

April 2023

## SPRING NEWSLETTER

As we reach the end of another busy term during which we have seen many achievements as well as facing challenges, not least the most recent Ofsted inspection. I am exceptionally grateful to the efforts of the staff and management committee at Foundry College, ensuring that we continue to offer a totally bespoke and individualised provision to each and every one of our pupils that is focused on ensuring success. Some of these successes have come from the most recent IGCSE Mathematics results that pupils completed in the January window, with some pupils achieving excellent results! All of the pupils that completed the examinations have made the aspirational decision to continue to enhance their achievements and resit in the summer window, with some of the pupils moving on to the higher paper. Pupils have also recently completed Entry Level and Functional Skills assessments in English and Mathematics, with positive results already being received for the Entry Level Certificate qualifications.

Thank you to all the parents and pupils who attended the parents' evening last week, it was wonderful to be able to discuss the progress of the pupils with you and also to discuss the most recent school reports that were sent out.

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, it is clear that we have high expectations for all of our pupils and look forward to working with them next term to achieve their individual targets.

Alongside the classroom learning, there have been many exciting educational visits over the last term to report back to you that have included:

- Oakwood Climbing Centre
- Kew Gardens

Within this category I would also like to highlight the work experience placements that have supported the development of our pupils this term:

- Binfield Dog Sanctuary
- Howdens
- Lambs Lane Primary School
- H2O Hair Salon
- Woodley Pets
- Burley Lodge
- Knowl Hill Cattery

If you are able to support with any work experience placements for our pupils then please get in touch as we always have a long list of pupils looking for opportunities.



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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 and sharing their successes in the Summer newsletter.

After the Easter holidays Year 11 pupils will soon be starting their GCSE examinations, 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 achieve the most positive outcomes. 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.

**"DON'T BE UPSET BY THE RESULTS YOU DIDN'T GET BY THE WORK YOU DIDN'T DO."**

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 return on the 17th April.

Kind regards,

Iain Thomas





# Primary

We cannot believe that we have already made it to Easter – where is the time going? As always in the Primary classroom, we have had to be adaptable and flexible in response to the changing needs of our primary pupils. For some, this has included the introduction of more adult-led activities following the success of relationship building and the pupils' development of regulation strategies and for others, therapeutic activities have very much formed the crux of their curriculum.

Learning about reflection and refraction in Science was throughout enjoyed by pupils' – the hands-on experiments and opportunities for exploration within this area of Science always makes for a fun lesson! Within Maths, pupils have been learning about fractions and although it can be sometimes difficult for pupils to engage in problem solving and reasoning style questions, it has been wonderful to hear the children verbalising their thought processes and beginning to explain their methodology.



Throughout the term we have celebrated a number of calendar dates and events, including Pancake Day, World Wildlife Day and Fairtrade Fortnight. Such events result in thoughtful conversations about the difference our young people can have on the world around them, empowering and inspiring them to make that change.



Thames Valley Adventure Playground continues to be a firm favourite trip within the Primary Classroom's weekly timetable. Our pupils particularly enjoy playing 'IT' in the soft play area and more recently, serenading staff in the music room. Although Primary pupils have not always engaged in Oakwood Climbing Centre, this has continued to be a weekly provision for some pupils being supported by our Behaviour Outreach Team and as always, it has been a pleasure to see the progress the pupil's have made against their individual targets. A trip to Wokingham Superbowl was also a welcomed trip and a first-time experience for one of our Primary pupils!



# Primary

After months of planning, we have finally had an outdoor play area installed on the grounds of Foundry College. It is an excellent addition and one which has been enjoyed by both primary and secondary pupils... and staff of course!



The Summer Term is shaping up to be a good one and we look forward to sharing with you all the continued progress and successes of the Primary pupils at Foundry College.

## English

For pupils in Key Stage 3, this half term they have been exploring poetry: from the modern to Shakespeare. Pupils have investigated layers of meaning in the writers' choice of language and structure and also had a go at writing their own sonnets.

For our GCSE cohort this has been a busy half term, with pupils making their final push towards completing coursework for their GCSE English language portfolio. Our Year 11s and a select number of Year 10 have now completed a piece of description, a narrative and a piece of writing to argue on a topic they feel strongly about. From this point onwards, our GCSE cohort are preparing for their exams in May. As steps on the path to ensure success, some pupils will also be entered for Entry Level Certificates and Functional Skills qualifications as part of the wider preparation for the GCSE exams.

We wish the best of luck to those pupils who will be sitting their Functional Skills exams at the end of March and to all pupils sitting their IGCSE exams this summer.



# Maths



This term has been a busy one!

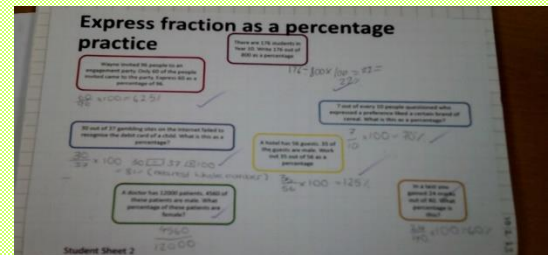
This term we have been covering topics including area & volume and fractions, decimals and percentages in KS3. With our KS4 students we have been working on fractions, decimals and percentages, conditional probability and sequences. Some students are also working towards their Entry level certificates and summer exam preparation/revision has also begun.

