



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Be the change you wish to see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi

If you don't like it - change it. If you can't change it - change the way you think about it.

Mary Engelbreit

We have reached the end of another busy term during which we have seen many achievements as well as facing challenges, not least the continued impact of Covid. I am exceptionally grateful to the efforts of the staff at Foundry College to ensure that face-to-face teaching could continue for all pupils and to maintain the bespoke provisions that we know our pupils benefit so much from.

Attached to the newsletter are new guidelines for parents in relation to living with Covid. Whilst the virus has not gone away we are hopeful that the impact will be less, particularly as we move into the summer months of this year.

Thank you to all the parents and pupils who attended the parents' evening this week, it was wonderful to see such a fantastic attendance and return to face to face meetings. Having a yearly parents evening alongside the half termly education reviews hopefully gives you the parent a complete overview of the provision that is in place for your child and the progress that they have made. As you will read through the newsletter I hope you can appreciate how important it is to us that there is a blend of learning opportunities for our pupils.



The key to being happy is knowing you have the power to choose what to accept and what to let go.

Dodinsky

Sometimes the bravest and most important thing you can do is just show up.

Brene Brown

Alongside the classroom learning there have been many exciting educational visits over the last term that have included a visit to the Thames water plant in Slough and the Charles Dickens Museum in London. I know that many staff members have already spent countless hours planning further educational visits for the final term and I look forward to hearing about all of their successes.

After the Easter holidays Year 11 pupils will soon be starting their GCSE examinations, after two years without a formal examination series we wish all of our pupils the very best of luck throughout this high pressured process and our teachers will be working hard to support them through the process. Over the next few weeks pupils in Year 11 can not revise enough, all revision that they complete including writing notes, completing past papers, reading through revision booklets, watching youtube revision clips will all be supportive to them in settling their nerves or supporting their knowledge at this incredibly important time.

During the exam season there will be some disruption to timetables to ensure the integrity of the examinations are conducted without disruption, this may include later starting times or provision changes to increase offsite opportunities so please ensure you read thoroughly all communications.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all your support and wish you all an enjoyable Easter holidays. Ramadan Mubarak to those members of our community observing Ramadan in the month. I look forward to seeing our pupils on the 25th April.

PRIMARY



This term has been another to celebrate in the Primary Classroom. The term started by looking at Rainforests and throughout the first half term, the pupil explored their location around the world, how this impacts the climate, the layers of the rainforest and who lives there. Discussing Deforestation was a particularly interesting session, where the reasons for and against were debated. Within English lessons, the pupil had the opportunity to create his own animal and labelled it to show the animal adaptations which made it suitable to living in that habitat. A poster was also created to share the strong opinions that deforestation needs to stop. The topic was rounded up with a visit to the Living Rainforest which was thoroughly enjoyed by the pupil and teachers alike!

This half term, the pupil in Primary has explored different countries around the world. When virtually visiting Egypt, we took a step back in time to the Ancient Egyptian Civilisation and learnt about the significance of pyramids, pharaohs and their belief in the afterlife. Activities included creating Canopic jars, mummifying a teddy bear (cutting it open to remove the plastic organs first, of course!), and making an Egyptian Death Mask. Dubai was a country requested by the Primary pupil himself! Time was spent learning about how Dubai has changed over the recent years and the challenges of building on sand. This led to sessions which involved designing and building skyscrapers and our own Dubai cityscape. Spain and Australia are also countries on the 'must explore' list!

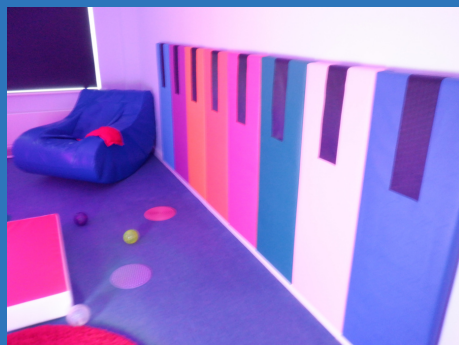
Off-site trips and visits continue to be an important aspect of provision in the Primary Classroom. This term we have been fortunate enough to have accessed Oakwood Climbing Centre, Thames Valley Adventure Park as well as Brickies at Holme Grange Craft Village. All experiences have provided additional opportunities for our children to engage with other adults and children as well as developing positive learning behaviours and life skills



SENSORY ROOM

After lots of planning, we are pleased to say that our Sensory Room is now up and running and it is providing a much needed space for pupils to go to reflect on the day or simply enjoying the calm space. You might find the odd teacher in there too!

