



SwitchED2 SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022

Message from *Andy*

As we near the end of another amazing year, I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful summer break.

The students have worked incredibly hard and as a result have earned some well deserved qualifications in addition to being rewarded with some fantastic visits out.

I would like to give a special mention to our students and their families who have come to the end of their SwitchED2 journey this year for being a part of our community. I wish you all the best of luck in your new further education destinations. I couldn't be more proud of the achievements you have made and the fact that you have all been accepted onto your chosen courses.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter which will give you a flavour of both the educational engagement and enrichment activities they have participated in.



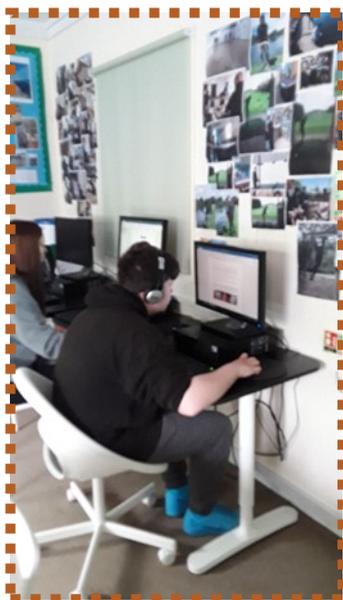


English

Students have worked on developing spelling strategies via a range of word games, such as word scramble, countdown and through kinaesthetic approaches using letter tiles. They have worked on individual spelling lists and have used images to assist them in memorising tricky spellings.

During our reading sessions we have learnt how to identify a range of texts from recognising features, and have used these features to assist us locating specific information. Students have developed skills in identifying facts and opinions within texts, whilst others have been learning how to compare a range of texts.

Whilst developing our writing skills some students have worked on developing their sentence structure and use of punctuation whilst others have been learning how correctly lay out letters, emails, reports, articles and blogs. Some of the students have Emailed Manchester United Football Club to thank them for our fantastic visit around the stadium and museum.



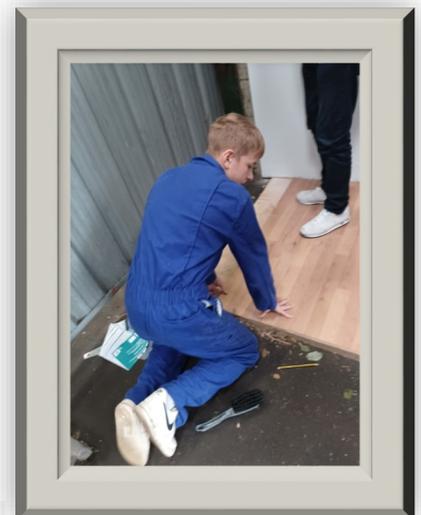
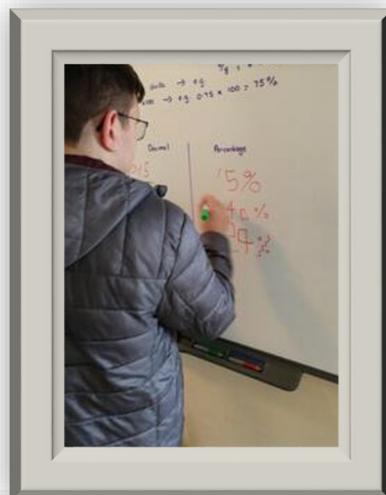


Maths

When we proud to say we offer a differentiated learning programme dependant upon need, we really do mean it. This year, the range has varied from E1 to Level 2.

During the earlier part of the year, we focussed on measure, shape and space. All individuals were given a budget to price up a vocational booth, this was embedded into the Maths lessons and they were able to use their ICT skills in order to conduct their research. They researched certain DIY stores and websites and priced up a project to complete a variety of vocational jobs in the booths, they measured how much cable they needed to wire a light socket and plug, they also measured how much skirting was required and how much laminated flooring was required.

The latter part of the term has been about subtracting 3 digit numbers, concluding triangles, fractions and algebra.