We are looking forward to the upcoming Science/maths trip to Kew Gardens with some of our pupils.

Well done to all our students who sat their IGCSE exams in January. We now have the results in and many of you exceeded your expectations! For those of you that would like to do even better, there will be a second attempt this summer and we have already started preparing you for those.

A couple of students were also entered for the Entry Level Certificates and we are very happy that they have managed to gain this qualification.

Best of luck to those students who are sitting their Functional Skills exams at the end of March and to all year 11s (and a year 10!) who will be sitting their IGCSE exams this summer.



**“If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it — then I can achieve it.”**

Muhammed Ali



In my opinion Muhammed Ali was the greatest boxer of all time and no one even came close, He was a fighter you'd never seen before.

## *Daniel's Project.*

Where do you start when a pupil comes in and dislikes History? This is often the case with any subject. It can be caused by different experiences, misunderstandings or just plain ignorance.

We try to get over the first impressions by going 'from the known to the unknown' so that the subject begins with the pupils' own knowledge and experience. Then it goes on to explore unknown detail. This can lock the subject into a pupil's own understanding.

In Religious Studies we had pupils making a visit to a church and a mosque, courtesy of PSHE and Foundry Voice. This proved to be a real eye opener and brought to life aspects of belief that we had only covered in a book. Pupils were able to see and handle artefacts and to sense the atmosphere of the buildings. As the saying goes 'One picture is worth a thousand words.' Pupils came away with a greater awareness of the place of faith in individual life and in the life of the nation.

In Geography, pupils are labouring to finish exam work and as ever as the time approaches, the work becomes a little more demanding and some of the excitement wanes and the opportunity for trips declines as well. We are looking forward to Summer and a chance to get out and do some practical river studies and possibly something on the coast.

History has brought some real interest with our study of Crime and Punishment for GCSE and some individual projects from some of our pupils. One young man came and professed no interests at all, but after some discussion it seems he had an interest in a specific Volkswagen. Since everything either is or becomes History, his interest in one car turned into a full blown Powerpoint project, a wide-ranging project on the History of VW.

Likewise, another pupil has completed his project on a history of boxing from the time of the ancient Greeks to modern boxing. Both have been impressive exercises in how to study History without it being boring and repetitive. Pupils have learned to ask questions and to evaluate.

Best wishes for Easter.



# Cooking

Pupils at Foundry continue to create a wide variety of dishes and are taking pride in their work and are often keen to share their creations with other pupils and staff members on site. So I apologise to carers and parents who may not always get to sample the wonderful dishes the pupils create in lessons!



This term our KS3 and 4's have been branching out tasting and cooking with a wide variety of ingredients. It's great to see so many pupils eager to develop their cooking skills and techniques but also be willing to sample the dishes that are new to them. Some have mastered the art of skinning fish fillets skilfully, making Japanese fluffy pancakes for pancake day to eating and enjoying vegetable soup for the first time ever in their lives!

KS4 continue to work on completing their 4 units for the NCFE Level 1 or 2 Certificate in food and cookery. Some are focusing on social, environmental, cost and sensory factors that affect food choices alongside gaining a deeper understanding of a balanced diet and nutritional needs.

KS3 are developing their skills further to cook hygienically & safely in the kitchen alongside learning about the Eatwell guide, macro and micro nutrients and the benefits to our bodies.

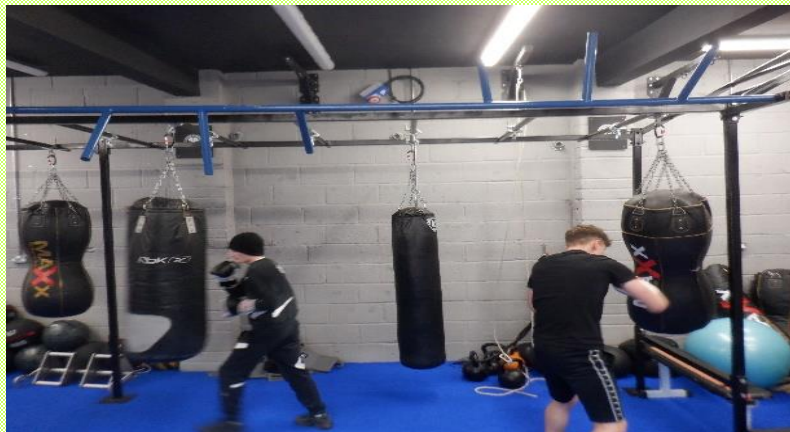


# PE

The pupils have been constantly working hard on their efforts in the gym at both Loddon Valley and The Fox Den. Pupils are growing further in confidence to try new things and ask questions to help improve. Pupils are now using the time in their theory lesson as part of their courses to plan and implement their training sessions. This has meant the pupils are showing good leadership and are proud to share with others. Pupils have also been working on building up their stamina so they are ready to take on the collective challenge of running the London Marathon for the Alexander Devine Children's hospice which are our chosen charity.



