum's art gallery where the students were mesmerised by original artwork from the artists we've been studying. This visit tied in perfectly with our exploration of textures and has inspired some wonderful class discussions and projects.

We're eagerly anticipating 'No Pens Day' on Friday. The students are especially excited about visiting Hinckley Library and participating in a thrilling Murder Mystery. It's sure to be a day full of hands-on learning and interactive fun!

In Science, Viking class has been investigating the rock cycle and the various types of rocks. The hands-on experiments and activities have made this topic engaging and memorable for the students.

Enrichment activities have been a highlight, especially the collage project. Students created collages that summarised their personality and interests then enjoyed trying to match the collages to their classmates. It was a fantastic way for students to express themselves and learn more about each other.

We are so proud of Viking class for their enthusiasm and creativity. It's been a great and interesting few weeks and we look forward to more exciting learning experiences ahead.



ACE & New Horizons - Simon, Vicki and Karen

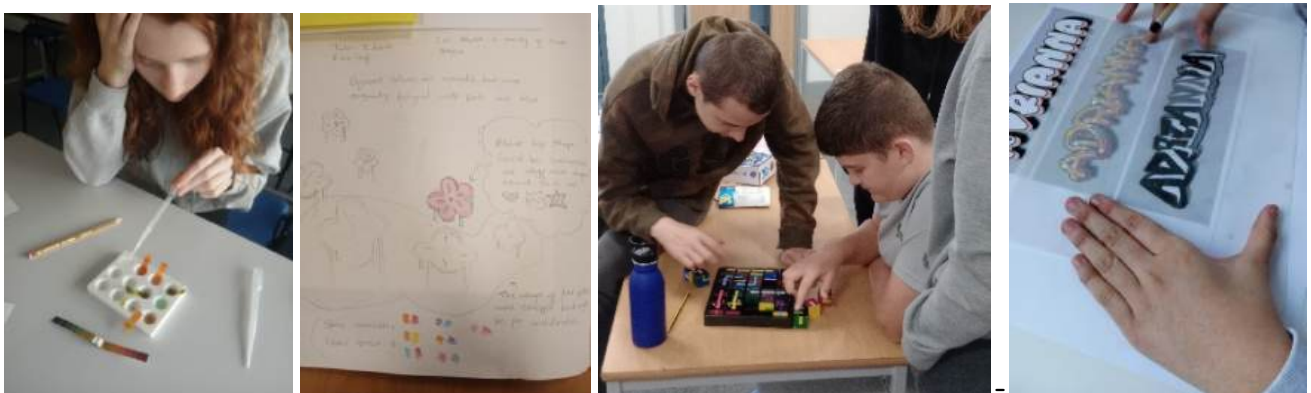
Ace and New Horizons have been focused on their learning after the Christmas break. It has been lovely listening to what they have completed over the holiday period and what they are looking forward to this year. In Forest School, we have been finishing off our shelters unit and we have created a range of shelters to include tipi shelters with no poles and ridge shelters. We enjoyed learning how to create a bough bed and adapted it to suit our needs in the forest.

During Citizenship, we have been learning about the seas and oceans. We have learnt some interesting statistics about the different seas and where they get their names from. The students have learnt about the impact of global warming on the planet including overfishing in certain areas. We've also had an interesting debate on refugees and why they flee their country.

In English to finish our topic on Romantic poetry and poetics from the Romantic era, we have been on a walk in the local area of Barwell and compared it to the forest ready to plan our poem in the style of either Wordsworth, Blake or Shelley.

We have certainly got some musicians blossoming in Year 9 and have taken to the keyboard quickly. They have been able to play pieces using the C, G7 and F chords and a melody simultaneously. Some students have been inspired to write and compose their own compositions on the keyboard too!

In Art, we have been learning how to create designs and write in a graffiti style.



KS4 English - Sam P and Jenni

In Mariner, Pioneer, Swift and Aquarius students have been finishing the end of 'A Christmas Carol'.

Students in Pioneer flexed their acting muscles to take on the roles of several characters in stave 5 of the play. They were able to use this role play activity to analyse how the character's felt about Scrooge's death and why Dickens included these scenes in the story.



Students have also been working on their evaluation skills by comparing Scrooge's character from the beginning and the end of the play. Zane and Caleb showed off their brilliant long term memories by being able to easily recall quotes from key characters and scenes in the novel. Callum has been working hard to contribute more in class discussions and showing his understanding of the play. In Mariner, Caden and Damon have been stepping up to support their classmates by contributing class modelled answers using our Jam Sandwich analogy.

