



Summer Term 2019

I cannot quite believe that my third year at Foundry is coming to an end. However, when I reflect, I find myself marveling at what a productive, exciting and successful year we have had.

This term has again been extremely busy, both in and outside the classroom. We have seen the arrival of several new pupils, across both primary and secondary phases, but we have also successfully returned some students to the mainstream system or moved them on to special schools. We have remained beyond full for the majority of the year and it is only now that our Year 11 students have officially left, that we are back to reasonable numbers.

Sadly at this time of year we do have to say goodbye to our Year 11 students, for whom it is time to move on. We celebrated their time at Foundry with a Leavers' Day brunch, followed by a trip to the theatre in London to see The Lion King. A really good time was had by all; they were good company and an absolute credit to themselves. A first for me, and worthy of special mention, the Year 11's asked if they could have Foundry College Leavers' Hoodies. They got themselves organised, samples were considered, the design was agreed and items purchased - and then worn with pride, despite the sweltering heat! We will miss them and wish them all the very best of luck, whatever their future holds. Every leaver has a next step plan for September and we look forward to hearing of their successes and exploits in the months and years to come.

On the staffing front, the end of the year is sadly also a time for goodbyes - but thankfully only three this summer. Lucy Filsell leaves us to move to High Close Special School, just round the corner, to take up the role of teacher of Craft. We also say goodbye to two members of our Tutor team, Sue Black and Juliet Sherratt, who have provided essential and bespoke support to pupils who were educated under the Medical / Vulnerable provision. Sue is returning to work in a mainstream classroom whilst Juliet is in pursuit of a new challenge. We thank all three colleagues for all they have done for Foundry pupils, past and present, and wish them well in their next roles.

Since I last wrote, Beata Tworek has become an invaluable member of the team supporting learning and behaviour in the secondary classrooms; Lydia Southan has hit the ground running as maternity cover in the Outreach team and Debbie Nicholls has joined the Tutor team. In September we will be welcoming two additional colleagues to the secondary teaching team: Kirsty Flaws and Sarah Margel.

This year we have seen real development in two key areas.

Firstly we have sought to extend our pupils' experiences and develop their 'Cultural Capital' through a wide range of enrichment opportunities. You can read about some of the highlights in the pages that follow. Many of our pupils find trips off site to unfamiliar places and participation in new activities very challenging, so all credit to them for giving it a go. The majority of pupils participated in at least one enrichment experience.

Secondly, we have continued to work closely with the Local Authority over the development of our somewhat limited space and facilities at Foundry. If you read the local press, you may have noted reference to Foundry College developing into Brambles and I am delighted to confirm that this is true. Without wishing to jinx the plans that we have worked so hard to get, I have included on page 2 a copy of the current plan to give you some idea of what we can look forward to. Obviously, we will have to endure some upheaval whilst the building works and refurbishment take place, but we will do all we can to minimize disruption to our pupils' learning and their safety is always our priority. Exciting times ahead!

Looking forward, the key dates for your diary are :

GCSE results day - Thursday 22nd August 2019

Students may collect their results in person between 9.00 - 11.30 am

If another nominated adult is to collect results on their behalf, they must

bring written confirmation and proof of their identity if not known to Foundry Staff

Start of term - Wednesday 4th September 2019

I would like to wish you a relaxing and enjoyable Summer holiday.




Summary of Proposals

Internal area converted to provide circa. 600sqm

New car park for Foundry and Brambles Children Centre



Natural boundary treatment added across the site



Existing modular unit reoriented

Access to additional external areas

Access control added to existing pedestrian/vehicular entrance

Maths

It has been an interesting and challenging year with many pupils enjoying success in their Functional Skills Level 1 and 2 exams. We are now preparing for an exciting change to a new syllabus, IGCSE for next summer, which will give our pupils the opportunity to sit exams in both January and June. Over Easter we ran a very well attended revision workshop to familiarise pupils with exam techniques and to recap core topics as the exams were fast approaching.

In lessons, we have experimented with a variety of enriching tasks such as matching Tarsia puzzles, online activities, whiteboard quizzes, murder mysteries and mathematical investigations. We have covered a variety of topics, such as operations with fractions, decimals and percentages, ratios as well as challenging our pupils with Trigonometry.

Success in Maths is definitely on the increase due in no small way to the improved resilience of the learners.



Winchester Science Museum.

To complement our Space and Flight topic, the Primary Classroom visited the Winchester Science Museum. The Winchester Science Museum is the South of England's interactive science and technology centre with the largest stand alone planetarium in the UK. It was full of exciting, hands-on science experiences which really sparked the pupils' curiosity and was a truly inspirational day.

