



Autumn Term 2019



We started the year with forty one students on roll, our biggest starting cohort ever. Fourteen weeks later, nine students have moved on to their forever schools and a further twenty new students have joined us, so we are busier than ever. It is always sad to see students leave, but it makes the work we do all the more worthwhile and we look forward to hearing of our former students' continued success from our partner schools.

A word about our recently departed Year 11 students who are of course now greatly missed. Congratulations to them on their successes in their exams last summer and in particular, the mature way in which they approached the pressures. It was lovely to see so many of them on results day and we wish them continued success in whatever their future holds. We are always interested in how they are getting on and we are still here to help if needed.

Our priorities remain to provide the best possible quality of education and personal development support to each and every pupil for the duration of their time with us and to assist students in making successful next steps transitions when the time is right. The Foundry education offer includes a rich diet of social, moral, spiritual and cultural experiences and it is our expectation and hope that all our students will be able to participate in and enjoy these enrichment opportunities. As I write, the majority of our secondary students are watching a play delivered by Alter Ego focusing on County Lines. Preparations are also underway for our annual Christmas lunch and I recall last years' meal which was a great event, enjoyed by so many students and staff. Once again it will be a truly homemade affair with our students and staff contributing to every aspect.....food preparation, consumption, conversation and of course the washing up!

So to this term and the big news...in August planning permission was granted for the development of Brambles for Foundry College. Over the first half of term, the previous occupants moved out and the development plans went out to tender. The contract was awarded to Morris and Blunt and the building works began for real in early November. The project is estimated to take 26 weeks and should be finished in May, just in time for the summer exams. I do not underestimate the challenge that delivering an education in the midst of the building works will bring, but we must keep sight of the prize – the space and facilities with which to deliver the breadth of curriculum our students deserve. This development has been debated with Wokingham for at least three years and I am very grateful to Carol Cammiss, Director of Children's Services, for prioritising the needs of Foundry College students and making it happen.

Despite the shortage of space, we have sought to continue bringing our medical/vulnerable students into Foundry for their learning wherever possible as we recognise the benefits they will gain from having the structure of school as well as a peer group.

On the staffing front, in August we said goodbye to Lucy Filsell who moved to a teaching post at High Close Special School. In September, our Business and Finance Manager, Keith McConaghy, moved on to work in a local primary setting and Paul Kennedy, one of our drivers, decided to retire. Mid-term we also said goodbye to another tutor, Wendy Layton, who also decided to retire. In January we will sadly also be saying goodbye to Jacquie Little from the primary classroom as she moves on to work with the Probation Service.

In September we welcomed two new staff to the teaching team: Kirsty Flaws and Sarah Margel. Sarah's expertise lies in craft and PSHE whilst Kirsty is an English specialist who also brings expertise in assessing students for Access Arrangements. We also have two new colleagues in the Tutor team: Julie Clays and Emma Clark. Donna Munday has re-joined us as Finance Manager and finally, to complete the Foundry Staff Team, we have recruited a new driver, Les Eke.

As we turn the corner into 2020, GCSEs become a reality. I do hope all our students will return with high aspirations and a determination to make the very most of all we can offer. The Spring Term resumes for students on Tuesday 7th January 2020. We look forward to continuing to work closely in partnership with all our students and their families.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Jay



Foundry Development Pictorial Update



Father Christmas Visit



The Primary students were very excited about meeting Father Christmas at Henry Street garden centre. Nicholas was very keen to ensure that his request for an X-box was not confused with the box of 'x's Father Christmas had in mind and Brian most enjoyed meeting Comet and Blitzen.



Maths

In Maths, this term, we have been busy preparing for the upcoming Mocks and the first entry for the IGCSE Maths exam in January, alongside welcoming a number of new students.

We have worked through a variety of topics to fill the gaps identified during baseline testing. Students have been introduced to online homework through MathsWatch and in lessons we have used a variety of resources including revision guides, matching exercises and Tarsia Jigsaw activities, to name but a few. Students really enjoyed and engaged with the jigsaws as an alternative to written work which led to excellent discussions .



