



# Heathermount Newsletter

## Autumn Term

Welcome to the autumn term edition of our school newsletter. As you will see, it has been a very busy and productive term, and one where we have new owners! On 31 October, we officially became part of Cavendish Education, the twelfth school in the group. As a result of the change of ownership, we will be supported and challenged by the Cavendish Board of Governors who are made up of the Directors of the company and chaired by the founder, Aatif Hassan. We are all very happy and optimistic about the opportunities that will come from joining Cavendish Education and there has been a significant number of meetings in school with the various directors, finance staff and Koen from Burlington House School.

I would like to thank all our school governors for their commitment to the school, particularly our parent governors – Kris, Diane, Melanie and Ben. A special note of thanks to Anne-Catherine who was our Chair of Governors, who has been an invaluable support to the school throughout the last few years, including the challenges during the pandemic and running up to the change of ownership.

## Core values

During the autumn term we have been focusing on being responsible and independent within school. There have been many occasions when students have demonstrated these values, both inside and outside of the classroom. You will see who has won the core value cups later in the newsletter.

### **Anti-bullying week and school council**

We spent a whole week looking at anti-bullying in November and the students got involved in a range of activities to improve their understanding of what constitutes bullying and the impact it can have on others.

We have brand new school council members this year with representation from across the school and I look forward to working with them and getting their ideas and insights in relation to improving the school.

### **Remembrance Day**

A big thank you to Tom (from Neptune) for playing the "Last Post" on the terrace at 11am on Friday 11 November. It was one of those moments that gives you goosebumps and it was lovely to see such respect shown by the students and staff who were present. Also, a thank you to Ellie (Saturn class) who delivered the poem "In Flanders Fields" during Caroline's assembly – another lovely and respectful moment.

### **Breck Foundation**

Ellie (Saturn class) presented a thought-provoking assembly to secondary students in November. Ellie is an ambassador for the Breck Foundation that was founded in 2014 in response to the tragic loss of Breck Bednar, a 14-year-old boy who was groomed and murdered by someone he met online. Ellie explained the dangers of being online through Breck's story. Ellie was amazing and delivered the session incredibly well, including fielding some very good questions from the students.

### **External monitoring**

We have received a monitoring visit from our Autism Accreditation assessor to see how well we are maintaining our advanced autism practice throughout the school, and we had positive feedback with a few areas that need a little tweaking. Our external school improvement partner conducted a 1-day visit in November to focus on literacy in primary and to conduct some joint lesson observations across secondary with Craig and myself.

### **Trips and visits**

There have been a wide range of trips and visits this term with two very successful football matches, a visit to a local care home from Earth students and a number of transition visits to local colleges for our older students who are planning their next steps beyond Heathermount.

### **Website**

Please keep checking our school website for updated information and photographs. There is a new tab with a focus on reading and how we teach reading at Heathermount. There are links and videos that parents can use to help support reading at home, using the same approach we use in school.

### **Term dates 2023/24**

Our term dates for the next academic year are now on our website, please have a close look as they may be different across local authorities.

## **Staffing**

At this time of year, we often say goodbye to some staff and welcome new staff to the team.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Nicole P (Teaching assistant) who is relocating to another part of the country, Lisa (Admissions coordinator) is leaving for family reasons and Mikey (Drama teacher) who has a long history and a deep connection with Heathermount having been a former student himself. Every day Mikey acts as an amazing role model for the students and staff alike. He is leaving to help support his family and will be greatly missed by us all. Mikey certainly went out on a high with the most amazing production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

We welcome Shauna (Drama teacher) who has already started with us and has been in the enviable position of having a long handover from Mikey. Naomi and Melissa will be joining us as teaching assistants and Emma will be joining us for two and a half days a week as the intervention teacher.

## **School productions**

It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents at the three Christmas events this term. We were treated to a lovely craft experience in Foundation, an amazing nativity play "Hey Ewe" from our primary students and a fantastic production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat from our secondary students.

All three productions really exemplified our school mission which is to "build confidence and prepare students for life". Thank you to all the staff who made it possible, parents for making costumes and particular thanks to the students who did themselves proud.

Finally, a big thank you to all of the amazing staff that I have the privilege to work with every day and to your children, who make coming to work a real pleasure.

Although Christmas can be a difficult time of the year for some, I hope that you all have a wonderful time with family and friends, stay safe, and I look forward to welcoming back the students on Tuesday 3 January 2023!



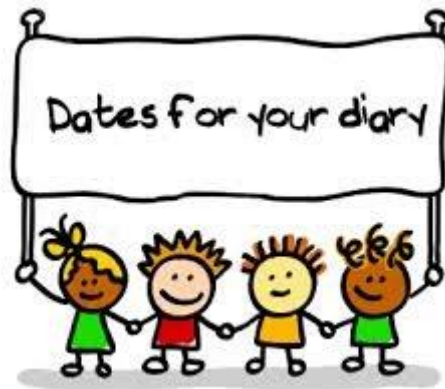
A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "D Stewart".

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*David Stewart*

*Headteacher*

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*Start of Term 3 - Tuesday 3 January*

*End of Term 3 - Friday 10 February*

*Start of Term 4 - Monday 20 February*

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## **ACADEMIC YEAR - 2023 / 2024**

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Click [here](#) to see the *academic year dates for 2023/2024*.

