

*From our family to yours*

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

*We hope your holidays are filled with  
laughter & love.*

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

We are exceptionally fortunate to be able to bring to all of our readers a wonderful reflection of the highlights of the term; the various events, activities, trips and much more that have lit up our community.

Covid-19 has impacted many schools across our world but we here at Foundry College have managed to continue to provide stability of education to our pupils through a very unstable time for us all. To see pupils learning, socialising, smiling and laughing has been a highlight that normally we may have taken for granted. While I know that it has been a difficult period for many, I would like to thank you for your positivity and support for Foundry College. Throughout the last few months we have received a lot of absolutely wonderful messages in support of our staff and school.

I am sure we will continue to face further challenges in 2022 but I am confident that our staff and pupils will rise to that challenge. If COVID has shown anything it is how a community can pull together to support each other, whether that is making PPE, collecting for food banks or supporting learning at home and in school. The support of parents is crucial and it is even more important that we work together for the benefit of our pupils especially those who are finding life harder as a result of the current situation.

I would like to thank you all and hope you enjoy this newsletter packed with pictures of happy students enjoying learning!

Iain Thomas  
Headteacher



## OFFICIAL OPENING OF FOUNDRY COLLEGE

In September 2021 our lovely new building was officially opened by Mayor Cllr Keith Baker MBE. The £1.7million project saw a range of improvements creating more space for our students. We now have a dedicated science lab, fitness suite, food and cookery room, indoor and outdoor workshop as well as the provision of additional classrooms.

The new buildings have been dedicated to our former Headteacher Jay Blundell, who passed away earlier this year. Jay worked tirelessly alongside the council to see the project through to completion.



## FOUNDRY VOICE

Pupils have continuing opportunities to express their thoughts on a variety of issues at Foundry. It has been clear for a while that some of our outside areas needed further attention. Now, as part of our plans, we have a splendid new canopy covering a large area of our inner courtyard. Dan has worked hard with some of the pupils to assemble the tables and affixed benches. Now we just need some plants and most of all, fine weather. We are all looking forward to making use of this space and turning it into something that is bright, attractive and a real contribution to our mental health.



### TERM DATES

College reopens on 5th January 2022

### HALF TERM HOLIDAYS

21-25 February 2022

### EASTER BREAK

11-22 April 2022

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please follow the links to NSPCC and Wokingham Children's Services

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/> 0808 800 5000

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/children-and-families/child-protection-and-family-support/report-a-concern-about-a-child/> 0118 908 8002

Local Foodbank information:

<https://wokingham.foodbank.org.uk/> 0300 330 1189

<https://pilotlight.org/index.html>

## ENGLISH

This has been a busy start to the term with students studying a wide range of aspects within English including a KS3 curriculum, English Language and English Literature.

A big focus for our KS3 cohort has been on reading. Our KS3s have read short extracts from 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck and 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo which has opened up lots of valuable SMSC discussions around human nature and moral dilemmas.

Students in both KS3 and KS4 have also been exposed to works from the English Literary Heritage such as: A Christmas Carol and Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens and Porphyria's Lover by Robert Browning.

Students in Year 10 and 11 have been working hard to generate controlled assessment work for their Cambridge iGCSE and our Year 11s have recently undertaken their mock exams which we wish them every success in.

## SCIENCE

This term KS4 pupils started with a series of lessons relating to plants and photosynthesis which enabled them to observe plant cell structures under the microscope and experiment with the rate of photosynthesis in pond weed. They then moved on to learning about the digestive system and the role of enzymes in digesting food. This also involves a lovely demonstration of the screaming jellybaby – very popular with the pupils! New pupils have also learned about making soluble salts and have made some beautiful copper sulfate crystals. More recently our year 11s have seen how changing concentration, surface area and using a catalyst all affect the rate of a reaction.

KS3 pupils started their science with practical investigations relating to testing for certain foods. They learned how different reagents can be used to find out if a food contains starch, protein, sugar or fats. They have also modelled what goes on in the small intestine when starch is broken down into glucose.



Extracting DNA from a red onion.



Making sugar snakes on bonfire night!