Occupational Studies

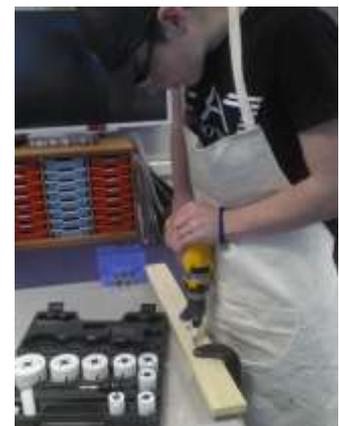


Following another successful year for Occupational Studies for The Workplace, we have extended the course to offer Level 2 units to those students who show a commitment to achieving Level 1. The range of topics that can be studied continues to expand as we try to meet the individual needs and interests of the students. Currently most students studying the course have either completed the



units needed to achieve a Level 1 award already or are very close to doing so. Several are now embarking on one or more Level 2 units.

Students have studied a wide range of subjects this term including Plumbing Skills and Hand Carpentry Skills at Level 1. Level 2 units currently being studied include Performing Brickwork Operations, Word Processing Software, Understanding How to Cultivate Herbs, Developing Cooking Skills, Cooking with Meat, Fish and Vegetables and Developing and Adapting Soft Furnishing Ideas. The course continues to have a practical focus and we have improved the curriculum to provide more opportunities for individual creativity and to give the students a sense of purpose in relation to the skills they are learning. They have created some lovely and individual pieces of work – especially during the Hand Carpentry unit! The course also offers an excellent introduction to the world of work or further education, especially for those considering a career in construction or land based work.



English.

This term in English we have been completing IGCSE Controlled Assessments. One of the pieces is written in response to a newspaper article in which Pupil Referral Units are portrayed negatively. Our students at Foundry College are proud to attend here and Mark Bush in Year 11 is very proud and happy to share his response with you in our newsletter.

15th November 2019

To whom it may concern,

My name is Mark Bush (remember the name) and I currently attend Foundry College a Pupil referral unit (PRU). I have recently joined a PRU due to the fact that mainstream education has let me down significantly.

In your article you are implying that we are being penalised for not succeeding in an education system that is not right for me and many other students across England. I feel aggravated that you have described a PRU by saying they are "gang grooming units which produce future criminals." You are stereotyping many children who attend PRUs. For example I have never been involved with gangs and never been involved in crime. Personally I believe that whoever wrote this article you should come to my school and see for yourself that it is not a "gang grooming unit."

Furthermore you have expressed that some inspection reports have stated that in PRUs pupils "lash out at staff, swearing, going missing, setting off the fire alarms and fighting." However when I was at a mainstream school I witnessed some of these daily. For example at a mainstream school it is very common for students to swear at teachers and wander around corridors. Personally I believe most students at PRUs come and want to do well for themselves. Whereas at a mainstream school many kids mess around and do not follow the rules. It is so easy for kids at mainstream to mess around and get away with it due to the fact there is so many other students in the school and very little staff to be able to deal with this.

Moreover fighting is a very big thing in mainstream school and it can usually occur most days. Fights at mainstream get hyped up due to the fact there are many students who will crowd around encouraging the suspects involved to become really aggressive and they feel led on to do it and also may feel they need to do it. Whereas if a fight was to occur in a PRU there is a much bigger staff to students ratio therefore it would get broken up very quickly compared to a fight at a mainstream school.

I had the opportunity to come here previously but turned it down because I was prejudiced about joining and got a managed move to a mainstream school. However the move failed and I ended up at Foundry. Personally it is the best school for me and I have learnt so much in the few months I've been here. Mainstream did have it positives though. For example there were many people there and I made so many friends in various years. Also some of the teachers in mainstream schools do understand the students who struggle with that environment and still care for their well being.