Thank you to the members of staff who dedicated their time to planning, designing and resourcing this space.



If you want to find the secrets of the universe, think in terms of energy, frequency and vibration.

Nikola Tesla



SCIENCE

This term year 11s have been starting to focus more on exam techniques but have been keeping up with their practical work to support them with this.

We took the opportunity during the beautiful spring sunshine to go outside and learn about sampling plant populations.

KS3 pupils have been learning about waves, acids and alkalis and are now embarking on a topic about the rock cycle.

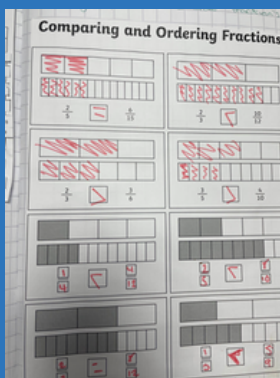
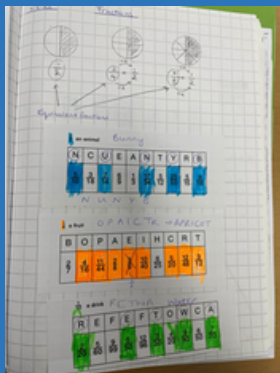
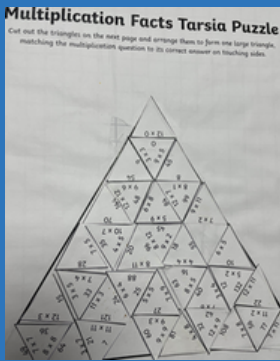
Some pupils have been learning about science in a PE context, thinking about their aerobic and anaerobic effort.

Chemistry practical investigations have been popular with pupils learning from flame tests and burning magnesium in order to calculate changing masses before and after a reaction.

MATHS

Mathematics is not about numbers, equations, computations or algorithms; it is about understanding.

William Paul Thurston



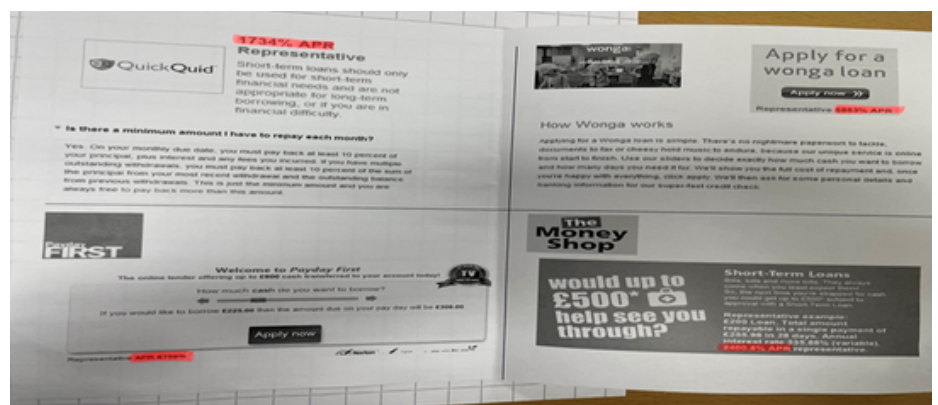
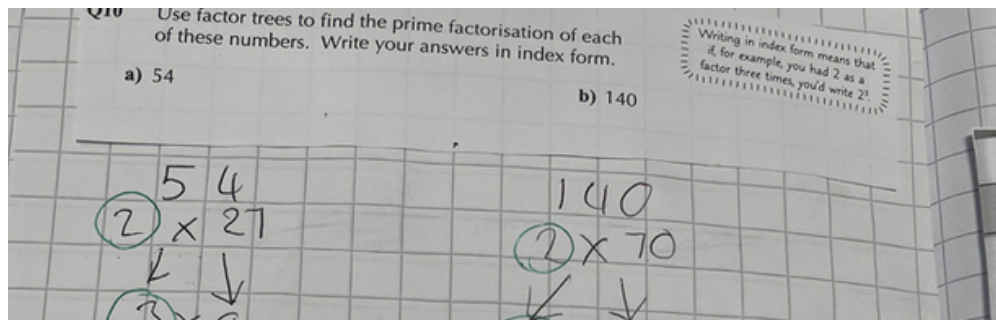
iGCSE Results

This term pupils received their iGCSE results from the January series. There were some excellent results and a number of pupils are now preparing for the Higher tier in June.

