



SwitchED2

Christmas Newsletter 2024



As the holiday season approaches, I would like to take a moment to share warm wishes and reflect upon the Autumn Term which has been filled with incredible moments. Our young people have amazed us with their creativity and growth, whether it has been in the classroom, out of school or at community events, their enthusiasm has truly shone through and they have been a credit to the school!

I would like to thank the fantastic staff who work tirelessly to create a supportive and engaging environment for our young people and of course, many thanks to all of you for your continued support!

As we gear up for the holidays, I hope you find time to relax and enjoy precious moments with your loved ones. Let's also remember to spread a little kindness to those in need during this special season.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year! I can't wait to see everyone back on the 7th January for another exciting term!

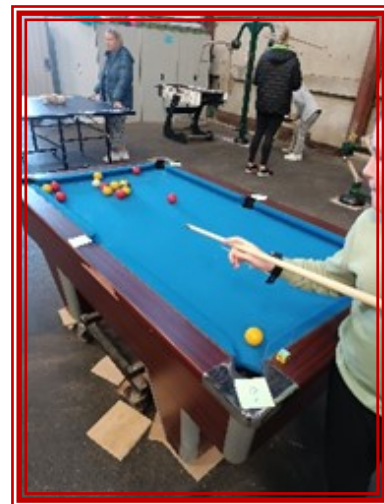




We started the term with playing darts, pool and ping pong to warm up and work on our number skills. After that, playing Number Countdown has left us completely addicted and there is much banter and competition trying to reach the answer using all of our calculating skills (including the tutors!)

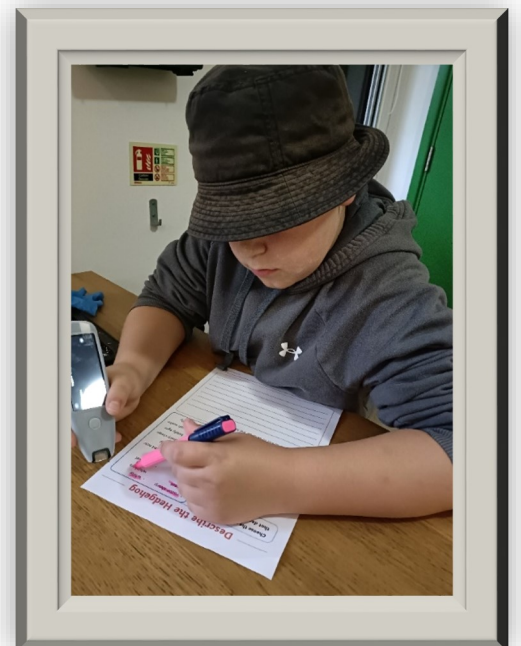
The boys have worked hard this term trying to master their skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as well as using decimals and percentages in word problems, and I think (or at least I am hoping) that they are starting to think Maths is fun.

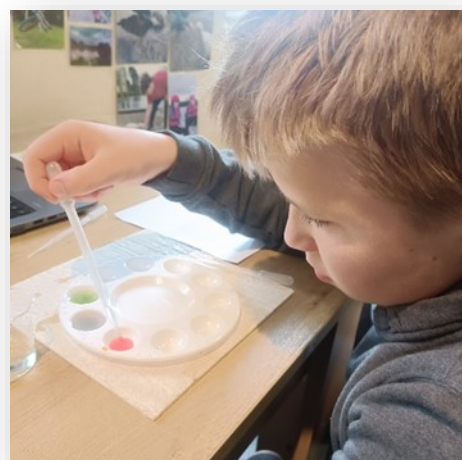
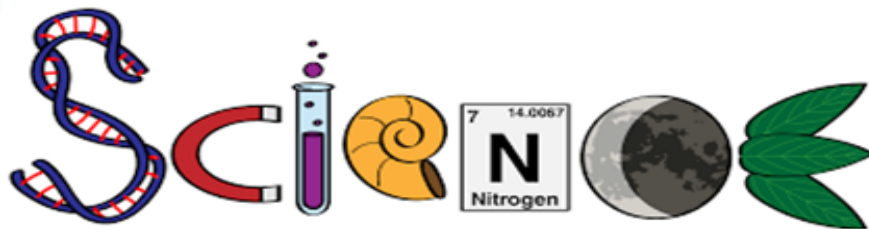
Happy Christmas everyone!





