

# PARALLEL LEARNING TRUST


Termly newsletter of Trust wide updates!



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## Follow our Twitters!

-  @ParallelLTrust
-  @CampusPark
-  @RamsdenHall
-  @\_SuttonHouse\_
-  @\_VictoryPark\_
-  @InspireAcademy9
-  @WandleValleyA
-  @KenningtonPark8



# A message from the CEO



**MARK JORDAN**  
CEO

The way that staff and pupils have reacted during these recent months has been remarkable and now we face on of the biggest challenges as we start to return to what seems to be an aspect of 'normality' we must continue to bear in mind that we will all have to live with the after effects of the pandemic. It is important to still be aware that there are new strands being identified and whilst these appear to be less harmful, they are still highly transmissible and that we all need to be minded about who we may unwittingly pass this onto and the impact it may have on them not just ourselves.

With this in mind it is important that pupils are striving for excellence in everything that they are doing, whether that is learning a new technique or skill or even developing their resilience, the more we engage and do, the more likely we are to achieve. Staff and pupils alike will be concerned about what comes next but we must all also have one eye on the future and remember that every day counts in education especially when many of our pupils have experienced sort of disruption to the education even before Covid, so the remaining time they have becomes even more crucial and I ask staff, pupils, parents/carers and other stakeholders to join me in ensuring attendance is as high as it is safe to do so.

It is on the days when we do not feel 100% that determination and hard work really and truly matters. Staff, pupils and their families should still continue to follow the national guidelines when displaying Covid-19 symptoms but, outside of this, pupils need to attend each and every day – even when they are not feeling 100%. Research shows that overall absence had a negative link to attainment, with every extra day missed associated with a lower chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs (Grade 4 or above) including English and Mathematics. The attendance target is 96% to 100% attendance, with the government stating that 90% attendance is classed as 'persistent absence'. 96% would equate to approximately seven days off school in an academic year. Your support with encouraging all pupils into school is very much appreciated, unless they are medically signed off by a Doctor, as ultimately better attendance = better grades = better outcomes in the future.

A lot of work has been done to improve the diverse skills sets at local governance level and the Trust has now identified a range of training materials that are available for local and central governance. In addition, there is a desire to recruit someone with experience/skills in the health and social care sectors and the first of these appointments are now being made following a targeted recruitment campaign. I would like to encourage you to make contact with the Company Secretary ([cgould@plt.org.uk](mailto:cgould@plt.org.uk)) if you or someone you know is interested in joining one of our governance teams.

The Trust has now entered into the final design stage for the Inspire Academy new build and discussions around fine elements of the plan are underway with local planners and the DfE. I know that this has been a long time in the planning but I can assure you that the final product is looking simply stunning and will rival any special education facility that I have seen so worth the wait. I expect to be able to confirm the projected opening date and also share plans with you in my summer news article.

The Trust are currently engaging with an external review of governance which should be completed in May and I look forward to sharing some of the headlines in my next article. Until then I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter and that you enjoy your break but please do continue to stay safe !

# Central Trust Updates

## **Update from IT: Keith Richards, James Boampong, Matt Tilsley, Jordan Chatterjee, Jemma Fallon**

IT remains busy supporting our wonderful teaching family to deliver the highest possible teaching and opportunities to our students. Detailed works have been on going at Inspire Academy and Ramsden Hall Academy where changes have been made further strengthening our network whilst proactively dealing with issues before staff and students experience any problems. Matt has further developed our Chromebook environment maintaining the ability to teach pupils from home. He has started to develop a new product from LGFL called Home Protect which will further improve the security of our devices for staff and students when used outside of our academies. IT are about to embark upon a number of changes and upgrades across all our sites making sure that the end product continues to be of the highest quality following Microsoft and other best practices.