In conclusion I do believe your article is very poorly written with some of the points you have suggested being put down without clear knowledge of what a PRU is really like. If you would like to see what a PRU is really like I invite you to attend Foundry College and it might change your point of view.

All the best,

Mark Bush

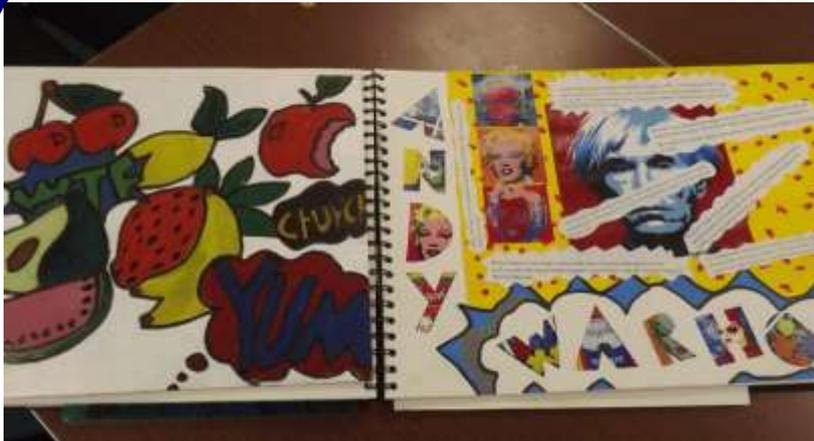
Children In Need

To raise funds for Children in Need 2019 the primary students spent a lot of time making and decorating cupcakes to look like Pudsey Bear. They then sold them around the college and even to some members of our management committee who happened to be on site. A big thank you to all college staff, students and committee members who gave generously on the day. A grand total of £45.79 was raised.



Art

In Art GCSE we have been exploring a natural world theme and looking at distinct artistic movements and methodology: Pop Art through Andy Warhol and Botanical drawing with Elizabeth Blackwell, both inspiring artists in their era making huge waves in imparting knowledge and ideals. Students have been studying observational drawings, lino printing, acrylic paints and colour; analysing thinking, adding in their own opinions and styles and a sprinkling of personality to create an in depth portfolio of work.



Year 11 – College Visits



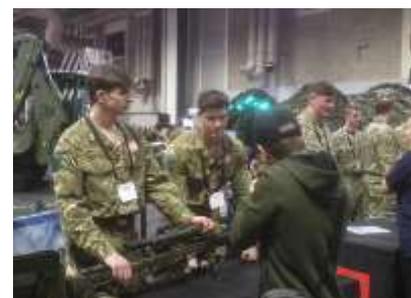
There is not a lot of time left before our year 11 cohort leave us to begin their next steps journeys. At Foundry College we are committed to preparing and supporting them through this process, which includes taking them on organised college visits. Two visits were conducted this term to Reading and Bracknell & Wo-



kingham Colleges. Both visits were a great success with all students applying for courses that were of interest to them, including apprenticeships. Some students have already been invited in for interviews.

WorldSkills UK Live

For the first time, Foundry College took a road trip to Birmingham and attended the WorldSkills UK live event. After some hesitation, a good number of students signed up for the visit. It was a brilliant opportunity for staff to develop students' independence, communication and resilience skills. A central meeting point was established and check in times agreed before students were let loose in groups to visit stands that were of interest to them. All rose to the challenge and were a credit to the college. The boys particularly enjoyed the construction section, which provided them with a wide range of job opportunities to explore.



Allotment



After a successful summer harvest of lettuces, radishes, tomatoes, courgettes, carrots and herbs, the primary class have been busy at the allotment preparing the beds for winter planting. After conducting research we decided garlic and onions would be ideal to grow over the Autumn with the colder weather. Maths skills were put to good use measuring the width and depth for each bulb and we used bamboo to ensure we had equal rows. The boys worked extremely hard and well as a team. In class we have also been experimenting with growing more exotic fruit and vegetables from seed and we are particularly proud of our emerging avocado plants.