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## **ATTENDANCE UPDATE – DECEMBER 2022**





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*Thank you to everyone for making every effort to get into school which is not always easy for our children to do. In a term which often has us battling every type of bug or illness, in addition to Covid, it is great to see our students building their resilience.*

**WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE = 91.4%**

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*Please remember to advise us by 9am if your child is going to be absent or has a medical appointment so that the registers are updated accurately.*

*If we do not receive an accepted reason for your child's absence, then this will be marked as an unauthorised absence.*

*It is important to inform us of your child's absence each day that they are not in school.*

*As a school, we always encourage parents not to take children out of school in term time. However, we understand that on rare occasions or in exceptional circumstances you may need to do this. Please remember in this instance we need at least TWO WEEKS NOTICE and completion of the absence request form which is available on our website. Please refer to the attendance policy also available on our website.*

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**THE GREATER THE ATTENDANCE**

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**THE GREATER THE ACHIEVEMENT**

***Remember a student who ends the school year on 90% attendance will have missed 4 complete weeks in school.***

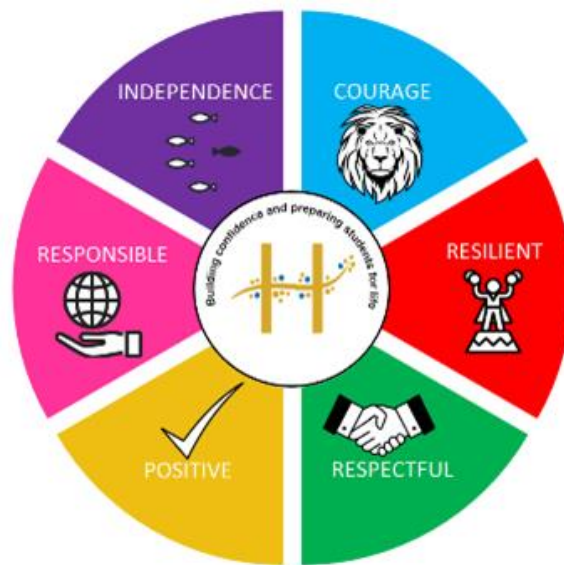
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## **Core Values Cup**

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*Each term, the whole school focuses on one of Heathermount's core values. At the end of term, staff nominate students who they feel have demonstrated the core value really well. An overall winner is then decided for foundation, primary and secondary.*

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*Term 1 - Being RESPONSIBLE*

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*Term 2 - Being INDEPENDENT*

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*Spring core values: COURAGE (Term 3) & RESPECTFUL (Term 4).*

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## **Anti-Bullying Week**



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*During the week 14th -18th November, Anti-Bullying week took place. In addition to the work being carried out in PSHE lessons, students participated in a variety of activities around the national theme "Reach out".*



*To kick off the week, staff and students came into school wearing odd socks and shoes!*

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Click [here](#) to see the video that was shown to primary and secondary students.

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## **HALLOWEEN**

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*Halloween was spooktacular at Heathermount...*

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## Remembrance Day



REMEMBRANCE DAY  
*Let Us Forget*

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*We all shared an amazing moment together as a school when Tom (Neptune class) played The Last Post on his trumpet at 11am on Remembrance Day.*

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## Foundation



**Pieter-Brian  
Eric  
Brody  
Oscar  
Mylo**



**Brody  
Pieter-Brian  
Mylo  
Eric  
Noah**

## Ash

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*Over the last term, Ash class have been learning about different celebrations and events that take place each month. We started by learning about fireworks, Guy Fawkes, followed by Remembrance Day and will continue on our build-up of events until Christmas.*

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*During anti-bullying week we learnt all about kindness through Elmer the elephant and even created our own class Elmer!*

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*Our focus this term has also been exploring our creativity through play and games. The children in Ash class have made potions, created their own pumpkin recipes as well as used our construction to design and build grand structures.*

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## Maple

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*Throughout the autumn term, the boys in Maple have been experimenting with different musical instruments and learning about the different sounds they make. They were able to independently follow the musical instructions to play the ocarina. Most importantly, they enjoyed making music!!*

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## Christmas Craft Afternoon

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*Students in foundation had a lovely time doing craft activities on the last day of term.*

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*Primary*



**Kady  
Oliver H  
Oliver B  
Georgie  
Ryan**



## Elm

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*This term has been busy for Elm class! We began by looking at the Ancient Egyptians in history, learning how they write in Hieroglyphs and how they mummify their dead.*

*In science we've explored a few units including light, plants and rocks and soil. We've dissected flowers to identify the parts and made edible soil using biscuits and chocolate to show the layers of soil.*

*Elm class have been working towards an ASDAN qualification in independence. We've been looking at personal hygiene, such as brushing teeth and cleaning ourselves.*

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## Willow

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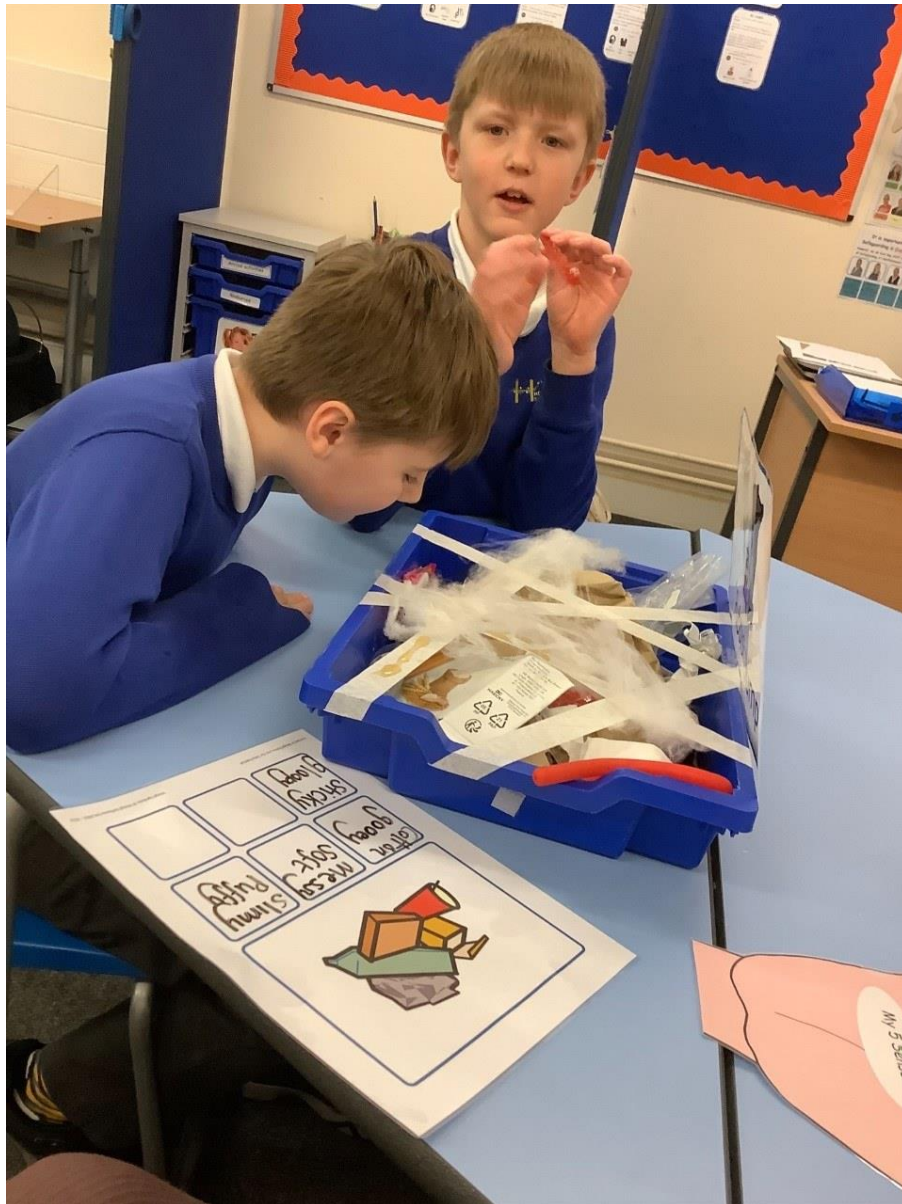
*Here is Willow class using their five senses to discover the story settings we explored in the book Superworm. We created sensory trays from scenes from the book (Underground and Rubbish Dump). We used our senses to find appropriate adjectives to describe the settings. We then used these adjectives when creating a postcard to a friend in Willow!*

