

SwitchED2

Christmas Newsletter

2023



Message from Andy

We are coming to the end of another term and I don't know where the time goes. The students have worked tremendously hard, performing beyond expectations in all areas and we are both proud and pleased to see how this dedication is paying off. Keep up the hard work!

I hope this letter provides you with a glimpse of just some of the activities, both curricular and out of school, that the students have been engaging in.

I would like to say thank you to the staff for their hard work throughout the term, and indeed the support we receive from parents and carers in making a difference to so many young lives.

That just leaves me to wish you a very peaceful and happy Christmas.

Having worked hard all term, our pupils will be ready for a break and the opportunity to recharge their batteries.

The school will re-open for the Spring Term on
Wednesday 3rd January 2024



*Merry
Christmas*

Maths

We kicked off this term with all things numerical, getting our maths brains back in gear with times tables, place value, rounding up plus a spot of addition and subtraction. This gave students the opportunity to establish what level of maths they were working at and how staff could best support them to reach their full potential. We then got busy with statistics – collecting data and turning it into bar charts, pictograms, line graphs. Essential life skills for understanding things like phone contracts or electricity usage. Students have worked hard but had fun along the way creating some giant human bar charts and line graphs.

We rounded off the term completing an Open Awards Unit on telling the time – jumping between 12 hour and 24 hour clocks, digital to analogue and some timetabling questions. Although students are now proficient at telling the time it doesn't mean getting them out of bed in the morning will be any easier!



Human bar charts!!

Why was six afraid of seven? Because seven eight nine.

What did the calculator tell the student before their maths test? Don't worry you can count on me!

How do you get warm in a cold room? Head to the corner its 90 degrees there.



English

This term, students have been working at their own individual levels to develop their English skills at Entry 3 and Level 1 in preparation for reading, writing and speaking and listening exams. Some have been developing their spelling strategies, practised punctuating sentences and worked on skills requiring them use alphabetical order. They have developed their reading skills whilst learning about World War One. Students were interested to find out about why the war started and enjoyed discovering what life was like for a soldier in the trenches.



Meanwhile others have planned for their speaking and listening exams and have taken parts in debates related to:

“Is vaping bad for our health?”

“Should E – Scooters be banned?”,

and expressed their thoughts and opinions on the recent dangerous dog’s act.



Enterprise

During our Enterprise sessions this term, students have been very busy preparing for our Christmas Sale. We have developed our skills using a range of hand tools such as saws, hammers, pallet breakers and screwdrivers, as well as using electric tools such as sanders and sawzills.

Students have produced a range of recycled wood items to sell at our annual event at Places for People including snowmen, reindeers, candle holders and light up twig trees.



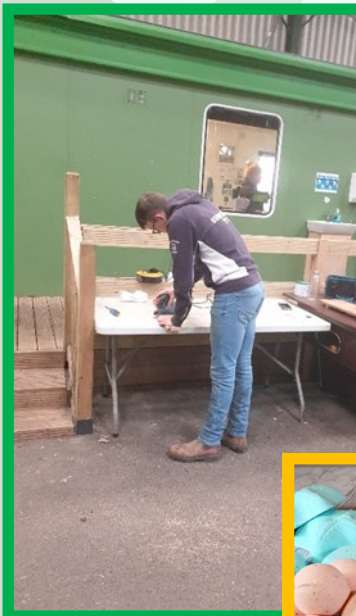
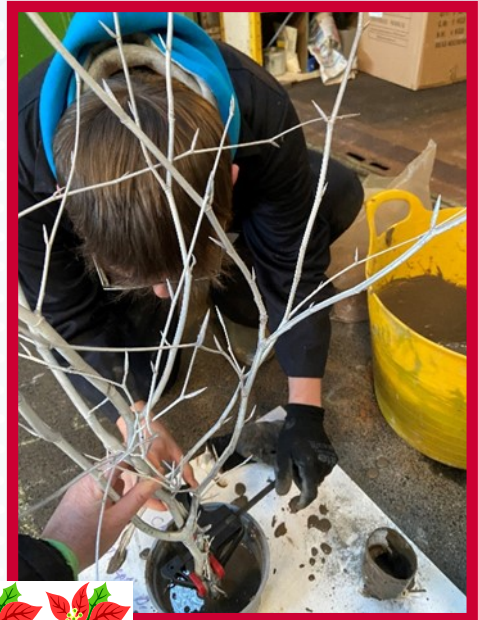
Enterprise