Some of our younger learners have been working on developing their reading and writing skills via topic work on habitats. They have read information on a range of woodland animals including badgers, foxes, squirrels and hedgehogs. In addition to this, students followed simple instructions to make hedgehog homes and bird feeders. They had great fun installing a web cam in the woods where they managed to capture a range of wildlife including deer, badger, squirrels and an array of birds.





In our fascinating journey through the realms of chemistry, we've delved into the practical side, exploring the intriguing world of chemical reactions. We've identified the common gasses emitted during these reactions, closely examined energy changes and scrutinized the various factors that influence reaction rates.

Furthermore, we have developed our understanding of acids, alkalis and the pH scale. We explored the process of neutralisation and utilized universal indicator to determine the pH of a substance.

I am looking forward to the adventures we will embark on as we explore the vast expanse of the universe together in the upcoming year.





CommuniTea Catch-Up



The vibrant heart of any community lies in its ability to come together, share stories, and create lasting memories. That is exactly what we aimed to achieve with the launch of CommuniTea Catch-Up, events designed to bring together the pupils and members of our community for sessions filled with fun, laughter, and connection.

Before our launch pupils work hard planning a variety of engaging activities, including games, bingo, crafts, and quizzes, all thoughtfully planned and created to ensure everyone could participate and enjoy themselves.

Throughout all the catch-up sessions, the atmosphere was electric. Families and friends gathered to enjoy activities that catered to all ages. Here are some highlights from our events so far:

- **Games Galore:** From classic board games to interactive group games, everyone had a chance to play and bond with one another.
- **Bingo Bonanza:** The bingo session was a crowd favourite, with participants eagerly marking their cards for fun prizes.
- **Creative Crafts:** Our Halloween craft station was a hit with all, allowing everyone to express their creativity through scratch art and paper chains.

Quizzes: With trivia questions that tested knowledge on various topics, our quiz section was both entertaining and educational.

To keep our energy up and spirits high, pupils provided a delightful array of refreshments. From homemade cakes to teas and coffees, there was something for everyone to enjoy. These treats not only satisfied our taste buds but also became a catalyst for conversations, laughter, and connection among attendees.

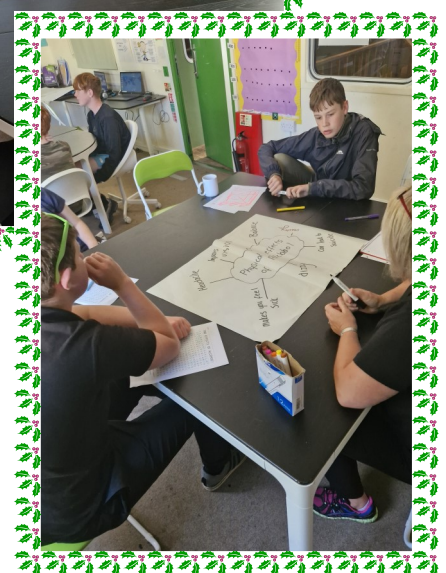




This year we have looked at different effects on health. We started with alcohol and had discussions about the positive and negative effects on ourselves and others. We did this by playing games seeing how alcohol can affect friends, family and society. We grouped together to get some interesting points down on paper looking, at all the different effects that alcohol can have either on ourselves or others.

Once this unit was completed, we started considering stress, we spoke about stress factors for different ages and what can be stressful for the students at our school, for some unknown reason fortnite came up A LOT! This was closely followed by getting up for school which was a total surprise!

We looked at thoughts and feelings and where they come from and how to self-regulate from our own stressors—meditation was a good session, it definitely worked when I had to wake some of them up afterwards.





Food Technology

Food technology this term has given students the opportunity to add to their portfolio for their Diploma in Skills for Further Learning and Education. This has included health and safety in the kitchen environment, understanding the principles behind food and nutrition and using a number of practical cooking techniques.

Our young people have cooked and baked a range of recipes from biscuits to homemade burgers, pizzas to cheesecake and everything in between! All these aspects have started to develop the pupils skills and abilities in the kitchen.

They have particularly enjoyed producing Christmas hampers and I hope you enjoy the fruits of their labour.





News from our Outreach provision

We have welcomed some new students to Victoria Hall since September, Ky and Leon, and what a pleasure it has been to see them smashing their targets towards achieving their planned qualification routes.