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## Oak

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*Here are Oak class practising their breathing. They were practising controlled breathing with a feather during their **yogacise** lesson.*

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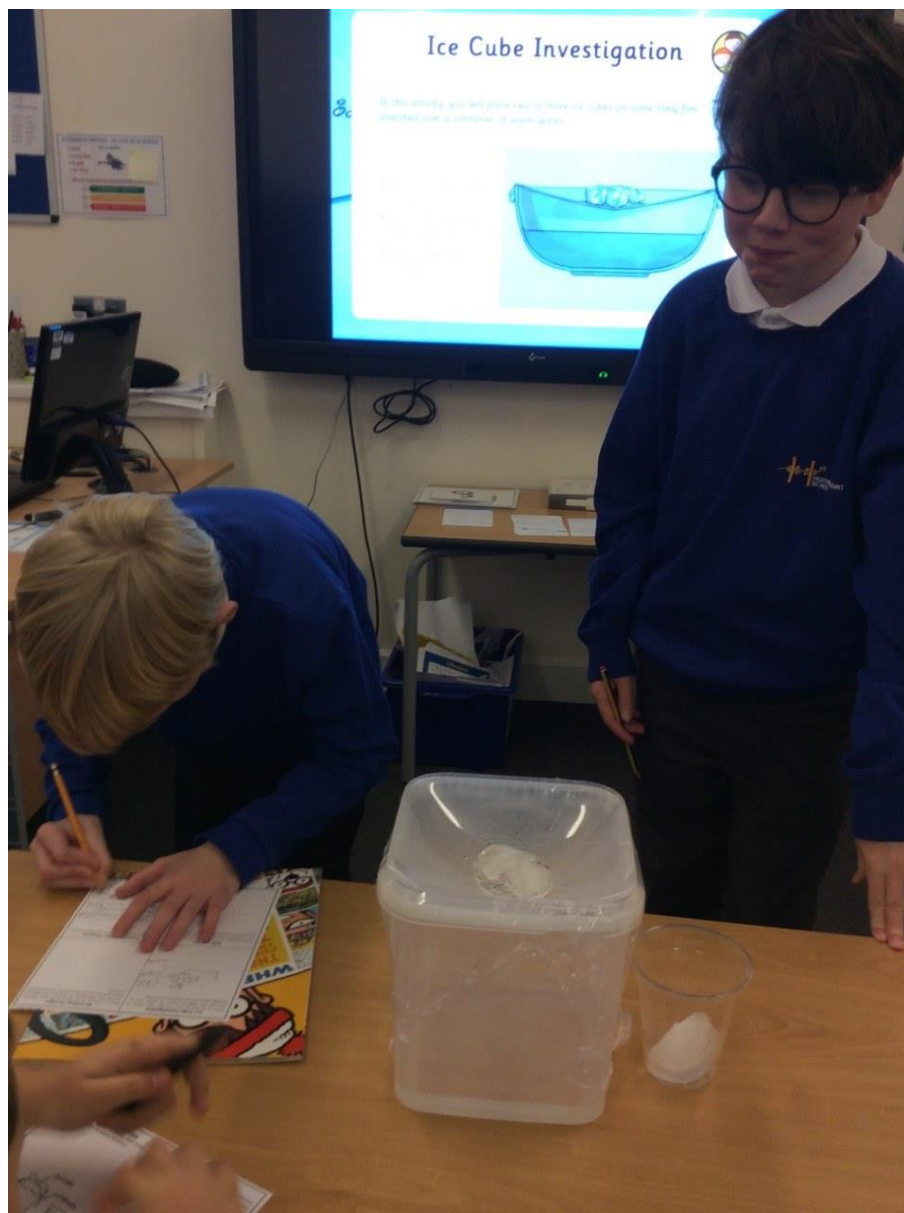


## Beech

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*This term in science, we have been looking at the three 'States of Matter'; learning about processes that change the state of a material.*

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*In design technology, we learned about simple mechanisms.*

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*In history, we have been learning about Ancient Egypt.*

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## Pine

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*We have had a fantastic term in Pine class, with each student showing significant progress in many areas!*

*In maths we have been working on addition and subtraction. We used a one hundred square to help, and even managed to count in tens from any number.*