Humanities



Reduce – Reuse – Recycle - Refuse

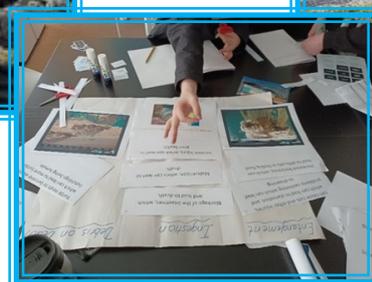


During the Spring term, students studied effects of plastic pollution both locally and globally. They started by looking at the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and discovered how this floating plastic dumping ground was formed by gyres in the ocean.

In addition to this they studied how irresponsibly disposed plastic items impact upon wildlife and marine life, and learnt how long a range of different plastic items take to photodegrade.

We took part in a local beach clean, where we managed to fill 3 large bags of plastic waste in the space of 30 minutes. We were surprised to find that most of this waste had come from industrial fishing boats!

To finish our studies, we investigated ways of reducing the amount of plastic we use and raised our awareness of plastic alternatives and how to reduce our use of single use plastics. We visited a local refill station, where we re-used and recycled empty plastic bottles with environmentally friendly cleaning and hygiene products to use in school.





Design & Technology

This year the students have taken part in several design and technology projects such as making a dog lead holder using wood and jigsaws to create the shape of a dog. They then applied brass hooks for the leads to hang from and finished in a coat of a modern light paint.

They have also made bath trays out of wood by combining pieces together and drilling precise holes to accommodate a phone or tablet and glass of wine for use when having a bath.

Some of the students have had their own booth's to work in carrying out DIY tasks such as applying skirting boards to walls and then decorating the walls using undercoat then a final finish. Some have also gone more in depth by installing their own electric ring main using conduit and sockets and also lighting.

We have also come into possession of large electric cable reels made from wood to which the students have made good by sanding down and painting to create a smooth finish. These reels are then to be used as functional tables for any upcoming gatherings we have at school.

Whilst sitting at these tables you could also admire our surrounding bird habitat using the bird boxes the students have created. The students used solid wood and tacs to create these.





Science

Our science programme has always been quite individual, and we try and work with each learner around topics that interest them, this doesn't always lead to a qualification although two pupils have gained qualifications – a Level 1 Certificate and a Level 2 Award in Science. To achieve these qualifications, pupils have to design a science experiment and produce a hypothesis and findings, producing a report which shows whether the hypothesis was correct. This year's investigation focused on how effective branded toothpastes reacted to various household items items, including tomato sauce, balsamic vinegar and permanent marker. Other pupils had the chance to carry out experiments including making bicarbonate of soda rockets; creating a variety of different slimes, and using a lemon to create an electric current to light a bulb.





Within our ICT classes, learners have had plenty of practical experience using emails, producing power points and developing their presentation skills, editing texts and images and using a range of other software that they may need if they go to college or in work.

We have also spent a lot of time making sure they were aware of the risks of being online, and we have explored ways to stay safe online, including the risks of being hacked, being threatened and how to report anything that they thought was wrong.

Most of our learners have successfully completed their Entry 3, Level 1 or Level 2 ICT qualification, this is something that will benefit them when they start to think about further education and employment.





Food Technology

This year we have made a variety dishes that have included meat, fish, poultry and vegetables. We have also included butchery skills learning how to spatchcock a chicken and filleting a chicken. As part of our hospitality studies we visited BaHa cocktail bar and the Lakeview garden in Bowness to research the hospitality sector and job opportunities that are available.

All our pupils have gained skills blending different ingredients, experimenting with flavours and also knowledge with some of our pupils achieving level 1 Certificate in Food Hygiene.



During our food technology journey we have completed a wide variety patisserie products which have included profiteroles with cream and chocolate sauce, bread products such as cinnamon swirls and bread loaves. All our pupils have enjoyed making all things sweet and parents and carers have enjoyed these once they arrived home (that's if it didn't get eaten on the way home!)





Land Based

During the year, we have been growing a variety of plants from seeds, bulbs and cuttings. This year our planting has included garlic, onions, potatoes, broad beans and nasturtiums – all of which are edible. Learners have created planters using old tyres and have made biodegradable seed pots. We also needed to maintain and manage the garden area, and learners have been weeding, using secateurs to clear woody growth, and have made bird feeders and bird boxes for the local wildlife to enjoy. More recently, we have been designing garden tables using old cable reels, where learners have created their own designs and logos to decorate them with – eventually, these will be used in our BBQ area.





