

SwitchED2

Christmas Newsletter
2022



A Christmas Message from Andy

The Christmas holiday is almost here and, as always, it seems not very long ago since I was wishing you all a wonderful summer break. How time flies when you're having fun!

It has been a very busy and extremely productive term with our pupils working exceptionally hard to get on track to obtain their predicted qualifications.

I hope you enjoy the contents of this newsletter, it gives just a small glimpse of both what our young people have been learning about and the extra curricular opportunities they have been engaging in.

As always, I would like to wish you all peace and joy over the festive period and look forward to welcoming our learners
back in January 2023.

News from the Nurture Caloin



Cultural Studies

These sessions give us the chance to look at some of the different cultures, languages and beliefs found across the world and in our own country. We have 2 lessons a week, in one we have been learning French and finding out a bit about the country that's just a short plane, train or ferry trip away. We've learnt how to count, colours, simple greetings and descriptions of our pets. The French are famous for their cooking but we've not been brave enough to try snails or frogs legs - maybe in the new year!

In our second session we take time to consider different religious beliefs and with the new Prime Minister being a Hindu, that seemed a good place to start. The elephant God Ganesh seemed to be the class's favourite - maybe because he is the God of knowledge and he certainly sparkled in the light of a Diwali lantern. In the run up to Christmas we have been reminding ourselves of the nativity story and what Advent means to Christians.



Forest Schools



Due to heavy rain most Thursday afternoons, we haven't ventured much into the forest and have had to bring the forest into the cabin. The students used autumn leaves to print a beautiful woodland scene and used seeds we had collected and dried to create a mosaic pattern. We are hoping for a dry afternoon soon so we can walk up to the den in the forest, build a fire, scoop out the insides of oranges, fill with chocolate brownie mix, cook on the fire and enjoy!





Geography

We have been finding out about our local area, The Lake District. Using ordnance survey maps the students have located their homes and tracked their route to school and located the popular mountains and lakes. They have researched areas we have visited for outdoor education sessions, including the Island on Coniston, Peel Island also known as Wild Cat Island in the famous Swallow and Amazons novel. The students made their own compass and used a map to find treasure hidden around the farm.

History



We learnt about World War 2 last term and the students were surprised at the rations people survived on. They took part in The Great Ration Bake off using ingredients from the ration list and they weren't too impressed with the end results, not as tasty as the food they are used to. The students researched aircraft used in the war and designed and built impressive models of their chosen plane. They listened to stories of children who were evacuated in the war and discussed how they would feel if they had to leave their family and go to the country to live with a family they didn't know.



Catering

This term the students have created some fast-food classics in the kitchen - McDonald's chicken nuggets and Big Macs, KFC chicken, pizzas, and their own versions of spicy or salt and pepper chips. They enjoyed kneading the ingredients together to make pasta dough and then feeding it through the pasta machine to make long spaghetti. We even had our own spaghetti tree at Switched2! They have also independently produced some delicious, sweet treats - Weetabix chocolate slice, pineapple upside down pudding, sticky toffee pudding and oat lace biscuits. We often enjoy sitting around the table afterwards to sample a cake or biscuit and a cup of hot chocolate and play a card game together.





Design Technology

The students created a Tower of Hanoi puzzle from different sized branches they had found in the forest. They skillfully used a saw to cut 5 different sized disks which they sanded and then used an electric drill to drill a hole in the centre of each one. They measured and cut a piece of wood to make the base of the game and added three rods, carefully measuring and checking that the discs wouldn't overlap each other. They used paints to decorate the game and then followed the rules and tried out their new game.



Art

This term the theme for art was Zoo animals. The students enjoyed a trip to Wildlife Oasis where they spent time observing and sketching their favourite animals. We had a debate about whether animals should be kept in zoos and the students listened to and respected each other's opinions. The students practised zentangle art to create an abstract giraffe and tried out shaving foam marbling to create a zebra skin pattern.





English

We have enjoyed improving our literacy skills whilst learning about a variety of historical events and discussing interesting debatable questions. We have thought provokingly discussed the events of the Aberfan disaster and Chernobyl, creating posters and completing escape room type activities to not only draw awareness of the historical events but also develop our sentence structure and spelling skills... and these sessions have always ended with an air of competitiveness with a popular Kahoot quiz!