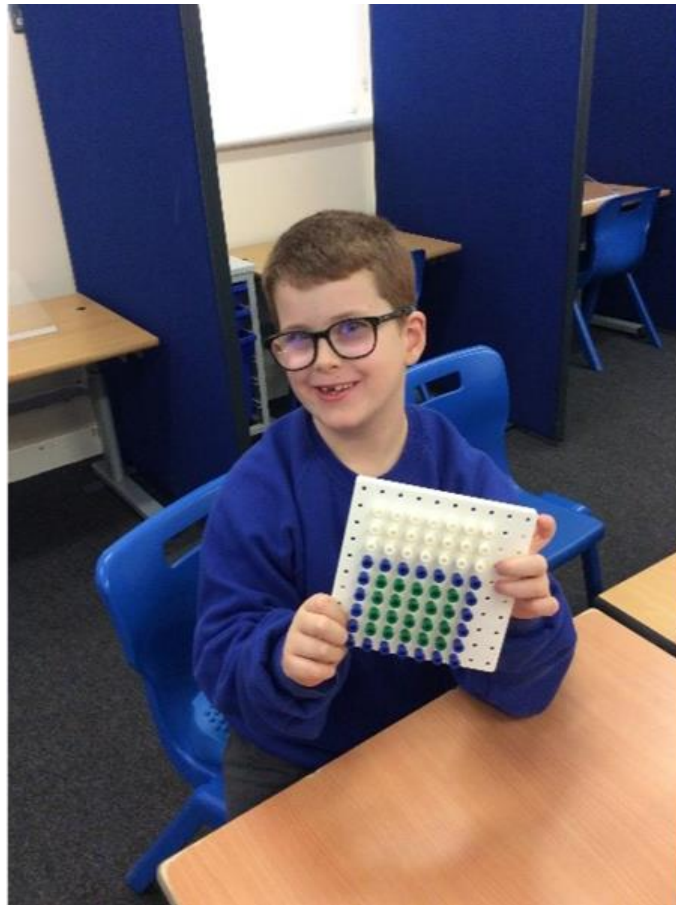
*During our fine motor skill lesson on Friday, we have been copying patterns onto our peg board. At the beginning of the term, the students were unable to copy the pattern without staff help, now Pine class are able to complete this task independently.*

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## Forest School

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*During this term, students have taken part in different methods of cooking.*

*Students cooked using a Trangia, this involved learning how to set it up and how to light it.*

*They have also learnt to use flint and steel to create a fire to cook on in the fire pit.*

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*Students cooked the produce that had been grown in Heathermount grounds:*

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- *cinnamon apple*
  - *sweetcorn*
  - *potatoes*
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*and were treated at the end of term with cooking marshmallows!*

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## Music

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*The children in primary have been preparing songs for their Christmas play. They have been learning how important it is to warm up their body, face and voice before singing. This involves lots of stretching and then relaxing. They love singing a tongue twister song which helps them to have good diction.*

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## **PANTOMIME**

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*On Wednesday 30 November, primary, foundation and Earth went to the sports hall to watch a pantomime called Aladdin. Three actors came to our school and set up a stage, sounds and lights. They acted out the play Aladdin and played lots of different roles. They did this by changing their costumes.*

*We had to join in with the play by saying things and cheering. When the baddie appeared, we had to boo and stamp our feet.*

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"My favourite character was Aladdin because he was funny." – Oliver H

"I really liked the Genie because he had a good sense of humour and was very funny." – Jacob P

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## Secondary



**Sonny  
Jonny  
Sam  
Cohen  
Leo M  
Harvey**



## SECONDARY CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

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*Secondary students put on a fantastic performance of **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**. The show was incredible and was followed by cupcakes, made by catering students.*

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## Earth

*At the beginning of November, the students in Earth class visited a care home in Basingstoke.*

*They had a great time helping residents attaching poppies onto their fence, they engaged in conversations, and had lunch together.*

*It was really successful and they have asked us to come back and visit them again soon!*

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*Students in Earth also raised £58 from making Christmas cards and selling them. All money raised was used to make a Christmas hamper for the care home.*

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## Business Admin

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*Here are some students from Mercury completing a recycling task.*

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*Here are Saturn and Mercury students completing merchandise tasks for their BA assessments.*

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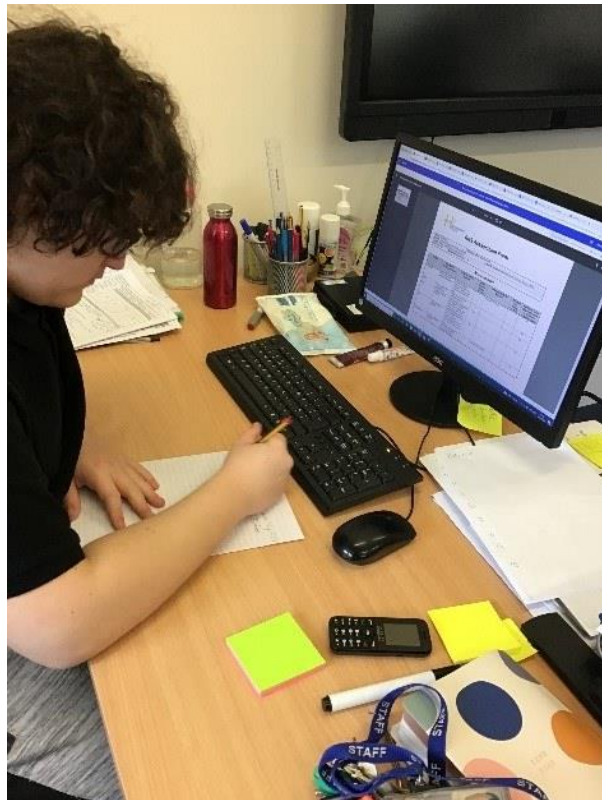


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*Here is TJ completing a BA room risk assessment as an assessment.*

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*Here are Mercury completing a client job before the deadline.*