KS3 Pupils

KS3 pupils have been completing the fractions topic. We started with a recap of multiplication tables, multiples and factors. Pupils then used this knowledge to find equivalent fractions, compare and order fractions

We have also investigated percentages and what these mean in real life scenario. As part of our numeracy target we extracted information from payday loan adverts and worked out, how much we will be paying back.





The language we use influences the way we think.

Steven Pinker



ENGLISH

This term has seen off site visits for both KS3 and KS4. In February, Year 7 - Year 10 pupils went to see a performance of David Walliam's 'Gangsta Granny' at the New Victoria Theatre in Woking. In March, Year 11 pupils took a trip to Charles Dickens' house (now a museum) in London.

In school, our Year 11 pupils have used both the experience of their mocks from the end of last term and the feedback from these assessments to help them with their final push towards their exams. They continue to complete controlled assessments and learn the skills needed to achieve success in the summer.

Our Year 10 pupils are in the process of completing controlled assessments, working mostly on pieces of writing to describe and to narrate. They are also now beginning to look at the reading skills they will need for their exams next year.

Our Key Stage 3 pupils have been working on a variety of topics. Several of our pupils have been working on the island project. As part of this they have been improving their writing skills including descriptive writing, diary writing and account writing. Other students have been working on their debating skills and looking at arguments for and against the death penalty, constructing their own opinions and arguments on the controversial topic.

As the summer term approaches we look forward to being able to use the outside space and the seating area that pupils requested as part of Foundry Voice (the pupil voice).



HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Geography explains the past, illuminates the present, and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that.

Michael Palin

This half-term has gone very quickly. It has been an important period in the lead-up to GCSE exams. Pupils have worked hard.

In Geography we have been looking at Climate change and our responses to it and how we can achieve success in holding down temperatures. Water and its management and coastal landforms have all been covered. Last Summer's trip to Hayling Island has proven its worth in some of this work and we have had the bonus of being able to join the Science department in visiting the Slough Sewage Treatment works. This certainly made us think more about flushing the loo! The aromas were.....

In History, pupils have worked hard on the reigns of Edward 1 and Elizabeth 1 and are currently looking at the English Civil Wars and Britain in the First World War. One pupil is writing a history of fashion and two others are making trebuchets to see how this was done in medieval times. These were wooden weapons that could throw large stones over 400 metres. They were used to demolish sections of castle wall. There is a strong cross-curricular link in this, lots of maths, science, craft and technology. Earlier in the term with the English staff, we were able to visit a 'far, far better place', the home of Charles Dickens. This was really inspiring.



The nation that keeps one eye on its past is wise. The nation that keeps two eyes on the past is blind.

A quote on a sidewall on Montgomery Street, Belfast



OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES

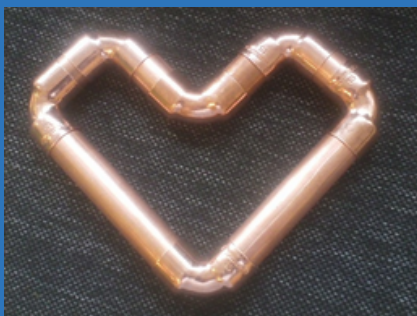
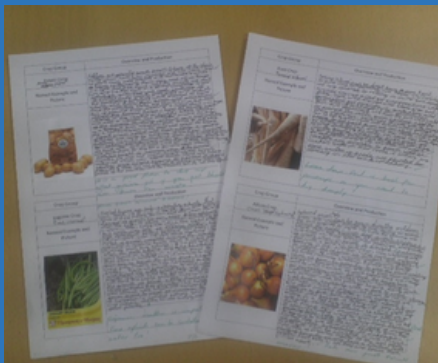
Within the Occupational Studies department the Level 2 unit – Performing Brickwork Operations continues to be the most popular but also the most challenging of the units on offer.

For the pupil who started the new Understanding How to Grow Fruit and Vegetables, Level 2-unit, progress has been very good despite the heavy academic content involved.

For most of our pupils however, Occupational Studies continues to have practical focus with pupils studying Plumbing Skills, Plastering Techniques and Hand Carpentry skills as well as the bricklaying and horticulture-based units.

We are continuing to explore ways of getting the pupils into the community to apply their new-found practical skills and hope as the weather improves that this will become an important part of their provision and experience at Foundry.

