

# PARALLEL LEARNING TRUST

Seasonal newsletter of Trust wide updates!

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@RamsdenHall



@WandleValleyA



@\_SuttonHouse\_



@KenningtonPark8

# A message from the CEO



**MARK JORDAN**

First and foremost I wanted to write to you all to express my gratitude for the work you have done and are still doing during these difficult times, it is greatly appreciated not only by myself but the wider community, the Trust Board and also noted in wider spheres such as the DfE. Speaking with senior leaders across the Trust and from the sites that I have been to has underlined not only what brilliant staff we have but has helped shape what it means to be part of this Trust family. The work that has been done from the site team, kitchen staff through to front line workers and leaders going above and beyond and as one member of staff described it “doing what we do best” I know will be appreciated by pupils and their families/carers during these difficult times and is helping to keep some of the most vulnerable and challenging pupils safer.

Secondly I wanted to reassure you all that every academy and the Trust has emergency plans and can and will keep working, this includes central functions such as the Finance teams as this really has and continues to be a team effort with everyone showing flexibility and willingness to work cohesively. These plans include risk assessments for pupils and staff alike and whilst the government have stated that PPE is not essential and will not be providing it to front line staff PLT has purchased a range of masks, gloves, anti-bacterial hand sanitiser and medical cleansing wipes which after a delay of sourcing these in demand products, will be distributed to each academy to bolster their existing supplies. The Trust Board and myself want staff to be safe, to stay safe and believe that whilst some areas may not feel PPE is compulsory, we believe it is necessary to reduce the risk of infection.

I wanted also to outline the next steps and some important planning to enable us to be better prepared going forward as well as highlight some of the key ways we have adapted as an organisation to continue to be effective during these difficult times. The Trust has purchased an online conference system for each of your academies to facilitate easier communication. We have as a Trust taken the decision that all types of Governance meetings will take place through online conferencing using the system recently purchased. Support will be given to you to enable you to set this up and we are also working with Chairs and Clerks as to develop a protocol of how to run meetings using this system as establishing the appropriate etiquette is essential to keep these meetings focussed, clear and recordable. In order to minimise unnecessary travel all meetings till the end of the summer term will be held using this conference facility, for example SLT meetings, Steering Groups and all types of Governance.

These are new and challenging situations that we have not encountered before which indeed are testing all of us individually as well as a collective group of educationalists. I am now clear that there is a direction from the Department to open our provisions. As stated previously we will, of course, comply with this direction but will prioritise the safety and welfare of staff and pupils. I have worked with external partners to develop a risk assessment form for staff and pupils. We, you, collectively are very resourceful. What is clear is we will not jeopardise members of our community but these are difficult times and we have to ensure we work within the parameters we are set. These risk assessments are reviewed by senior leaders across the Trust on a weekly basis.

# A message from the CEO

We do have a degree of flexibility. The support we offer will look very different to what it typically does in terms of content, delivery and the way it is staffed. The provisions that are still open in full or partially should continue to do this. What I will be discussing with leaders over the next week is what our interim and longer term offer is and am sure that they will include key staff within these discussions. As Vice Chair of the National AP/SEND CEO Network that represents over 250 academies, I am involved in weekly discussions with the DfE as part of a consultative steering group and will therefore be able to influence discussions as well as ensure PLT is updated on current thinking. There is an expectation that we will continue with the current framework in place most likely till May half term but this is being reviewed every 3 weeks.

We do have a busy time in front of us and whilst clearly our immediate attention is rightly focused on the pandemic that is affecting all of us, we also need to be planning for the future. Some of you may well be aware that Ofsted have currently suspended all Inspections but this does mean that as a Trust we will be facing a situation where 5 of our 7 academies will be expecting an Ofsted Inspection when these restart and work is being completed by senior leaders to ensure we are in the best position for these and indeed I encourage you to think about what you could contribute towards ensuring we are in the best position which includes documenting and celebrating what is happening during these challenging times as it is easy to lose sight of some of the superb work within the PLT community.

