



INSPIRE
BELIEVE
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The Oaks Academy Newsletter July 2025

Headteachers Update



Welcome to our Summer Term edition of our school newsletter.

As we approach the end of another busy year it is a time to reflect on the many achievements we have made as a school, but also to look forward and plan for growth and continued improvement. We bid farewell to our Year 11s and we wish them every success with their results in August and the assurance of our continued support in ensuring they successfully embark on their next steps in education or training.

We are thrilled to see so many new starters with us in Year 7. The number of pupils joining us in September reflects our growing popularity in the locality and a recognition of our continued emphasis on high standards and achievement. We are routinely oversubscribed as a school.

I do hope you enjoy reading in this newsletter about all the different activities and achievements which have occurred this half term. Do enjoy a restful summer with your family and friends and as ever, thanks for your ongoing support.

With best wishes.

Peter Kingdom

Headteacher

Whole School Focus: Teaching and Learning

'Our aim is to develop confident and highly literate students who are capable of sharing their thoughts and learning, within and beyond The Oaks Academy'

Reading to and with your child regularly - ideally every evening for at least 15 minutes - can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school. A report from the Oxford University Press highlights the importance of parents reading with their children thus 'children who read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age'. Furthermore, pupils who spend time reading outside of school achieve better grades at GCSE and are more confident with the demands of college, university and the world of work.

The report also offers six tips for reading with your child at home:

1. Make time to read to your child for 15 minutes a day
2. Choose a variety of fictional and non-fictional books to read
3. Take turns reading with your child
4. Talk about the book - stop at several points in the story and ask your child what he/she thinks will happen next
5. Pay attention to the language and encourage your child to use a dictionary or the internet to check the definition of words they may not understand
6. Enjoy reading!

All pupils in Years 7 and 8 have extra time on their timetable for reading lessons. The school would very much appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is engaging with reading at home. Please make time in the evening for your child to read a suitable book with you.

The following websites allow you to access FREE audiobooks:

[Free E-Books](#)

[Storynory](#)

[Free Classic Audio Books](#)

[Free Audio Books and E-Books](#)

[Loyal Books](#)

How Many Have You Read?

Read the article below:

[100 Fiction Books All Children Should Read Before Leaving Secondary School - According To Teachers](#)

- How many of these books have you read?
- What would you like to read next?

Podcasts

Check out the link below for talks on a range of interesting subjects:

[Penguin Talks](#)

Academic Literacy Intervention

As a school we have introduced Sparx Reader. It is an exciting reading platform used nationally to encourage students to read while also challenging them to improve their comprehension skills and read challenging books. Pupils take a reading test which gives each pupil a guide to the level of book they should be reading. They then read the book and once finished take a quiz on what happened in the story; if they pass they gain points which at The Oaks Academy means prizes! To support your child to meet their reading goals you can

ask them what they are currently reading and talk about what has happened in the story so far. You can also encourage them to come to The Oaks Learning Resource Centre regularly to borrow books at the right level for them.

Holiday Read

This summer, we're inviting all our pupils to take part in The Oaks Academy Big Holiday Read – a fun and flexible reading challenge designed to keep minds active over the break! Over the summer, pupils tick off as many reading challenges as they can from our special activity sheet – from sharing a story with a pet, to exploring a book by torchlight. The aim is simple: read for enjoyment, anywhere and everywhere! You don't need to buy anything new – library books, books you already own, or borrowed favourites all count. Let's see how many boxes your child can tick before term starts again! Evidence can be collected as photographs, a diary, or simply noting down what they read and how it met the challenge. We will be sharing prizes for the best effort in September.

Happy reading!

READING FOR 6 MINUTES A DAY REDUCES STRESS BY 68%.

When children have a home library, as little as **20 books** of their own, they achieve **3 more years** of schooling than children who don't have any books at home.

Read **20 minutes a day** and you'll read **1,800,000 words** per year.

Children who read **1,000,000 words** a year are in the top 2% of reading achievement.

Children learn **4,000 to 12,000 words** per year through reading.