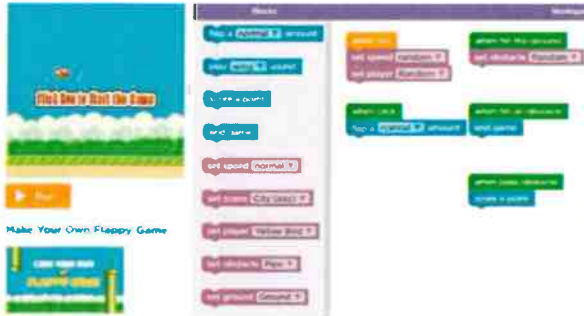
Food tests

# MATHS

The Maths department has been very busy this term preparing our Year 11 students for mock exams and their IGCSE exams in January.

Meanwhile other pupils have worked through key stage 3 topics like sequences, number types and decimals.

We have introduced coding in lessons and have made our own games and completed Minecraft programming tasks.



Using **multi-link bricks** to help check our written answers.

A manipulative is an object which is designed so that a learner can perceive some mathematical concept by manipulating it, hence its name. The use of manipulatives provides a way for children to learn concepts through developmentally appropriate hands-on experience.

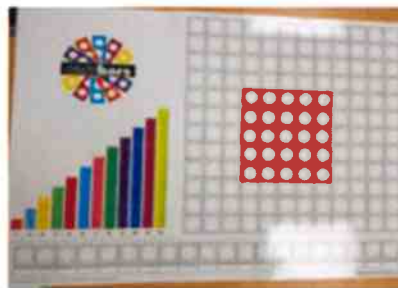


Dividing using **multi-link bricks**.



**CarrBarrs**  
Relationship between multiplication and division.  
 $25 / 5 = 5$  so  $5 \times 5 = 25$

We used **CarrBarrs** and multi-link bricks to try and understand what a **fraction** looks like.



## OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES

For most of our pupils Occupational Studies continues to have practical focus and most are continuing or have started new Level 2 units during this first term. Performing Brickwork Operations is proving to be the most popular unit so far this year and most of the pupils are making steady progress and developing unusually good skills already. Other pupils are engaging in and have almost completed units based on developing horticultural skills and for the first time one of our pupils is starting the Level 2 unit, Understanding How to Grow Fruit and Vegetables. Unusually, he is planning to complete the whole course through horticulture based units which is very impressive. One pupil is studying Introductory Plastering Techniques and is making good progress through the unit. As we move into spring we hope to get the pupils out and about, putting their new-found skills to use in the community.



## BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE

This year we have two entrepreneurs in the making who have been working towards their exams next year. So far we have looked at the skills and qualities that they would need to be successful, the importance of breaking even, profit and profitability, customer and employee satisfaction, diversification, ethical and corporate responsibility (which coincided with Cop26), Fairtrade and how it effects not just us but everyone around the world, and legal structures including sole trader, partnership, franchise, co-operatives, public limited companies and private limited companies.

## 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 the Countryside Services team, based out of Dinton Pastures and another starting soon with Berkshire Motor Works. More are planned to start in the New Year. 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 get in contact with Vix White [vix@foundry.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:vix@foundry.wokingham.sch.uk)

**DINTON PASTURES**  
COUNTRY PARK 

  
BERKSHIRE MOTOR WORKS

## FOOD AND COOKERY

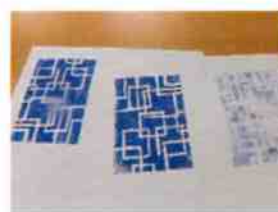
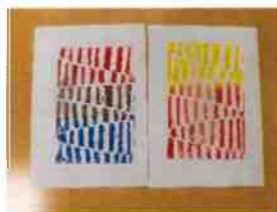
It's important for students at Foundry College to develop a love for cooking and be willing to learn new cooking skills and techniques to confidently cook various dishes. This term pupils have been busy using new ingredients from Japanese and Italian cultures. They have been learning about healthy eating, safe kitchen & personal hygiene practices and how to follow and read recipes independently to produce some fantastic dishes.

Pupils have really challenged themselves this term to make dishes such as pasta from scratch, sushi, apple roses, healthy pitta pizzas, various pastry dishes from shortcrust to choux, vegetable soups, vegan dishes, how to carve whole chickens, breakfast smoothies, healthy flapjacks and chocolate mousse fruit compotes.



## CREATIVE CRAFT

This term students have mainly been exploring lino printing techniques, having researched ideas online for inspiration before creating their own. They have learnt how to use specialist tools safely and adapted their ideas into practice with patience and care.



Some students have also looked at the hyper-realism painting of Sarah Graham and have been inspired to create their own photographs, painting and collage based on sweets.