**Below are some images that exemplify staff going 'above and beyond' combined with the generosity of members of the public to assist us in creating food parcels for the less fortunate.**



I am resisting any superficial inspirational quotes but one that is relevant is a quote from Martin Luther King Jr who said "We must be creative" and I think this is something we should all reflect on in relation to our roles and our offer whether this is if we are in the front line or a more removed function as both are critical to allow us to support others.

What is clear is that we are being asked to plug gaps in key services and keep our most vulnerable/risky pupils safe and I think that when we look at what is being asked of society there indeed is a social and moral responsibility for us to do what we can within our respective roles and I thank you for your co-operation in doing so. If any of you want to raise any aspects or have questions please speak to your Headteachers in the first instance and they will then present specific issues to me during our regular reviews.

I would like to leave you with the final thought that I personally believe challenging situations and specifically how we react to them define each and every one of us but during these times please KEEP SAFE, WORK SAFE, WORK SMART



# Central Trust Updates

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



I have been continuing to support the CEO in managing his time effectively, this includes organising meetings far in advance and blocking out time in the CEO's diary to work on actions from meetings including 121's, committee and academy council meetings. This is proving to work better for the CEO, and being more prepared for the upcoming events, training and communication across the Trust. In regards to GDPR, we have been reviewing the Audits and finding common issues across the Academies and we plan to discuss this at the next GDPR steering group. Mollie and I have been working together to improve the HR systems. I have been working closely with KAPE the external HR provider to deal with complex HR issues across the Trust and improve on my knowledge of dealing with HR queries. Mollie and I have organised Steering Groups for HR admin in each of the Academies to ensure everyone is up to date on current legislation.

## **Englantın Muca - Deputy Head & Teaching and Learning Lead for Victory Park Academy**



This term I have been working on Go4schools. As a result all the interventions and subject targets are now recorded and monitored. Where a pupil does not appear to be making expected progress, the Progress Statements which are now included on Go4Schools, show progress within each level that the student is working towards. This is for English and Maths and all subjects in primary. As this has been successful in enabling staff to track the progress of each child, and identify their next steps, I will be introducing Progress Statements for all vocational subjects. Additionally, I will be standardising assessment for Maths and English across the Trust.

## **Maldwyn Fjord Roberts - Executive Lead: Behaviour, Safeguarding, Personal Development and Wellbeing**



This term has been the launch of the Pivotal MAPA programme for behaviour management. The trust has selected 15 employees to undertake the instructor training, a 5 day intensive course covering all areas of managing actual and potential aggression resulting in a 100% pass. Our aim was to become self-sufficient in training staff across the trust, and provide bespoke training due to their contextual knowledge for each academy, through the hard work and professionalism of PLT staff, this is now possible. In January the staff of Victory Park, Sutton House and Inspire Academy have all completed the training and all staff are now "Pivotal MAPA" qualified. The efforts and professionalism of the instructors over the two day course has been exemplary. All academies will be moving over to the Pivotal MAPA approach by February 2020" with Kennington Park Academy, Park Campus Academy, Wandle Valley and Ramsden Hall completing their training by March 2020.



# Central Trust Updates

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



Since my last update I have been given the opportunity to develop my role into HR therefore my role is now split between Marketing, Development and HR. I am enjoying developing my knowledge within HR and learning new things and processes. I have been working closely with our comprehensive HR consultancy service, KAPE, in developing my knowledge in HR. I have been working on developing the Trusts social footprint by the consistent use of Twitter as our main social media platform, I think Twitter is helping the Academies to show off the great things that they do and the projects that they work on. Another key area that I have been working on has been ensuring that our Academies websites are 100% compliant with The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 and 2016 and other relevant legislation. Website compliance has been a key area that I have worked on since I joined the Trust and I have managed to get our websites from non-compliance to compliance!