PSHE

This year, our pupils have had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities that will help prepare them for life outside and after school. We cover a number of topics, some of which are fun, and others which are quite serious. We started the year looking at stress and stress management, as we recognised that many young people were struggling after 2 years of Covid. Our learners identified the things that cause them stress, and we found ways to help them manage their own individual stresses – many of them talked about peer pressure and bullying outside school, so we used the ICT classes to carry out further research on how to access Mental Health support, and we also looked at online safety.

Another theme that our learners wanted support around was how to develop healthy lifestyles, which included personal hygiene, sexual health and healthy eating – including a session making fruit smoothies and planning a healthy meal which they were able to cook with Andy. Another activity which included food was to celebrate Chinese New Year, where we made fortune cookies (and ate them!) and our learners were taught how to write their names in Mandarin.

One of the issues which was more serious, looked at ways to reduce risk-taking behaviour which included staying safe when out with friends, road safety and several sessions on sexual health and drug education.

We've also had a number of guest speakers, from organisations that we work closely with – including Hope Fogg, from Kendal College who came to talk about Further Education options and careers; David Morris, from Cumbria Sexual Health Services; Jon Hill from the Cyber and Digital Crime Unit (at Cumbria Police) and PC Gillian Jackson, who came and talked about Hate Crime and its impact.

In PSHE we try and raise money for different charities, we often run fun workshops or activities for Children in Need and Comic Relief.

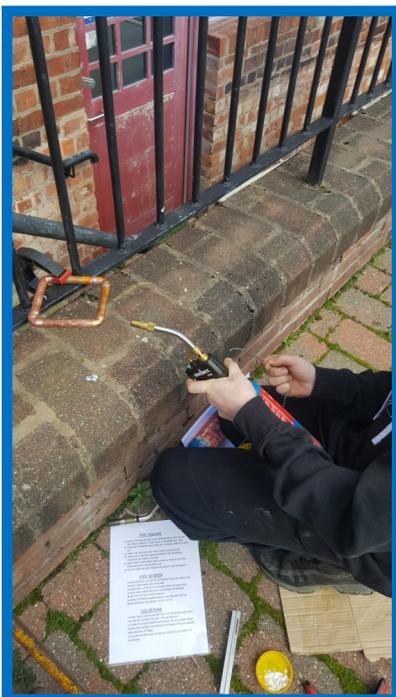




Victoria Hall

There are occasions when some young people would prefer to work off site rather than in situ at school. For this purpose, we have been renting a room at Victoria Hall in Barrow. This has proven to be incredibly successful and we are delighted with the results the students attending there have achieved.

To ensure we can offer an even wider range of accreditation whilst studying there, we will be moving to a larger room over the summer break and installing a kitchenette and a work bay similar to that in school. This approach gives an opportunity to teach life skills as well as concentrating on their academic work. We will be focusing on cooking and food hygiene and looking at helpful everyday home DIY tasks and getting more in depth with electrical and plumbing systems.





Enrichment

Every week, we try and give learners an opportunity to take part in a range of sport or leisure activities, these have included:

Visiting Gym315 in Lancaster, where they each had a fitness plan developed with a personal trainer, using the latest gym equipment and testing their physical fitness. We also regularly visit Kendal Rugby Club where our football team played our first competitive games against Cedar House and winning several over the year.

Our learners have also had to overcome any fear of heights, as we have taken them to XHeight at Salt Ayre in Lancaster, where they participated in a series of height challenges.

Many of our learners really enjoyed the Urban Extreme Experience—a skate park in Barrow, where they were able to use scooters, BMX bikes and skateboards to show off their skills and talents.

We have also tried a number of golfing activities, including Footgolf at Kirby Lonsdale and visiting Kendal Golf Driving Range.