Life

The year 10 and 11 students at Foundry College have embarked upon a new GCSE course at the start of the Autumn 2019 term.

Under the umbrella title of LIFE (Learning Information for Future Events), the students cover 12 separate units ranging from diversity to money management, relationships to the world of work and alcohol to wellbeing.

Each unit contains an element of literacy and numeracy, relies heavily upon discussion and individual student input as well as independent and group research.

The six best completed units will be submitted to the examining board. There is no written exam for this course and this enables students to work at their own pace, taking time for discussion, independent research and production of coursework for each unit.

Students have been very proactive in their approach to this new subject. As well as gaining a GCSE grade, the topics covered in this subject will better prepare them to make informed choices and contribute positively to society as responsible citizens.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Foundry College students were proud to host their annual Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 27th September with the Rugby World Cup as their inspiration. Each classroom represented a participating team drawn from a hat including England, Ireland, Wales, Japan, USA and Canada. Classrooms were decorated with homemade bunting, posters and cakes to welcome visitors, including our local neighbours, Brambles Centre staff and Foundry College Management Committee members. With both students and staff pitching in to provide home-baked goodies, we raised the bar set by last years cohort with an amazing grand total of £266.16 in just two hours.



English

In English we have been looking at Christmas advertising and considering its impact on purchasing and 'pester power'. We also looked at low budget Christmas messages and considered the real meaning of Christmas. One of our Y9 students wrote an impressive response to the statement 'Christmas is about families and togetherness, not presents'.

Christmas Gone Wrong

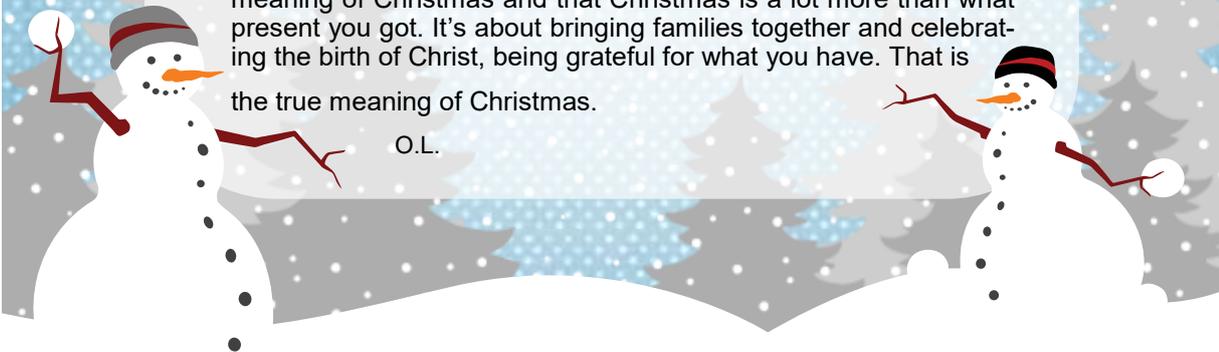
Shop brands such as John Lewis are taking the tradition out of Christmas by promoting the thought of the perfect Christmas using expensive gifts from their shop, this tyranny is breaking apart poorer/lower class families whom can't afford the expensive presents that are portrayed as necessities

Picture this... you're a rich parent with two kids, it's Christmas morning (sic) and your awoken by two very excited kids at the end of your bed. You take them to your Christmas tree to watch their eyes light up with joy as they stare at a multitude of very expensive gifts, they open the gifts and thank you.

Now... Picture this, you are a single mum for two kids. You are poor/ lower class and can barely afford food/rent. It is one day before Christmas and you have managed to scrape about £40 savings and you decide to spend only £20 on each child. The next day hits you. It's Christmas. Your kids wake you and sprint down stairs and towards the tree... they're immediately faced with disappointment and saddened because they didn't get the John Lewis experience, they didn't get what the other kids got. They are young and blame you: it's your fault they are unhappy, it's your fault they only got one present each and it's your fault that when they get asked what they were given by a school mate, embarrassment and dishonesty will greet them. This is the problem that the John Lewis and other such advertisements promoting "the perfect Christmas" is causing.