BIG HOLIDAY READ

- SIT IN THE SHADE ON A SUNNY DAY AND READ A BOOK
- READ A BOOK WHICH HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A FILM
- READ A BOOK NEWLY PUBLISHED THIS YEAR
- READ A BOOK BY AN AUTHOR YOU HAVEN'T READ BEFORE
- READ A BOOK IN YOUR PJS
- READ A BOOK THAT IS OLDER THAN YOU
- VISIT THE LIBRARY AND CHOOSE A BOOK TO READ
- READ A BOOK WHICH WILL TEACH YOU SOMETHING NEW
- READ A BOOK BY AN AUTHOR FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY
- READ A BOOK BY TORCHLIGHT IN THE DARK
- BUILD A DEN AND READ A BOOK INSIDE
- RE-READ YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK
- READ A BOOK WITH AN ANIMAL IN IT
- READ A BOOK WHICH FEATURES A MODE OF TRANSPORT
- ASK SOMEONE YOU LOVE TO RECOMMEND A BOOK
- READ A PICTURE BOOK

BIG HOLIDAY READ

OVER THE SUMMER, TICK OFF AS MANY READING CHALLENGES AS YOU CAN FROM OUR SPECIAL ACTIVITY SHEET – FROM READING IN YOUR PJS, TO SHARING A STORY WITH A PET, TO EXPLORING A BOOK BY TORCHLIGHT. THE AIM IS SIMPLE: READ FOR ENJOYMENT, ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE!

EVIDENCE CAN BE COLLECTED AS PHOTOGRAPHS, A DIARY, OR SIMPLY NOTING DOWN WHAT YOU READ AND HOW IT MET THE CHALLENGE. WE WILL BE SHARING PRIZES FOR THE BEST EFFORT IN SEPTEMBER. BRING YOUR EVIDENCE IN AND SHARE WITH YOUR NEW ENGLISH TEACHER. HAPPY READING!

J. MacKreth-Aylett

Deputy Headteacher - Quality of Education

Faculty Focus: Art, Design and Technology

As we continue to cultivate an enriching educational environment for our pupils, it is vital to recognise the importance of transferrable skills that are woven into the subjects we teach, particularly in Art, Design Technology, and Food. These disciplines not only provide creative outlets for our pupils but also serve to equip them with essential skills that are applicable across various contexts, ultimately supporting their overall development.

Art, Design and Food Technology share a common foundation in critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration. These transferrable skills are not merely academic; they are vital to ensuring that our learners are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the modern workforce. By systematically integrating these skills into our curriculum, we can enhance our pupils' learning experiences and help them become adaptable, forward-thinking individuals.

Critical thinking, for instance, is paramount in all three subjects. In Art, pupils must evaluate their artistic choices and understand the principles of design, while in Design Technology, they are required to analyse problems and devise innovative solutions. Food Management encourages pupils to assess nutritional information and make informed decisions about meal preparation. Each of these disciplines nurtures a mindset that is inquisitive and forward-looking, enabling students to tackle real-world challenges across various industries.

Creativity is another vital skill that transcends subject boundaries. The ability to generate original ideas is crucial in both Art and Design Technology, where pupils express their visions through various mediums. Food Technology too relies on creativity, as pupils must develop and enhance recipes, presenting them in appealing ways. Encouraging our pupils to think outside the box will not only foster innovation but also empower them to approach problems with a creative lens, which is invaluable in today's dynamic job market.

Collaboration is essential in fostering transferrable skills, as working effectively with others is a cornerstone of success in any field. In Art, group projects allow pupils to learn from one another and build their teamwork skills. Similarly, in Design Technology, collaborative projects often mimic industry practices, providing students with authentic experiences in

joint problem-solving. Food Technology offers opportunities for pupils to work together in the kitchen, developing their ability to communicate and cooperate effectively. These experiences cultivate interpersonal skills that are vital in both further education and future employment.

To support the development of these skills further, we strongly encourage you to explore opportunities available at South Cheshire College. The institution not only provides a comprehensive range of courses in the relevant subjects but also aligns with the Gatsby Benchmarks, which are designed to enhance careers education and guidance for pupils. More information can be found on their official website: [You Can at Cheshire College](#)

Incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks into our educational framework allows us to ensure that our pupils are not only acquiring academic knowledge but also gaining practical insights and experiences that will be beneficial in their future careers. By focusing on transferrable skills, we can better prepare our pupils to navigate their educational journey and foster lifelong learning.

In conclusion, the integration of transferrable skills within Art, Design Technology, and Food is crucial for our learners' development. We appreciate your ongoing support and collaboration as we strive to create a nurturing environment where these skills can flourish. Please feel free to reach out to discuss this initiative further or share any thoughts you may have.

