

# Kestrel Class

## News

We are thrilled to share that we are a class of ten students in Kestrel now! It has been a fantastic first term, and we have all settled in beautifully. Watching the students form lovely, new friendships, and rekindle old ones, has been heartwarming, and we are excited to see their confidence grow.

- The class has worked diligently across the curriculum, jumping at opportunities to try new things and develop new skills and experiences.
- This term, we had the pleasure of visiting our friends on the main school site, where we enjoyed the new sensory room and sensory circuit. This experience has enriched our learning environment and provided valuable resources for our students.
- Kestrel students enjoyed their Halloween pumpkin makeovers this term – we were a whirlwind of glitter!!



## Literacy and Communication

Twinkl Phonics provides structured, systematic lessons that help Kestrel students to identify and manipulate sounds in words, and the interactive games and songs reinforce the recognition of letter sounds and blending, laying a solid foundation for reading.

Our Rhino Readers' digital books offer interactive stories that captivate students' attention, encouraging regular reading practice.

- Students have been able to explore stories at their own pace, boosting confidence and motivation, expand their vocabulary and encourages the students to read aloud in a supportive environment.



## Maths

In Maths this term we have investigated 2D and 3D shapes. The intention has been to cement concrete understanding through direct exploration, to develop students' mathematical language, visual and spatial awareness. It has been so cheering to see students gain confidence and deeper engagement with their shape knowledge, enhanced through real-world connections – "Where do we see spheres around us?" "What shape is your drinks bottle?" Students have engaged with this work at their own level and pace.



## Community outings

Kestrel students have gone out into the community often this half-term. We have spent time in the fields around the College spotting the birds of Autumn in the surrounding areas to the College. We have had a trip out to Poundland, where students bought products for personal care and beauty. We made a series of visits to the nearby Salvation Army HQ and enjoyed their "Pop up Christmas bazaars each Wednesday. However, the standout event this term was the trip to Harlow Playhouse for "Sleeping Beauty" – the joy this pantomime brought to Kestrel students was clear for all to see!



## **Work Experience**

Kestrel students have investigated construction jobs this term and important jobs in the community – emergency services and working in the NHS.



## **Upcoming Events**

### **Merit Assemblies**

- **Sixth Form: Tuesday 16th December, 2pm**

**Christmas Grotto & Harlow Brass Band**

**Wednesday 17th & Friday 19th December**

**End of Term – Friday 19th December**

- **Transport departs: 1.20pm**
- **Walkers depart: 1.30pm**