In the brand new Explorer Space Zone, the pupils immersed themselves in an epic journey through the Solar System. Explorer Space encompasses 20 fantastic modular exhibits, covering everything from meteorites to stardust, robots to coding, and atmospheric pressure to human space flight! One of the exhibits contained Tim Peake's space suit. Nicholas couldn't believe the weight of it, exclaiming, "I tried on the suit and tried to lift my arms – it was so heavy!"

The planetarium, a 360° domed screen, completely surrounds the audience and live presenter-led shows explore different aspects of the universe, from the planets to the stars. The children were amazed with Nicholas saying it was so good "I wanted to scream!"



Dinton Pastures

The Primary classroom completed their reward chart and chose a trip to Dinton Pastures as their reward. The day started really well, albeit a little chilly, and we had some fun running around the play area and playing hide and seek.

Unfortunately the British weather did not let us down and the heavens opened before we had even made it to lunchtime. Whilst the pupils seemed quite happy to run around in the rain it did eventually get the better of us and we retired to the café to enjoy some much needed hot chocolate and sausage baps.



Art & Craft

Throughout the year students at Foundry College have enjoyed working on a range of practical activities in craft. This included designing and making back-lit pictures, phone / tablet holders, 3D sculptures, model making and much more.



There have been a couple of trips out this year for Craft and Art. At the end of the Spring term, to support the NCFE Level 2 Creative Craft course, Shauna and Malia visited Silver by Design at Holme Grange Craft Village. The girls had the opportunity to participate in a silver clay workshop. They received instruction on the techniques needed to make their own silver clay pendants. Whilst their own pieces dried they were also shown how to use memory wire to make a glass bead bracelet.



In May, the Art GCSE students visited the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham. We were fortunate to have our own personal guide to show us around the exhibition. The students took inspiration from their favourite pieces and made sketches to show the elements that could be used or linked to their own work. We had an enjoyable morning looking at and hearing about the work within the gallery.

Oakwood Youth Challenge Summer Outreach Programme.

The pupils in the primary classroom and a selection of pupils from Wokingham schools, who are being supported by the Outreach team, have been lucky enough to participate in activities over the summer term at Oakwood Youth Challenge, Wokingham.

A leading residential activity centre, the Oakwood Youth Challenge welcomes thousands of children each year to take part in a rewarding and thrilling programme of outdoor and indoor adventure activities, all within a secure, controlled and inclusive environment.

Outdoor Activities can be of enormous benefit to the pupils who take part, as they lead to improved self-confidence and motivation and also help them to improve their interactions with others especially in situations outside of their comfort zone.

Over the five weeks, pupils have experienced indoor climbing, bouldering, high ropes, stacking crates, archery and the flying kiwi. There have been nerves, bravery and everything in between, but they all rose to the challenge and everyone came away with a great sense of achievement.

We have had some wonderful feedback from the pupils and we look forward to visiting Oakwood again next term. Everyone has really benefited from the range of exciting activities in a really safe and supportive environment.



"My favourite activity was the high ropes because it was frightening but fabulous! "

Nicholas Jones -Primary Class.

"My favourite activity was archery because it was amazing. We played noughts and crosses!"

Brian Hamblin -Primary Class.

Travel and Tourism

Windsor Trip

A chilly, damp Spring morning found eight of us ready to set off to Windsor for the day. Malia, Curtis, Ella and Harley had been looking forward to some practical work to reinforce and bring to life what they had been learning in class. Traffic could have been heavy, but driver Gareth navigated us swiftly through narrow lanes and bye-ways and in no time were on the outskirts of Windsor. We enjoyed the commentary pointing out which celebrities lived where.

Windsor is one of the major tourist venues in the UK and we were there to look at some of its history, what it provides for tourists and how tourism has impacted the town. Malia and Harley had a particular interest in the castle.

We noticed that the Royal Standard flag was flying, indicating that the Queen was in residence. We were impressed right away with the numbers of police and the level of security present. We went into the castle through airport style security, belts off, bags opened and everything checked and x-rayed. We split up into two groups to take different routes around the castle. The miserable weather was getting colder so we did not spend too much time out of doors. The heavens opened just as we were watching the changing of the guard, so off we went into the state apartments. "Look, there he is again," said Malia as another portrait of Charles I came into view. Harley scurried here and there enjoying the weapons on display and sharing his breadth of knowledge with us.



We were all stunned by the richness of our surroundings.