SJ. Weaver

Curriculum Team Leader - Art, Design and Technology Faculty

[Achievement Evening](#)

On the evening of Thursday 3rd July, The Oaks Academy proudly hosted our annual Achievement Evening, a celebration of the outstanding accomplishments of our pupils across Years 7 to 11.

The ceremony was opened by Deputy Headteacher, Mr Newham, who welcomed families, staff and students with words of encouragement and reflection on the successes of the past academic year.

Throughout the evening, guests were treated to musical performances by our talented pupils, showcasing the breadth of artistic talent we have at The Oaks Academy.

A wide range of awards were presented including:

- Subject Awards recognising academic excellence and progress across all curriculum areas
- A Performing Arts Award, presented by our Curriculum Team Leader of the Performance and Vocational Faculty, Miss Wright, to recognise outstanding commitment to the performing arts and school performances
- PE and Sports Awards, presented by our Head of PE, Mr Bergin, celebrating sporting commitment, team spirit and individual achievement
- Community Awards and recognition for pupils' involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh programme, honouring contributions beyond the classroom that strengthen both character and community
- An EAL Award, recognising a student who has worked with determination and supported others
- The prestigious Outstanding Attitude to Learning Awards, presented by our Pastoral Leaders, celebrating pupils who consistently demonstrate resilience, dedication and a passion for learning

The evening was packed with pride and celebration, a true reflection of the hard work, determination and community spirit that defines The Oaks Academy.

We are incredibly proud of all our award recipients and thank parents and carers for your continued support in helping our pupils to strive for excellence.

J. Newham

Deputy Headteacher - Progress and Culture





Head Students and Deputy Head Students 2025-2026

We are proud to announce the appointment of our new Head Students and Deputy Head Students for the 2025–2026 academic year! Our Head Students are Emmanuel P and Marta S and our Deputy Head Students are Aimee D and Maisy T.

This follows a rigorous selection process that included a letter of application, a formal interview, and a presentation to our Headteacher Mr Kingdom and Deputy Headteacher Mr Newham. These students have shown outstanding leadership, dedication, and passion for our school community.

A huge well done to each of them — we're excited to see the impact they will make over the coming year!

E. Abberley

Assistant Headteacher - Community and Personal Development



Sports Day

On Tuesday 8th July the whole school community came together on the field to celebrate athleticism, teamwork and school spirit. The energy across the field was electric and the support from staff and pupils was heartwarming.

Pupils from all year groups gave it their all - whether sprinting to the finish line, leaping through long jump or cheering on their peers. It was brilliant to see so many pupils challenging themselves.

Miss Wright said of the event 'we are very proud of all of our pupils for their energy and effort to make this a fantastic event that celebrated health, fitness and wellbeing'.

E. Wright

Curriculum Team Leader - Performance and Vocational Faculty





Performing Arts Showcase

Our Performing Arts Showcase on Wednesday 9th July was a vibrant celebration of talent celebrating the performing arts with an appreciative audience.

Pupils from across all year groups took to the stage and shone with confidence, passion and professionalism. From stunning vocal and piano solos, to captivating choir performances and powerful Drama performances, every item was a reminder of the incredible potential in our school community and the power and value of the performing arts.

Miss Wright said of the event 'every performance was the product of months of hard work in rehearsals, courage and resilience. Whether it was a pupil stepping into the spotlight for the first time or a seasoned performer each performance brought something unique and memorable to the stage. The pupils should be extremely proud of the high standard of performances they delivered'.

The pupils who took part were:

Rutendo M

Pola H

Dylan S

Bianca P

Brooke B

Chelsea-Blu S

Lorraine H

Maja B

McKayla Y

Jonah W

Kamdi P

Victoria W

Chloe T

Isabelle T

Ruby B

Bronwyn H

Teegan W

Marchela DJDR

Millie C

Naomi C

Mia C

Hubert S

Logan W

Adam S

Imogen P

E. Wright

Curriculum Team Leader - Performance and Vocational Faculty





The Learning Partnership Art Exhibition

Art pupils from Years 7-10 have had the opportunity to have their Art work exhibited as part of the TLP Art Exhibition. As a school we were allowed to select 4 pieces of work from Years 7, 8 and 9 and 5 pieces of work from Year 10. These were then displayed with the 15 schools across the Trust at the Crewe Creates Art Space in Crewe.