## **Englantín Muca - Deputy Headteacher at Victory Park Academy & Teaching and Learning Lead**

The focus this term has been on amending the Work Scrutiny (WS), Learning Walk (LW) and Scheme of Work (SOW) templates so that they are more efficient and effective. The new templates have been based on Ofsted criteria which will be easier to understand and triangulate for further analysis. Following the theory of the 3 I's- the SOW is the intent; the LW is the implementation and the impact is seen as evidence in WS. The WS template gives an overall view of what is going on in teaching and learning. The expectation is to show all books as its subject based. One subject per week is scrutinised on rotation with the teacher there to present the books and answer any questions- it also offers immediate feedback. Literacy and numeracy are playing a key role- targets are being scrutinised and checked within the books. Targets are dated when met- these targets must be shown to have continued throughout the year. If a target, for example, was to use correct punctuation- full stops; commas and brackets in term 1 and in term 4 that pupil has stopped using them- then the target is revisited and given again. This also enables us to check in books if the work is sequenced and enough time is allowed for pupils to digest and process the learning. Learning can be assessed at the correct level for pupils and how are pupils supported and challenged. There should be evidence that reading is happening in every subject, as well as opportunities for numeracy in the books. Lastly, teachers spelling, grammar and punctuation is being looked at and if any staff are flagged up with literacy issues- literacy lead will put support in place immediately. Central to planning is literacy- a minimum service standards document has been drawn up outlining these. Tutor reading three times per week and writing twice a week has been added. Lexia has been implemented and takes place for 20 minutes three times per week. Timetables have been amended which have structured Lexia slot and is spread across all subjects. Wrats tests took place in March, these are completed every 6 months to measure pupils' literacy and numeracy progress. With the lowest 20% of readers, relevant reading interventions are put in place. As part of the Teaching and Learning steering group - it was agreed to follow on from 'Closing the Gap in reading' external training, an Action plan for reading has been created for each academy. Each pupil has an individual literacy and numeracy target each half term. Opportunities to meet this target are given in every subject. In addition, display boards are updated every half term with the relevant literacy focus and it is displayed on front sheets of books. A Literacy Work Scrutiny is taking place once per half term usually the penultimate week of term. This allows the Literacy Leads to further monitor how literacy is being taught or opportunities given for literacy and reading within their subjects. A deep dive on Maths and English has been carried out within each academy in the Trust. This included looking at schemes of work for the intent; whether they meet the correct requirements; opportunities for relevant and accurate assessments; opportunities for literacy and reading and how this all triangulates with L/W and W/S. Vocational Subjects have undergone an internal Internal Quality Assurance. These subjects included Food Technology; PHSE; PE, Prince's Trust and Occupational Studies. This was CPD opportunity for teachers to come together and share good practice. High standards were assessed as were prospects for prior learning.

# Central Trust Updates

## **Anne Sturman - Executive Primary Lead**

Terms 3 and 4 have continued to be busy for us all. I have focused upon Safeguarding Visits –meeting with our Designated Safeguarding Leads to quality assure the PLT safeguarding audits completed in Autumn 1 – I have a few to complete but currently all of our academies are 100% compliant or very close –with little tweaks to put the icing on the cakes. As we would expect, 100% of pupils asked all knew which members of staff they could talk to if they had a problem and the quality of care and support for our pupils is very high. Reading has continued to be a big Trust focus and following on from some excellent CPD in January 2022 –we have all been looking at how to continue to embed reading and the teaching of reading across the curriculum-especially at Key Stage 3 and 4. Our academies have continued to implement interventions for those readers that need additional support –as well as upon the teaching of phonics for our very early readers. The Trust has made a decision to adopt Read Write Inc as our systematic synthetic phonics programme –and alongside Fresh Start (RWI's programme for older less able readers) – this should really make a big difference. This is an exciting and large piece of work as it involves investment in staff training across the Trust as well as resources. We are hopeful that the specific teaching of reading will impact positively upon our pupils' views of themselves as readers-helping us to further promote a life-long engagement with and love of reading. Our aim is to continue to shine the spotlight upon the other aspects of literacy -speaking and listening as well as upon writing –and we are currently involved in the further development of our Trust and academy wide literacy strategies.