To help put a stop to this we need to unravel what really defines "the perfect Christmas" and remove the common misconception that has been put in our kids' heads, by showing them the true meaning of Christmas and that Christmas is a lot more than what present you got. It's about bringing families together and celebrating the birth of Christ, being grateful for what you have. That is the true meaning of Christmas.

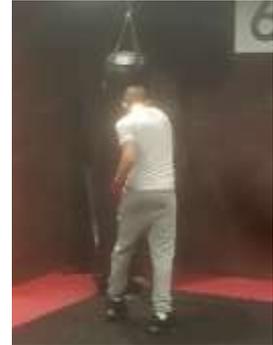
O.L.



Sport

This term Foundry College students were given the opportunity to take part in a range of different sports as part of their timetable. There have been many highlights throughout the term with students pushing themselves out of their comfort zones to try something different.

A large group of students have attended 9Rounds Fitness in Reading, a high intensity interval training circuit which changes every week. The variety in provision has helped our students to be motivated to attend as they know it will be similar yet different to what they have done before. The difficulty level and intensity of workout depends on how hard the students want to work. Whilst students found this challenging in the first week, as time has progressed they have demonstrated greater resilience and motivation to succeed. Alfie and



Cerys are this term's star students.

Mountain biking has always been a firm Foundry favourite and this term was no exception. Despite the wet and cold weather, students have attended every week knowing they will be smiling and enjoying themselves the whole way round, whilst getting covered in mud from head to toe.

Students have also attended the gym at Carnival Pool and Lavender Park Snooker club where the breaks are getting higher but nothing to worry 'The Rocket' just yet!

The girls have been attending trampolining sessions at Brackenhale. We have been working with coach, Hannah, to develop their fitness and stamina. As well as the taught sessions, we have also had an opportunity to watch some competitive gymnasts train. We have been amazed and astounded at the skills they have demonstrated. We started with basic skills; tuck jumps, pikes and straddle jumps. As confidence grew, students progressed to seat landings and swivel hip turns with some even managing 10 step routines. In addition to this we have also done some synchronised routines. Student feedback has been overwhelmingly positive:

- Great chance to have fun and exercise at the same time.
- Enjoy learning from each other and seeing other people's talents.
- Bonding and becoming closer as a group
- Increased confidence, exhausting but proud of ourselves

Army Visit

The Army Outreach team visited Foundry to share the wide range of career opportunities they offer. Students were surprised by the amount of different jobs available having been under the misguided view that the army was just about being a soldier! Luckily the weather held out enabling a session experiencing the new recruit training in the form of outside the box thinking challenges, team work, communication, leadership and following instructions. A great afternoon was had by all with lots of laughter.



Rainforest Visit

To complement our Rainforest topic, the Primary Classroom enjoyed a trip to the Living Rainforest near Newbury. We visited the Lowland House which was full of insects, birds, frogs and lots of different plants. It was very humid and we got wet because the plants were dropping water on us!

In the Amazonia House the boys showed great perseverance searching high and low for Cinnamon, the Sloth, but she was nowhere to be seen! We saw plants with huge leaves and learnt about how they had adapted to survive in the rainforest. We had a fantastic day and came away knowing so much more about how animals and plants adapt to the Rainforest environment.



Warwick Castle Visit.



On Friday 20th September, we went to visit Warwick castle. This venue had everything we could have wanted in a school trip. The castle was first built in 1068 on the orders of William the Conqueror. The original was made of wood and was gradually rebuilt in stone as the motte settled to take the weight.

Our three students were amazed as we entered under the complete barbican and examined the 'killing field' between the entry towers. "Was this really fought over?" "Did people die here?" Yes to both...