We have also debated a range of discussion questions such as should school uniform be worn and PSHE topics such as what is tolerance and how tolerant should we be in certain situations. The pupils maturely listened to and responded appropriately to both sides of the argument and some of the responses were rather interesting.

Mixed in within all these sessions the pupils have enjoyed games such as hangman and Wordle to develop spelling skills and consequences to improve our creative writing skills.



Maths

Within our cabin, we enjoy developing our mathematical knowledge through rotation learning, meaning within each session we have 4 different activities including 1:1 teaching time, games, practical activities and TTRS. The pupils are responding well to this approach and have developed their knowledge of place value, perimeter, area and the four operations (addition, multiplication, subtraction and division).

Within area and perimeter the pupils have recapped how to find the area and perimeter of squares and rectangles and then moved onto compound shapes, triangles and trapezoids. Whilst investigating the four operations we have enjoyed QR code hunts and dice games to support our learning on column addition and subtraction, grid and long multiplication and bus stop division.



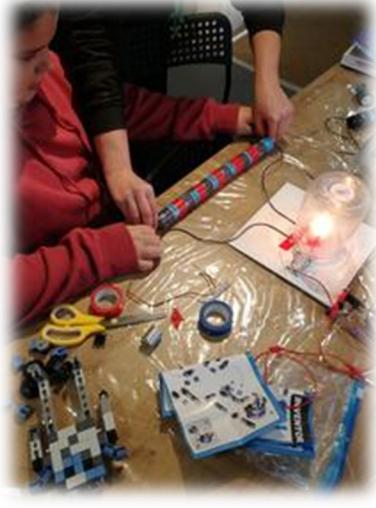


Science

To Infinity and Beyond!

Science has been out of this world and linked incredible well into the recent total lunar eclipse and the launch of Artemis 1. This term we have been exploring the universe and have used fruit and vegetables to investigate the relative sizes of each of the planets in our solar system. We have used Oreo's to show the different phases of the moon, made comets and investigated how craters are made. Finally we looked at astronauts and enjoyed participating in an astronaut training exercise.

Alongside this focused topic the pupils have also enjoyed making their own super battery to create a lightbulb, create moving windmills using circuits, experimented with conductive paint and created their own version of Boba Balls.



Music

Most pupils this year have shown an interest in music and some have begun learning new instruments whilst others are continuing their learning journey and working towards their grades. It has been a delight to listen to them progress each week.





Outdoor Education

This term we have had the privilege of working with The Bendrigg Trust and M&T Adventures.

We started the year with Bendrigg Trust where we tried our hand at archery, indoor caving and bike tracks whilst onsite and explored a selection of caves around Ribblehead viaduct when offsite.

The second half term we worked alongside M&T Adventures to test our endurance skills whilst Ghyll Scrambling, develop our stamina during a hike to Cathedral Caves, warmed our feet whilst participating in bush craft activities and appreciated our surrounds whilst canoeing on Coniston Water.





Christmas

Word Search



C H T A O C O C E K S
S O D D E L B T S C L
S N O W M A N T E H E
V A S K G B X A L R I
R S N R I C P L V I G
A T N A S E G L E S H
H H W T A L S E S T S
S G F S W Y J O Y M F
G I N G E R B R E A D
G L U Y L I M A F S G

Word List:

gingerbread	gifts	joy	cookies
Santa	snowman	cocoa	family
Christmas	lights	elves	sleigh

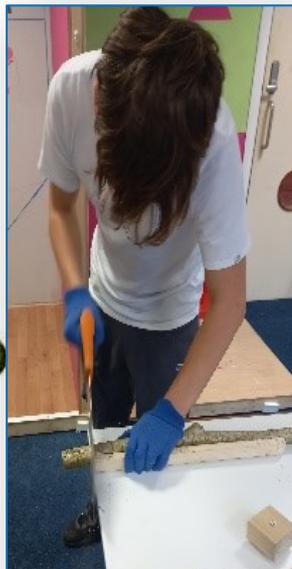


News from our Outreach provision

Hello and Happy Christmas from Outreach. What a start we have had to the new academic year, we have welcomed with enthusiasm our move to our brand new classroom, which is bigger and better than ever. Over the summer holidays, Chris and Andy have worked hard to create an inviting and calming environment for the students to work and achieve their individual goals. Within the classroom we have created a new catering area which has allowed the students to prepare their own menus and meals for the day.