On Monday 7th July Miss Grimes and the selected pupils went to visit the exhibition. This was a great opportunity to see Art work from other schools ranging from nursery age children through to A Level work as part of the professional exhibition. As part of the exhibition external judges viewed the work and awarded some prizes and I am happy to announce that Lorraine H received 2nd place in the Year 7 category and Michal C received 3rd place in the Year 8 category. This was out of all 15 schools so is a fantastic achievement!

A massive thank you to all pupils involved and in particular the pupils in Years 9 and 10 who went above and beyond with their commitment to their Art work putting in extra time after school and at home.

Pupils who have work exhibited are:

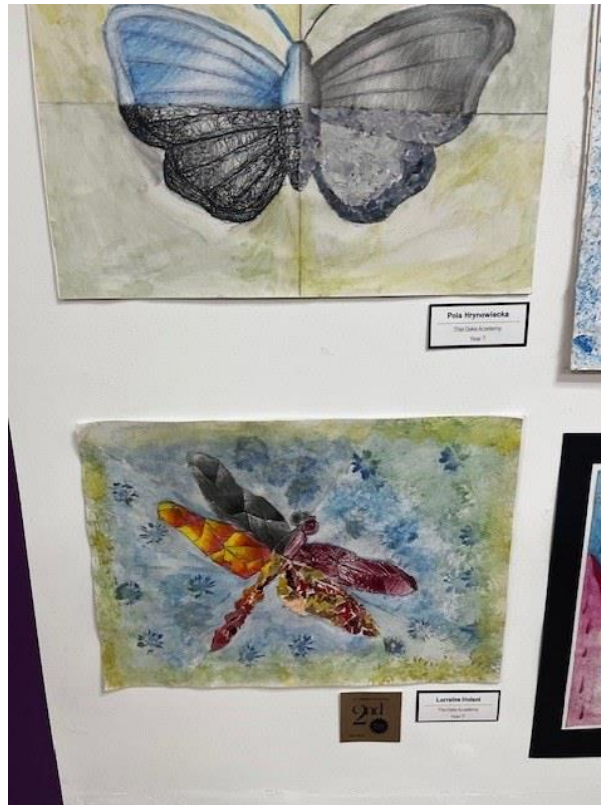
Pola H (Year 7)
Chloe T (Year 7)
Isabelle T (Year 7)
Lorraine H (Year 7)
Kairon P (Year 8)
Michal C (Year 8)
Chelsea F (Year 8)
Millie-Mai W (Year 8)
Elsie-May B (Year 9)
Maja B (Year 9)
Phoebe S (Year 9)
Lexie W (Year 9)
Charley S (Year 10)
Aimee D (Year 10)
Emily G (Year 10)
Daria S (Year 10)
Maddison J (Year 10)

The exhibition is open to the public and runs until Thursday 31st July.

C. Grimes

Art Teacher







Life Sciences Trip to Alderley Park

On Thursday 10th July twelve of our Year 10 pupils went to Alderley Park to take part in a Life Sciences Work Experience Project. Alderley Park is a world-renowned science and innovation campus. Pupils were able to meet real-life scientists, explore cutting-edge laboratories and they had a behind-the-scenes look at careers in the life sciences. They used diagnostic equipment and attended a talk on current research into cancer. They were also able to speak to graduates about careers and routes into Higher Education and had a tour of the campus.

On Thursday 17th July they worked in teams to complete and present their own life sciences projects inspired by what they learned.

This project gave these pupils an inspiring glimpse into the future of science and innovation.

M. Hardy

Curriculum Team Leader - Science Faculty



Year 10 Pupils Explore Their Futures At Secondary College Day at Cheshire College South and West

Year 10 pupils were given a valuable insight into life after school during Secondary College Day at Cheshire College- South and West (CCSW) on Friday 4th July.

The event, held at the college's modern campus, welcomed enthusiastic pupils eager to explore the wide range of options available to them after Year 11. Throughout the day, pupils had the chance to take part in engaging, hands-on sessions designed to showcase different pathways for further education and careers.

From vocational courses and apprenticeships to A Level study, the taster sessions aimed to help pupils make informed decisions about their next steps. Activities included practical workshops in areas such as Health and Social Care, Construction, Engineering, Business and Creative Arts. Pupils also met with course tutors and current college students, who shared their experiences and answered questions about college life.