We all met up in St George's Chapel to see the location of some great national occasions. "Yes. This is where Harry and Meghan stood during their wedding!" We left the castle as the rain came down and a cold wind blew. A walk through the town to look at tourist facilities in the centre highlighted the impact of so many visitors on such a small place. Iain and Beatta found themselves inadvertently leading a group of tourists from the Far East, but we soon left them to take refuge in the nearest Macdonald's (Other burger bars are available!)

Allotment Update



Foundry College are very fortunate to have an allotment in Wokingham.

The Primary children have worked tirelessly preparing the soil for planting and organising the raised beds. We are yet to sample our produce, however, we are looking forward to growing potatoes, leeks, carrots and we already have some herbs and radishes flourishing in the beds. We are very impressed with the way pupils have embraced and engaged with this activity. Foundry Farmers Market coming soon!

Occupational Studies

At the end of May, the External Quality Assurer from NCFE visited and examined the work of the Year 11 pupils. I am pleased to report that all pupils who completed their units either achieved a Level 1 Award or Certificate. This represents an improvement on the results from last year where only the Level 1 Award was achieved. In addition, we currently still have pupils on roll who are working towards achieving the Level 2 qualification, continuing to attend college, in an effort to finish their coursework. As in previous years, many of the pupils chose to complete units related to the building trade such as plumbing, woodwork and bricklaying, whilst others have worked towards units related to cooking, sport, leisure and graphic design. Next year we plan to offer pupils a route into Level 2 at a much earlier stage with a view to getting more pupils qualified to a higher level during their time with us.



There have been several trips out this year to support the course. Two separate trips to construction sites were organised. The first was to visit the Skanska site at Mindenhurst, Surrey which is a vast redevelopment of the former MOD, Deepcut Barracks site. This is a large infrastructure development project which includes the relocation of the MOD to Dorset. This trip was quite an eye-opener for the pupils, who gained a good degree of insight into the complexities of such a big project and the environmental factors which affect it. The second visit was to the Wates development of Brakenhale School in Bracknell and offered the pupils the opportunity to see some of the process and techniques involved in commercial building construction.



In May, 4 pupils went by train to ExCel in London to attend Grand Designs Live. This exhibition, which is a spin-off from the Channel 4 show, gave pupils the chance to see some of the most cutting edge developments in housing and garden building and design. Some of what they saw was truly inspirational!

To further support the course, SATRO, a charity supporting learners in the construction industry, visited Foundry with their mobile workshop and worked with some of the pupils to create a one-off woodwork project. This was a successful visit with Year 9 and 10 pupils creating nicely designed and finished peg clip notice boards to take home as gifts. Hopefully, we will be able to engage the services of SATRO on a longer term basis to support the delivery of Occupational Studies construction based units or to widen our offer to provide City and Guilds qualifications for some of our pupils in the future.



As we move towards the end of the year, plans to further develop the course and expand the number of options available are well advanced and moving forward into next year, we hope to be able to offer more breadth, depth and challenge to our pupils working towards qualifications in Occupational Studies.



TVAP

The Primary pupils have been enjoying their weekly visits to Thames Valley Adventure Park. They have had a fantastic time exploring all the different areas; soft play has been very popular with the newly polished slide and sky high climbing blocks! Outside they have been flying through the air on the zip wire, climbing to the top of the castle and being industrious within the sand and water areas. The track has proved very popular with pupils choosing which mode of transport to use to navigate the circuit.

Pupils have a weekly tradition of taking on Foundry staff at table football. A fun time is had by all, with very tired pupils (and teachers) returning to school in the mini bus.

We are looking forward to continued use of this fantastic facility.



History, Geography, Religious Studies

We strive to give our pupils a broad and balanced education and also to give some continuity. In History we follow a course which gives pupils the opportunity to study British and International History. It's entitled "Explaining the Modern World" and comes in two main parts. One covers international relationships from 1918 to 2001 followed by depth studies of Germany from 1925 to 1955 and the USA from 1919 to 1975. The second part of the course covers the impact of warfare on Britain from 790 to 2010 and includes depth studies on the English Civil Wars and on Castles.

For Geography the title of the course is "The Evolving Planet". It includes physical, human and environmental geography and geographical methodology. The course covers a wide range of topics from weather systems to the growth of towns across the world, from water supplies to sustainable development in local and worldwide environments. There are both Foundation and Higher exam papers for this course.

Pupils who choose to take RS can follow a short or long course. They will study the beliefs and practices of two major world religions and will complete a philosophy unit. This is based upon areas of agreement and disagreement between religious and non-religious groups.

Hayling Island.

This fieldwork trip had been long in the planning. Four pupils and four staff set off on a very pleasant and warm day. An eventless journey brought us to Hayling Island. We had an itinerary which took in Geography, History, Travel and Tourism, and some other activities to enhance our pupils' life experience.