They also worked with clay to create Diwali-inspired tea-light hands.



In the final 2 weeks the Christmas spirit has settled and students have been creating festive decorations/ craft work



## HUMANITIES

What a term this has been. Are we in or are we out of Covid? It has had such far reaching effects and yet still our children are in school and making progress...maybe against the odds. It's hard to pick out the high points for this short article, there are many. Two stand out for me as I work away at History and Geography.

On the 17th September, just as term was getting underway, our long postponed visit to Hampton Court took place. Five pupils and three staff set out to study and enjoy the marvels of this place. In the courtyards we were able to take in the splendour of Tudor architecture. "How could they do this with no machinery like ours?" There were so many questions as we went on our tour. We tried to imagine what Henry VIII's kitchens would be like with all the fires lit and the hundreds of household servants scurrying around. "Their spelling is really odd on those sacks of vegetables". "Not half as odd as some of yours in your exercise book".



So it went on, gentle good humour, laughter and discovery. We marvelled at the gold in the walls, in the tapestries and at the gap there must have been between rich and poor. We discovered the gardens, where frequent lovers' trysts took place and maybe spies met their masters. We played the board games of the king and even sat at his table and in his council chamber putting poor Thomas More on trial. Then there were the murals. Our two young men developed a purely scholarly interest in the Rubens paintings and the mythic statuary, but the less said about that the better. What a day. We came back tired, but here in the darkest days of the year we are still talking about it..

Nothing that good could happen right at the end of term...could it? "So now we are going to complete our projects entitled "Who do you think you are?" One of my pupils brought in a marvellous family tree, in fact we had more than one to look at, even from staff. There was however one sublime moment in this teacher's life. "So who was this?" I asked. "He was an ancestor of mine." She said. "He served in the merchant navy and was on the Jervis Bay." "He was a young radio officer". The hairs began to rise on the back of my neck. "The Jervis bay was sunk by a German Battleship." So our discussion went on and we pondered the loss of life of so many young men at sea. You must read this story. Google "The Jervis Bay" You see this young pupil had brought an amazing coincidence to the lesson. It happens rarely in History. Her relative, a young British radio officer was sunk by the Admiral Scheer. What she did not know was that the captain of the Admiral Scheer, Theodor Kranke, took his ship south to avoid British navy pursuit. Off the west coast of Africa he stopped and captured another merchant ship. This time its young radio officer was taken prisoner and his ship too was sunk. He spent the next four years in a prison camp. He was a relative of mine.. coincidence? Sometimes in Foundry our lessons are overwhelmed by awe and wonder and this becomes a special place. I hope you experience something of that same awe and wonder this Christmas



The Captain and crew of the Jervis Bay.



The Admiral Scheer



## SPORT

This term we have been taking pupils out of their comfort zones by mountain biking through the trails at Swinley Forest regardless of the weather! They have been working hard on their handling of the bikes and improving their fitness levels through the twists, turns and exciting downhill trails.

The KS3 pupils have been working well together with each of them taking turns in leadership and supportive qualities.

The KS4 pupils have had a real treat with the Swinley Forest instructors and were allowed to ride around 'The Summit' which is a closed course training area of jumps and high speed corners. The boys have even taken the time to look after their bikes by washing and cleaning them when they have finished on the trails.



The pupils who have been taking part in onsite PE have been working hard on lots of different exercises to test both their cardiovascular and muscular fitness. They have been using the whole range of equipment available to engage in many different workouts.



## WOW – What a great term in Primary!

The children started their term learning all about Space. The topic took them on a journey where they learnt about the names and order of the planets, the moon phases, the reason for day and night and the seasons, as well as the History of the Space Race. The children especially enjoyed making moon craters using a tray of flour and cocoa powder and learning about the moon phases using oreo cookies – who doesn't enjoy learning with food!

A mystery picture arrived in the corridor of Foundry and the children were keen to find out who the picture belonged to. After discovering it was actually Bob, from the book 'The Man on the Moon' the children wrote their very own books, explaining a day in the life of them. What amazing books they were; they have proudly been displayed in Primary ever since! To round off our topic, the Primary children (along with some children from Secondary) visited the Winchester Science Centre. A great day was had by all!