Enrichment

We ventured further afield, visiting Level in Preston where our learners have taken part in LaserQuest and 10-Pin Bowling and just round the corner is Jump Maniax, where they have a large warehouse full of inflatable obstacles and challenges. At the Flower Bowl complex at Barton Grange learners participated in a coaching session in Curling, they were able to play on an Olympic sized rink to use the skills they had been taught. They then enjoyed a game of crazy pool, a game which combines pool with crazy golf and the player who navigates the obstacles to complete each hole in the fewest shots wins. If I remember rightly, many learners got hole in ones!

Recently we have held a crabbing competition at Morecambe, with teams competing against each other for the biggest crab and the most crabs. Team Rico, Tyler T and Tyler Mac won both rounds, in total 45 crabs were caught and returned safely back to the pool.

From time to time staff sometimes bring their dogs into school and both learners and staff enjoy the company of the animals being present in school. Skip, Jasper and Rosie have all experienced a day in the life of SwitchED2 school, they have enjoyed PSHE, English and Maths lessons as well as days out in the forest and on the beach. Jasper is able to do a variety of tricks for treats, Rosie enjoys wandering and sitting on the learner's knees or on their chairs. Skip is a more outdoor pet and likes to chase new faces off the premises.





Journey of a school leaver

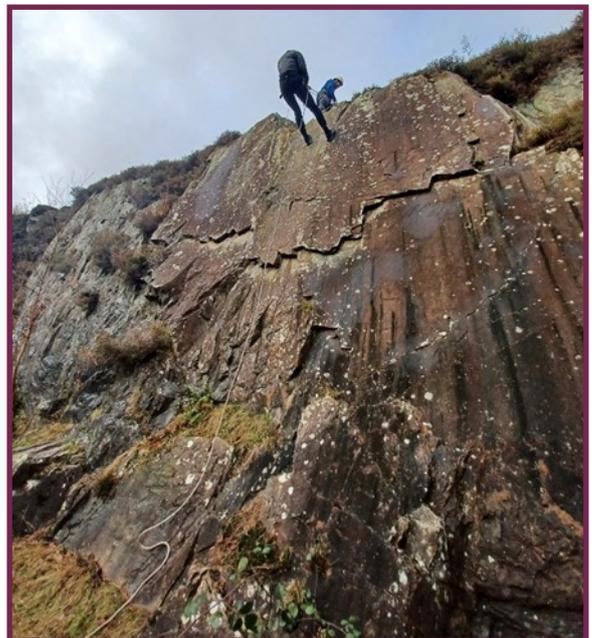
I started at Switched2 almost 4 years ago, when I first started I used to be a quiet individual who preferred my company over the company of other people. I found it daunting to talk to people I had never met before and during school I preferred to be at the back of the classroom where people would not notice me. After just over a year in the nurture cabin it was decided that it would be for the best if I moved into the other cabin. When I first started I was still more comfortable out of the way where people would not be able to notice me.

With the help of Jo and the other teachers in the cabin I started to work on becoming a more confident individual, this was done by me partaking in group discussions and other team activities. After a while I became more confident in talking in a group. At this moment I was happy talking to people I knew however, I still struggled to talk to people I had never met. Over the next few months I worked with Jo to become more confident.





Journey of a school leaver



The staff at Switched2 have helped support me into becoming the person I am meant to be, this person is an independent, mature, confident and sociable young man.

My favourite parts of being at Switched2 are getting to know several great people who I look forward every day to meeting. Out of these people I have made several friends who I will most likely keep in contact with once I leave Switched2. Another great part at Switched 2 was the Outdoor Education, my favourite part was the kayaking, at first I was terrified of open water then after time I realised that for some reason when in the kayak I did not feel like I was in open water, I think this was because I was enclosed in the kayak. The most challenging aspect of Outdoor-Education was the heights; after time I have slowly become more comfortable with heights, I have now abseiled as well taking part in other activities that involved facing my fear of heights.

When I leave Switched2 I will be going to Barrow Sixth Form where I will be doing a BTEC- Applied Science and GCSE Biology.