We started at Eaststoke Beach and spent some time examining a stretch of coastline that is very expensive to maintain. We looked at the groynes and their function and at the way in which the top of the beach had been contoured with shingle and concrete barriers. This protects almost two thousand houses which are at risk of flooding in stormy weather. Harley and Alfie were particularly interested in the groynes as they made a good platform from which they could fish. Sadly the fish were swimming near the Isle of Wight and only seaweed was caught.....



We went on to look at the remains of heavy anti-aircraft defences at Sinah, near to the golf club. We looked at plans of the area and discussed how Hayling Island was used as a decoy to protect Portsmouth from German bombers. We remembered the six men who died when a parachute bomb landed close to their gun emplacement and it was a moving experience for all to be able to put poppies around the memorial and then find places to plant poppy seeds for the future.

Time was passing quickly so we had lunch in a café at Beechlands. This gave us a further opportunity to look at tourist provision and the impact it has had on the area. The general consensus was that Hayling Island presents as a place that has suffered from

changing holiday patterns since the 1950s and is in need of some real investment.

It was noted, by some, that we were unable to find a McDonalds, a gap in the market perhaps! We really did try to fly kites and Beata put in a great deal of running to launch hers. Elliot looked very calm and cool with his and had several successful take-offs but sadly the lovely, warm day brought little wind, even at the seaside. Toni had seen this coming and spent the time scraping the college name in the sand. This was a really successful trip and one we hope to repeat annually.



Footgolf

The focus in the primary classroom this term has been on developing the life skills of making the right choices, resilience, teamwork and following instructions. They spent a fun afternoon practising all four skills on the footgolf course in at Wokingham Family Golf in Finchampstead.

Never one to shirk a challenge they opted to play 18 holes rather than nine. It took extensive practice to master the skill of 'putting' the football and resilience was tested to the limit! The boys persevered, supporting and cheering each other on, demonstrating the very real progress they have made since joining the college.



Food and Cookery

Throughout the year pupils at Foundry College have enjoyed working on a range of dishes to satisfy both their own palates and the requirements of the course they have been completing. This has included dishes such as Irish Stew, cakes, burgers and enough breaded chicken to rival the local KFC!

Two pupils were very fortunate to attend an offsite trip linked to the course we have been studying. Pupils attended The Kitchen at Reading College. The Kitchen is run by Reading College students as part of their course. We were treated to dishes such as pheasant, which neither of the boys had tasted before, but enjoyed immensely.

Towards the end of the Summer term, the Year 11 pupils took part in their food assessment during which they prepared and cooked a two course meal completely independently. All coped admirably creating dishes that were well received by all who were lucky enough to taste them.



The Lion King

To celebrate their achievements, 8 of our Year 11 pupils went to the Lyceum Theatre, in the heart of Theatreland, London. After a substantial brunch - and an opportunity to reflect on the obstacles that they have overcome this year - we hopped on a coach to London and cruised down the motorway. Despite some hold-ups, we reached the theatre just as curtain call was announced, and the group sat down with eager anticipation.



The performance was mesmerising and the pupils were amazed by the athleticism of the dancers/actors. One of our pupils commented that she hadn't ever sat still for that long in her life. The well-known songs and story engaged and delighted them, and the time flew by. The favourite character was the Baboon, who was comical and ridiculous, although for sheer villainy, Scar ran a close second.

As the curtain fell at the end of the final act, all staff were immensely proud of the pupils. They were an asset to the college, and seeing how they have developed and flourished brought a very proud tear to the eye! On the coach on the way home, they chatted excitedly about the experience, and finished the journey with an epic game of 'I Spy'. A wonderful day out, with some equally wonderful young people!

A big thank you to The Arts Society, Wokingham for their generous donation towards this trip.



Foundry Rescue Rangers

The Primary children, Nicholas and Brian, have written and illustrated a recount of their exciting adventure on the way back from the allotment.

Foundry Saves the dog!



We were leaving the allotment when we saw a dog running ~~funny~~ really fast down the pavement. It went into a driveway and Mrs E got out of the car she used her hand dog strap as a lead and saved the dog. A man came running up the pavement. It was a vet and he said "we have a dog. Is it yours?" He said, "Yes, thank you so much!" He had been running after the dog and seemed very relieved.

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2019
Wednesday 4 September 2019 - Thursday 24 October 2019
Half Term
Monday 4 November 2019 - Friday 20 December 2019*
Spring Term 2020
Tuesday 7 January 2020 - Friday 14 February 2020
Half Term
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)

- ♦ Tuesday 3 September 2019
- ♦ Friday 25 October 2019
- ♦ 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**