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



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and outline my immediate plans in working as PLT's Health and Safety Officer. I believe that the experiences of working in a wide range of roles in different industries has provided me with a broad and detailed awareness of health and safety best practices. I have always placed great importance on health and safety and have undertaken both formal and informal roles. As a Director of my own company to the construction industry I have experience with liaising with staff to ensure best practice with regards to health and safety and to oversee sub-contractors making sure that they adhered to our policies and procedures and that they could demonstrate relevant qualifications for specific tasks. One of the first things I would like to do is to review the current procedures in place at PLT to see if these can be improved in any way. I place great importance in training and therefore ensuring people are given every opportunity to grow into the best practitioners they can be. I will also be implementing the use of systems across the trust that enable best practise in relation to Health and Safety so all Site Managers storage of compliance records will be standardised and readily and freely available. I look forward to working with you all in the future.

# How the Academies have dealt with coronavirus

## **Kennington Park Academy**

- We had a day closed on 23.03 to re-organise ourselves and re-opened to our more vulnerable pupils on 24.03.20. We are currently open 9-3 M-Th and 9-1.30 on Fridays.
- We have staff on a rota -who are on call to limit the numbers of staff having to travel in.
- We have a routine of structured activities, including a lot of running (keeping to social distancing) and a keep fit session every day using You Tube. Activities are ensuring engagement and we are putting in more formal learning.
- Pupils at home received a pack of work -with resources (pencils etc).
- We have links to home learning on the website.
- Parents have log ins to the online resources the pupils use: lexia/mathletics/purple mash
- We are calling parents every week and the children with SWs get a call 3 x week with staff talking to them on the phone.
- We call staff at home 1 x a week to check on their welfare
- FSM vouchers are being organised by PLT

## **Ramsden Hall Academy**

Ramsden Hall have been working with families to support them in these difficult times. All children are in tutor groups and their tutors have continued contact with families throughout this, to support them with any concerns and with accessing the work that is on the website. Some families are receiving daily calls and have also accessed support from external agencies. Subject staff are working to ensure the curriculum content on the website is updated and engaging - this includes the Ramsden Iron Man Challenge and an art activity to send Rainbows to the NHS. We have been working with PLT IT staff to develop Google Classroom support to extend this offer, and are sending work packs to the students with no access to IT. One of our Y9 students has raised over £200 for the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow Covid-19 appeal, by shaving off his trademark curly hair.

The Mental Health of our staff, children and families is another priority and so we are regularly updating the mental health support links available to families and children, and tutors are signposting these during their calls. Families are able to call school mobile numbers whenever they need and also have access to a dedicated email address that is monitored daily. Staff have a buddy system in place in school and we're using this to keep in touch and maintain morale; this is being monitored by the staff wellbeing team. We have moved from sending supermarket vouchers to the Free School Meal families, and are now using the government Edenred scheme. Where there are concerns from families, and risk assessments indicate that children are finding it difficult to stay safe at home they have been coming into school on a rota system with dedicated teaching staff. This is to enable them to access outdoor space safely, while mitigating the risks to other children and staff. Staff are in teams and will stay with the same staff and children over the next three weeks to minimise the risk of cross-contamination, vulnerable staff are working remotely to develop subject content for the website. Each on site team includes a member of SLT, a DSL and First Aider.

The new build works have carried on and there are real developments every time we are on site now. The Site team are also starting a redecoration programme in the new building corridor and an office move. This is planned to take place over the next three weeks whilst pupil and staff numbers are low.

## **Wandle Valley Academy**

- Home learning packs for all subjects put together and sent off
- Delivery of food to pupils
- Shared contact list for communicating with those pupils who are vulnerable or most at risk
- A full list of online learning opportunities loaded on the website
- Staff created a 'stay active' WhatsApp group during the 'deep clean' of the school to encourage to maintain a fitness schedule to support health, and also make sure that staff do not feel 'on their own', whilst in self-isolation.