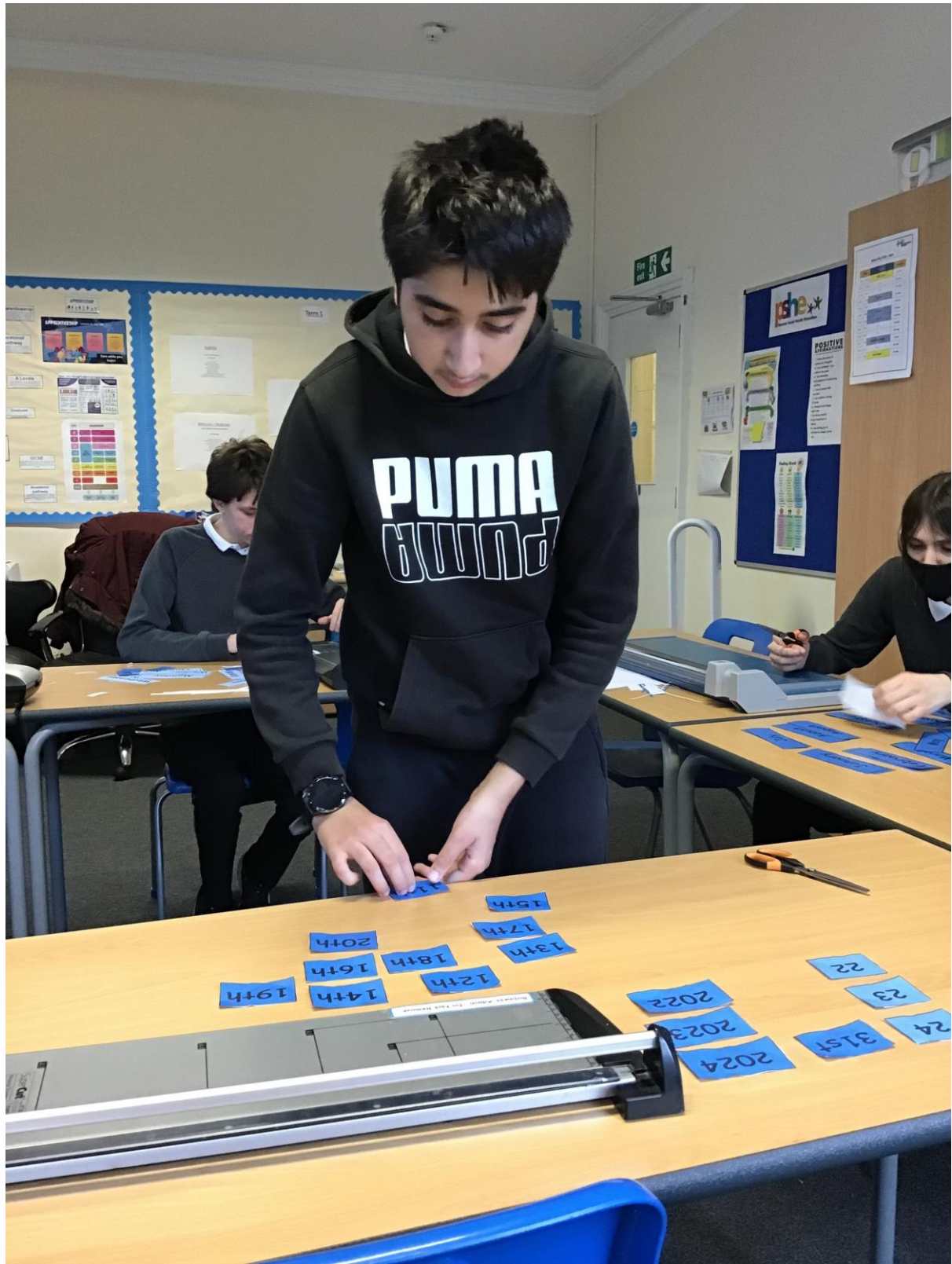
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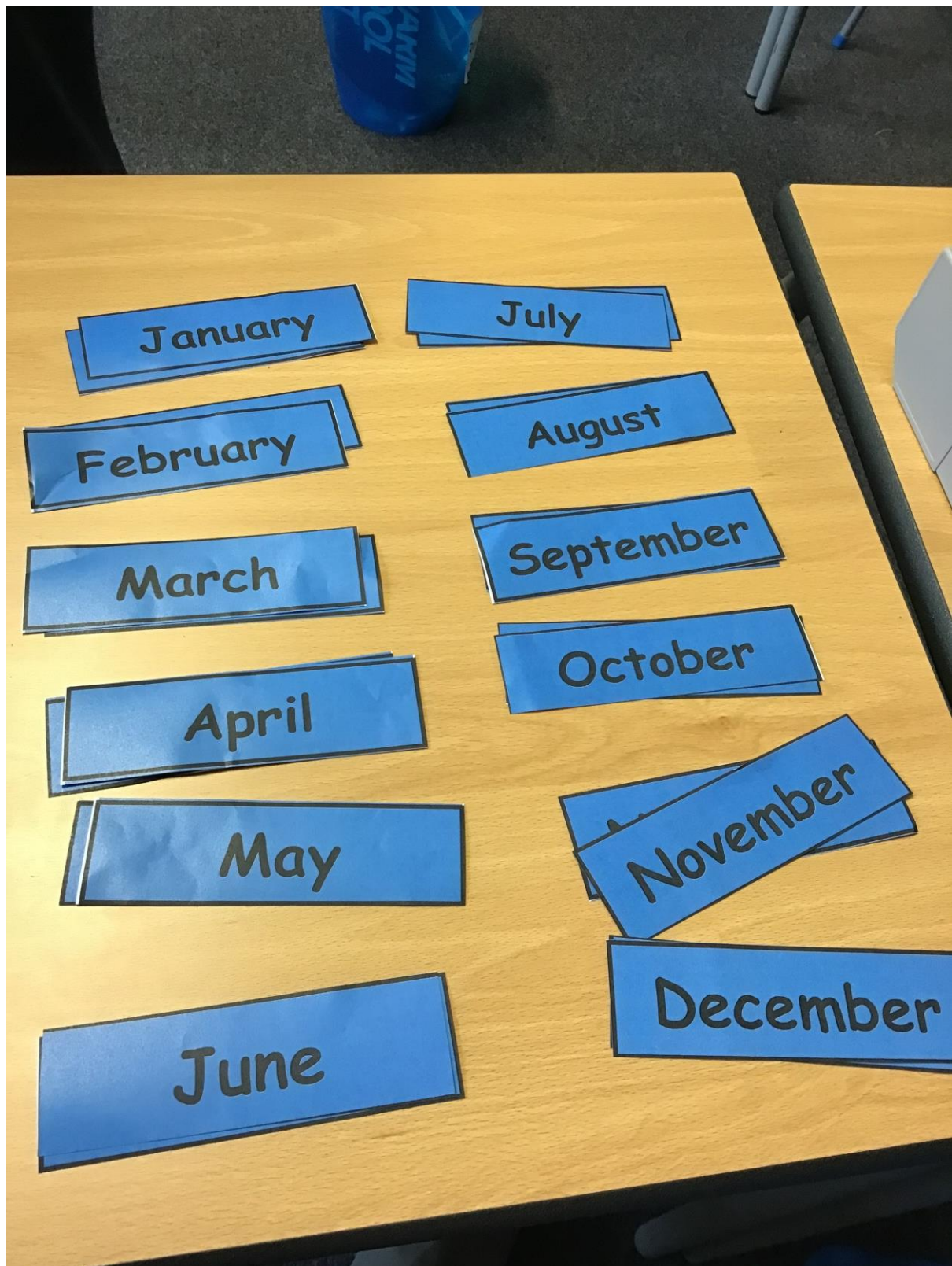