The aim of the course is after all, to give pupils a taste of working life and to give them the experience and skills to make informed choices as they move on from school.

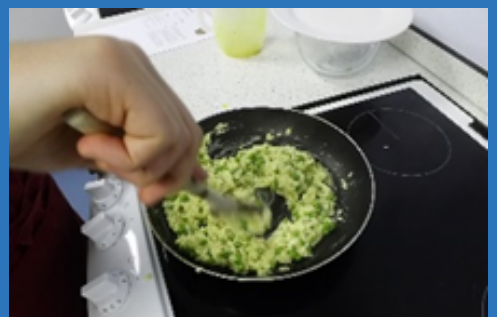
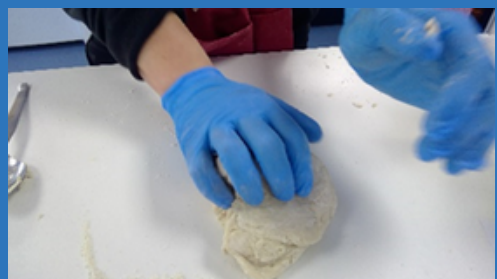


FOOD AND COOKERY

This was another busy term for the pupils at Foundry in the kitchen. Many continue to develop their cooking skills and knowledge of personal and kitchen hygiene.

Pupils have started to look into more detail about the Eatwell Guide and its nutritional benefits for our bodies, the importance of breakfast, seasonal foods, traffic light labels and social and cultural factor that affect our food choices.

A wide variety of dishes have been created this term including pancakes, profiteroles, Thai curries, apple roses, vegetarian pizzas, upside cake, banana breakfast loaves, carrot cake, bread, vegetable soup, Chinese rice and noodle dishes with spring rolls!



PE

Pupils have been taking part and succeeding in two different areas of physical education, Mountain biking at Swinley Forest and attending the off - site gym at Loddon Valley Leisure Centre.

The pupils who have been taking part in mountain biking have been working on their bike handling and jumping skills in both the woodland trails and the specific skills development area called the Summit. The pupils have been improving on each week and have grown in their confidence and skills. One pupil had voiced that he is 'always excited and looking forward to trying something new and challenging when mountain biking'.

Pupils who have been attending the gym have been working on a variety of different exercises and goals which they have picked themselves. One pupil is trying to improve his ability to perform pull ups and arm strength to complete a monkey bar skills workout, others are focused on explosive power and using the plyometric boxes to leap and bound. The pupils have also been gaining many different social skills as this friendly environment encourages the pupils to interact with familiar faces at the gym and have polite small talk conversations or ask if they have finished using different equipment.

ALT PROV & THE PRACTICAL APPROACH

Pupils from Foundry College have the opportunity to provide further bespoke provision at different strands of the Alt Prov Group. This is where pupils can take part different activities suited to their needs such as construction and sports activities at The Alt Prov and more creative endeavours such as podcasting, creative design and arts at the Practical Approach. Our pupils have enjoyed their time and we are also showing to positive improvements when they are completing onsite lessons.

Exercise not only changes your body, it changes your mind, your attitude and your mood.

Anonymous

Fitness isn't about being better than someone else. It's about being better than who you used to be.

Khloe Kardashian



The Alt Prov
ENGAGING · MOTIVATING · EMPOWERING

ART & CRAFT

This term some pupils have looked at graffiti styles and used researched images to try and create their own interpretations. They have worked with a range of marker pens and graphic pencils.