Other students have been working on making:

- * bath bombs
- * pebble plaques
- * and light up bottles

We hope to have some items left to sell at our Christmas meal.

Look forward to seeing you there!



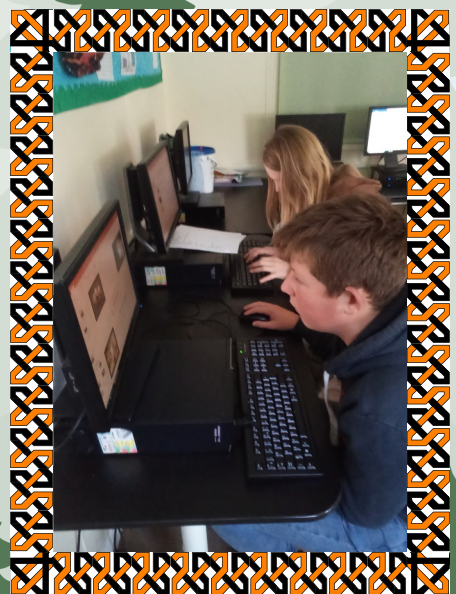
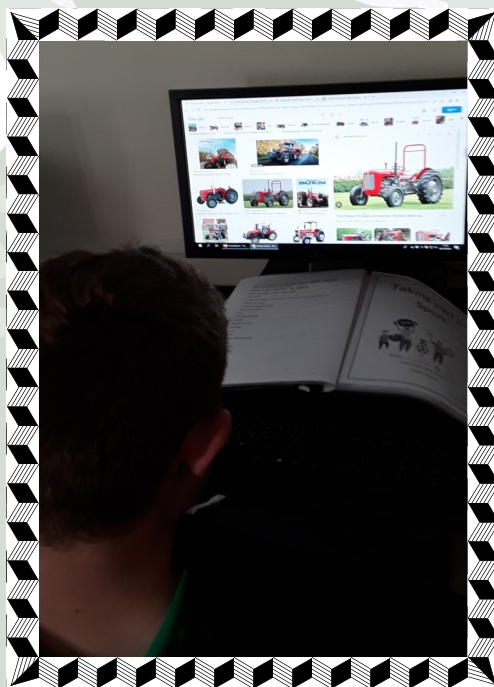
ICT

Much of our focus this term has been focused on how to stay safe online and what to do if they are concerned about anything online and who to contact regarding online safety and security.

We have also been practising our IT skills by completing a number of units including:

- ♦ Using and Editing Text and Images
- ♦ Understanding Social Media
- ♦ E-Safety

All pupils have produced a Power-point which is called “All about me” - this includes many of their favourite things such as cars, colours, animals and hobbies.



Hospitality

Food Technology is such a paramount essential life skill as it promotes a healthy lifestyle (so important in these days of easy access to fast food outlets) as when they cook for themselves, they can work out the nutritional value not to mention the difference in cost.

We started off the Autumn term with an emphasis on baking and pastries (there were some amazing profiteroles on display), followed by a variety of savoury dishes including:

- ♦ Hot 'n' spicy chicken wings
- ♦ Curry
- ♦ Macaroni cheese

In the run up to the end of term, the learners have concentrated on preparing for their wonderful Christmas hampers which are always a hit. This has involved making curds, chutneys, mince pies and yule logs in addition to a few surprises made in other classes.



Outdoor Education

This term, learners have taken part in a wide variety of Outdoor Education activities, working with Ghyll Head and Windermere Outdoor Education Centres.