We have also introduced a workshop area and installed work booths for each student to aid with their practical activities. Throughout the term students have had the opportunity to pick their own booths and put their personal stamp on it—we are now proud to say that one of the booths you can see has been decorated in an art deco theme and the other is a Barrow FC badge booth.



Dawid working on his project



News from our Outreach provision

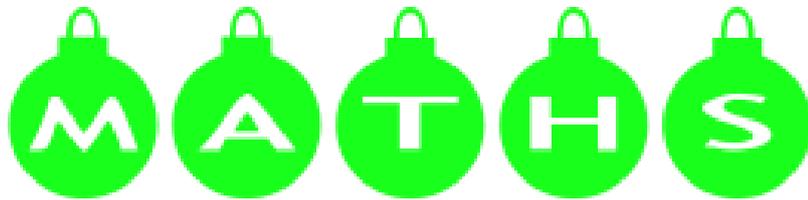
By linking practical work with Award based units, both our students have thrived this term with each completing 5 Award Units, this includes 'Decorate and use handheld tools', 'make a product' and 'Motor Vehicle' which sees our students physically working and maintaining our cars. We do also deliver the traditional subjects including maths and English, and developing our CV's for those students who are looking at getting a part time job.

Moving into the second half of the term with requests from the students (including already having the tree proudly in place) and inline with our annual Christmas hamper, we have started on our Christmas and winter activities. Harry has been experimenting with our bread maker in creating new festive breads. Both our students have independently created a Christmas decoration from start to finish, this has involved using their skills they have developed over the past few months and putting it into practice.

Moving into next term, from the enthusiasm we have had from preparing our own meals we will be linking this with looking into staying healthy and how to create a healthy based diet along with food preparation and hygiene.

Merry Christmas from all of us here at Outreach.





Vital Statistics!

This term we have been looking at all things statistical – how data is collected, interpreted and presented in different ways. So we've been creating data tables, line graphs, bar charts, pie charts and applied it to real life situations such as working out the most popular crisp variety to understanding how an electricity company shows you your monthly energy consumption. Building on this knowledge we've looked at probability – what is the chance of it snowing on Christmas day or (at the time of writing) England winning the world cup! We've also covered averages with the help of a few games of darts and brushed up on telling the time and converting 24hour digital to retro analogue clocks.

Students have all worked hard towards their Entry Level 2, 3 and Level 1 awards.



SCIENCE



This term, learners have been exploring curriculum linked hands on practical experiments. We have explored and made different types of slimes, firework lava lamps, created exploding film canisters and produced rockets using recycled plastic bottles that travelled several metres high. More recently learners have been able to make their own predictions as to whether certain household objects will either sink or float. They recorded their results and produced their own tables in order to identify their own findings and produce a report.

Learners have had to conduct a variety of experiments which have involved using many household products such as bicarbonate soda, lemon, vinegar, hand sanitizer and washing up liquids and many more. During the lessons all learners adhered to wearing the correct personal protective clothing and equipment.





ENGLISH

Over the last term students have been developing their writing skills in preparation for their upcoming exams. They have worked hard on learning how to write for different purposes and can now confidently correctly format and write a response to; emails, informal letters, instructions and reports.

In addition to this, students have been working on improving their understanding of spellings via a range of strategies including mnemonics, rhymes and images in order to aid their memory of tricky spellings.



Some students have been working on unit work which has required them to complete work based tasks such as, writing memos, filling in forms, completing invoices and sending emails, whilst others have been supported in how to write a CV and letters of application.



HUMANITIES

Over the last term students have been working towards gaining their Energy unit towards their science qualification.

Students began the term learning about the pros and cons of renewable and non-renewable energy sources. This was followed by a visit to Heysham Power Station where students learnt how uranium is used in the nuclear fission process which then produces electricity to power our homes. We also learnt about the range of job opportunities that are available in the energy industry. In addition to this we have learnt how energy is stored and how energy can be transferred from one source to another.

