



2024

Message from Andy

Well what can I say other than I have once again been amazed by the incredible achievements our young people have made, in fact I can say with confidence that they have achieved the highest number of qualifications ever. As you listen to the awards being presented, I'm sure you will agree that they really do deserve a massive amount of recognition and celebration.

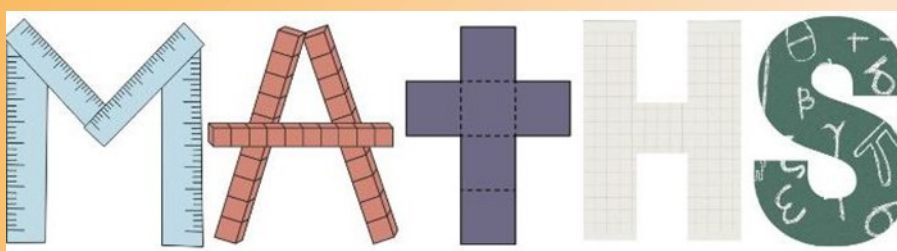
I hope you enjoy this newsletter which will give you a flavour of not only their achievements but also the exciting times they've had and trips they have enjoyed.

Our maths / PSHE teacher Abigail Saxon has decided to opt for a quieter life and is leaving us this Summer. Good luck in your future choices Abigail and thank you for everything you have done for the students here.

That just leaves me to wish all our year 11 leavers the very best of luck for the future whether that is at work or in further education. Remember to stay in touch and let us know how you are getting on.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable summer break and I look forward to seeing the pupils return on Wednesday 4th September.





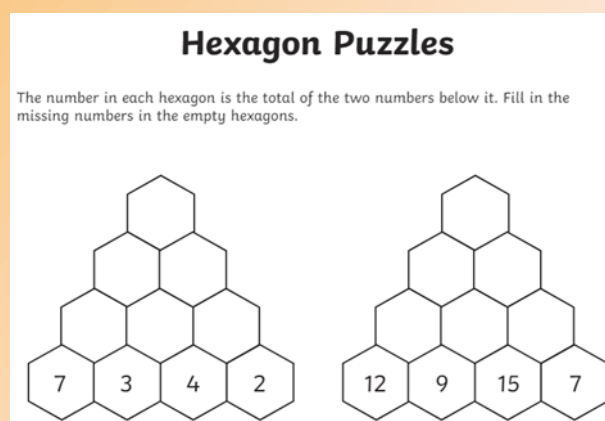
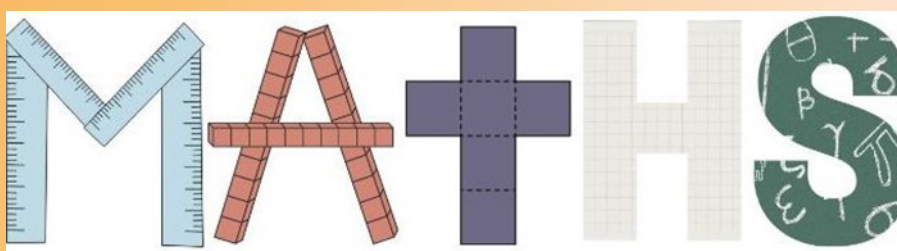
The 16 year old darts champion Luke Littler inspired our maths lessons at the start of the year..... playing darts is a great way to fine tune addition skills and understand what averages are all about. We quickly established that our average scores were nowhere near his – more practice needed!

With all that hard work we needed some pizza – do you want a $\frac{1}{3}$ or a $\frac{1}{4}$? Fractions have been on the maths menu and we've added them, subtracted them, found equivalents and improper ones. Then we spiced it all up by adding in percentages and decimals.....so that $\frac{1}{4}$ pepperoni pizza could be written as 25% or 0.25.

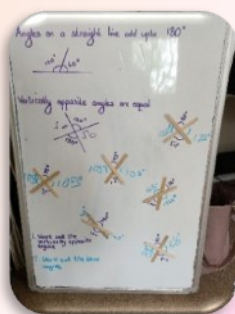
Still on the theme of food we dissected a recipe to find out just how many different units of measurement we use regularly – weighing ingredients, measuring liquids, sizes of cake tins, oven temperatures, cooking times. Maths with a chocolate brownie at the end can't be all bad.

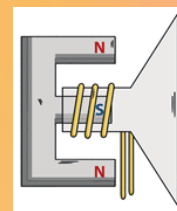
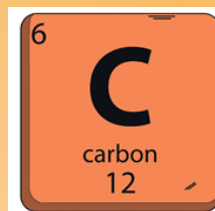
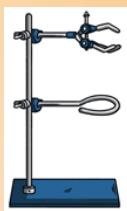
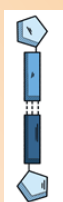
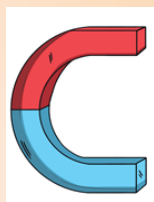
Students have been working hard towards various Open Awards Units and Maths Functional Skills Certificates – well done!





