



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2019

HEADTEACHER UPDATE



As we reach the end of another busy, yet productive term here at The Meadows School, it is wonderful to reflect on the fantastic achievements of both our students and staff. We have enjoyed various trips, activities and projects including our spectacular Christmas Fayre, Children in Need and Student Takeover Day. On behalf of myself, the school and our Governors, I would like to thank our students for their continued hard work and positivity and the ongoing support and encouragement from their families. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their continual dedication, commitment and energy given to the work we do. I wish you all a happy and restful festive period.


Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Term Dates 2019/2020

Last Day of Term & Christmas Lunch Friday 20th December 2019

Students back to school Tuesday 7th January 2020

February Half Term Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2020

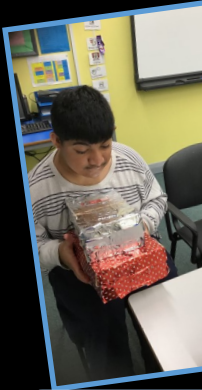


What have we been doing in class?

CLASS 5:3

As part of mini enterprise, class 5:3 have taken part in the Samaritans shoe box appeal, including packing the shoe boxes and delivering them.

Amazing job, well done!



CLASS 5:4

Success in 5:4 - Adil Ali has managed to overcome his fear of dogs by spending time with our therapy dog, Simba

Well done Adil!



Class 5:4 have also been creating bird boxes as part of their Introduction to Woodwork lessons. Quite professional, don't you think?!



KS4 SCIENCE DAY

On 22nd November, students took part in a special Science day. They engaged in various experiments and activities throughout the day and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They had opportunities to separate mixed solids and also explore light and sound. A special thanks to all those involved and Stewart for his organisation.

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Where have we been?

FOXES HOTEL

On Monday 25th November 2019, we took a small group of students to Foxes Hotel, a delightful Victorian seaside hotel in Minehead on the Exmoor coast. It is the UK's only fully operating training hotel

for young people with learning disabilities. <https://foxeshotel.co.uk/>

It was a long drive and the weather was not the best, but we had a great time looking round the accommodation in the hotel, making tea in the hotel lounge and trying the lunch in the hotel restaurant!

We are all looking forward to going back for a longer visit next year, when students will be completing a hospitality work experience placement alongside the resident students.



On Thursday 21st November, a group of students from across three Key Stages attended 'World Skills Live', the UK's largest skills, apprenticeship and careers event, at the NEC in Birmingham.

Students went along to find out about different opportunities and careers and were able to speak to a range of employers and organisations and engage in careers related activities.

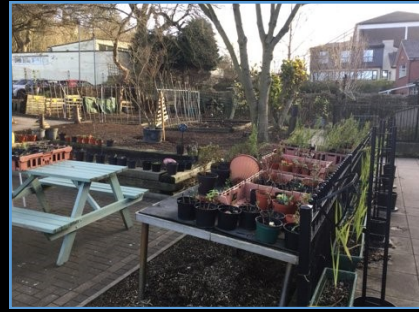
It was great to see the students getting hands-on and being enthusiastic about a variety of different jobs, from the armed forces and emergency services, to floristry, hairdressing and make-up, engineering and music.

WORLD SKILLS LIVE



DUDLEY COLLEGE - CLASS 5:4

Students from Class 5.4 had the opportunity to visit Dudley College to have a tour of the facilities and learn about the provision on offer for when they transition away from the Meadows. The students also have the opportunity to visit Sandwell College and QAC to show that different colleges offer different courses and facilities.



KS3 TRIPS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Class 3:6 enjoyed a visit to bowling in Castlegate, Dudley

CLASS 3:6



Class 3:8 visited Sainsbury's to promote independence and life skills.



CLASS 3:8



Class 3:8 also enjoyed a visit to the cinema to watch Spiderman as part of the Superhero topic and a visit to Inflatanation as part of PE.



THE ROYAL NATIONAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

On Tuesday 10th December, a small group of staff and students went to the Royal National College for the Blind in Hereford.

Tom and Tim who work at the college showed us round and we found out what college life is all about. We had a look around the campus – at the residential bedrooms, life skills building, classrooms, gym and communal areas, and were even able to show off our skills crossing the road!

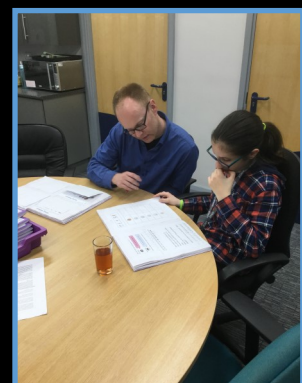
Big thanks to everyone at RNC for a great day!



