

# Kestrel Class

Wow! Team Kestrel cannot fathom how quickly this year is flying by. We have packed so much into this term. Kestrel students have loved their Fridays providing savoury and sweet treats for staff to help raise funds for the Summer Prom. They have greatly enjoyed their community visits to the Harlow Salvation Army "Pop up Shop" each Wednesday – we've been able to snap up some real bargains, which have helped to support teaching and learning in Kestrel in a very cost-effective manner. Other termly highlights have been the screening of the live action movie "How to Train Your Dragon" at the Harvey Centre Cineworld and the windswept (and interesting!) visit to Broxted Hill Farm, near Stansted. We are hopeful of more external learning in the Summer Term as our overarching theme for the term is transport.

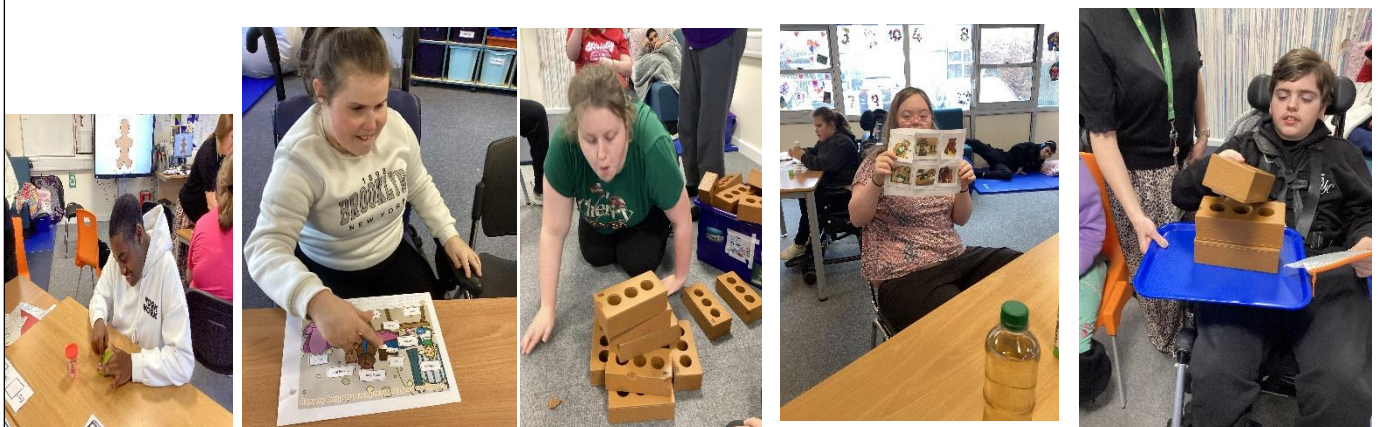


## Communication and interaction

In our English lessons this term, Kestrel Class have been focusing on our phonics and reading using our Rhino Readers scheme, helping pupils to build fluency and strengthen their understanding of sounds and words.

Pupils have been developing their literacy skills through sequencing events and recalling stories in their own words. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they talk about and write about the books we have encountered this Term.

Students have particularly enjoyed those lessons that have focused on body percussion, the repeated lines (for example "run, run as fast as you can") that build anticipation and allow students to join in either through verbal repetition, gesture or vocalisation.



## Cognition and Learning

In Maths this term, Kestrel Class have been focusing on cause and effect. Pupils have been exploring different ways to encounter cause and effect.

One of our favourite activities was investigating how far toy cars can be pushed on different surfaces and how stable foam brick towers are. The class made predictions about how far the cars would travel, and how high the towers could go before toppling, before checking their measurements. It was lots of fun and a great way to practise our estimating, measuring and comparing skills while working together.

In ICT, students had a fantastic time using the helpkidzlearn interactive pages to explore virtual cause and effect.



## **ASDAN**

Kestrel Class have been busy running mini-enterprise projects this term as part of their ASDAN Personal Progress qualification for this academic year.

As part of this, class members provided savoury and sweet treats for staff on the main school site, to help raise funds for the Sixth Form Summer Prom. Students were supported by staff both to ensure hygiene obligations were met and so that they could take part in the preparation of the staff treats.

The students were so pleased to receive the warm feedback from staff for their handiwork – there was notable praise for the light and airy Victoria sponge that was snapped up by staff.



## Independence, social and emotional development

During our community time this term, Kestrel Class have enjoyed their short trip over the road to the Harlow HQ of the Salvation Army. This has afforded pupils the opportunity to involve themselves in life skills of communication in a small commercial transaction involving coins and notes.

Back at College, we have engaged in practical exercises such as sweeping up spillages and choosing appropriate clothes for different weather conditions.



## Events

Kestrel Class joined the whole college for a trip to Cineworld to watch *How to Train Your Dragon*, which was lots of fun and a great experience to share together and our recent trip to Broxted Hill Farm where students mapped the journey of wheat from soil to silo (to make a well-known breakfast cereal!).