During our time at Ghyll Head learners have had the opportunity to cave, abseil, sail and ghyll scramble. More recently at Windermere Outdoor Education centre, learners have driven power boats, canoed and kayaked across and up and down the lake.



PSHE

This term pupils have completed many units in PSHE contributing to their vocational qualification.

Some of the units we have been working on this term have included:

- * Knowing your local area
- * Following Instructions
- * Personal Action Planning
- * Personal Care and Hygiene.

Pupils have set their own SMART targets, reviewed them and checked on their own progress.

Next term we will be focussing Healthy LifeStyles and Relationships Sex Education.



Landbased

So far students have used our two furry residents, Rosie and Thumper to learn lots of skills in the care of small animals. They have an array of skills to help them cater for the needs of small animals which has involved plenty of handling, grooming, feeding and everybody's "favourite", MUCKING OUT!

A few students have said hello to our feathered friends the pheasants and fed them, and others have been keen squirrel watchers setting up cameras and topping up their feeders. I think they've enjoyed spying on the woodlands night time residents with the cameras and deducing strange nightly sounds! Students have learnt the theory on what to do when things aren't quite right with small animals and we've had a look at the diversity of domesticated animals diets and evolution.



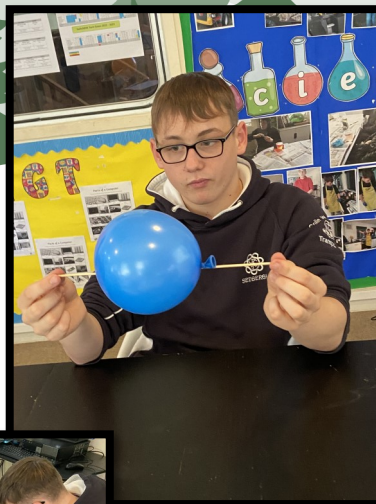
Science

This term pupils have been focussing a variety of simple experiments, where they have created their own bicarbonate rockets, made slime, lava lamps and explored some of the many inventions from the past.



Some pupils are working towards a Level

1 qualification in Science and their most recent unit was "Exploring our Universe", this has required them to give definitions of planets, moons and stars whilst also describing how the earth moves around the sun. They did a demonstration of this using balloons and wooden skewers in order to create the earth's rotational axis.