## **Mollie Warne - Marketing, Development and HR Officer**

It has been another busy but great term at PLT! One of my main areas of focus has been on the compliancy of our websites as we recently had our external website audits with Schudio. We received some really positive feedback from the auditor who said "on average it is the highest percentage I have ever given for a set of audits." We were extremely happy with this positive feedback as it has been a key area of focus for us over the last couple of years and it is nice to see that our continued hard work is paying off! Early in the Spring Term a member of the Schudio team reached out to me and spoke to me about a new program that they're working on called 'Schudio Expert'. Schudio selected a small group of people from all of the MATs and Schools that they work with and I am proud to say that I was one of the few selected! The purpose of Schudio creating this program is for education leaders to network with other MAT leaders, learn from each other and collaborate with Schudio to influence their future development and even have the opportunity to be part of communications such as blogs and workshops. They are also launching a Schudio Community Facebook Group where Expert members can assist each other with queries and conversations. I am really excited to be a member of the team! We had our first PLT Induction Day at the Central Office in March and we received some really positive feedback from the attendees which is great! We have three more scheduled for April/May and I am looking forward to meeting our new starters and introducing them to PLT. After we have completed the PLT inductions for the employees who started from September 2021 to now we are hoping to have one at the beginning of each of the terms (6 per academic year). I also developed an 'Induction Area' on the PLT website which acts as a portal where new starters can login and learn about the Trust, access key policies and documents and access various links and resources. At the beginning of the Spring term I visited the academies to do a full check of all personnel files to ensure compliancy in key HR areas, I will be doing these 3 times per academic year going forward from the 2022 - 2023 academic year. It's nice to see that the academies are really utilising Twitter and keeping their feeds up to date with some really great content! Our digital footprint has grown massively in the last couple of years and the PLT twitter now has over 3,000 tweets! Lastly, I hope everyone has a restful break over the easter holidays!



# Central Trust Updates

## **Alan Wells - Deputy Headteacher at Ramsden Hall Academy & Strategic Behaviour Lead**

The Spring term again proved to be a challenging one with a number of academies still suffering from high levels of staff absence due to COVID. As a result many academies have had to adjust their curriculum resulting in unavoidable unsettling periods for pupils which has undoubtedly impacted on staff and behaviour. We managed to hold, albeit virtually, our first 'Joint Steering Group' between Teaching and Learning Leads and Behaviour Leads. This provided an opportunity for us to share what we had learnt so far from the 2021.22 Ofsted inspections and to discuss the important links between teaching and learning and behaviour. As Behaviour Leads we spent time discussing expectations around attendance as this is something we as a group have not previously shared and was something that Ofsted focused on within their inspections. We are aware that since the pandemic, many of the pupils we support have found it difficult to re-engage and we were able to share best practice and the most effective interventions and strategies academies have put in place. As part of each academy's strategic view on attendance we agreed to identify a target group specific to each academy and focus these interventions where they will have the biggest impact on pupil outcomes. Although staffing has been a struggle for many, we were able to hold our second central CPI Safety Intervention training event for all new and existing staff (where applicable). The purpose of this training is to continue to ensure staff have access to the highest standard of behaviour training and to ensure all staff are prepared to support our pupils at every level with their behaviour. Additionally, each academy have refreshed their staff in the new CPI Safety Intervention programme which now contains considerations of trauma informed care throughout all of its units to allow staff to better understand where many of our pupils are coming from and sometimes the reasons for their behaviour. This further knowledge and understanding can only better equip our staff when supporting our young people. The majority of my visits and support this term has been focussed around three academies. These academies following QA and Ofsted visits, were in the process of reviewing current policy and practice around behaviour as well as the implementation and configuration of Sleuth to support the academies cycle of intent, implementation and impact on behaviour. This has included re-establishing and re-launching rewards for positive behaviour as well as a range of strategies for negative behaviours, importing electronic forms for quality assurance processes and the recording of physical interventions and identifying what key information, reports and data is required to allow each academy to meet its aims. We have made significant progress in each of these academies and will continue to do so during the summer term and I am looking forward to visiting each academy face to face very soon.

## **Jack O'Connor - VOC lead & Deputy Headteacher at Sutton House Academy & Physical Intervention Lead**

PLT and CPI safety Intervention continue to work together to create an environment and atmosphere based on Care, welfare, safety and security. PLT recognises that the philosophy, lessons and skills taught in the programme align with our values and therefore make it a priority to be embedded within staff practice. Care: respect, dignity, empathy and person centred. Over the spring term PLT have continued to make sure all academies continue to refresh training and new staff are prioritised for the two day training course. CPI Safety Intervention training incorporates trauma-informed and person-centred approaches. With a focus on prevention, it also teaches staff de-escalation skills as well as non-restrictive and restrictive interventions. For more information please visit; [www.crisisprevention.com/en-GB](http://www.crisisprevention.com/en-GB). Moving into the Summer term the Trust will continue to work with all staff across the academies making sure that they receive the highest possible support and training to create a positive, safe environment in which pupils can develop personally and academically. Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Easter holidays.