How does Dickens use language to contrast Scrooge's character at the beginning and end of the novel?

To answer this question we need to follow a 'Jam Sandwich' procedure.

Slice one: Point, Evidence, Analysis of Scrooge in Stave 1.
E.g. In stave one Scrooge is presented as miserable old man who cared not for others. This is particularly evidenced in the quote 'are there no prisons?' in which Scrooge is implying it is the state's job to care for the poor not his. This creates the impression that Scrooge is unlikable and unpleasant

Jam: Comparative phrase. E.g. in contrast to this

Slice one: Point, Evidence, Analysis of Scrooge in Stave 5
At the end of the play Scrooge kind and charitable shown by the scene in which he supports the work of the charity worker and inside in them taking 'not a felling less' this demonstrates that Scrooge has given up his misery ways and

married, have my own car and my own house

qualified with music and media would want to make music and/or a band

BIMM INSTITUTE
study at abbey park campus (LC) for music production
bimm for us

have a dog and family

At the end of the topic, we became reflective and considered how the New Year can be an opportunity to look at what our own futures may hold. Some of our students even created a mood board of what they hoped the Spirit Of Christmas Yet To Come would show them if it came to visit - it's great to see the ambitious futures our young people are working towards.

In Stardust, the learners have shown a great appetite for the play, devouring the scenes with ease. On many occasions, the students were reluctant to stop reading, as they were keen to find out what happens next. Alfie has been

demonstrating his critical thinking skills when considering the Inspectors interview with Mrs Birling by creating a very valid defence for her actions. Ade has supported his peers with his knowledge of key terminology and their definitions, as well as doing a great job of acting out the role of 'Eric' during our class reads. At the end of the topic, the students were challenged with an in class walking-talking practice paper to help them prepare for their up-coming exams in May.

We ended this week with our 'Pens Down!' day in which learners got stuck into a selection of discussion, team building and physical challenges. Across the school, learners participated in scavenger hunts, performance poetry, drama, murder mysteries, escape rooms, games shows, debates and much more. Everyone really embraced the different activities and enjoyed a day of learning without pens. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for pictures of the day.

KS4 Maths - Katie K

Although we've only been at school for 3 weeks in January, it seems like a lot longer because we've packed so much into our learning!

We completed the end of Block 2 which was Geometry and Measure - there was lots of success with the end of unit assessments for this as students were able to show that they could understand rounding numbers, four operations with both decimals and fractions and also what the upper and lower bounds of rounded numbers were.

Pioneer, Swift and Aquarius students had the opportunity to use different hands-on resources to help with their rounding lessons, such as Uno cards as seen here →



... and when looking at upper and lower bounds (limits of accuracy or error intervals), we used some of the place value counters to see what it looked like on a number line before calculating the limits.

The very end of Block 2 saw us "breaking down" multi-step questions into more manageable steps; Stardust were able to do this really well, and we linked it to exam skills by highlighting the key parts and then

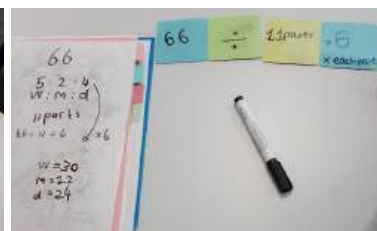
working out where marks would be given in an exam scenario.

For Pioneer, Swift and Aquarius we used the new puzzle piece shaped mini whiteboards to write out key points from the question before solving them.



Block 3 is all about Ratio and Proportion, so again we have been using some of the hands-on resources to build confidence and understanding with students who need more support where it isn't necessarily a recap of understanding for them at the beginning.

Here is an example of Zane's work where he simplified ratios using blocks and mini whiteboard post-its by physically moving the blocks, then writing the answers and in the next lessons, working out how to share an amount into a ratio, again starting with blocks but eventually moving away from using them - a few students used this method and by the end of the lessons they were all able to use the abstract method of writing without extra resources as support to calculate answers.



KS4 Science - Nic and Sam R

In Science we have been learning about forces and waves.

The forces topic includes understanding the nature of forces, how they can be measured and how they interact with each other. Your child should also be able to explain the relationship between force and motion. There are lots of laws in forces to remember; you could ask your young person about Newton's three Laws and Hooke's law - hopefully they will tell you about some of the experiments we did to test these laws out.