A Medley of Activities

Squirrel Cam

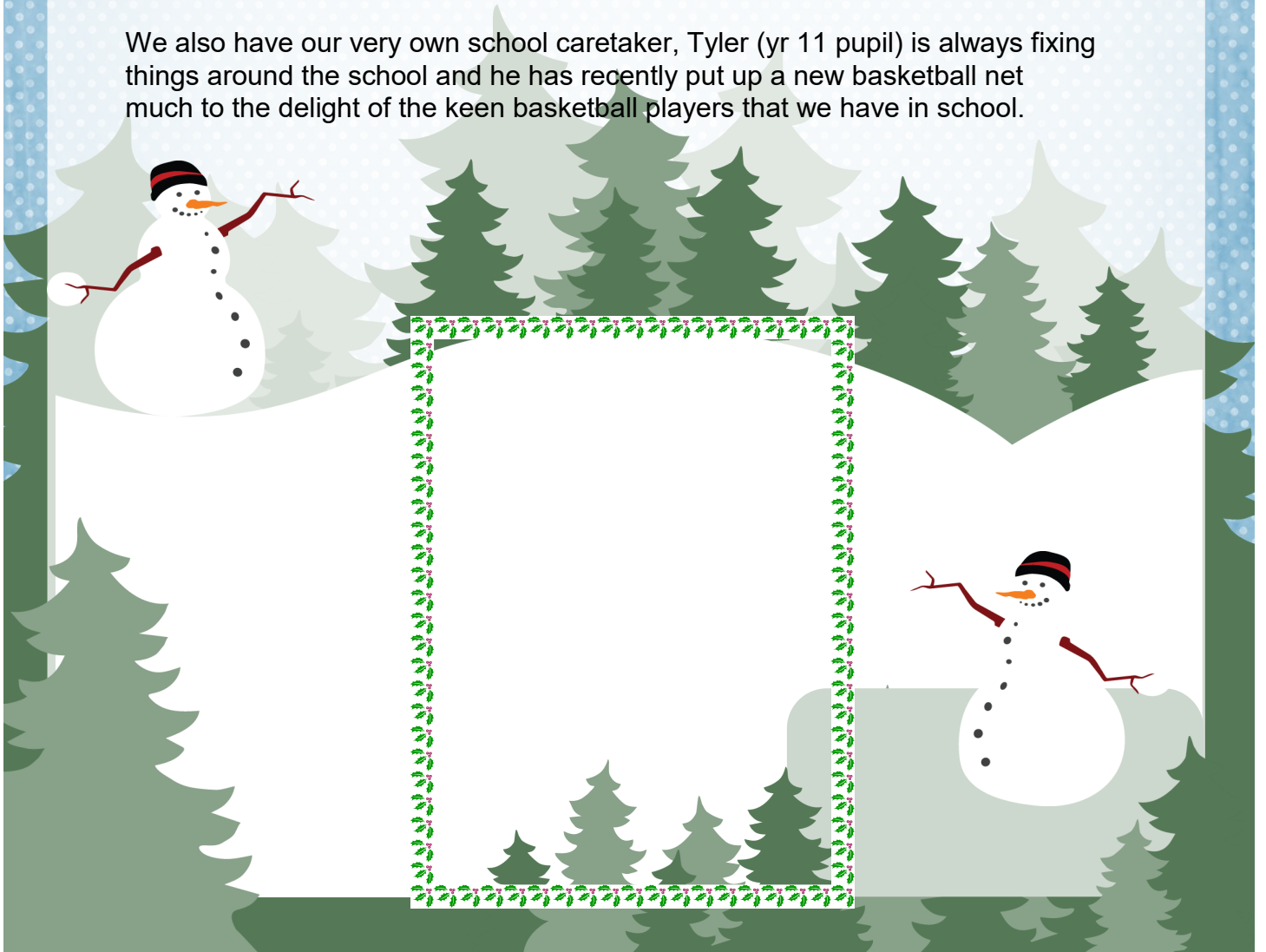
This term a couple of pupils have decided to take on the role of looking after the squirrel cameras - a project we have undertaken working alongside the Wildlife Trust. They have cleaned out the feeders, topped up their food and downloaded the action from the SD cards to see if there are any red squirrels in the area.

Car Cleaning

Several pupils have regularly cleaned the interior of the school cars, keeping them smelling nice, wiping interior surfaces and hoovering the carpets. This has led to them achieving a unit in Valeting the Interior of a car.

School "Caretaker"

We also have our very own school caretaker, Tyler (yr 11 pupil) is always fixing things around the school and he has recently put up a new basketball net much to the delight of the keen basketball players that we have in school.



Exploring Art

Over the last term during Art, students have worked on gaining their Exploring Art Unit.

We have looked at the work of a range of artists including Banksy, Salvador Dali, Jackson Pollock and Vincent Van Gogh and expressed our thoughts on their work. We have studied and practised a range of painting techniques and have used a variety of tools in order to create different effects.

Here are some examples of their work.



Sports and games

On Fridays, we visit Kendal Lads and Girls Club. Many pupils have participated in a wide variety of sports and games including dodgeball, football, basketball and kwik cricket.

During this time I have seen pupils get a hat-trick at football, some getting 3 pointers at basketball and lately I have also observed some excellent bowling and catching during the Kwik Cricket sessions.

Some pupils opt to play board and card games such as Monopoly, Uno and Pictionary whilst others are happy to relax and chill and converse with their peers over a game of pool.