Staff at CCSW were on hand to offer advice on applications, entry requirements and the wealth of support services available to learners. The day was also an opportunity for pupils to discover the college's excellent facilities and to build their confidence as they begin planning for the future.

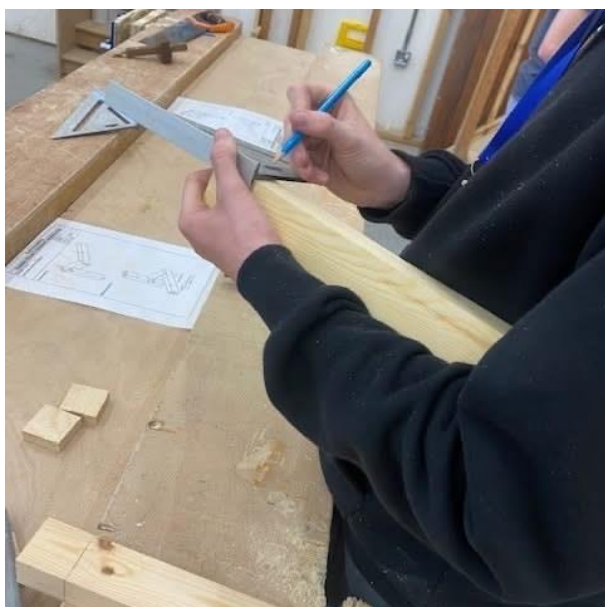
One Year 10 pupil commented 'it was really interesting to see all the different courses you can do. I didn't realise there were so many choices after school. Now I feel more prepared and excited about what comes next'

Secondary College Day forms part of CCSW's ongoing commitment to supporting young people in exploring their options and raising aspirations. With so many different routes available after Year 11, the college aims to ensure every pupil finds that path that suits them best.

For more information about courses and open events at Cheshire College - South and West, visit www.ccsw.ac.uk

E. Abberley

Assistant Headteacher - Community and Personal Development





CHARACTER Drop Down Day

On Thursday 17th July we held an inspiring Drop Down Day, giving every year group the chance to step away from their usual lessons and focus on developing essential life and employability skills. The day was designed around the Skills Builder Framework, helping pupils to develop team work, creativity, problem-solving and communicating in engaging, practical ways.

Each year group took part in a specially designed programme:

- Year 7 spent the day developing their team building skills. The highlight was an exciting inflatable assault course, where pupils worked together to tackle obstacles and encourage one another to succeed. It was fantastic to see so much laughter and determination
- Year 8 transformed into young entrepreneurs for a Dragon's Den Challenge. Working in teams, they created their own business ideas, developed pitches and presented them confidently to a panel of 'dragons' made up of local business leaders. The judges were impressed by the creativity and professionalism on display
- Year 9 focused on sustainability and culture, exploring how communities around the world are working to protect the environment and celebrate their heritage. Pupils took part in workshops and discussions, broadening their understanding of global issues

- Year 10 had a work experience day, with local employers offering insights into a wide range of careers. From healthcare and construction to technology and public services, pupils got a taste of the working world and learned about the skills valued in different industries

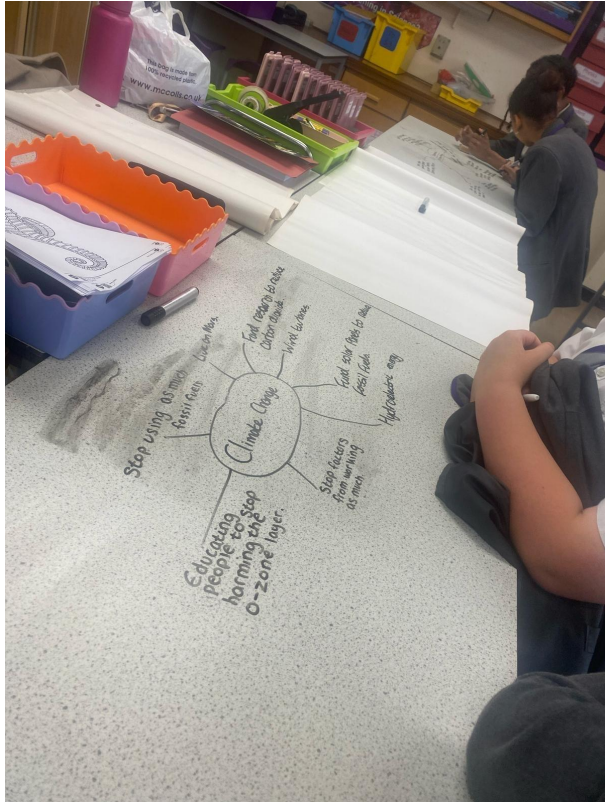
Mrs Abberley, Careers Lead, commented 'Drop Down Day is all about helping pupils discover their strengths and build confidence in essential skills that will serve them in every aspect of life. We are incredibly proud of how engaged and enthusiastic everyone was'.