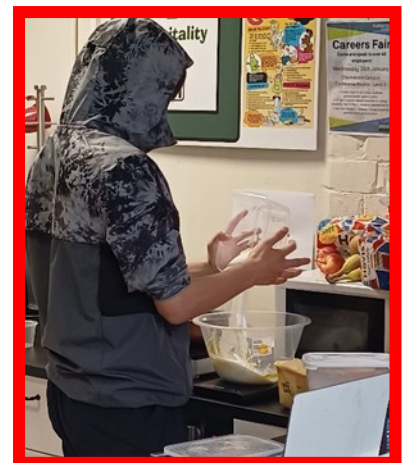
Over the last term students have been working on completing units towards gaining their Diploma in Skills for Learning and Education at both Entry Level 3 and Level 1.

This has required them to take part in a range of practical activities including, cooking a meal, baking, ICT and woodwork.

Students have also enjoyed challenging staff to a range of games: darts, Monopoly, UNO and Dobble being some of our firm favourites.

We are looking forward to taking part in some planned Christmas activities including lunch out and baking for our Christmas hampers.

Ky's Brownies



Leon's KFC chicken





As part of our outreach support for students in both primary and secondary schools, we support within mainstream and/or in the community. All activities are tailored specifically to the students' interests and needs.

Over the past months, some students have developed new skills in cooking which has included making meals to take home for their family to enjoy. Others have spent time developing their golf skills and one has shown some great improvements with the help and support of a golf professional who he has golf lessons with. We have a student who has a keen interest in the outdoors and enjoys nothing more than walking up hills and mountains with ease, leaving the Instructor needing plenty of rests.

We have a membership at a local gym in Ulverston and this has not only given us the opportunity to use these facilities to improve our health and fitness, it has also become a safe space for some of our students. This has also given us the opportunity for the young people to socialise with each other and other staff to help with their confidence and learn some valuable life skills.

We support students to complete academic work which will lead to them receiving Open Awards Qualifications. A number of students have spent time on a 1:1 basis with an Instructor and then moved onto to becoming full time students at SwitchED2.

We also utilise the school to help the students socialise with others and assist them with their self confidence.





ICT

This term we have looked at developing a wide range of ICT skills. Don't worry, if you have any ICT problems, students have shown their knowledge of how to diagnose and fix common errors and know where to seek additional support where needed through the form of booklets, different ways to connect to the internet, and various different devices.



HOW TO GET AND USE ICT HELP

- You can ask a professional for help
- You can use a troubleshoots
- You can search for tutorials and follow instructions

YOU NOW KNOW HOW TO SOLVE COMMON ICT PROBLEMS



Common ICT problems



Switched2
byden



Frequent problems with regards
Information and computer technology.



By Oliver
VOLUME 1

They have reconsolidated their awareness of online safety, with very honest and trusting conversations on online bullying. They have learnt a lot on online browsers and the use of navigation tools to make access to technology and information easier.



Animal Care

This term students started off with learning about a key part of the ecosystem, birds. Through classroom-based work and activities, they have learnt how to observe and encourage wild birds. We ventured to Leighton Moss where they explored the various habitats such as marshland, woodland and open spaces and where they were very lucky to spot rare birds such as bearded tits and yellow wagtails. We learnt to tune in to different sounds, appropriate places to observe and what we can do to encourage and protect birds. We have watched marsh harriers out on the hunt, snipes flicking through reeds to getting very close to a colourful variety of finches and other songbirds.



We then moved onto learning about animals' behaviours. Looking at the history of domestication we learnt how the animals we commonly know today have evolved immensely through time and why we domesticated them in the first place. This has let us investigate normal and abnormal behaviours in animals and ourselves and how we can affect one another.





Outdoor Education

This year saw the two cabins combine. This has encouraged our students to show empathy, peer support and team work even more.

Our first half term was spent by the lakeside at Tower Wood. Students showed great skills and confidence navigating their climbing challenges, undertaking the leap of faith and crate stacking. We ventured up into the Lakes to explore ghylls fully suited and booted. When we took to the water, students were challenged with raft building, let's just say everyone went for a dip that day!

Following on that we were welcomed by Bendrigg. With a great variety of activities, students have been very lucky to have a go at;

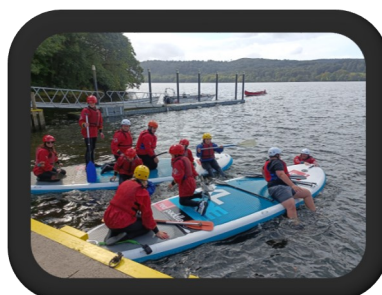


archery
a variety of adapted bikes
orienteering
indoor caving
bouldering
climbing
tube sliding
ziplining

and I am sure I have missed some!