Victoria Hall

The new year at Victoria Hall brought a few new opportunities for the students, with the introduction of visiting the main site at the farm on a Monday to days out on a Thursday.

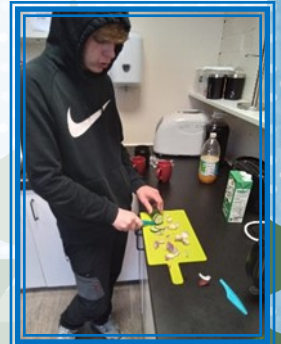
In vocational studies we have been looking at a wide range of topics from building a wall, to bike maintenance and keeping a balanced diet.

Caleb has independently constructed a wall, following the correct steps to ensure it is safe and sturdy, he has not only looked at how to build a wall but researched health and safety in construction and the tools that are required to build it.



Rico has flown through his units on bike maintenance, showing great skills in fixing and repairing bikes. This has included removing an inner tube to rebuilding bike wheels and handlebars.

Harry has continued on building his cooking skills, by looking into how to create meals that meet a balanced diet. We have had outstanding creations of pizza, chicken wraps and healthy puddings.



In PSHE we have looked at many topics including anger management, coping strategies and

developing interpersonal skills, which has helped on our

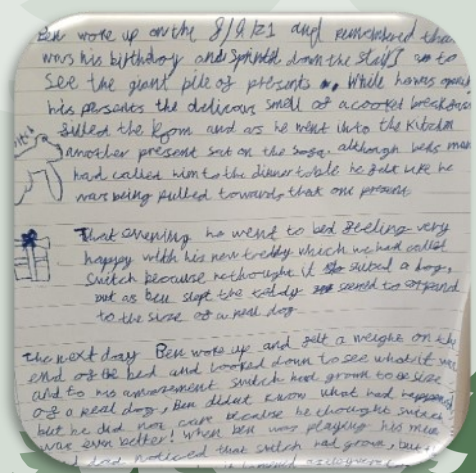
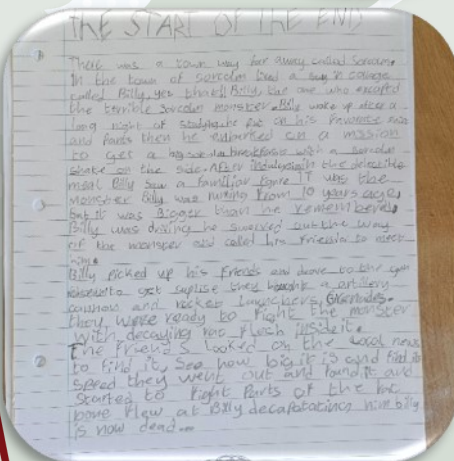
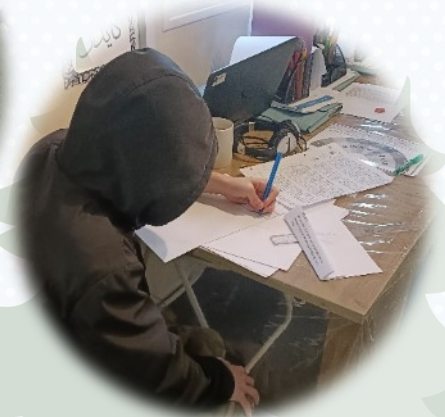
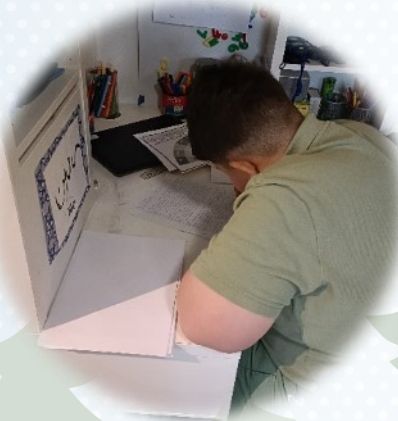
trips out, one of these being the Westmorland Show where they all demonstrated good communication and social skills.