## The Fox Den



Every day is a new beginning.  
Take a deep breath, smile and  
start again.

- Anon



# Art

This term, our students have been expressing themselves through the use of acrylic - marker pens & paints, to create art on a variety of surfaces like; Canvases & CDs.

They have learnt about colour theory; Primaries, Secondaries & Tertiaries, & when to use warm & cool colours. They have drawn inspiration from artists such as Roy Lichtenstein & Keith Haring, who used limited colour palettes, & have experimented with the Ben Day Dot method.



## Guest Speaker

As part of the original Career Week, we were delighted to welcome our guest speaker, Mr Richard Young of R. Young Galleries, on the 9th of March. He talked to the students about how he became a professional artist, & the techniques that he uses. And also, the products that he sells, whilst sharing with us his formula for success.



The Blob Tree Mural, (which is a communication tool to explore feelings & fears in young people) has been started in Primary, & has attracted much needed assistance from both student & staff.

# LIFE



A particular focus this term for KS3 and 4 has been on understanding healthy and unhealthy relationships.

Pupils have engaged well in a variety of discussions listening and building on each others viewpoints.

Pupils have also produced brilliant internet safety posters when we have been exploring how to stay safe when online and using various social media platforms.

Many of the KS4s have been learning about the diversity and prejudice and gaining a better understanding of equal opportunities, the equality and protected characteristics. Some pupils have visited the local church, mosque and temple this term.

Pupils are also busy creating CVs and cover letters and filling in job application forms and taking part in mock interviews, alongside learning about budgeting and the skills needed for independent living.



We are also very excited to have started to introduce MyHappyMind which is all based around helping pupils to understand how their brain works and to support them in developing positive skills and habits to be their very best selves!

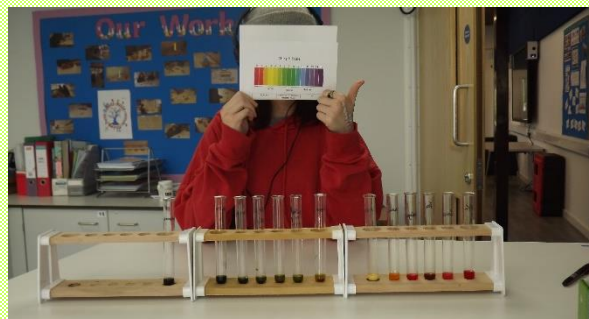


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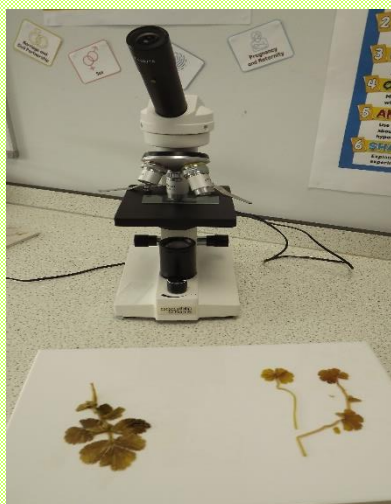
- Anon



We have been very busy this term in our science lessons.



Pupils tested a range of substances to work out if they were acidic or alkaline and what pH value they had.



Pupils follow a multi-step practical to find evidence for photosynthesis in plants. The dark areas of the leaves indicate stored starch which means that the plants have been photosynthesising.

The microscope was used to look at the tiny stomata on the underside of a leaf. They linked the movement of carbon dioxide into the leaf to the process of photosynthesis.

Investigating different forms of insulation by measuring heat loss from cans of hot water enables pupils to think carefully about what needs to be controlled in the experiment. An easy experiment but difficult to do accurately!



Year 11 pupils will be learning about good exam technique in the coming weeks as they continue to learn new content and revise key topics already covered. Revision materials have been offered to all and as much practical work as possible will continue as key skills are reinforced. Good luck to all our science exam candidates!

# Occupational Studies

There are now a good number of pupils studying Occupational Studies for the Workplace. Some are working towards the Level 1 Award whilst others have completed the Level 1 and are now working towards the Level 2 qualification.

The most popular units continue to be those with focus on the construction industry such as Plumbing Skills, Hand Carpentry Skills, Introduction to Plastering Techniques and Brickwork Operations. One pupil however, is now working on Level 2, Unit 22 which is a really interesting unit with a focus on creating and developing an item of soft furnishing. In this case the pupil is planning to convert an old magazine rack into a mobile padded chair for his bedroom – a pretty ambitious project!



For the first time we are offering some of the AQA Unit Awards which offer certification at a range of levels across a huge range of subject areas. The units tend to be centred around a short sequence of activities and are ideal for pupils who struggle to maintain focus over the long term but are keen to get a broad range of practical experience.



For pupils wanting to go into construction related or horticultural work, the Occupational Studies qualifications are a great way to learn the basics in their chosen skills and they are an excellent first step into the world of construction that is simply not catered for in mainstream schools. The course is generating some interest from the girls too, which is really good to see. Many pupils from previous cohorts have gone on to further their OS studies at College or have gained employment in a related area.