Here's to next year's adventures!





ENRICHMENT

After a miserable wet summer, we were delighted to be treated to some lovely sunny days. This gave us the opportunity to play football at the local park. Students and staff alike warmed up with some different skills and challenges which were then put to the test in a mini game of football which all the boys truly enjoyed.

We also managed to play a spot of cricket with a twist—Kwik cricket which is just like normal cricket but fast paced with the aim to include everyone and this worked a treat. A smaller area was created for the batter to run every time they hit the ball, no matter where this went. The sheer panic of not hitting the ball far enough or hard enough made all batters crumble under the fun pressure! This followed on



by the outfielders scurrying and rushing to try and pass back to the batter who only had a very short space for the pass to be accurate. The panic of the ball being over thrown for the batter had all the fielders scurrying to retrieve it. The noise of cheering and egging others on to do well was a pleasure to hear.

The poor weather kicked in as it got closer to Christmas so we had to go inside, however, this didn't stop the pupils enjoying other sports such as basketball and dodgeball. These games have promoted good and fun

team work. Even those that usually shy away from sports really enjoyed getting involved.



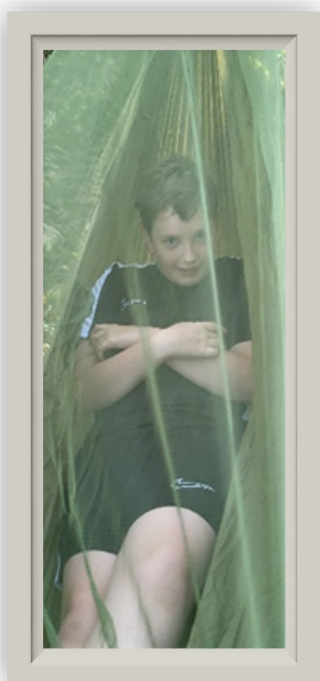


This year we have introduced a new area of education to our school in the form of 'Forest Schools'. This lesson allows the students a unique way of learning in an outdoor 'woodland' environment which we are lucky enough to be able to provide within our school grounds.

Over both the cabins the students have experienced a variety of different outdoor activities and challenges that has helped them develop their confidence and self-esteem.

Activities have included den building where they have had the opportunity to work as part of a team or individually, fire building that has led to some expert smore making, chilling in a hammock, rocket firing and use of the bow saw.

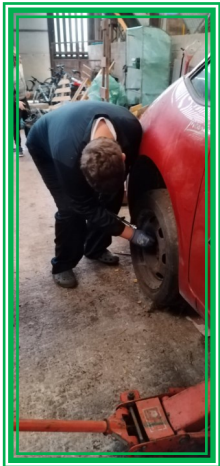
Next half term we will be looking at tracking, scavenger hunts and much more.





Motor Vehicle Maintenance

Over the term, the students have been focusing on workshop safety and adapting their workbench skills in motor vehicle maintenance.

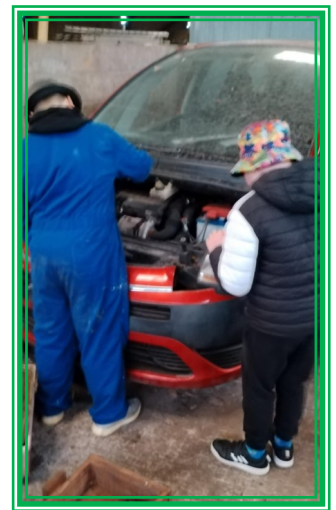


They have demonstrated good knowledge of PPE and how to use and store specific motor vehicle equipment.