Nurture Cabin — English

After successfully completing their Entry Level 2 English, the pupils are working hard towards their Entry Level 3 qualification. They have looked at the purpose of different texts and completed practice reading papers, some pupils achieving full marks! We have also practiced writing in a variety of different formats such as letters (both formal and informal), emails, forms and instructions.

After a visit to Borwick Hall and a tour around the haunted building pupils were inspired to write a variety of stories and I have to say the imagination and energy from them was fantastic! We have continued with the theme of story writing, at the request of the pupils, and through it we are working on our punctuation and grammar. The pupils are becoming more reflective and willing to check through their work for errors but more importantly they are enjoying writing!



Nurture Cabin - Maths

This year we have tried a new approach to teaching Maths in the Nurture Cabin and followed the White Rose Scheme for Year 8.

The scheme breaks down the challenging, sometimes scary, aspects of maths into bite size pieces moving from using physical objects, to pictorial representations before moving onto problem solving.

Explore graphs with negative gradient
($y = -kx$, $y = 0 - x$, $x + y = 0$)

1. Here is the table for values of $y = -x$:

x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
y	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3

a) Complete the table:

b) Plot the graph of $y = -x$ on the coordinate grid.

2. a) Complete each table of values:

$y = 2x$

x	-2	-1	0	1	2
y					

$y = 2 - x$

x	-2	-1	0	1	2
y					

$y = -3x$

x	-2	-1	0	1	2
y					

$y = -2 + x$

x	-2	-1	0	1	2
y					

b) Plot the graphs from part a) on the coordinate grid.

The scheme appears to be working well and comments such as 'the maths is too easy' state that it is having the desired effect. Through this scheme the pupils have, so far, conquered challenging areas such as working in the cartesian plane which is algebraic rules for straight lines, ratio and scale and multiplying and dividing fractions. The success that the pupils are having is definitely giving them more confidence and we are seeing them working more independently in sessions

1. a) Tick the graph that shows positive correlation.

b) Tick the graph that shows negative correlation.

c) Which graph shows the strongest positive correlation?

2. On a TV quiz, contestants can win an amount of money between £1,000 and £75,000. The table shows the ages of 12 contestants and their winnings.

Age (years)	26	30	18	64	44	31
Winnings (£)	5,000	11,000	71,000	1,000	2,000	52,000

Age (years)	48	20	35	42	55	21
Winnings (£)	16,000	2,000	34,000	13,000	1,000	41,000

a) Draw a scatter graph to represent this information.



Nurture Cabin

Physical Education

This term the students have really enjoyed attending the gym at Kendal Rugby Club. The sessions start with a warmup on the cardio equipment and then each week Aylsa, the gym instructor, introduces them to a new piece of equipment. Over the term their confidence and fitness levels have improved and they now stand confidently in front of the mirrors, lifting free weights and admiring their developing physique!

Last term PE sessions at school included badminton, table tennis and circuit training. When the weather allowed, we went to a local outdoor sports court to practice football and basketball skills.



History

At the start of term, we researched The Vikings and used maps to identify where the Vikings came from and the countries they invaded. The students designed their own Viking shield, built model long boats and used the runic alphabet to exchange messages.

Over the last few weeks, we have been looking back at famous women in history including Mary Ellis who was a pilot in the second world war, Mae Jemison the first female American astronaut and Marie Curie one of the most famous women in modern science.