# How the Academies have dealt with coronavirus

## **Sutton House Academy**

- As you know we remain open and have had several in attendance especially at the start of the week and prior to the announcement of Lockdown.
- We have been absolutely committed to an Outreach service where work packs are regularly sent home, including food hampers and our English and Maths Leads including our Yr11 pastoral team are providing a 'Call Centre' - 'tips for completion of work' approach for all students completing past papers and coursework especially as exams have been cancelled.
- Our counselors are working with families to ensure those who receive support from practitioners continues to get intervention through 1:1 chats and forums and all our staff are committed to calling families daily to engage them with Virtual Learning Activities through the website and ongoing PE with Joe Wicks through Twitter and other such live cam essentials. Staff are being tasked with filming short sessions that are directly in line with a curriculum offer.
- From a safeguarding point of view, our vulnerable children are being monitored extremely closely and in partnership with social care - where social care cannot complete areas of case loads we are stepping up to support these colleagues.
- We are working tremendously hard in endeavoring to move our systems and approaches to be ahead of the new norm.
- Feedback from parents/carers and pupils has been positive.

## **Victory Park Academy**

### Aim:

- Pupils are contacted daily.
- Where possible learning can continue at home through work provided.
- Staff continue to have an oversight of academic progress through monitoring.
- All vulnerable families have increased contact and support through weekly welfare visits, with any concerns reported and recorded through our Welfare tracking system.

### Vulnerable families:

- Once per week visits, doorstep contact, with all children seen.
- Phone contact four times a week
- Offer of food support through school.
- Use of Purple Button to record and report.

### Welfare calling and food distribution Logistics

- All staff make either welfare phone calls or welfare checks (To get 'sight' of pupils, (daily)
- The information is then sent to our welfare team who update the tracker (Any immediate concerns are fast tracked to Safeguarding team)
- All of this has to be done by midday every day
- At 13.00 hrs the safeguarding team go through the Tracker any concerns are addressed immediately
- Social workers and Services are contacted and updated when necessary.
- Food will be provided in Parcels/Packs/hampers, hopefully, allowing families to have basic food items and reduce the financial pressure.
- They are to be collected from the English room (doors from the car park to be used).
- Collections to be staggered in classes/year groups. This is to prevent large group gatherings and increased risk of exposure (If from site).
- Home visits will be taken by x2 staff, at least one will be designated child protection, this will be doorstep visits but
- children MUST be seen if possible.
- Clear recording of families' supported/ attending and available for home visits and support in our welfare tracking system.



## KPA and the Young Vic project

In term 3, Blue and Purple classes had the opportunity to develop and extend their drama skills. They had two actor led sessions at KPA then were invited up to the Young Vic Theatre to take part in a whole week of acting workshops in the studio space. The pupil actors performed their work to a large audience which was well attended by parents and carers. Well done to our aspiring actors-it's a shame we missed the London Theatre Awards ...



Angel (Y6) had this to say about the Young Vic project "We really enjoyed the week-we played lots of games and made our own play up. We had lots of nice lunches and we met the technical producer and found out that some famous people have acted at the Young Vic. We performed in front of an audience -people we did not know -as well as family members saw us perform". Our partnership will continue as the Young Vic will come to KPA in term 4.

## Q&A with the Prime Minister

In Dec 2019, we had our own elections and Deliet (Y4) was elected Prime Minister. Here are highlights from his very own Question Time:

**Q:** How did you get to be PM?

**A:** I was voted in by the pupils -I am an inspiration

**Q:** What is it like to be PM?

**A:** It's fun - it's a good job , you can help people when they are stuck and I can help people if they have a sensible question.

**Q:** What changes do you plan to make?

**A:** I want us to have an astro-turf and I want to bring dodge ball back at playtime. I want us to also have sweets -but not too many.

**Q:** Are you in the Student Council?

**A:** Yes -I am the leader of the Student Council. We are helping everyone with bullying -we had a questionnaire that we gave out and the teachers are helping us by counting the answers. We are the Anti-Bullying Champions. I like being Prime Minister.