We finished our studies by learning a range of ways in which we can save energy, both in our homes and at school whilst also reducing our carbon footprint.





OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Our Outdoor Education programme offers all our learners the opportunity to engage in a wide range of activities including kayaking, abseiling, indoor climbing, canoeing and cycling. In the first half term, this was led by the team at Bendrigg Lodge with some activities taking place at Bendrigg whilst others were offsite at Coniston Lake and the caves around Ribblehead viaduct.

During the second half term, we have been fortunate enough to engage the services of M&T adventures where learners have had the opportunity to add ghyll scrambling to their repertoire and exploring the Cathedral Caves after a hefty hike to reach them.

Learners have overcome many fears and we have watched their confidence and self esteem develop throughout this term.

The aim of the programme is to help our students achieve more than they think is possible by developing confidence, raising self-esteem and increasing an awareness of self, others and the environment through positive learning experiences in new, challenging and supportive environments.





OUTDOOR EDUCATION

All of these experiences are led by fully qualified instructors and SwitchED2 staff were in attendance to assist. SwitchED2 staff/pupil ratio is 1:2 meaning the ratio is further enhanced by the Instructors who were leading the activities.



The team bonding opportunities are invaluable



VOCATIONAL



During our enterprise session students have been taking part in a range of practical activities. The beginning of term started with the task of upcycling an old washing machine to become a new school fire pit! Students had great fun dismantling and reassembling the machine, which they then used to toast marshmallows for some deliciously sticky smores treats.



Following on from this, students started preparing for our Christmas stall by creating a range of wood based products to sell at our Christmas meal. Students have worked incredibly hard to safely use a range of hand and electrical tools to cut, sand shape and scorch wood.

As well as working on their products students have also been gaining credits towards their vocational award by completing unit work related to their projects. Our advertising team are currently working hard on creating flyers and posters to advertise our event whilst our finance team are working out costings. We hope you enjoy browsing our stall and thank you in advance for your support.





SPORT AND LEISURE

Once a week we attend Kendal Lads and Girls Club and participate in sport and leisure activities. Learners have enjoyed the gym facilities such as the treadmill and rowing machine. Some have opted for the more leisurely sports such as pool and badminton. Learners often enjoy a wide variety of team sports including indoor football, basketball and dodgeball this enhances their communication skills and provides them with the skills to work together as part of a team.

This term we have played a few football matches against Cedar House, Wings and Oversands. SwitchED2 showed determination and put on a good performance in all their games, Harvey Stubbs received Player of the Match award for his stamina and his all round excellent performance, in one particular game he scored 6 goals. Tyler McCarron captained the team to a draw and made some fantastic saves throughout the game and displayed excellent sportsmanship skills, hence why he also received a Player of the Match award.

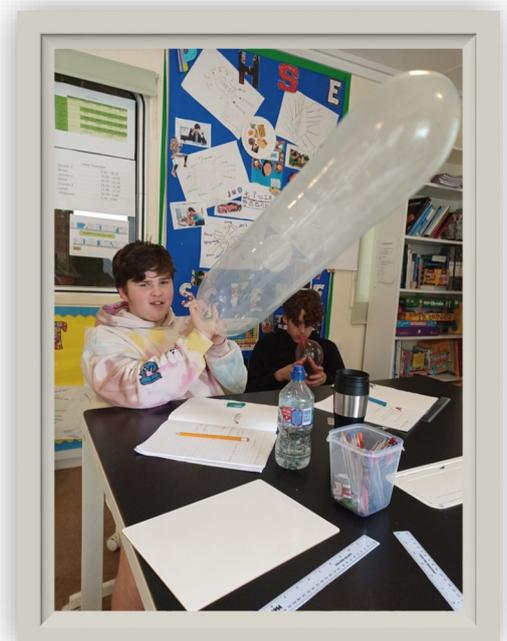




In our PSHE lessons, we try and introduce our learners to issues that may affect their health or safety. We have a number of regular topics we cover, but sometimes a news story may give us an opportunity to talk about something new – this term we have focussed on Hate and Knife Crime. We have discussed the effects on the perpetrator and the victim, the laws around carrying knives and other weapons. Pupils were given factual information and real life documentaries were shown to pupils and how this can impact on themselves and the impact it has on those around them known as the ripple effect. Local police officers Gillian and Mark from the child centred policing team popped into school to discuss the many risks around committing hate crimes and carrying knives.