What's been going on in school?

STUDENT TAKEOVER DAY

The week beginning the 25th November was National Takeover Week from the Children's Commissioner for England. On Thursday 28th November, the school leadership team gave over their responsibilities to Kiara Loddó and Raad Radman from Key Stage 4. Kiara shadowed the Headteacher role with a morning leadership briefing, a leadership walk through school, a review of student work and some feedback to the teacher with Graham and Ariane. Raad wanted to take over the HR department and conducted a return to work interview, managed paperwork with staff requests for leave of absence, and worked through other staff management tasks. Both students (or should we say 'Leaders'), did lunch duty in the hall, and met and discussed school transport with visitors from the local authority. Much fun was had and it was a great experience for Raad, Kiara and all the staff involved.



SIXTH FORM ENTERPRISE & CHRISTMAS FAYRE

On Wednesday 11th December, students from our sixth form classes worked hard in organising and hosting a Christmas Fayre and Enterprise morning. There were various stalls selling homemade craft gifts, food stalls and a raffle. Thank you to all our brilliant staff and students from Sixth Form for their organisation of the morning and friends and families who paid a visit!



STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council have been very busy fund raising this term.

We have raised £51 for school fund by having a tombola stall at the Sixth Form Enterprise. We also made £90 at the cake sale and a HUGE £276 on the raffle.

The money is going to be shared between The Macmillan charity and The Birmingham Children's Hospital (Burns Unit)

A very big thank you to everyone who contributed prizes for the tombola, baked cakes and bought raffle tickets...without your help it would not have been such a huge success.



Robert Byatt
(Governing Body, Vice
Chair) and a member
of the Student Council
drew the raffle.

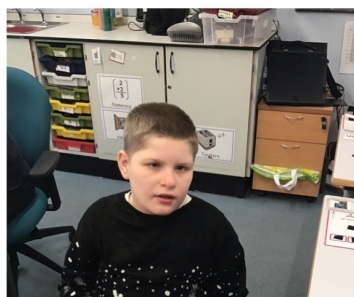
Congratulations to:-

T. Bowen – 1st prize
R. Parsons – 2nd prize
R. Thomas – 3rd prize

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Friday 13th December, we were proud to take part in Save

The Children's Christmas Jumper Day. Students and staff donned their most festive attire and brought in money for the charity, raising over £115. Thank you all for your contributions.



CLASS 3:3

CHILDREN IN NEED & SUPERHERO DAY



Both students and staff had great fun taking part and raising money for Children in Need. With £131 raised from our Superhero Day and a further £86.40 from Children in Need, we are proud to be donating £217.40 towards the charity.

CLASS 3:5



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE - CAROLS ROUND THE TREE



Important Information

PLEASE BE AWARE WE HAVE A "NO-NUT" POLICY.

Please can parents and carers take care when sending food in with students and refrain from sending anything which may contain nuts.

Attendance in school is crucial to the progress students can make. We all want what is best for our children and so it is vital that students attend school unless they are absolutely too unwell. We understand that hospital and other medical appointments impact upon attendance and these are difficult to arrange out of school time, so we remind you to send in the evidence of these appointments so that the absence can be authorised. The table below will help you to understand what impact poor attendance can have on a student's progress:

Percentage	Days Absence	Comment	Achievement
Above 97%	Less than 6 days absence per year	Excellent Attendance	These children will almost certainly achieve their full potential in school
95-96%	10 days absence per year	Missing 2 weeks of school every year	These children are likely to achieve but could still improve their attendance!
90%-94%	19 days absence per year	Missing one month of school every year	These children will find it hard to achieve their best in school
85%-89%	29 days absence per year	Missing six weeks of school every year	These children will find it very difficult to keep up with work in school and are unlikely to achieve their potential
80-84%	38 days absence per year	Missing a year of school over the time spent in secondary education	These children will find it almost impossible to keep up with their work

Please visit our school website for all latest news and updates –

<https://www.themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk>

Announcements

Interested in joining our PTA?

We are very keen to re-establish the school PTA (Parent Teacher Association) and are looking for enthusiastic and proactive parents and carers who can offer time and support to our students. This is an exciting opportunity to help the needs of our students. If you are interested in joining or would like any information about this opportunity, please contact the Pastoral Team on our school's number - 0121 5697080

MENCAP Project

We are proud to be the lead school in a partnership with Ormiston Forge Academy with the aim to get an equal number of students participating in various sporting activities. The activities will allow students to work together on an equal field, ensuring that pupils make a positive contribution, based on their individual strengths.