# Central Trust Updates

## **Richard Ashkettle - Health and Safety Officer**

Spring is now upon us and with it brings growing season. There has been alterations and landscaping to an outside area at Ramsden Hall Academy. This has now given us a space that will be turned into a sensory garden and I know that pupils are looking forward to the opportunity to take on this project guided by Emma. Park Campus Academy has seen their vegetable patch seedlings breaking the surface and Kennington Park Academy spent an afternoon with pupils planting vegetable seeds getting ready for the Big Sunflower competition that is to be held this year. As always, I would like to take the time to thank all the site staff for their hard work and dedication. Recently a few of our Academies have had new members join the site teams, Ashley, Royce and an ex-pupil Alex have all made fantastic starts. A warm welcome to you all. During this term we have interviewed for a position within Parallel Learning Trust's site staff at Park Campus. I am happy to report that this position has been filled and we look forward to welcoming a new member to the team. We have had works completed at most of our sites ranging from main entrance gate repairs and new intercoms fitted at Inspire Academy to new door maglocks at Victory Park Academy to new glass windows and doors in the entrance lobby and canteen at Park Campus Academy. We also have works booked in that will be completed in the very near future including new entrance lobby glass at the Wandle Valley Academy reception and extra CCTV at Sutton House Academy. I will finish this newsletter by wishing everyone a very Happy Easter and yet again thank all our site staff for their hard work. Please keep safe, take care of your loved ones, and I look forward to seeing you on-site.

## **Corinne Gould - Personal Assistant to CEO, GDPR Lead, HR Officer, Company Secretary**

This term I have continued to work on Governance recruitment across the Trust and I have been working on the Governance Induction Policy with the Governance Professional to ensure the Trust has the best possible induction for new Trustees, Local Governance, Members. Governance recruitment is still a strong focus for the Trust, and we are in the process of adding specialist professionals for Social Care and Health to all Local Governance Councils. I have updated the Trust Data Protection Policy with a new retention schedule, which has now been implemented across the Trust. I will be visiting each of the Academies later this Academic year to ensure this is being followed. Going forward, I have decided as GDPR Lead, that two audits are to be conducted by the Academies twice in the Academic year. The Data Protection Assistants have been instructed to carry out an Audit just before the Easter break, this will then be uploaded to our GDPR system in order for me to review over the Easter break. I will provide feedback to the Data Protection Assistants and Headteachers to ensure we continue to be compliant, and always aware of the data we hold and how important it is to keep this safe in our Academies. We have carried on scheduling most meetings virtually, as this increased attendance at all levels of Governance and is proving a more efficient use of resources. Visits are beginning to be scheduled as restrictions have eased and we look forward to having planned visits resume in person within the Academies. Mark has benefited from the virtual platform we use as more meetings have been able to be scheduled with the mix of virtual and in person meetings scheduled. Executive Leadership teams meetings alternate between virtual and in person which allows these to run as scheduled as half the time it reduces the need for Headteachers to leave their Academies.

Happy Easter from the Central  
Team!



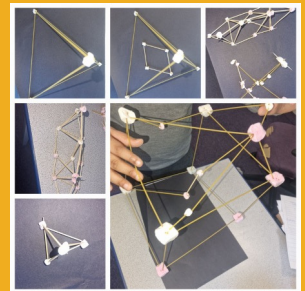
## Player of the month

This past month we had 'TM.' as PCA player of the month and 'K' for KPA. The reasons for these choices are that the students improved a lot in their manners and work rate at Fulham sessions.



'T' managed to improve technically and 'K' got a very good behavioural improvement since the beginning of the year.

The pupils were very creative model making using marshmallows and cocktail sticks.



Pupils had a day of model making using clay and wire. It was a challenge but the pupils gave the activity a good try and stuck with it.



The children in Lilac Class are currently looking at how volcanoes are made and how people live amongst them. One of the activities was to make a lava flow. Here are the results from a fun filled lesson.