Tyler Tomlinson



Outdoor Education



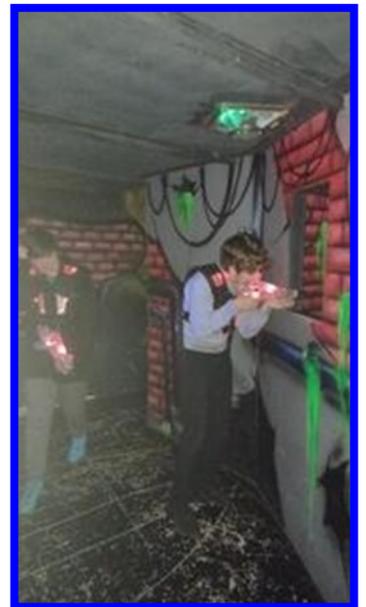
Ahoy there! At the beginning of the year we had lots of fun at Brathay Outdoor Centre on the shores of Windermere. Taking to the water in Kayaks was familiar to many students although Windermere is a little more crowded and choppier than other lakes they have been on, so their skills were put to the test. New to us all were the 'Whaling Boats' that required

good team work and communication skills, the rowers needed to follow instructions from the Captain who had their hand on the tiller. Keeping going through a rain shower was pretty tough but we made it back!

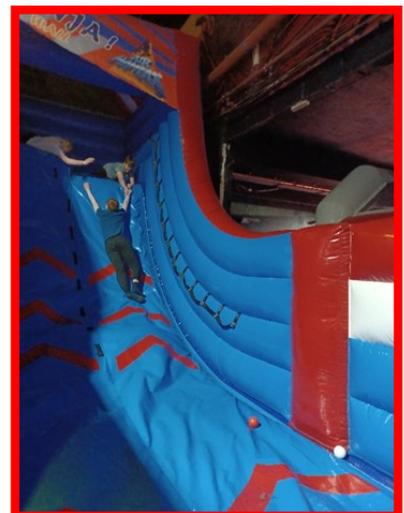
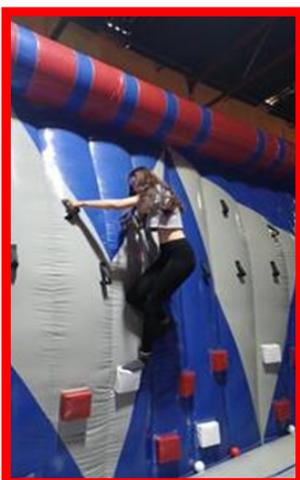




Outdoor Education



Other activities have included climbing, bouldering, ghyll scrambling and for those with a head for heights the high rope course. All students have been physically and mentally stretched with these activities, and when it's rained we've found ways to keep moving with laser quest, bowling, jump maniax, skate park and even curling during the Winter Olympics





Art work by Tyler McCarron





Nurture Cabin

English

In order to encourage written work in the first half term we trialled *Genius Hour* within the cabin. This enabled the pupils to explore their own interests practically and then choose a method to report back on what they had done. The pupils picked something they wanted to have a go at, some examples included balloon modelling, cooking and woodwork, and after doing the activity they then produced a piece of written work to show what they had done. This proved popular amongst the pupils and became a fixed weekly session in the cabin during the first term.

Some pupils have also enjoyed using pictures as prompts for some written work and this has been extremely successful and some lovely descriptive pieces of work have been produced.

In order to develop our spelling, punctuation and grammar we have enjoyed playing lots of different games including *Wordle*, *Boggle* and *Hangman*. Games such as *Taboo* have also been enjoyed to promote speaking and listening skills.

Developing a passion for reading has been a big focus and some of the pupils have enjoyed reading a range of stories including; *A Tale Dark and Grimm*, *The Lion Above the Door*, *Malamander* and *The Day I Fell into a Fairytale* whilst others have preferred audiobooks and enjoyed listening to the *Alex Rider* series.



One cold dark misty morning there was a tiny little silver robot all alone and all that can be heard is faint blowing of the wind.

The robot looks confused and just in front of him he sees a strange plant just a little bigger than him.

As he goes to touch plant the wind becomes louder and more powerful and then suddenly the wind stops and the mist clears. The area slowly turns green and the sky turns from dark and miserable to blue and cheery.

Out of nowhere the robot looks behind him and there is a pathway. The robot picks up the plant and starts walking down the path. Who knows what he will find.