The weather was clear and sunny, ideal for photographs and having spent time in the palatial living quarters, we were able to explore the grounds. We went from cellars to highest towers with magnificent views. We saw the original man-made motte, the hill on which the original keep or tower was erected and then we went to sit in the meadow outside the walls.

We had our picnic lunch in the sun then sat on the grass to watch a fine falconry display, the best I have seen. Thanks to Toni, Megan and Jonjo for being a delight on the day and to Tom and Sarah for their support.



Dressing the Christmas Tree.



Christmas arrived at Foundry College, with the annual invitation from the Mayor of Wokingham to create a festive decoration for the town Christmas tree.

The primary students enjoyed creating a beautiful horseshoe design in the style of Foundry College.

We all met in the town square and enjoyed some festive spirit, singing Christmas carols along with other lo-



cal schools and the town choir. The children then proudly presented our decoration to the Town and Mini Mayor and it now sits with pride of place high up in the centre of the tree, the Foundry lights are still shining bright for all to see.

Pupil Voice

Here at Foundry we believe that it is important for students to have a say in their experience of their education. Pupil Voice is one of the important ways in which we try to gather the opinions of our students. Two of our staff team, Kirsty and George, are involved in getting students to think about how we can improve our environment and our classroom provision.

As we look forward to extended and refurbished premises, this takes on added importance. We have already completed a survey and questionnaire on toilet provision. This was done on International Toilet Day when we were able to raise the issue of the four billion people who do not have adequate toilets.

As part of our Foundry Christmas lunch, students have been consulted about raising money for the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice, a local charity who have provided invaluable support to one of families who tragically lost their daughter at the beginning of this year. Students will be wearing their festive best in return for a donation. We also had our own version of General Election using a ballot box one of the students crafted.



	Total	
Lib Dems	9	41%
Green Party	1	5%
Independent	0	0%
Labour	5	23%
Brexit	0	0%
Conservative	4	18%
UKIP	1	5%
Spilled	2	9%
Total number of votes	22	100%

Business and Enterprise

There are a record number of students studying the course this year with eight due to sit the Unit 1 exam in March 2020. Whilst we continue to follow the NCFE programme, we have upgraded to the newer course which better suits our students. Students will receive practice to better cope when the real exam arrives through sitting mock exams.

Travel & Tourism

We currently have two students studying the NCFE Travel and Tourism course, both at Level 1. Being coursework based with no final examination, it suits their learning styles well. Both have worked really hard with the two mandatory units almost completed. We will begin options after Christmas and are planning to include a trip as part of the required research.

English Revision Techniques



Our year 11 students have been thinking outside the box as they approach their exams. When it comes to creative ways of revising and retaining information as Cerys Crellin explains:

Poetry is very hard to remember so we decided to put it in a more attractive way. By picking apart the poems and making it visual, the poetry is more exciting to learn about. We look at language, context, effect on the reader, structure, poetic devices and identifying key quotes.

Happy Birthday

Honey



Honey, our much loved therapy dog, celebrated her fourth birthday in November with cakes made by the primary students. After researching what she could and could not safely eat, a carrot and honey cake was decided upon, which both Honey and her humans enjoyed.



TERM DATES

Spring Term 2020
Tuesday 7 January 2020 - Friday 14 February 2020
Half Term
Monday 17 February 2020 - Friday 21 February 2020
Monday 24 February 2020 - Friday 3 April 2020*

Summer Term 2020
Monday 20 April 2020 - Friday 22 May 2020
*May Bank Holiday (to celebrate VE day) - Friday 8 May 2020 , College closed. *
Half Term
Monday 25 May 2020 - Friday 29 May 2020
Monday 1 June 2020 - Friday 17 July 2020 *

* College finishes at 12:30pm on the last day of term

Inset Days (College closed to pupils)

- ◆ Monday 6 January 2020
- ◆ Monday 20 July and Tuesday 21 July 2020

Please note the change to the Early May Bank Holiday to **Friday 8th May 2020**



From everyone at Foundry we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.!