## Garden Plans

1 - A vegetable patch for the children to grown their own fruit & veg which will be used in their lunches.  
2 - Follow the path down to the pond, feed the wildlife while enjoying the wild meadow feel. Helped by the mixture of soft long grasses and wild flowers allowed to grow unhindered.  
3 - Sit out and relax in the sun, enjoying the views from round the garden, or just something to eat. Which bring us nicely to...

4 - Our very own clay pizza oven. You won't be able to resist the smell of freshly baked dough, as if you're really in Italy.  
5 - Take a stroll through the main part of the garden where you can immerse yourself with nature. Trees, Flowers and bird feeders help to draw in the wildlife.  
6 - Kids Mural. They'll be able to put the finishing touch on the garden making it feel their own.  
7 - Planting benches so the children can have a go at planting themselves. Helping cultivate their green fingers.



## Exam results to update:



## Rewards Trip

Our rewards trip for term three was a trip to Miranda's café for a slap up lunch!



## Garden

We continue to try to grow more things in our garden that we can eat.



## Exam dates for your diary

9.00 THURSDAY 12TH MAY - BTEC TECH AWARD DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
9.00 WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY - GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1  
9.00 FRIDAY 20TH MAY - GCSE/IGCSE MATHEMATICS PAPER 1  
9.00 WEDNESDAY 25TH MAY - GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE PAPER 1  
9.00 TUESDAY 7TH JUNE - GCSE/IGCSE MATHEMATICS PAPER 2  
9.00 WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE - GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE PAPER 2  
9.00 FRIDAY 10TH JUNE - GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2  
9.00 MONDAY 13TH JUNE - GCSE MATHEMATICS HIGHER TIER PAPER 3  
1.30 TUESDAY 14TH JUNE - GCSE STATISTICS PAPER 1  
9.00 FRIDAY 24TH JUNE - GCSE STATISTICS PAPER 2  
THURSDAY 25TH AUGUST - RESULTS DAY



## Headteacher

The Spring term at Inspire Academy has been great for all pupils and staff. We had a visit from the Owl Academy, in which all pupils got to experience and interact with a number of different animals, including, snakes, birds of prey and a very friendly skunk. The Owl Academy themselves were extremely impressed with the way all our pupils conducted themselves and engaged with the animals. A big well done to Miss Buckberry for organising such a great event! Learning, as always has been at the forefront and there have been some excellent examples of the hard work, all of our teaching and support staff do to engage our pupils and enhance the progress they make. Mr Betts is currently supporting our year 11 pupils through their Food Technology exam and the work they are producing is outstanding and very tasty! Pupils are reading consistently in tutor times and personally listening to them, makes me proud, especially with the improvements I can hear every day. Finally, our new additional provision 'the Meadows', that supports pupils with ASD has been a real success so far.



The staff have built a fantastic relationship with all of the pupils, even in the short time they have been with them. The individual support these pupils need is in place and having a positive effect. The work that is being produced is of a high standard. Well done to all staff involved!

## World Book Day

On Friday 4th March staff, and some learners, dressed up as their favourite book characters for World Book Day. Year 7 and 8 learners completed quizzes on popular book characters as part of their English lessons. As well as being a lot of fun, the day was an important reminder to our pupils that there are so many different exciting stories and characters to read about. Thank you to all our staff who went over and above with their costumes.



## Staff of the Term

This term, we want to give a special mention and thanks to Nina Elsom. Nina is a dedicated, passionate and impactful staff member. Nina's commitment to supporting our pupils in both Maths and speech and language interventions have produced some outstanding results. She has also recently stepped up, temporarily, as a Form Tutor to support her Form group with tremendous success. Thank you, Nina. Your can-do attitude and consistent approach are INSPIRED!

## Brick by Brick

We have been blown away this term by the skills that various pupils have shown in Bricklaying. In particular, Mr Rice our DT/Construction teacher has been particularly impressed with Years 8 and 9.

They have been busy learning the safety aspects of moving and handling bricks and the building of both a pyramid and cavity wall.



## Measuring Success

Recently, we received the results for the Edexcel Awards Number and Measure Level 1 qualification that several pupils sat in January. We are pleased to share, that, OT, AC, KR, LMcG, TJH and FF all passed! We are so proud of them all. One of the parents got in touch with the following feedback; "I'm very proud of my son's results. He achieved 97%! Much thanks to Miss Hamer for proving to him that he can do well when he puts his mind to it. He came home so pleased with himself." Now, that's what it's all about!