In our Waves topic, we have explored the property of waves, how they are reflected, refracted and how they transmit energy. We had great fun using the ripple tank and the Leslie cube in our practical lessons.



KS4 Computing - Sam R

Staying Safe in the Digital World: Tackling Fake News and Illegal Content

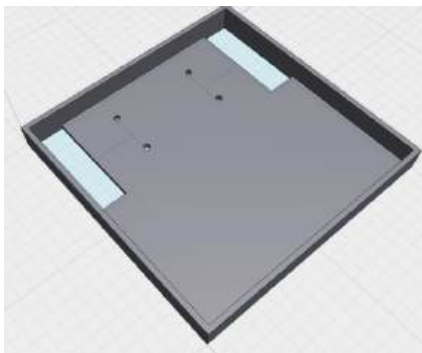
For the past few weeks, in their online safety lessons, students delved into two critical topics: fake news and illegal content. These sessions were designed to equip students with the tools to navigate the internet safely and responsibly. By exploring the concept of fake news, students learned how misinformation can spread online, the importance of verifying sources, and techniques to identify trustworthy content. Discussions also covered the potential consequences of sharing unverified information, highlighting the role they play in combating misinformation.

When tackling the subject of illegal content, students were taught how to recognise harmful or inappropriate material and the steps to take if they encounter such content online. Emphasis was placed on understanding the importance of reporting mechanisms, such as reporting to platform moderators, using online safety tools, or speaking to a trusted adult. The sessions encouraged open dialogue, with students asking insightful questions to deepen their understanding of these complex issues. Their active participation demonstrated a strong commitment to becoming more informed and safer digital citizens.



Robot Wars: Developing Precision and Control

The excitement continues to build for the Robot Wars project where students are progressively honing their skills to prepare for the ultimate robotic showdown. With their designs well underway, the focus has now shifted to practicing control mechanics to ensure their robots perform effectively in competition.



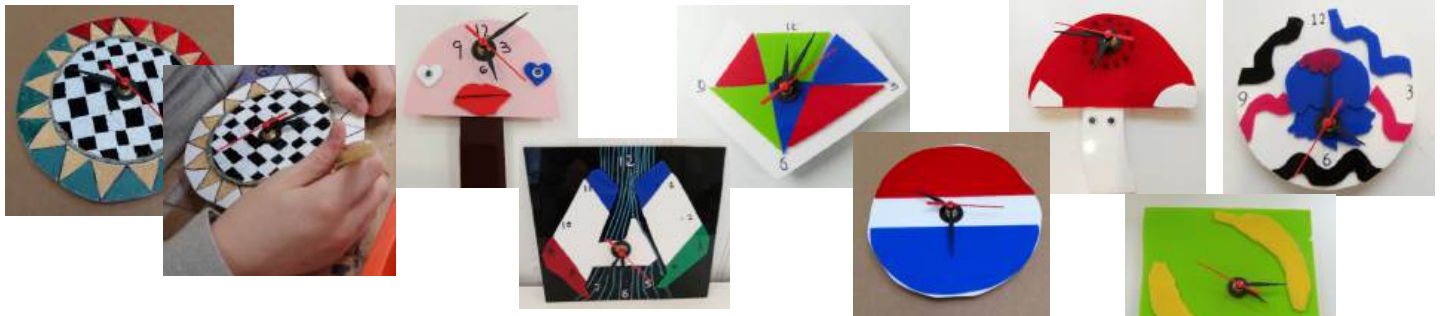
In future sessions, students will be introduced to remote-controlled cars to practice manoeuvring and precision control. This hands-on experience will not only provide a fun and interactive way to explore robotics, but will also highlight the challenges of navigating obstacles and maintaining accuracy. These sessions are helping students develop the skills needed to operate their robots confidently and

strategically during the competition.

Through this project, students are not only learning about robotics and technology, but also fostering problem-solving, teamwork, and creativity. The anticipation of seeing their designs in action during the competition has been a driving force for their enthusiasm and focus.



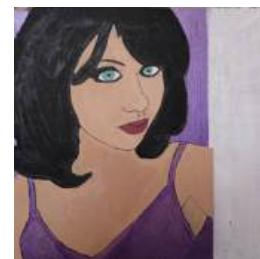
KS4 Design - Anne



Since our return, in DT many of the young people have now completed their wall clock. I am so proud of what they have accomplished. This is a relatively new room and subject for them and even those who have had difficulties entering the room in the past are now able to spend a whole lesson and stay on task. They have achieved so much in the last few weeks. Bradley and Callum have been able to attend and work on their projects. Zane has made immense improvements in resilience and focus and is now happy to spend the necessary time on each task to achieve a higher standard of work.