A huge thank you goes to all the staff, guest speakers and local businesses who made the day such a success. We look forward to more opportunities to inspire and prepare our pupils for a bright future.

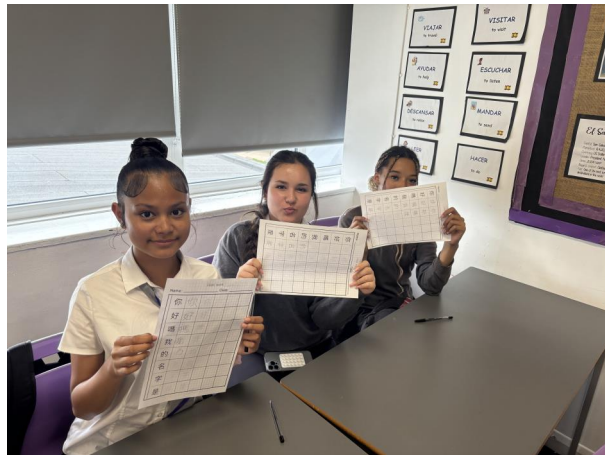
E. Abberley

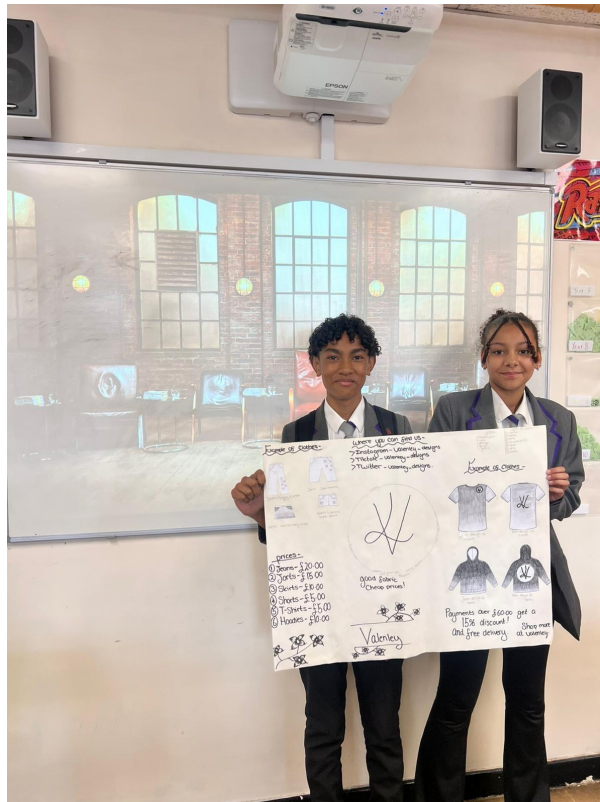
Assistant Headteacher - Community and Personal Development











Years 4 and 5 Enrichment Workshops Inspire Creativity and Skills Across Local Schools

This term Years 4 and 5 pupils from Gainsborough Primary, Edleston Primary and Vine Tree Primary Schools got to take part in an exciting series of enrichment workshops designed to spark creativity, build teamwork and introduce new skills.

Children had the opportunity to attend one of our inspiring sessions:

- **Carnival Day** - a vibrant celebration of colour and culture where pupils designed and created their own carnival masks. They then brought the energy of the carnival to life through upbeat samba drumming and dance
- **Introduction to the Duke of Edinburgh Award** - an engaging session introducing pupils to the values of the Duke of Edinburgh programme, including teamwork, resilience and outdoor skills. Activities encouraged pupils to step out of their comfort zones and develop confidence
- **DT Wheel Engineering** - a hands-on design and technology workshop where pupils learned about mechanisms and construction techniques before designing and building their own working wheel-based models

Staff were impressed by the enthusiasm, creativity and collaboration shown by all the children. Whether crafting intricate masks, learning new rhythms, planning future challenges or engineering moving creations, every pupil embraced the chance to try something new.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making these workshops a success and to all the schools for their fantastic participation. We look forward to seeing how these experiences inspire our young learners in the months ahead.