Over the course of this term we have been really fortunate to once again be able to take part in a number of competitions and out of school events, helping to demonstrate that we are really moving towards to a new kind of normal. Pupils from Primary and Secondary have been able to demonstrate really positive team work at both the Tag Rugby and Multi Skills competitions. This newsletter is always a good opportunity to thank all of the staff at Wandle, for their continual hard work and support, in making sure that we are able to give our pupils the best education possible. At times we have been challenged by illness and train strikes and the ongoing challenges that Covid still sends us, but the staff, along with the parents and carers, have pulled together and that is what makes Wandle such a special place.

## College Visits

This term, pupils in Year 11 have had the opportunity to visit 6 local colleges and training providers. They have all used the opportunities well to help them plan their next steps.



## Curriculum

### Poly-tunnel Project

With a combined effort from the Year 11 Science group and Mr Parfitt's SEMH group, the Poly-tunnel is now constructed and ready to start planting! Mr Parfitt has several exciting ideas in store for future practical science investigations.



## Staff Member of the Term

We all wish a fond fair-well to our colleague and friend Alex Crawford-Jones, who is leaving us at the end of the term. She joined us in the Wandle Valley primary department in 2018 and we thank her for all of her hard work and dedication since; wishing her well in her new SENCO role in Bromley.

Miss CJ says:

'Wandle is by far the most rewarding job I have ever had. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the many different personalities of children and staff within the school. No day is ever the same. I will honestly miss all of the children, but I will be back to visit!'



## Curriculum

### BTec Food Studies

In the final few weeks of the Spring term, Year 11 pupils completed their practical assessment task for their BTec Food Technology course. They all cooked a 3 course meal for an invited guest and there was not a crumb left on anyone's plate!



## Message from Headteacher

This has been another busy term, with a lot of disruption due to Covid, and 8 new pupils joining from Y6 to Y10. I'd like to thank staff and families for their support and patience with this, as we've had to make changes to classes and timetables to try and keep everyone learning as much as we can. Despite the disruption we still celebrated World Book day, with all staff dressing as book characters, and also held a day in support of those affected by the crisis in Ukraine. Our Y11s continue to complete the coursework for their qualifications, and are preparing for GCSE exams - we will be offering focused vocational workshops in April and May to ensure they get the best grades they can.

## Careers Week

At Ramsden Hall Academy we enjoyed activities to recognise National Careers Week. Our younger pupils played games in their Life Skills lessons to lead them on to talk about and explore different careers they may not have thought of.



Our Science department had a fantastic week and really immersed themselves into the topic exploring different STEM careers. They had great fun showing off their engineering skills making crash mats for eggs and paper mache models of a marine biologist and a crime scene investigator. This really got the pupils thinking about what they are learning at school and how this connects to their choices in the future. During tutor times all pupils enjoyed careers quizzes and activities. A small group of year 9 and 10 pupils enjoyed a trip to USP College. They had a tour of the college and got to see a number of different subject areas in action. They also had a question and answer session which cleared up a lot of their worries about post 16 choices. This was a great morning. All the pupils said that it had really opened their eyes up to what college had to offer and how different it is to school. This is something we hope to continue with local colleges and to be able to offer all pupils. All in all a great week!!!

## School Trip Champion Award 2022

We are very pleased to announce that one of our HLTAs, Tracey Walker, has been shortlisted as one of the finalists for the School Trip Champion Award with a prize of £1,500 up for grabs for the winner to spend on a trip for their school. The 2022 Awards Lunch and Ceremony will be taking place on 25th May at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London. Check out the website and [Please vote for Tracey!](#)

## First Aid Qualification

Year 11s are training over the course of 2 weeks to gain an industry standard First Aid qualification. They have been performing a range of life saving skills such as CPR and how to deal with minor injuries. All pupils will gain a certificate at the end of the course.

## World Book Day

Pupils and staff enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. Staff dressed up in some amazing outfits. We even had a visit from Aavie, our therapeutic dog as Scooby Doo.



## Residential

What another brilliant term. We have welcomed another staff member, Nikki, as well as several new boys to boarding. We went to see Southend who beat Bromley 2-0! We have continued to go swimming and ice skating each week and the boys are getting really good, but we are looking forward to the lighter and warmer nights so we can go to the park more and really blow off some steam.