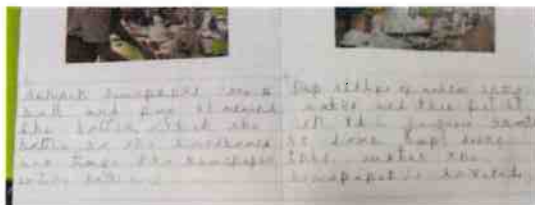
More recently, the children have been learning about our Extreme Earth. The boys were fascinated and amazed to learn that our Earth's crust is like a jigsaw puzzle of 'Tectonic Plates'. They can explain the layers of the Earth and how the tectonic plates cause earthquakes and volcanoes. In art, they created their very own volcanoes using newspaper and Mod-Roc and will be causing a volcanic eruption with the help of Cat from the Science Classroom. It was interesting to find out whether the children would like to live next to a volcano... Despite the many advantages, neither were tempted!

This term, the children have been learning about the important people in their lives (VIPs) and friendship, as well as exploring the subject of safety and identifying risks. The unit looked at friendships, how friendships are formed and maintained, and the qualities of a good friend. The pupils also learnt about what it means to be part of a community both in the home environment and at school. The children also explored different types of friendships and scenarios that highlighted good and bad relationships. The lessons then moved on to disputes and bullying and addressed strategies for coping with each of these.

In the safety unit, the children have been considering what it means to take responsibility for their own safety. We have discussed how the decisions they make can affect them and how they can stand up to peer pressure in a range of situations. They have learnt about everyday risks, hazards and dangers and what to do in risky or dangerous situations. The unit also covered road, water and rail safety and dangerous substances: drugs (including medicines), cigarettes and alcohol. The children will also be looking at first aid, exploring how to deal with common injuries and what to do to respond to emergency situations.

We are all very proud of the achievements of our children in Primary. We have seen some excellent progress with handwriting and mental fluency and very importantly, increased independence, resilience and respect.

The Primary Team would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.



## OAKWOOD YOUTH CHALLENGE – Weekly PE provision.

Our children in the primary class have been lucky enough to participate in activities over the 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.

Over the Autumn term the children have visited the centre and indoor climbing, bouldering, high ropes, stacking crates, archery and mountain boarding. There have been nerves, bravery and everything in between, but the children rose to the challenge and everybody came away with a great sense of achievement.

We have had some wonderful feedback from the children and we look forward to visiting Oakwood again next term. All the children have really benefited from the exciting activities in a really safe and caring environment.



“I really liked stacking crates, Max helped me stack twelve high, I climbed to the top and swung on the rope.”  
Dylan Taylor – Year 4.

## THAMES VALLEY ADVENTURE PARK – Taplow.

The Primary children 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 once again been very popular and when the weather has been nice, we have all enjoyed a game of mini golf.

We have been enjoying the zip wire, climbing to the top of the castle and being industrious with the sand and water area. The track area has proved very popular with the children choosing what mode of transport to navigate the circuit, with the latest addition being an electric train, which has proven to be very popular.

A weekly tradition is a game of table football between the Foundry staff and the children which can become a little too excitable! We are looking forward to continued use of this fantastic facility.



## Welcome to our ENTERPRISE ADVISOR

Foundry College has been privileged to work closely with the Careers and Enterprise Company, who have found the perfect Enterprise Advisor to work with our pupils. Nicole Fox generously volunteers her time to come in and work with our KS4 pupils in group sessions looking at job advertisements and what employers are really looking for, how to complete a CV and job application, how to prepare for an interview, interview questions and how to answer them. The first session was a great success with our pupils finding it incredibly helpful. Both myself and the pupils are looking forward to continuing this partnership into 2022.

## Year 11 – COLLEGE VISITS

It will not be long before our year 11s leave us to begin their career journeys. At Foundry College we try to prepare and support them the best we can. One way is through college visits, and we were fortunate to visit Bracknell & Wokingham College, Reading College and BCA. These visits were a great success for the students, with all applying for courses that interested them, and some have already received interview invites

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Foundry College students were proud to be able to host again, with visitors being able to come on-site for our annual Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 24th September. Each year we pay homage to a theme and this year it was focused around 'What I am thankful for'. Classrooms were decorated with homemade bunting, posters and cakes to welcome visitors, including local neighbours, Brambles Centre staff, Foundry College Management Committee members alongside staff, parents and students. With both students and staff pitching in to provide home-baked goods, our entrepreneurial pupils raised the bar from last year's cohort and raised an amazing £155.94 in just two hours.



Additionally, the annual cake competition between staff and pupils was back in full swing, and this year's winner was one of our Primary pupils, with his inspiring cake based around Inclusion. Well done!