Nurture Cabin

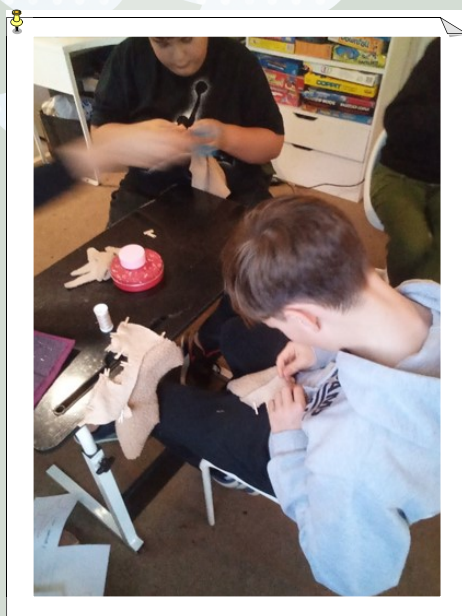
Art

In art the students have experimented with colour mixing and have mixed primary and secondary colours to create landscape paintings. They took photographs of each other and produced self-portraits using mixed media and they observed each other's eyes and completed close up, labelled drawings of the eye.



Textiles

The students have spent a few lovely, chilled afternoons listening to music and stitching fabric together to create a gorgeous stuffed something (sorry can't spoil the surprise!) and I'm sure you will be very impressed. These afternoons have ended with a very competitive game of our favourite board game, Coppit.



Nurture Cabin

Outdoor Education

This term we have been getting very wet in Windermere! We have used three different outdoor education centres, all based along the shores of Windermere so have had lots of opportunities to enjoy activities on and sometimes in the lake.

Students and staff have taken to paddleboards, canoes, kayaks, motor boats and sailing dinghies to explore islands and hidden coves on the lake. For the last few weeks of term we returned to dry land, although staying 'dry' has still been a challenge. Students have been encouraged out of their comfort zones to reach dizzying heights when climbing, delve into the depths of the earth when caving and speed along zip wires and rope courses. All students have worked well with the Outdoor Education Instructors, learning new skills, following safety instructions and supporting each other.



Nurture Cabin

Catering

I'm sure you will have enjoyed many sweet treats brought home to you on a Friday afternoon including millionaire's shortbread, lemon drizzle cake and profiteroles. We held our own British Bake Off and the students created custard creams or bourbon biscuits which were judged by our very own Paul Hollywood (Andy Coates!).

Lately on a Friday afternoon, you might have been saved from making tea as the students have created some delicious savoury dishes including mini toad in the hole, stuffed crust pizza and chicken pie.

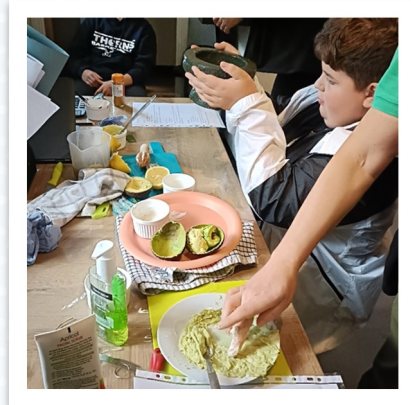


Nurture Cabin

PHSE

Personal Hygiene was the topic for the first half term and students completed an Open Awards Unit on the subject. Students considered how hygiene routines might need to change as they grow older and what products can be used. Lots of fun was had making our own products such as soap, face masks and spot cream!

Since half term we have been following a St Johns Ambulance First Aid course. The aim is to equip students with basic first aid skills and when to call the emergency services.



CITIZENSHIP

This term we have been considering the five key British Values – Liberty, Rule of Law, Tolerance, Respect and Democracy. Students have reflected on their own actions and attitudes and how they can impact other people, both positively and negatively.

During November, Black History Month we learnt about the positive contributions black Politicians, sports men and women, musicians and campaigners have made to society.



Nurture Cabin

Science



In Science, we kick started the year by developing our Science Investigation Skills. When presented with questions such as: 'If you keep adding more salt to water, would it take longer to dissolve, or would it dissolve faster?' and 'If you keep increasing the number of cupcake cases staked together, will they keep falling faster?' the pupils developed the skills to plan, record, process, analyse and evaluate scientific findings. This led onto the pupils asking their own questions and investigating them in a fair test, recording and repeating results as necessary. Whilst the pupils investigated their questions, careful measurements were taken when finding out which liquid has the best reaction when Mentos are added as well as investigating the best insulator for keeping a cup of tea warm. It was lovely to watch the joy and amazement on pupils faces when observing the re-actions taking place.