## Rockbourne Park's trips to the Forest School

Every Wednesday, all the pupils at Rockbourne Park have braved torrential rain and more mud than they have ever seen before to attend Forest School. They have put on their water proofs and wellies and squelched through Sydenham Wood. They have climbed trees, cooked on an open fire, built shelters, made bows and arrows, worked with natural clay and learned about the ways of the woods.



## Reintegration Interview

Ashley (Y5) has just started going back to his mainstream school. This is his update: "I am now back for 2 x days a week. I get to see my friends and I like being back in school. I am enjoying the lessons and being back with my teachers.

My list of positives:

- I am not fighting now.
- I am not talking when the teacher is talking
- I am now completing my work in class

I think I will be up to 3 days back in school soon."

We hope so too Ashley.

## The TIWAP project

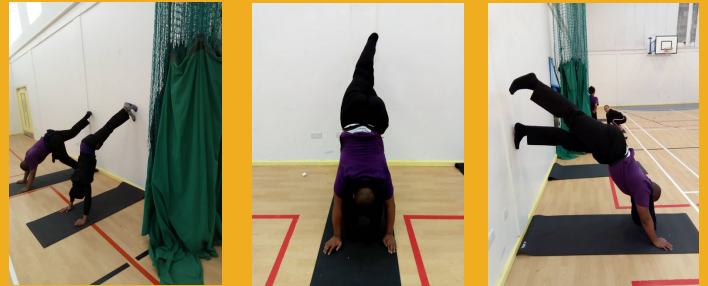
Park Campus Academy students are working with Lambeth Youth Offending Services on this project. This Trauma Informed Weapon Awareness Programme focuses on helping young people to develop an appropriate personal safety plan that will be effective in keeping them safe. This includes identifying strategies & trusted adults to enable them to keep safe without resorting to carrying weapons. The intended outcome for the project is that participants

- Feel safer
- Have an improved sense of well being
- Are able to identify support systems
- Are able to identify alternative strategies to carrying a weapon, & devise a personal safety plan
- Have increased awareness of the consequences of carrying or using a weapon.

## Pathways and Yoga

Key stage 3 students at Pathways are enjoying their weekly Yoga sessions.

Students are becoming more and more flexible as you can see from the photos!



## Building Bridges Beyond Boundaries

Year 11 English students have had a busy year to date. We received the results from the early entry IGCSE in English Language from the Cambridge exam board and found that two of our students had passed with C grades!

Both students are very pleased, as are all of us at PCA.

Onwards and upwards!



## Year 11 sports tournaments

YAs part of the course work for their L2 NCFE Sports and Fitness qualification, Year 11 students had to organise some sporting activities. In their form groups, they choose the sport to focus on (badminton and table tennis), and completed the risk assessments. They then advertised the tournament, and organised all the equipment needed. And allocated all the roles needed, e.g. score keeper, referee catering (hydration and half time refreshments), first aid, scoring and time keeping. They showed skills such leadership, cooperation, motivation, team building.

Well done Year 11!



Year 11 pupils have been working hard to complete their NCFE Level 1 Award courses in Alcohol Awareness and Awareness of Substance Misuse. We had a visit from a local substance misuse support charity, Open Road.

The impact of this is that our year 11 learners are now more confident in identifying what different substances some people misuse and dangers associated with substance misuse.



Inspire have started Lego intervention programme which uses social skills and resilience to help manage ourselves and our emotions.



Relationship day – Our KS3 pupils spent the day at Swattenden, completing challenges to build team work and work with peers and staff they wouldn't usually. The pupils did rock climbing, went down a zip line and completed an assault course.



Meanwhile, our KS4 pupils completed a mobile Panic Room. They completed Mafia Murder and Fatal Flight challenges. The pupils were far better detectives than the staff! After, the pupils took on the staff in a football match.