## Message from the Head Teacher

We have fast approached the end of another term and the pressure to adapt and respond to increased Covid cases has been a thorn in our side: We hope as a school we have managed this well and recognise without your support, it wouldn't be possible. Nevertheless, it won't dampen our spirits and desire to achieve high standards of educational practice including celebrating other events in our academic calendar. Our Year 11 pupils are working exceptionally hard preparing for their exams and gaining ground regarding applications to college and other providers. Most now have secured placements. The Academy paid tribute to Children In Need on Red Nose Day and raised £100. World Book Day saw some splendid costumes; characters including Snow White, Spider Man and Alice in Wonderland we're amongst a few. Science Week went with a BANG with some pupils working with the science Department at Southend Grammar School for Boys and finally.... Easter holidays....to finish, we plan to run parent progress day with an Easter Fete to raise additional money for the Red Cross in support of victims of the Ukrainian war. Pupils and their teachers are devising stalls and activities full of fun and entertainment. Refreshments will be available. We wish you all a restful Easter Holidays and thank you, our community, for all the work you do to support SHA.

## Food Technology

In food Tech this term we have been learning about Healthy Eating and the Eat well plate including Carbohydrates, Proteins, Dairy, Fats, Fibre, Fruits and Vegetables Vitamins & Minerals and the importance of having the right balance of these in our diets.

We have also been celebrating pancake day by making pancakes and being creative with the toppings.



## Rainbow Class

The spring term saw lots of historical learning in primary. The focus for the first half of the term was World War 2 and pupils learned a lot of information about the events of the war and what it may have been like to be a child during war time.



We completed virtual reality lessons imagining we were in Anderson shelters and dressed up as evacuees. We also took a trip to Shoebury Garrison to see the air raid shelters and the cannons. This half term we are looking at Heroes and villains where our history topic is crime and punishment, we are enjoying comparing punishments in Roman and Anglo-Saxon times to the modern age.

## Secondary

With individually focussed lesson plans we are moving across net sports, gymnastics and fitness. Introducing fitness tests like cooper run and beep test. And learning how important fitness is in every day life.

## RHSE Relationship, Health and Sex Education

**KS3** - Year 7 and 8's have been learning about keeping safe and domestic abuse within relationships.

**KS4** - The pupils have been focussing on money management and career planning. Year 11s will be then participate in an interview at Southend Airport.

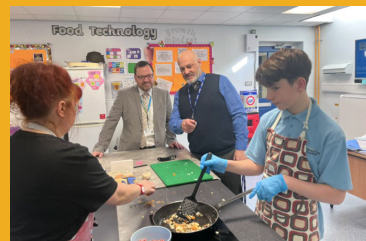
## Parent Support Groups

Following the success of our first parent workshops on 10th February, we are looking to make these a regular occurrence. To start with, these will be twice per half term - one will be a workshop on a particular topic, and the next will be a support group where we reflect further on this topic and offer parent-parent support. Future sessions will be shaped by your feedback and what you would like covered, and can include external guest speakers as well. The aim of these forums are to be a protected, positive and non-judgement space where we can share stories and speak generally about our children. You can share as much or as little as you wish but individual situations will not be discussed in depth to ensure we provide balance and meet the holistic needs of the group.



## Update from the Head Teacher

Dear all, I just wanted to thank everyone for the sustained efforts in making Victory Park a great place to work and learn. We have accomplished a lot this term and have taken advantage of the better weather to get out and about and widen our pupils learning experience.



Our successes this term are as follows: A 'working together' visit from the School Inclusion team at the LA took place on the 23.02.2022. The feedback from the visit was very positive. We also celebrated the Chinese New year with a team led Assembly and Special Chinese meal day created by our Catering staff.

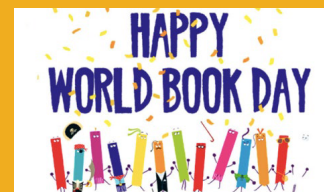
## Pupils Learning

Y11 pupils have been entered for and passed Functional Skills English and Maths. Our pupils have passed maths (Level 1) and 10 have passed English (Level 1). Later this month, pupils will be entered for functional skills Level 2 qualifications in Maths and English. This will then lead to the GCSE exams. Good luck Y11. 'Focus on Science' days (Applied Science L1/L2). This has supported our year 11 pupils in making accelerated progress with regards to their modular course work in Science. The dedicated days have proved a real hit with pupils and a real success.