After the half term break we moved onto electricity and magnetism. The pupils applied their previous knowledge to identify why some circuits failed to work. We then used an ammeter to measure voltage, discovered the difference between series and parallel circuits and learnt how to calculate resistance. As Christmas approached we enjoyed finding out about static electricity by making tinsel float.

As one-off sessions we have also enjoyed making our own infinity mirrors and solving crime mysteries by identifying the criminal from the flame colour of substances left at the crime scene.



Nurture Cabin

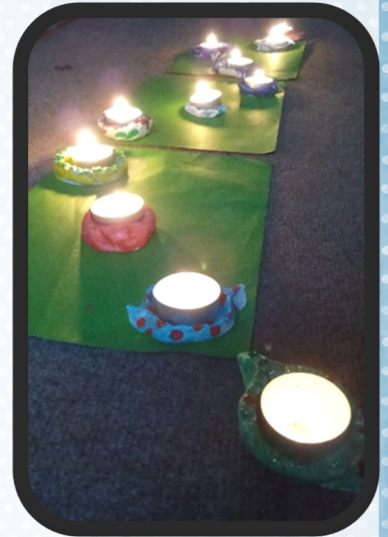
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We started the term by delving into the 2021 census data to discover what different Religions were followed in this country and the percentage of people who followed each one – yes, maths creeping into RE lessons!

We also studied Islam in more depth and learnt how to write our names in Arabic.

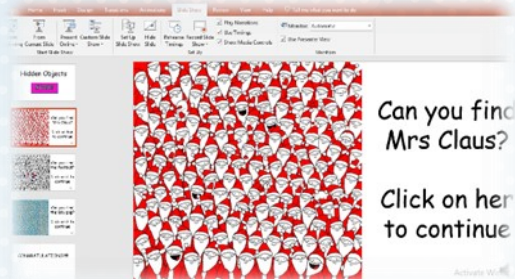
November and December are full of different Feasts & Festivals so

we have celebrated the Mexican Day of the Dead, Hindu Diwali, Jewish Hanukkah as well as the Christian aspects of Christmas.



Nurture Cabin

ICT



Why did the PowerPoint presentation
cross the road?

To get to the other slide.

On a more serious note, the pupils have worked hard learning all of the features of Microsoft PowerPoint: adding slides, altering backgrounds, header and footers, transitions and animations. They have created quizzes using hyperlinks to other slides in the presentation and added sound and songs to 'Where's Wally' type I Spy activities.

They finished the topic by producing a presentation of their choice all about a topic of interest to them, which I have to say they found especially amusing when creating quizzes for the adults to complete. I think I need to brush up on a few areas!



Leo J Bangham



Dogecoin is a cryptocurrency created by software engineers Billy Markus and Jackson Palmer, who decided to create a payment system as a "joke", making fun of the wild speculation in cryptocurrencies at the time. It is considered both the first "meme coin", and more specifically the first "dog coin".



Outreach



We also offer outreach support for students in both primary and secondary schools. This can be supporting within mainstream and/or in the community. All activities are tailored specifically to the students' interests.

During the past year, students have developed their catering skills either in the kitchen at the farm or in mainstream schools. Others have spent time in an outdoor classroom in Coniston learning forest skills and cooking on an outdoor fire pit.

One student expressed a keen interest in golf and has made significant improvements to the point where part of his programme now includes having lessons with a golf professional.

We have also provided socialising opportunities for students that are not in school to get involved in activities together.

The students grow in self-confidence, build emotional resilience and learn valuable life skills.



SwitchED2

Christmas Newsletter



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 on Wednesday 03 January 2024



A Christmas Cracker!

What kind of
ball doesn't
bounce?



A snowball!

Why was the snowman looking
through the carrots?



He was picking his nose!

Why did no one
bid for Rudolph
and Blitzen on
eBay?

Because they were
two deer