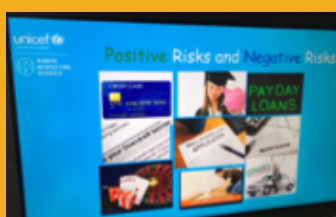
In DT, Y7 and 8 have been learning how to wire a plug, a bird house made by a mixed group of students and erected on a tree outside the front of the school. Year 10 made a sawhorse to help us strip down pallets which have been kindly donated by local suppliers.



Our nurture group have been working well this term. Here, they are developing social strategies through games. The pupils have engaged well to develop their social skills with Miss Thomas.



During our Friday afternoon Rights Respecting Schools lessons (where pupils learn about issues linked to their rights) there were lots of interesting discussions developing understanding of money management and money risk. The pupils have had a range of topics including appropriate use of emergency services, drug misuse, gambling addictions and domestic violence.



To celebrate Burns Night, staff and pupils tried a traditional Scottish meal at lunch time today: haggis! Pupils were very impressed and said that they would have it again.



In KS3 English, pupils watched Mr Betts' video persuading the class why they too should have water with their Weetabix. They then identified which techniques he could have used to be more persuasive in his speech. #Waterbix





## Cinderfella

This year's Panto was an absolute success! For some pupils it was their very first show and we are so proud. Every year the pupils surprise us and pull it out of the bag. So many highlights: Messiah, Alfie, Daniel and Stanley in dresses as the Wicked Stepfather & Stepbrothers to Brandon (our CinderFella); Luca, Deaquon and Adrien getting us all to sing along to Stay Another Day by East 17; Kailem and Reece were fantastic as Succulent and Spotlight the constantly bickering servants; Noah and Harley made cameos as warring auditionees; and our Primaries arguing over who was the REAL Ant and Dec. Big shout out of course to the fabulous and fearless teachers, once again dressed in outrageous costumes and dancing to The Village People! An amazing Panto, but with a very Wandle twist! Well done everyone and Merry Christmas!



## Mathletics

Mathletics is a website that supports learning both in the classroom and at home, through interactive activities, games and challenges. Accessing Mathletics at home can give Parents/Carers/Siblings the ability to help shape their child's mathematics learning journey. All of the pupils at Wandle Valley Academy have their own accounts so please encourage them to access this and have a look for yourself!

## Panto Visit

On Tuesday 10th December 2019, Primary and Year 7 pupils were lucky enough to go to see Cinderella at Fairfield Halls. It was a great show and everyone represented Wandle Valley Academy well. It was a great start to our Christmas celebrations!



We would like to recognise the beautiful work of Shayden, who recently completed this piece, and congratulate him on his efforts. Shayden was not confident previously and was resistant to completing the work in Art. However, he was able to communicate positively with a member of staff and accept their support. Shayden showed great determination and resilience to finish this piece in two lessons. Well done Shayden, thank you for your hard work and effort.



## Moon landing at WVA

Wandle Valley pupils were amazed, astonished and just plain flabbergasted to get the chance to actually hold a small piece of a truly historic artefact: moon samples collected by NASA astronauts between 1969-1972. NASA, The US Government and the STFC kindly loaned WVA a collection of samples including meteorites found on our very own planet Earth! We hope our pupils follow their dreams just as the astronauts and Space Program workers did! Best wishes for a peaceful Holiday Season. The Science Dept.

## College Tours

Our Year 11s have now attended 3 college tours this term, including Carshalton, Merton and NESCOL. Further tours are planned for the new year, including Sutton and District, WuWo Creative Media and Lambeth College. Such opportunities give the pupils a chance to see the colleges on a 'normal' working day and also to ask questions in a small focussed group. Now they all just need to focus on keeping their attendance and effort rates up, to further their chances of achieving a place on their chosen course!!

Well done to the Year 9's, 10's and 11's who behaved sensibly on the college 'Way to Work' taster sessions at Carshalton College and JACE training. The 90 minute sessions covered Construction, Motor Mechanics and Child Development and gave all of the pupils involved an opportunity to try out aspects of the full-courses on offer for post-16 learners.