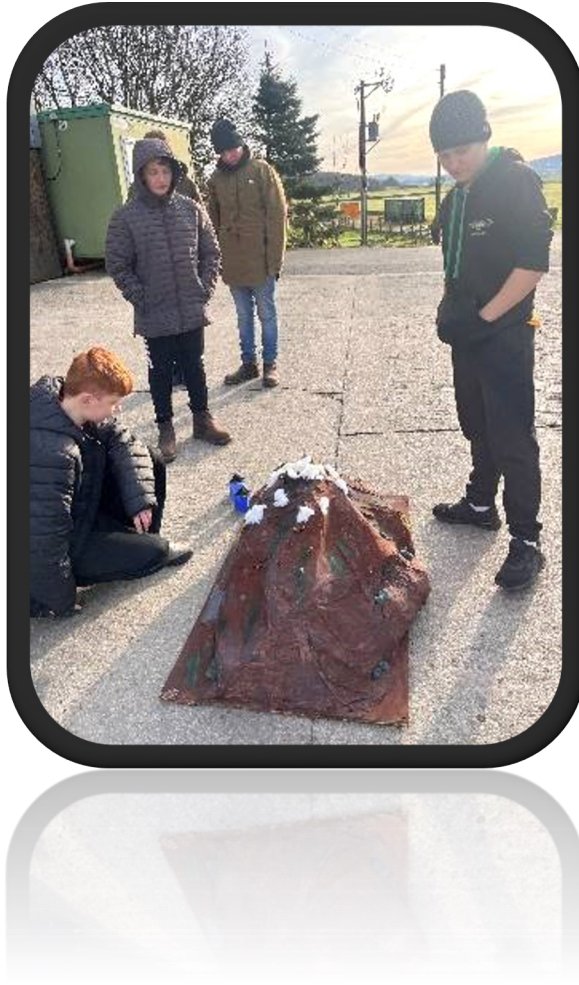
Towards the end of the term, the students have carried out several vehicle tasks including checking tyre treads and pressures to removing and replacing defective tyres.

The students will continue on to other skills such as changing lights and fluid level checking.

They have all performed tasks to a great standard, and I look forward to progressing their skills next term.



HUMANITIES



This term we started by looking at the Earth's structure. Students made models of the Earth's structure labelling all the parts, they also looked at all the natural disasters that can occur on Earth.

This led us to our big project which every student has been very involved with! MOUNT ULPHA is our giant volcano, complete with its own town, forest and mine shaft!

Once erupted it will help us look into the effect of volcano eruptions have on the surrounding areas and the people in those areas.





Christmas Enterprise Project

Christmas quickly approaches and with only having 12 weeks to prepare, we were busier than Santa's elves researching, designing and creating products. These new products have all complimented the festive joy at the local Christmas Fayre and some have also been added to the hampers.

We spilt into two teams, planned what we were making and started creating straight away. The first addition were teeny, weenie beanies and Christmas baubles, these acted like bottle toppers and gave a cute handmade style to Christmas, we then moved onto using tools where students had to measure, drill, glue and design wood to create cute little reindeers. To finish off they made Christmas trees by gathering twigs and decorating them in the shape of trees. The students enjoyed creating these accompanied by singing and throwing some funky dance moves along to the Christmas music.

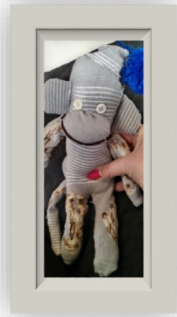


News from Endeavour



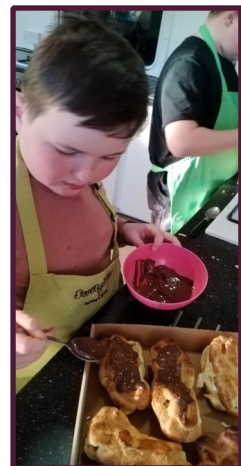
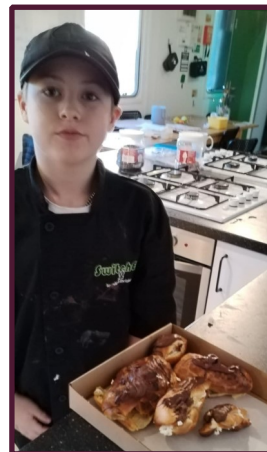
Textiles

On Wednesday afternoons this term the students have been learning to sew. They have made some gorgeous stuffed animals including guinea pigs, frogs, dogs, rabbits and sock monkeys. I was really impressed with their patience, perseverance and their need to finish their animal by the end of the session to take home to show you.



Catering

The students impress me every week with their catering skills and the delicious dishes they take home to share with you. Recently they mastered the skill of making choux pastry and produced chocolate eclairs. They have learnt the importance of following instructions and weighing ingredients accurately. We have had a couple of disasters and lots of laughter especially when one of the students had a piping bag full of fresh cream which exploded over myself and the kitchen!