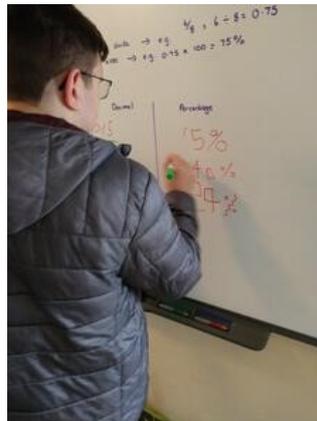
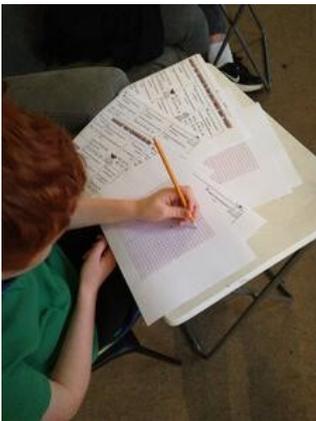


My dream house would float on my own long, white, sunny beach. It would have a 50-metre water slide that starts on the balcony and ends in the luxurious 200 metre swimming pool surrounded by tall, green palm trees. There would be a long, luxury cruiser with security laser cannons anchored on the deep, turquoise sea and there would be a shiny black Porsche 9-11 with red lining.





Nurture Cabin



Maths

We love games and practical activities within the cabin and so have enjoyed developing our mathematical knowledge via this method. We have enjoyed using chalks in the outdoor area to practice multiplication and division, playing Connect 4 to improve our ability to divide whole numbers and decimals and engaged in a game of Trashket Ball to develop our speed when converting fractions, decimals and percentages. Bingo, scavenger hunts and QR quests have been strong favourites and adapted to a variety of different mathematical concepts.

We also enjoy solving mysteries and have worked both individually and within groups to solve escape room type activities based around percentages of amounts and riddles to solve one step equations.

On days when we have not been feeling quite so energetic mazes, pixel art activities and

jigsaw puzzles have been used to ensure we have a secure understanding of the mathematical concepts being taught.





Nurture Cabin

Science

"The important thing is to never stop questioning' - Albert Einstein

Science is an area enjoyed by all pupils within the cabin and everyone is always eager to investigate and question. One unit which has stood out this year was all about animals including humans.

Within the unit we explored the composition of blood and the role it has to play in the human body by making blood smoothies, which actually taster better than we initially thought! We also explored the structure and function of the human heart before creating our own heart sculptures using clay and jelly worms and skittles helped us to understand how nutrients and water are transported throughout our body.

Alongside this unit some of the pupils have also been working towards their Level 1 Award and have designed their own hypothesis to investigate, created their own electromagnet, plotted field lines using a compass and observed reactions between different acids and alkalis.



As stand alone lessons we have enjoyed looking at the chemistry of fireworks and explored, through flame tests, what creates different colours when fireworks are set off.

We have also used iodine to investigate the presence of starch in different foods and drinks. If the food sample turned blue/black when the iodine solution was added, it indicated that starch was present.





Nurture Cabin

Computing

Don't use "beef stew" as a computer password.

It's not stroganoff.

All joking aside the pupils have spent a lot of time discussing the positive and negative impacts of social media and how to keep yourself safe online. Back in February, for Safer Internet Day, we focused specifically on gaming and raised awareness of some of the potential risks associated with chat rooms and instant messaging as well as sensible amounts of time to spend online. We went through some role play situations and discussed differing responses and opinions, which created some very interesting conversations!

Alongside safe internet use we have spent a substantial amount of time using emails and discovering the inbuilt features in email software. All pupils have logged in and out of emails with ease, sent simple emails with a subject plus 'To' and 'From' in the body of the text and edited and typed in the email address correctly to send it to the appropriate individual or group. We discussed using positive language, with an awareness of how it will make the recipient feel. Some pupils have progressed further and used address books, folders to sort emails, created automated emails and set up signatures.