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Thank you to TJ for putting business admin's newsletter contribution together.

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## Catering

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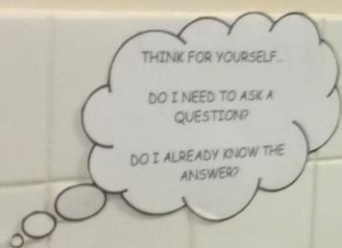
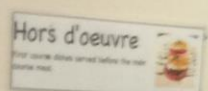
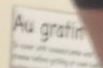
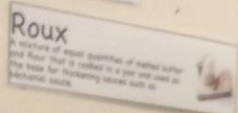
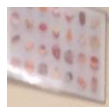
*Dylan completed an assessment by making a pasta and vegetable dish to a high standard.*

*He was fully engaged and showed good teamwork.*

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*Tom is working on his Level 2 in Food Production and Cooking unit.*

*He has made a toastie, sandwiches, wraps and baguettes with a variety of fillings.*



*A great assessment showing good time management from Tom.*

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**WAY  
TO!  
GO!**

**GOOD  
JOB**

**WELL  
DONE**

## Maths

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*There has been a lot of learning going on in maths!*

*Pluto and Jupiter learned about sequences which they created with shapes.*

*They were then working on numeric reasoning with fractions, decimals and percentages, and applied these skills in real situations. Group work on problem solving was more comfortable on the floor for some.*

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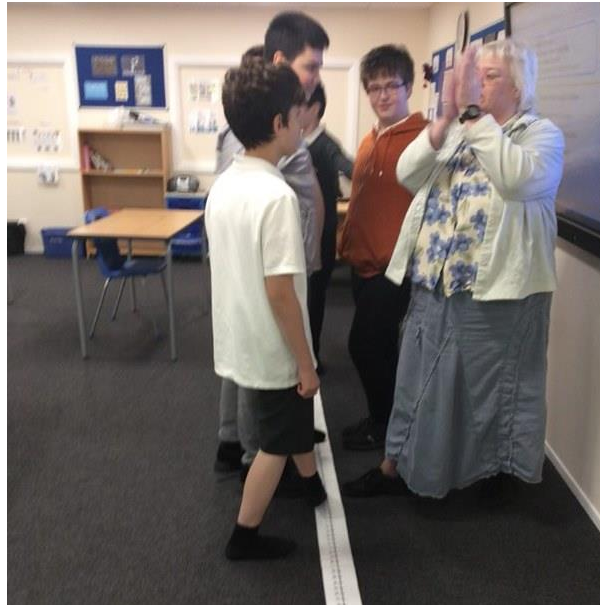


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*Mars started the year learning about numbers. We learned how to work with integers and add or subtract them using a floor number line. Working with integer inequalities was more tiring as they found answers on the number line. They were tired after all the jumping back and forth!*

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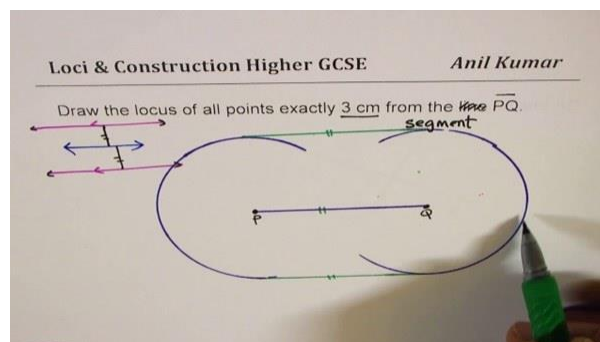


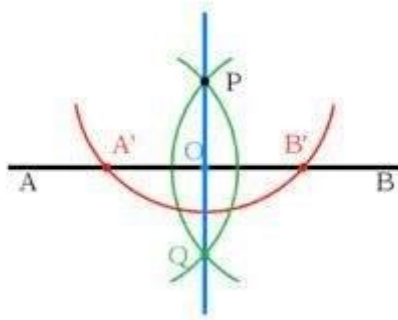



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*Mars have also been learning about constructions this term. Their skills with a compass improving each lesson.*

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*Mercury have worked brilliantly as they started their GCSE course.*

*They have also had some practice with exam style questions and took the exercise very seriously.*

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*Neptune are working on Functional skills, applying Maths to real world settings.*

*They worked with train timetables to create a schedule of travel. Checking to make sure there was enough time to change trains and get the best value for money.*

*Saturn is approaching their final stint in GCSE Maths. They are working both with some new learning and practicing exam style questions.*

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## History

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*Here are Mars boys are learning about life in trenches in WW1.*

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## Art

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*As always, the students are busy in art.*

*Younger, pre options students, are currently studying colour theory, saturation and value how it applies to making choices in their art. This is alongside how to use tools correctly and the history of pop art.*



*They are studying artists like Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein as part of this course, their effect on art and the broader social changes that led to pop art becoming a major art movement.*

*For the options students following the bronze curriculum, they are studying different mediums of paint such as water colours and oil paints within the context of landscapes and the way each medium works, such as the way pigment transfers through fluid mediums and how it can be used in a practical context.*

*The silver students are planning their leadership projects, such as teaching art lessons alongside learning about qualifications and careers in art.*

*The art team wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New year and we hope you enjoy the water colour by Leo E.*

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## Horticulture

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*Students have been very busy over the term learning new skills.*