## New Build

Works for our new build continue and are progressing well. At the moment the builders are digging to lay the foundations for the residential part of the build. The builder's newsletter can be found on the website.

<http://ramsdenhall.org.uk/buildproject2019/newsletters/>



## New Pens in Animal Care

DT have been working on some pens for some of the animals this term. The guinea pigs are enjoying their pens and the cats are enjoying them too!



## Environment Day

This terms Environment Day again was a success. There were lots of activities around site. Milford & Cliff and some of the students filled in the pot holes on the lane and made the paths safer for students/staff/visitors to walk on. Well done everybody!



## Police Dog in School

Police Dog Baloo came to visit the students on 17th December 2019.

Owner, Mandy Chapman told the students Baloo's story and learnt about her bravery and her recovery. The students loved learning about Baloo. There are more pictures on our twitter page, @RamsdenHall



## The New Arrivals in Animal Care

Just before Christmas, we adopted some ducks that needed a new home. The boys decided to name them Cheese & Quacker. The ducks have settled in well and are enjoying living with the Chickens & other animals!



## Fireman Visit

At the beginning of Feb, Billericay fire station came for a visit. Whilst they were here, the fireman showed the boys how the sirens were activated, and even took them for a ride in the fire engine!



## Primary 'Careers'

All three primary classes and the nurture group have been learning about people who help us this half term, they have enjoyed looking into my different professions such as firefighter, nurse, police officer and doctor. The pupil's have also been thinking about what they would like to be when they grow up! We were lucky enough to have a visit from a real firefighter to support their learning! The pupils very much enjoyed hearing about what a firefighter's duties are and trying out some of the equipment. This enabled them to write fantastic diary entries - a day in the life of a firefighter!



## Rainbow Class

Thank you for our fabulous new dressing up clothes. We love using our imagination and transforming ourselves into different characters.



## Star Class 'Shout Out'

Please find the attached photos and shout out for Star Class. Star class really enjoyed taking part in Children's Mental health Week. Taking part in various activities including Yoga, Dancing to The Greatest Showman and making slime.



## Secondary Gardening Club

We are pleased to announce that after the half term holiday, Sutton House academy will be operating a fantastic and fun gardening club for all age groups.

This will give our students the opportunity to learn about how our fresh fruit and veg is grown and where it comes from. We will discuss how nature helps and the affect it has on our daily lives. Gardening will give our students a sense of responsibility and will offer them a hands on approach in the great outdoors. This will significantly improve mental wellbeing, creating a calming and inviting environment. Studies have proven that children growing their own vegetables will be more likely to try new foods. This opportunity will also include talks about nature and why it is important to preserve it. Lots of digging, planting and fun competitions to run throughout the year.



## In The Classrooms

Primary students have enjoyed spending time with Frank the therapy dog. They have learnt how to be safe around dogs and have taught Frank some new tricks. His owner has even commented that the the students are better behaved than Frank! Primary students have been learning about the Gingerbread Man as part of their learning they have made Gingerbread salt dough and produced a puppet show. They performed the puppet show to their classmates and staff.



## Construction and Horticulture

Year 10 and 11 have been working hard this term on their outside garden area. From constructing planters and building their own garden gateway the outside space is really beginning to shape up into a lovely area. The students have also been responsible for sowing a variety of different plants and making sure they are maintained throughout the different seasons.

## Sport Science

Year 11: Students have been conducting fitness tests this term. The tests have been collecting data from a range of fitness components including reaction speed, strength, power, speed and flexibility. There have been some great scores posted which really shows the sporting potential of many of our students.

Year 10: Students have been studying biology and have been conducting scientific tests to measure the changes that happens to our body when we start to exercise.

Year 9: Students have been learning about sports nutrition and have completed some fantastic diet plans. Next term, the year 9 students will cook some of the meals in the food technology room.