Those taking part in the Arts Awards are also making considerable progress where they have become much more independent and confident in their abilities. Henry and Edward, in particular, have proven to themselves that they are capable of taking their modelling skills to the next level and have both worked to develop and improve their models further rather than moving quickly onto the next idea. Jude surprised us with his textile skills where he continued to work on his product when he was dissatisfied constantly making improvements. Jude was also able to learn how to fix the sewing machine when it broke down. After completing his wooden drawer unit, Felix has been able to experiment with landscape photography with some great results just from walking around the school grounds. Ethan has also recently become more engaged and produced some very good work. Camron's modelling skills are impressive and his model of a chainsaw was almost lifelike!



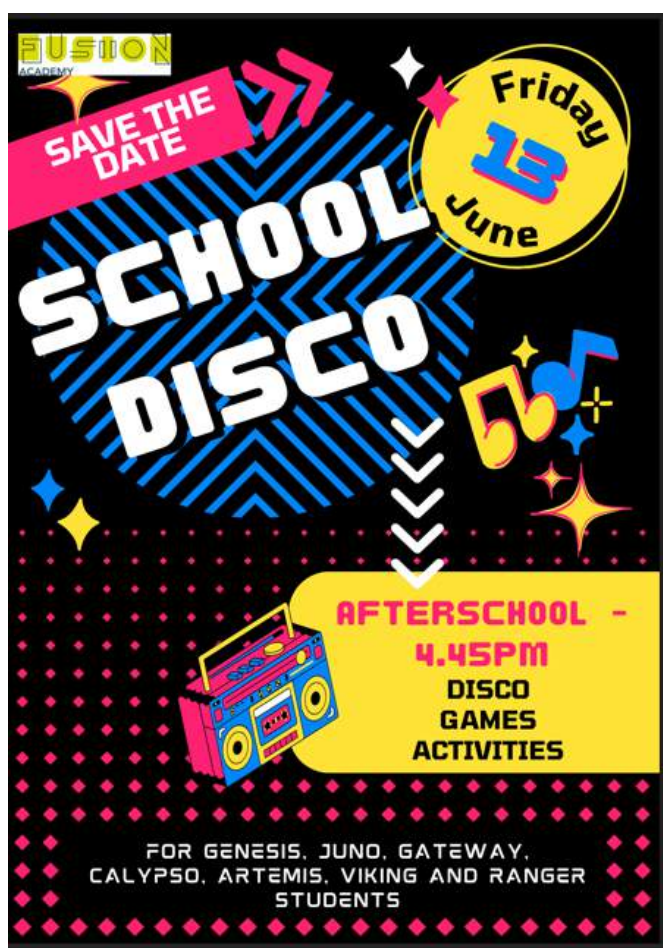
Next in DT we will be learning about working in a team!

Enrichment - Jenni

We have been enjoying working on the exciting Enrichment plans over the rest of the year and we are looking forward to lots of fun trips and experiences for our students!

Today, we have all enjoyed our whole school No-Pens-English Enrichment day - Lots of photos to come in our next Newsletter.

We have been really pleased with the positive student reaction to our first school disco and our first Prom at the end of the year! More details will be sent out after Easter.



OTHER NEWS

STAGEWORKS
PERFORMANCE
Community Theatre

PRESENTING
ROBIN HOOD
& THE DAME OF THRONES

The Earl Shilton & Barwell Pantomime
Fusion Academy
Moore Road, Barwell, LE9 8AG

19th / 20th / 21st February 7pm
Saturday 22nd February 2pm & 7pm

VISIT OR SCAN OR CODE FOR TICKETS :
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/STAGEWORKS-PERFORMANCE

Adults £7.50
Concessions £5.50



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

<https://openthinkingpartnership.co.uk/category/e-safety/>



Diary Dates

- ★ February Half Term Break: Monday 17th February 2025 - Friday 21st February 2025
- ★ School Opens: Monday 24th February 2025
- ★ Holwell Residential Parent Meeting: Thursday 6th March 2025 at 4pm - 5pm

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

office@thefusionacademy.co.uk

Contact Number: 01455 243689