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- *Harvesting Vegetables*
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- *Scarifying*
  - *Aerating*
  - *Mowing*
  - *Leaf blowing*
  - *Planting for winter*
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*Lots of tidying after the tasks and correctly disposing of all waste from the activity.*

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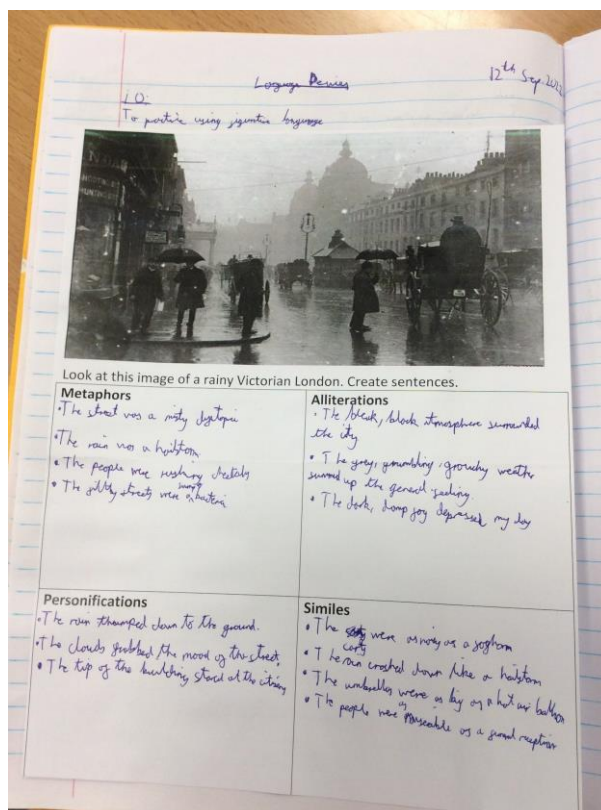








*This half term, KS4 students have been working extremely hard on perfecting their skills in descriptive writing, a part of Paper 1 GCSE in Language. The students have been reading prose extracts and analysing the language used in them in preparation for the GCSE exam.*

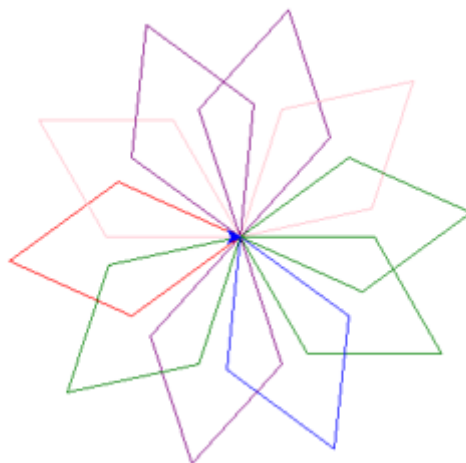
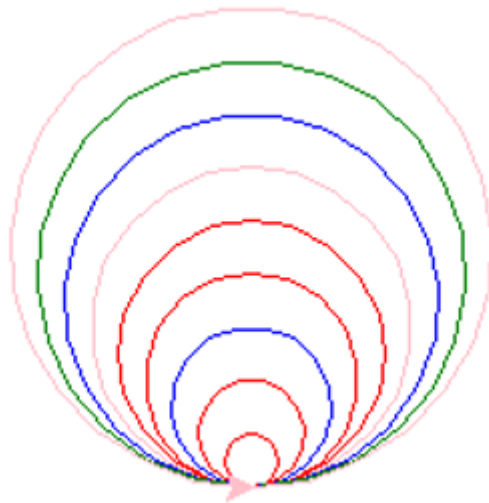
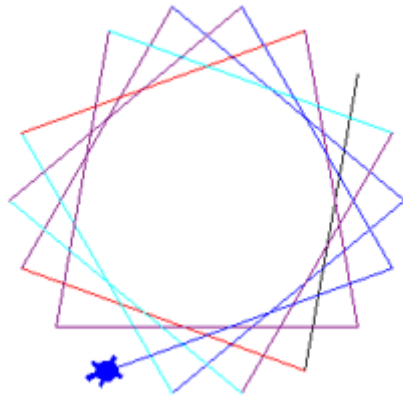


### Pluto and Jupiter



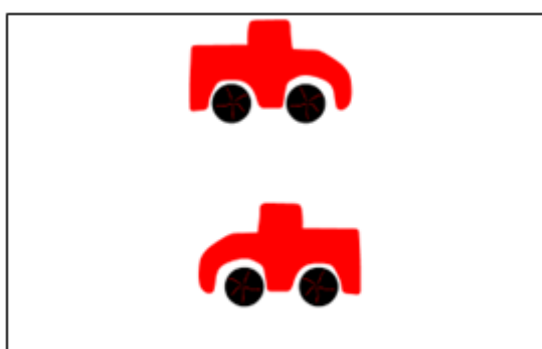
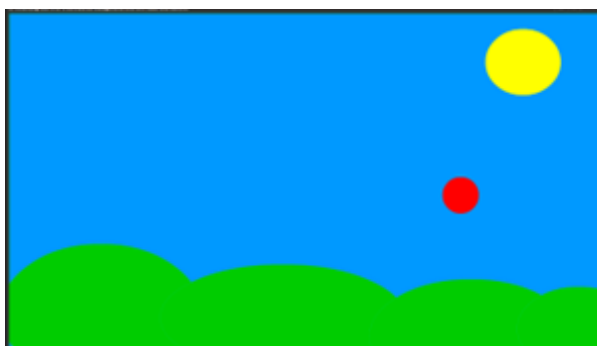
*The students have been learning turtle programming by writing code to create shapes. Below are some of the shapes the students have been writing code for.*

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*The students have been learning how to create animations using Adobe Animate. Below are some examples of the types of animations they have been creating.*

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### ***Mercury – Creative iMedia***

*I am very excited to announce that this academic is the first offering of the Level 2 Creative iMedia qualification. Students achieving this qualification is a progression to working in the media industry. For example, Film/Video Editor, Blogger, web designer.*

*Five of the Mercury students are pursuing this qualification.*

### ***Mercury – GCSE Computer Science***

*Four of the Mercury students are pursuing a GCSE in Computer Science. They are currently budding program developers and rising to the challenges of writing program solutions to a range of scenarios including quizzes and simple games.*