MENCAP aim to support us by assisting in sourcing activities, equipment and making links with agencies who could offer activities for our young people.

The project has been brilliant in encouraging friendships between students and staff at both schools. It has created fantastic new opportunities and will support us in developing PE and enrichment activities.

We thank Kevin for his hard work and commitment in organising the project.

Please join us at The Meadows School on
Wednesday 22nd January 2020 9.30-11am

For "Health and Relationship Education: Information Sharing
and Myth Busting" Coffee Morning.



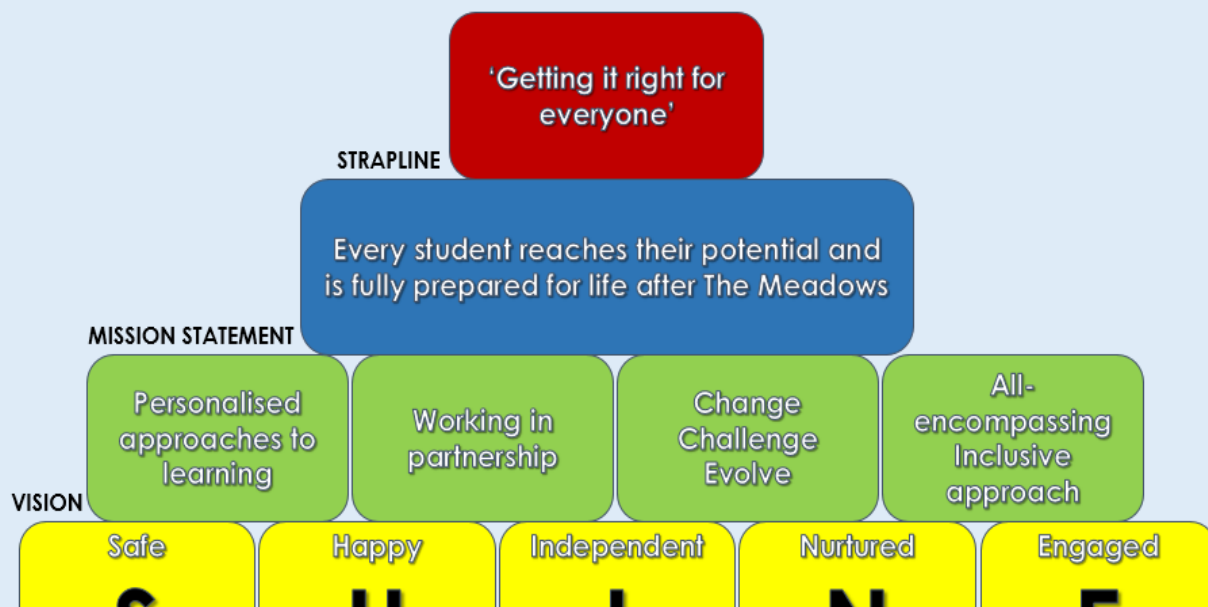
The aim of the coffee morning is to explain what the statutory RSE Curriculum will look like for our students at the Meadows, to share our visions and expectations, and to answer any questions, worries or concerns.

"Preparing for Adulthood"

Do you want to be part of a group discussing plans and services for your child after they have left school? We will be inviting parents and young people to share their questions and think about the future. Please let school know if you are interested in being involved. Invitations to a workshop will be sent to all Year 13 students and their families.

Visions Values and Ethos

Following feedback from students, staff, parents and carers, we are proud to share with you our remastered visions, values and ethos with our new strapline 'Getting it right for everyone'. This encapsulates our aim to achieve the best outcomes for our students through a collective approach with all our stakeholders including staff, families and members of the local community.



Staff Updates

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all who have joined The Meadows team this year, including Holly, our new LSP who started with us in November.

Sadly, we had to say farewell to Donna Ashton, another of our LSPs, who has left for pastures new. We wish her well for the future.

We welcome back three members of staff from maternity leave; Elisha Benain and Samantha Forbes in December and Sam Coley, who will return in the New Year. We also wish the best of luck to Debbie Ashton, who will be going on her maternity leave at Christmas.

We are also glad to say that our Interim Deputy Head, Simon Adams, will be continuing with us until Easter.

Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year from all
at The Meadows School



Christmas Card Winners
Class 5:2