## Supporting literacy and love of reading

Our Speech and Language Therapist (SALT) has organised and is carrying out Dyslexia screening for all pupils starting this half term. We use GL Assessment 'Dyslexia Test-wise'. A nationally known screening test. From the test results we are able to put in place appropriate interventions and support for pupils that have been identified in requiring additional help, for example tinted sheets to support reading, 1-1 focused support, scaffolded resources and more time. Our use of 'Lexia' our online literacy tool that is designed to support pupils' literacy and reading is embedded with pupils at all levels making improvements in their literacy.

We celebrated World Book Day on the 03/03/2022 (VPA Twitter). This was enjoyed by pupils in all key stages and staff. The emphasis being on reading and celebration of book characters and literacy.



## Princes Trust

This term in Prince's Trust, pupils throughout the school have been learning about a broad range of skills to help them gain a greater understanding of life after school. From writing CV's to roleplaying job interviews pupils have shown great engagement and are developing new skills and discovering new talents.

## Careers

Working alongside our Connexions Careers Advisor year 11 pupils have been securing their next steps for when they finish at VPA. Some will be heading off to college with others looking at apprenticeships but all making positive next steps. We have also had one of our year 11 pupils gaining valuable work experience teaching our primary pupils how to code using scratch, while another year 11 is due to begin

## Occupational Studies

This term in Occupational studies pupils have shown great engagement, displayed excellent team working skills and individual ability in a variety of areas. Our KS3 pupils have been preparing a planting area which looks great and working on their decorating skills to great success. Year 10 have worked really well as a class, working on their brick laying and developing skills in horticulture. Year 11 are coming towards the end of their time at VPA and have been working hard to complete their work to gain a level 2 qualification in occupational studies.



# Term Dates 2021 - 2022

## TERM ONE

**INSET DAY:** Wednesday 1st September 2021

**Start Date:** Thursday 2nd September 2021

**INSET TWILIGHT 1:** Wednesday 13th October 2021

**Finish Date:** Friday 15th October 2021

**Holiday:** Monday 18th October - Friday 29th October 2021

**Number of School Days:** 33

## TERM TWO

**Start Date:** Monday 1st November 2021

**INSET TWILIGHT 2:** Wednesday 17th November 2021

**Finish Date:** Friday 17th December 2021

**Holiday:** Monday 20th December - Friday 31st December 2021

**Number of School Days:** 35

## TERM THREE

**Bank Holiday:** Monday 3rd January 2022

**INSET DAY:** Tuesday 4th January 2022

**Start Date:** Wednesday 5th January 2022

**INSET TWILIGHT 3:** Wednesday 9th February 2022

**Finish Date:** Friday 11th February 2022

**Holiday:** Monday 14th February - Friday 18th February 2022

**Number of School Days:** 29

## TERM FOUR

**Start Date:** Monday 21st February 2022

**INSET TWILIGHT 4:** Wednesday 9th March 2022

**Finish Date:** Friday 8th April 2022

**Holiday:** Monday 11th April - Friday 22nd April 2022

**Number of School Days:** 35

## TERM FIVE

**Start Date:** Monday 25th April 2022

**INSET TWILIGHT 5:** Wednesday 18th May 2022

**Bank Holiday:** Monday 2nd May 2022

**Finish Date:** Friday 27th May 2022

**Holiday:** Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June 2022

**Number of School Days:** 24

## TERM SIX

**Start Date:** Monday 6th June 2022

**INSET TWILIGHT 6:** Wednesday 8th June 2022

**Finish Date:** Wednesday 20th July 2022

**INSET DAY:** Thursday 21st July 2022

**Number of School Days:** 34

### Bank and Public Holidays

January 3rd 2022 (New Year's Day (substitute day))

April 15th 2022 (Good Friday)

April 18th 2022 (Easter Monday)

May 2nd 2022 (May Day)

June 2nd 2022 (Late May Bank Holiday)

June 3rd 2022 (The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday)

August 29th 2022 (August Bank Holiday)



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