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### **Oxford University Computing Challenge**

*In November, KS3 and some KS4 students took part in the Oxford University Computing challenge. They sat a 45-minute timed session, figuring out responses to a range of challenges.*

*Four students achieved top scores within the challenge category they were entered for and will be awarded with the 'Best in School' certificate...*

**Well done to Natan, Matthew S, Leo M and Cohen!**

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## **P E**

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*This term secondary students have been developing their skills in **Football, Badminton, Basketball and Handball.***

*Some students have started a **sports coaching course** and are supporting the PE department in delivering lessons to the primary students. This is a credited course and will provide the students with the essential knowledge and skills to enable them to become effective coaches.*

*Although it doesn't seem right at this time of year, we have nevertheless been very excited by the prospect of England (and some other nations) doing well in the **World Cup**. Some students have helped put together a world cup draw for the whole school to get into world cup fever.*

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## PSHE

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*In PSHE this term, Pluto class have been working through the "Desert Island" project. This project is spread over all of this term's PSHE lessons and contains a variety of knowledge to be learned, along with a plethora of skills to be acquired.*

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## Desert Island



*Pluto started off by receiving some back story to the project. After they knew what this looked like, we progressed through the different lessons. The lessons all followed the same narrative, continuously adding onto it, and learning more. We went over different interpersonal skills, and the skills necessary to work independently. We also touched on some different religions, allowing the students in the class to come up with their own, and we talked about crime, reform, and punishment.*

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## Construction

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*Six students are currently working on their electrical unit in their BTECH Construction course. The students are making their own electrical circuits, which include a 13 Amp plug socket and a fuse spur. The students have opted to make a "ring main" (this is what's found in a home) as opposed to a simple circuit, exceeding the tutor's expectations. A ring main requires more technical skills and patience! The students are developing and demonstrating leadership skills, problem solving, and teamwork not to mention practical skills using a selection of tools safely.*

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## ***CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS***

























## **DUKE OF EDINBURGH**



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*Students have worked hard in the first term getting ready for their D of E expedition. This involved practising:*

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- *Putting up tents*
  - *Cooking*
  - *Walks*
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*In October, the students took on the challenge of the expedition. They started at Heathermount school and navigated their way to Virginia Water Lake. They then walked around the lake and navigated a different route back to Heathermount.*

*In the evening, they didn't get much rest either. They put up their tents, cooked their dinner and washed up!*

*After a night in their tents the students packed their tents away, had their breakfast and then set out for day two of their expedition, navigating their way to Windsor Castle.*

*All the students showed how well they could work as a team, taking care of each other and completing the challenge.*

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## FOOTBALL



★ GO TEAM! ★

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*The first game of the school year was a local derby against The Rise School. The students were keen to put right their shock lose to the Rise at the tournament back in July, which ultimately cost them top spot. Both teams were keen to start of their first game of the school year with a win and we weren't disappointed with the determination and attitude from all players.*

*The first half was dominated by Heathermount and if Tom and Harvey had their shooting boots on, Heathermount could have been out of sight before the break. After half time The Rise stepped up their performance and made it more of a contest creating several chances. Nevertheless, Heathermount managed to extend their lead against the run of play before Charlie H pulled out a world class save to deny The Rise a consolation goal. However, The Rise eventually got their goal*

*through some excellent team play, to take the spoils off, what was nearly a perfect performance from Heathermount.*

*The game finished with a 4-1 win to Heathermount, and with new players such as Ethan and Amaan making their debuts it was a successful afternoon for all.*

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***Welcome to the team!***

# Getting *to Know You*



***Julie-Ann Stone***

***School Business Administrator***

**What does your role involve?**

It involves lots of different things under the heading of “general administration”. My main role is to set up the annual reviews and EHCP reviews for all students across the academic year. My job role also includes work on recruitment and arranging interviews for prospective new staff. I am also responsible for making sure the timetables for students are on our database and are kept up to date and this in turn ensures that the registers are ready and correct. I am also involved with First Aid and administering medication to students.

**Why did you decide to do this role?**

I started working in a school almost 20 years ago in the administration function. I did work as a teaching assistant for 5 years before this, but then decided I wanted to move to the administration area of a school. I was working in a mainstream primary school and decided that I could work all year



round rather than just term time as my own family circumstances had changed. I was keen to move to a SEN school as I had previously worked with twins who had special needs and some children with reading challenges whilst in my role as a TA and found this very rewarding.

### **What does a typical day look like?**

No two days are the same, which I actually enjoy as it means my work is varied. The first thing I do when I come in each day is to read my emails and then I generally plan my day around the priorities of those. My week is arranged around the annual reviews which are scheduled each week and therefore the administration for those has to be kept on top of.

### **What involvement do you have with the children in school?**

I don't have as much as I used to. I am involved in administering medication to different children when this is required and once a week for those that have this regularly.

I am also a trained first aider so I will be called upon on an ad hoc basis to help where needed. Occasionally I will help with "job coaching" and assisting business administration students with putting their learning into practice.

### **What is the best part of your job?**

When the task I am currently working on is complete I will get a sense of achievement and satisfaction in getting that done.

### **How does your work impact our children and families?**

Each student has an EHCP which has to be reviewed each year at the annual review as this is a statutory requirement. I have to ensure all of this process runs smoothly, which includes getting all of the information to the relevant parties, and that the local authority has all the information it needs for updating.

I sometimes have to contact families for certain administrative tasks including updating addresses and contact details or advising on ad hoc enquiries.

## ***Cost of living - helpful information***

Below are some links that might be useful:-

<https://www.britishgas.co.uk/energy/energy-saving/energy-saving-tips.html>

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/money-troubles/dealing-with-debt/help-if-youre-struggling-with-debt>

## ***Local Authority information***



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Please click [here](#) to see a new group set up for **Bracknell Forest SEND parents** called **BPCF (Bracknell Parent Carer Forum)**. They meet regularly to discuss the real issues that affect SEND children and young people. For further information please see the [school website](#).

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***We hope you all have a lovely break!***

***Best wishes***

***Heathermount Staff***