## Careers Fair

Careers Lead Steve Morgan would like to thank all the students and providers for attending the first Careers Fair held at Victory Park Academy. The turnout of 60 students from across four schools shared a hot breakfast and took positive steps toward their post 16 options. It was great to see young people from VPA, Sutton House Academy, Ramsden Hall and YMCA Southend engage with representatives from colleges and local employers. Going forward there will be a Forces day.

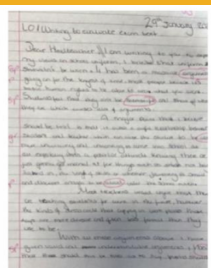
## English

Year 11 – In preparation for English IGCSE Paper 2, students have been focusing on developing their creative writing skills further by employing a range of language techniques, openings and closing techniques effective use of dialogue and dialogue tags.

We used a range of stimuli including short clips from a range of different genres; still images and extracts from short stories.

Year 10- Students are revising poetic techniques, identifying them in poems and beginning to explain what the effects are. There is a focus on the context to each poem: Out of the Blue- context 9/11; "What has Stephen Lawrence taught taught us?" - Context the Stephen Lawrence Case and Institutionalised Racism which links to the personal development theme this term.

Year 9 - This half term students have been learning about non-fiction texts. They recognise, text type, audience and purpose. We have used a range of topics linking to equality and real-life issues such as County Lines and knife crime. Students have learnt a range of persuasive techniques and designed their own chocolate bar advert.

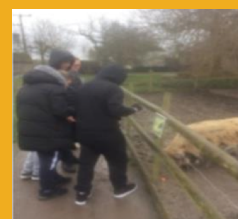


Pupil writing an exam practice exam.

## Food Technology

To fit in with our Personal Development theme this term; where does food come from? Year 8 and 9 visited Marsh Farm. We had a tour of the farm, met different animals on the farm, and even watched a ferret race!

We have also been cooking seasonal food and learning about the benefits of eating locally produced fruit and vegetables.



# Term Dates 2019-2020

## TERM ONE

### INSET DAY

Start Date

### INSET TWILIGHT 1

Finish Date

Holiday

Number of School Days

Monday 2nd September 2019

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Wednesday 16th October 2019

Friday 18th October 2019

Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November 2019

34

## TERM TWO

Start Date

### INSET TWILIGHT 2

Finish Date

Holiday

Number of School Days

Monday 4th November 2019

Wednesday 27th November 2019

Friday 20th December 2019

Monday 23rd December 2019 to Thursday 2nd January 2020

35

## TERM THREE

### INSET DAY

Start Date

### INSET TWILIGHT 3

Finish Date

Holiday

Number of School Days

Friday 3rd January 2020

Monday 6th January 2020

Wednesday 12th February 2020

Friday 14th February 2020

Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2020

30

## TERM FOUR

Start Date

### INSET TWILIGHT 4

Finish Date

Holiday

Number of School Days

Monday 24th February 2020

Wednesday 26th February 2020

Friday 3rd April 2020

Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April 2020

30

## TERM FIVE

Start Date

Bank Holiday

Finish Date

### INSET TWILIGHT 5

Holiday

Number of School Days

Monday 20th April 2020

Friday 8th May 2020

Friday 22nd May 2020

Wednesday 20th May 2020

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2020

24

## TERM SIX

Start Date

### INSET TWILIGHT 6

Finish Date

### INSET DAY

Number of School Days

Monday 1st June 2020

Wednesday 3rd June 2020

Tuesday 21st July 2020

Wednesday 22nd July 2020 (Educare)

37

### Bank and Public Holidays

- Wednesday 25th December 2019 (Christmas Day)
- Thursday 26th December 2019 (Boxing Day)
- Wednesday 1st January 2020 (New Years Day)
- Friday 10th April 2020 (Good Friday)
- Monday 13th April 2020 (Easter Monday)
- Friday 8th May 2020 (May Day Bank Holiday)
- Monday 25th May 2020 (Spring Bank Holiday)
- Monday 31st August 2020 (Summer Bank Holiday)

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