E. Abberley

Assistant Headteacher - Community and Personal Development





Summer Opportunities



MAKE a difference Mondays

Free creative workshops for young women with an empowering twist!

- 28th July: Power Portraits
Reimagine yourself or feminist icons in powerful roles using collage, paint, and affirmations.
- 4th August: Body Positive Sculpting
Celebrate all bodies by sculpting abstract or literal forms with wire and recycled materials.
- 11th August: Smash the Patriarchy Ceramics
Smash negative messages and rebuild them into beautiful mosaics using gold-painted repair.
- 18th August: Wear Your Voice (Patch Design)
Design bold activist slogans on patches to wear, share, or spark conversation.

Location: Units 8 & 9 The Market Centre Cheshire, Crewe
CW1 2NG



All materials provided

<<<Sign up here or contact:
01606 557 666 / 07496 160 938
InspireCheshire@her-place.co.uk



Power portraits



Free creative workshop for young women with an empowering twist!

Reimagine yourself or feminist icons in positions of power using collage, paint, and affirmations.

Themes: Empowerment, Identity, Representation

Date: 28th July 12:00-2:00pm

Location: Units 8 & 9 The Market Centre Cheshire, Crewe
CW1 2NG

Take home your portrait with pride!



<<<Sign up here or contact:
01606 557 666 / 07496 160 938
InspireCheshire@her-place.co.uk





Body positive sculpting



Free creative workshop for young women with an empowering twist!

Celebrate body diversity with wire and recycled sculpture.
Shape, build, and honour all forms.
Themes: Body Image, Self-Acceptance

Date: 4th August 12:00-2:00pm
Location: Units 8 & 9 The Market Centre Cheshire, Crewe
CW1 2NG

"What messages does the world send us about our bodies -
and how can we change the narrative?"



<<<Sign up here or contact:
01606 557 666 / 07496 160 938
InspireCheshire@her-place.co.uk



Smash the Patriarchy Ceramics



Free creative workshop for young women with an empowering twist!

Write negative beliefs on plates, smash them, and
reassemble them using kintsugi-inspired repair to create
something powerful and beautiful.
Themes: Healing, Resilience, Transformation

Date: 11th August 12:00-2:00pm
Location: Units 8 & 9 The Market Centre Cheshire, Crewe
CW1 2NG

Turn destruction into strength.



<<<Sign up here or contact:
01606 557 666 / 07496 160 938
InspireCheshire@her-place.co.uk



Wear your voice patch design



Free creative workshop for young women with an empowering twist!

Design bold activist slogans on patches using fabric and textile art techniques.

Themes: Visibility, Protest, Solidarity

Date: 18th August 12:00-2:00pm

Location: Units 8 & 9 The Market Centre Cheshire, Crewe
CW1 2NG

What do you want the world to hear when they see you?



<<< Sign up here or contact:
01606 557 666 / 07496 160 938
InspireCheshire@her-place.co.uk



Hosted at St. Mary's Caritas centre,
65 Delamere Street Crewe CW1 2JX.

Inspire Active Her classes

Yoga 4.15pm 9th April	Yoga 5.00 pm 1st May	Boxing 5.00 pm 15th May	Boxing 12.30 pm 30th May
Yoga 5.00 pm 5th June	Boxing 5.00 pm 19th June	Yoga 5.00 pm 3rd July	Boxing 5.00 pm 17th July
Boxing 12.30pm Zumba 1.45pm 1st August	Boxing 12.30pm Clubbercise 1.45pm 8th August	Boxing 12.30pm Zumba 1.45pm 15th August	Boxing 12.30pm Clubbercise 1.45pm 22nd August

Book your FREE
place now!

SCAN ME



Classes are free to attend for young
women and girls age 13-25

CHESHIRE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



Calendar Dates

Here are some upcoming key dates:

- Wednesday 3rd September - School Re-Opens (Year 7 only)
- Thursday 4th September - Schools Re-Opens (All Year Groups)