News from Endeavour

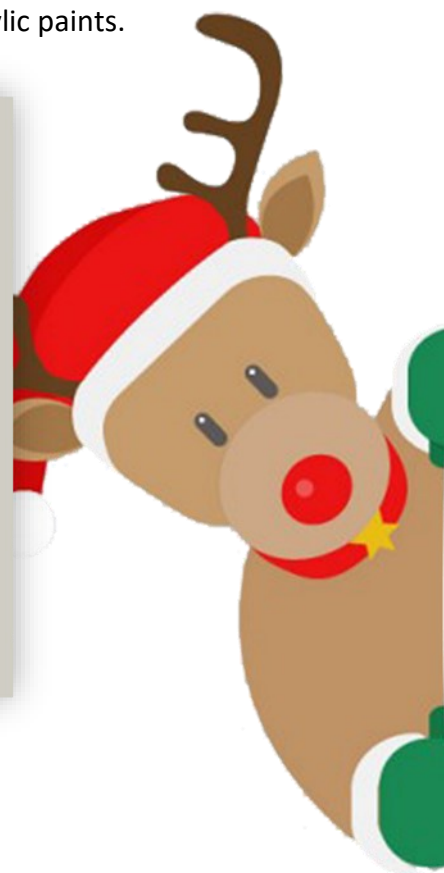
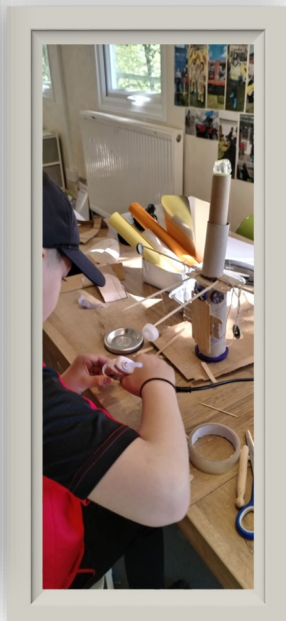
History/Geography

Last term our topic was about ships and submarines built in Barrow. We were extremely lucky that on the day we went on a trip to The Dock Museum in Barrow, the latest Astute-class submarine, HMS Agamemnon was launched and we were able to drive past and view it from the high-level bridge. It was great to get so close so the students could appreciate the size of a nuclear submarine. Back at school the students completed an experiment to design a model submarine which could dive and surface.



Art/DT

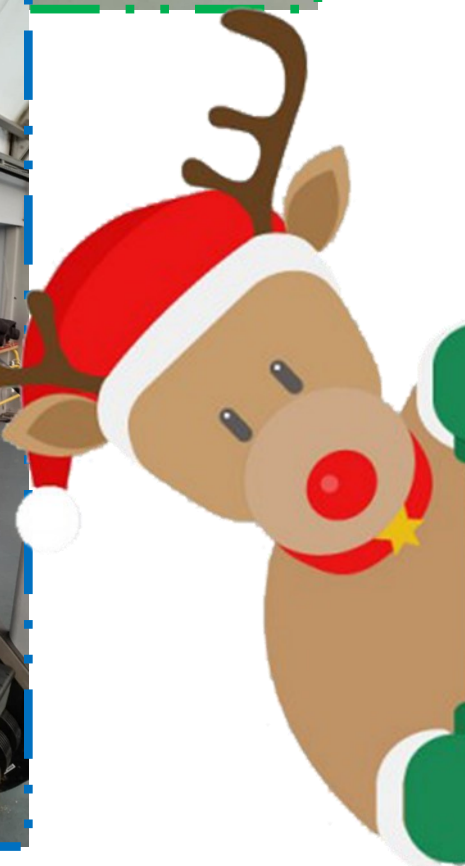
The students experimented with a variety of materials including soap, paper mâché, clay, wire and plaster to make sculptures. They produced fantastic animal sculptures by creating a wire framework which was then covered with plaster cloth, left to dry and finished off with acrylic paints.



News from Endeavour

Physical Education

This term we have been to Ulverston Leisure centre to participate in a variety of sports. The students have shown their competitive side in games of badminton and tennis and they have enjoyed trying out different machines and weights at the gym. They have been shown how to use the equipment safely and to be considerate and polite to other gym users.






This year we have taken two students every week on a Friday on a rewards trip. These students were chosen on a weekly basis and have been given a chance to celebrate their attitude to learning and academic achievements.

We have taken students to Clear Water Fisheries, a coarse fishing lake. Students have learnt the basics from setting up their whips and rigs and baiting up to netting and unhooking their catch. We have had some impressive and varied catches and catching up to 18lbs!

As the winter months have drawn in students have instead been to Squire's pool hall and retro gaming.

Well done to all of you for achieving the chances to go on these trips.





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 Tuesday 07th January
2025

Andy