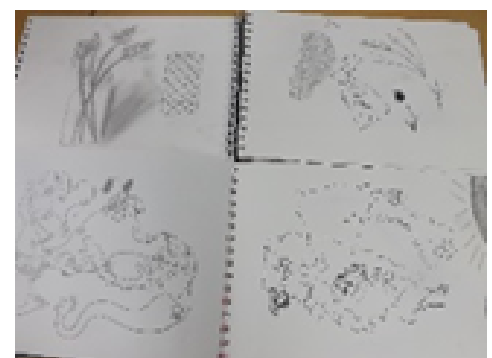
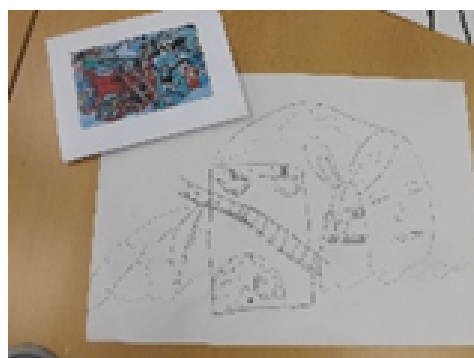
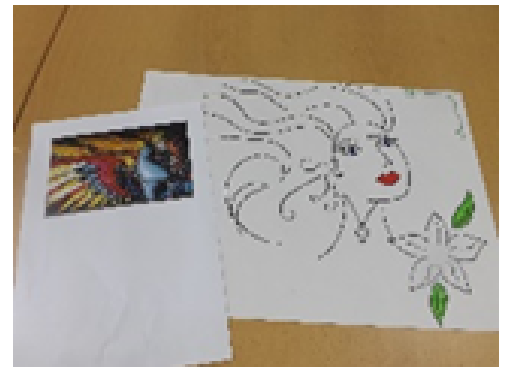
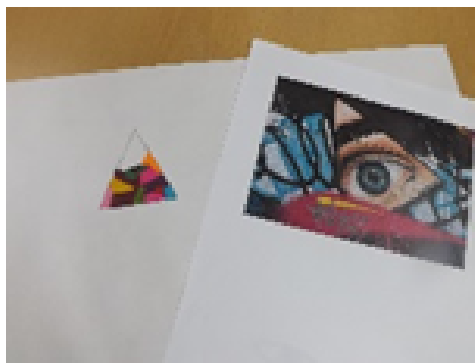
Another pupil has chosen to work with textiles and is creating a fabric wall-tidy, designing different sized pockets with bespoke decoration. Learning to hand sew on a button, use an iron to create seams and operate a sewing machine from scratch have all been challenging but steadily accomplished.

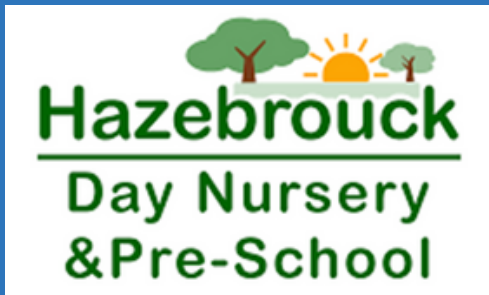
In Art, KS3 pupils have just started looking at mark-making and observational drawing techniques thinking about using tone and shading – how to create light/dark – highlights and shadows.



Art speaks where words are unable to explain.

Threadless Artist Mathihole





WORK EXPERIENCE

As part of the curriculum, we offer our KS4 extended work experience opportunities whereby they go to a placement 1 day a week for 6 weeks. This is a great opportunity for our pupils to gain first-hand knowledge of the 'real world' and an insight to their potential industry of choice. We currently have one pupil working with Berkshire Motor Works, another at Hazebrouck Nursery and Pre-School and more starting in the next term.

We are always open to suggestions and support, so if you know of anyone who would like to work with us in providing invaluable experience to our pupils, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Vix White vix@foundry.wokingham.sch.uk

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE

Congratulations to our pupils studying the Business and Enterprise course, as they sat their exam and submitted their synoptic project assignments (independent coursework). A lot of effort, and last minute typing was put into their work and they deserve a break over the Easter to recharge their batteries, where they will receive feedback and they then make the decision to resubmit or not.

STAFF WORKING ROOM

To improve our staff's wellbeing and enhance the workroom environment, we asked staff what we could do to improve their workspace. We have had some super suggestions and as a result we are now working towards a warm and inviting workroom for our staff.



Entrepreneurship is living few years of life like most people won't, so that you can spend the rest of your life like most people can't.
Anonymous

THAMES WATER SEWERAGE TREATMENT

Foundry College pupils in KS3 and KS4 were given the opportunity to attend the Sewerage Treatment facility in Slough.

Despite the name, the smell wasn't bad and both trips gave some interesting facts (please only flush the 3 P's down the toilet). All of our pupils had to wear PPE (high visibility jackets, hard hats and gloves) for our own safety.

The tour showed us how many different stages the water goes through once leaving our taps and being released back into our rivers...fully cleaned of course.

During the visit for KS4, we learnt there are a huge amount of different jobs that can be done for Thames Water. The most surprising...a shepherd! Starting salaries are incredibly impressive, along with offering post 16 apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships.

A massive thank you to Tracy who was our guide and top notch information provider both days and of course Thames Water for letting us visit the site.