We have also been focusing on Relationships and Sex Education within our lessons. We have identified different forms of contraception as well as highlighting some of the risks of having unprotected sex. Young people were shown samples of a wide range of contraceptives and as a class, we discussed how these worked for both males and females.

More recently we have looked at alcohol use and the risks to health associated with addiction. We focussed on celebrities who have had to deal with alcohol addictions and units consumed by the average young person and how this compares with the national government guidance. The young people have researched where they can seek help and advice in their area and are able to offer support or signpost others in the right direction if they ever require it.





FOOD TECHNOLOGY

During recent weeks, I have been overwhelmed with the quality of food that students have been making to take home. It really is lovely to receive emails and phone calls saying how much you have enjoyed the meals. Please keep this going!

This term, in addition to making delicious meals to take home and making scrumptious goodies for their hampers, students have completed the following vocational award units:

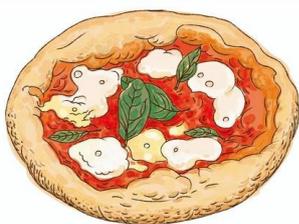
- ◆ Food storage and safety
- ◆ Cooking techniques
- ◆ Understanding a balanced diet
- ◆ Making a simple meal



Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

How does Good King Wenceslas

like his pizzas?



Deep and crisp and even!



ENRICHMENT



As part of our enrichment programme, students have had the opportunity to get out into the local area and access local resources and activities. These have included:

- * Casterton Foot Golf
- * Lancaster 315 Gym and 3
- * Kendal RUFC 3G pitch
- * Turbary Owl Sanctuary
- * Squires Snooker Hall



Christmas Word Search



AN
FR
YJWZ
KZIY
TWKPEY
KFUDCV
XJOLLYGJ
GMYSJVSL
GBUBLMJZSC
DHVSLPXVIG
TRQOPERHLHBA
TFINTBCWPJNL
RSYZOKIBMOSOIZ
ETYL PW OAEURUUT
CEJCYITTTJLUHCLPP
NDCVDUGKAIVPFQBT
OSNYLEDMSQWGYVBPSA
PKIGFAI IWUSSQEHVVR
TREEXSYESWZTPOBJGSLP
LWVRELUCTELVESNDYUFC
IQPNLFEKELEGGNOGOFMIX
AYGSRZDJLEQVNT OJGXSBBN
PPTBOCXRZETNBIMUIEPJDMDY
YYP SOHJBSBOMMPOBVCJNNHLH
UNRUALIVMFREQVMQIXTWDHWXGP
RFRMNBMSCHAXQSGNIKCOTSCTFE
MLPEPTQNIHTNGTGCOEXARMAZAKW
CVXMQAYEOREERPRVNWXB DLCKOYXR
UGKFJZJHYNHTAERWXBHMTUOHOQPFWO
FWIVOGBINXKCOVXAYNOA IWZNPYOVL M

BELLS
STOCKINGS
WREATH
ELVES
SLED

CELEBRATE
EGGNOG
TREE
JOLLY
SANTA

MERRY
MISTLETOE
CHIMNEY
REINDEER



During the 12 days of Christmas, how many gifts in total did my true love give to me?

.....

What gift did my true love give me on the 8th day?

.....

What film features the line “Merry Christmas Ya Filthy Animal”?

.....

Name all of Santa’s reindeer

.....

What is Santa Claus called in France?

.....



In the film Christmas Carol, what is Scrooge's first name?

.....

Where was Kevin's family going for a holiday in the film Home Alone when they left him behind?

.....

What is the best selling Christmas song of all time?

.....

How many copies do you think have been sold worldwide?

.....

What was the first Christmas song to be broadcasted in space?

.....

Which saint is celebrated on 26th December?

.....



On behalf of the staff at SwitchED2, I would
like to wish you all a very happy and safe
Christmas and New Year

We look forward to seeing our fabulous
students back in January 2023

Andy