At the start of the year we recapped the features of word processing software and altered margins, added columns, added watermarks and word art to create a piece of inspiring text based art. After we used spreadsheets to support our enterprise project. We used formulas to add up the total cost of the project, calculate the cost per unit and worked out the final cost price. Spreadsheets has also been used to calculate min, max and average values, filter specific information and insert appropriate charts and graphs.





Nurture Cabin



History

The Maya civilisation proved to be an interesting topic and the pupils enjoyed finding out about Maya fashion and they created a feather head dress - the bigger the head dress, the more important you were. They prepared some dishes that the Mayans might have enjoyed such as guacamole, hummus and corn tortillas. They decided that the hot chocolate that we now drink tasted better than the cold, bitter, chocolate drink made with cacao and roasted chilli peppers, that the Mayans drank many years ago.



Geography

This term we have been visiting and looking at the features of rivers, lakes and estuaries in the lake district. We completed the four and a half mile Ingleton Waterfall Trail and enjoyed the woodland scenery and the spectacular waterfalls. We walked up to High dam at Finsthwaite which used to supply the bobbin mill with water in the 1800s.





Nurture Cabin

Art and Design Technology



The pupils designed and constructed a bird box. They started with one piece of wood which they marked out and then cut up skilfully using a saw to the correct sizes. They safely used a hammer and nails to put the pieces together and then painted the completed birdbox.

We have visited the woods at Sizergh Castle and Grizedale forest to look at how shelters have been built and back at school the pupils worked together to modify the school den and make it waterproof. This will be an ongoing project and a place to hide away and share fun times with friends.

The pupils have developed their photography skills and learnt about Macro photography and the American photographer Edward Weston and produced abstract photos of a variety of fruit and vegetables.

Last term the pupils enjoying watching an old cartoon at the start of each art lesson and then they followed a tutorial to create some amazing drawings of cartoon characters.



Cooking

I hope you have enjoyed the many tasty dishes that have been brought home for you to enjoy. The pupils had lots of fun making dough and feeding it through the pasta machine to make long spaghetti and serving it with their own fresh tomato sauce.

They used fresh white fish to make delicious fish fingers (better than Birds Eye!) served with homemade chips. We held a Jubilee party and the pupils prepared sausage rolls and quiches, scones, cakes and cheesecake and a good time was had by everyone.





Nurture Cabin



Forest School

Some members of the nurture cabin have taken part in regular forest school sessions on Ulpha Fell. They have done lots of activities to learn about the natural elements including making fairy sized camp fires and designing parachutes for cliff jumping eggs. There has also been some excellent map reading skills as we hunted for GeoCache at Lindale. Some members of the cabin have completed the Explore stage of the John Muir Award by identifying



flora and fauna that grows in our forest as well as discovering the habitats of the animals that live there.

Outdoor Education



This year we have been visiting Brathay Trust, an activity centre on Windermere, where we have had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of adventurous activities. We have scrambled up Stickle Ghyll, swung and dangled from trees and explored Windermere in canoes and kayaks. A memorable day would be when students demonstrated their team work to battle against the wind and rain in a large group whaler rowing boat to travel down the lake, explore Wray castle and make the return journey in equally challenging weather conditions. Recently some students took part in an adventure day in glorious sunshine, this included a ferry ride across Windermere followed by a mountain bike activity along roads and bridleways. A highlight for many students will be the caving session delivered by Borwick Hall outdoor education centre, we travelled into the Yorkshire Dales to ex-



Term Dates 2022-2023

Term 1 - Autumn 2022

Development Days: Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th September 2022

Term Dates: Wednesday 7th September - Friday 21st October

Autumn Break: Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October

Term 2

Term Dates: Monday 31st October - Tuesday 20th December

Christmas Break: Wednesday 21st December – Monday 2nd January 2023

Term 3 - Spring 2023

Development Day: Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Term Dates: Wednesday 4th January - Friday 17th February

February Break: Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February

Term 4

Term Dates: Monday 27th February – Friday 31st March

Spring Break (inc Easter) : Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April

Term 5 - Summer 2023

Term Dates: Monday 17th April - Friday 26th May

May Day Monday 1st May

May Break: Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June

Term 6

Term Dates: Monday 5th June - Wednesday 19th July

Development Days: Thursday 20th & Friday 21st July 2023