In the nurture cabin this year, the pupils have engaged in a variety of creative and practical activities to enhance their understanding of mathematical concepts. They have explored algebraic equations through interactive games like snakes and ladders, and used fruit to delve into the realms of ratio and algebra. We have also enhanced mental maths skills through engaging in activities such as Countdown, darts, and pool. Additionally, they have probed into geometry by investigating nets through the construction of a model village. Perfecting their protractor skills, pupils have utilised lolly sticks and masking tape, and participated in 3D shape bingo to reinforce their knowledge. Furthermore, they have applied their knowledge practically by using Smarties to create tally and frequency tables, as well as bar and pie charts. It is commendable to see some pupils successfully working towards the Entry Level 3 qualification, demonstrating dedication and progress in their mathematical studies.





How does a scientist freshen their breath? With experi-mints!

The enthusiasm and enjoyment seen in Science over the last year has been contagious and trying to distract the pupils... and staff, from starting the session half an hour early has been the challenge. Across the school pupils have explored topics such as acids and alkalis, light, the universe, electricity and separating mixtures.

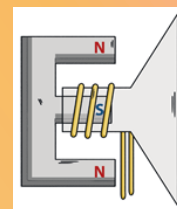
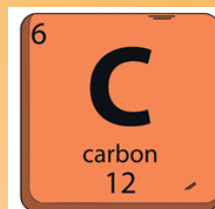
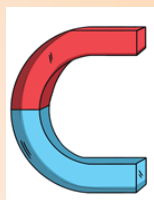
Acids, Alkalis and pH

Pupils have engaged enthusiastically in various scientific experiments this term. They have demonstrated a good understanding of using litmus paper and universal indicator to test substances. Pupils successfully observed the process of crystallisation by creating their own alum crystals. Additionally, they showed curiosity by breaking open geodes. Pupils also effectively neutralised acids and alkalis. Their highlight was constructing rockets, ending the term with an exciting bang.



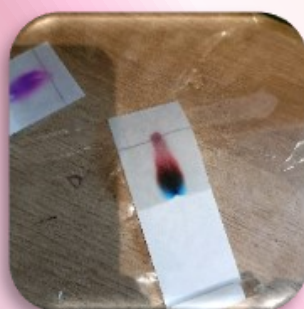
Light and Shadows

Pupils have engaged in various hands-on activities, such as creating shadow puppets, exploring colour perception, and experimenting with ultraviolet light. Pupils also demonstrated their creativity by constructing periscopes and pinhole cameras. Their enthusiasm for practical experiments is commendable.



Exploring the Universe

Pupils have demonstrated creativity by using everyday objects in hands-on experiments, such as using Oreo cookies to study the phases of the moon and creating a fruit model of the solar system. Additionally, pupils used toilet paper to illustrate the relative distances of planets from the sun and explored the concept of day and night through a football activity. Their practical approach to learning has enhanced their understanding of key scientific concepts.



States of matter and separating mixtures

Pupils demonstrated their practical skills by creating a water filtration system and separating salt from rock salt. Additionally, they used chromatography effectively to identify the murderer in a class activity. They also conducted an investigation into the solubility of sugar in water.

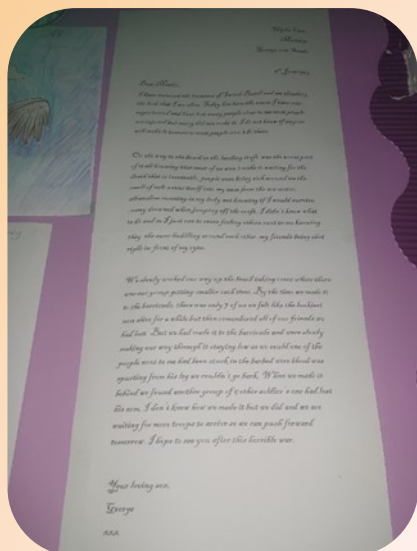
Finally, to end on a bang, all of the pupils have also explored one off sessions making popping Boba, heat and cold packs, made 3D hologram projectors and candle carousels.

English

What a successful year we've had! We have had some fantastic exam results with students passing a range of exam at Entry Level 2, Entry Level 3, Level 1 and Level 2. Over the past year students have taken part in a range of debates including: Banned dog breeds, Vaping, E- scooters, Electric cars, and Knife Crime, and Interview skills. These discussions have helped students gain valuable conversational skills for their Speaking and Listening exams or more importantly College interviews, and job interviews.

Students have developed their writing skills by completing a range of tasks including writing E-mails, formal and informal letters, form filling and job applications. We even ran a "Karen's Café, where the standards were far from perfect, and customer service was poor to say the least! Following on from this, students wrote reviews based on their terrible experiences.

More recently, we have been studying the D Day Landings. Students have enjoyed watching video footage, taking part in defence planning, joining in discussions on what it would be like to be a soldier in the D Day Landings, and wrote letters home to loved ones as a survivor of the beach landings.



Art and Design Technology

The students started their art and crafts project in the nurture cabin with a visit to the Beatrix Potter attraction in Bowness. The scenes and characters were magical and back at school the students were inspired further by the Beatrix Potter books. They created some fantastic figures from air dry clay and then decided to plan a Beatrix Potter themed afternoon tea for the staff and students from the other cabin. This turned out to be a really enjoyable, sociable afternoon sharing homemade sandwiches, cupcakes and luxury hot chocolates with all the trimmings.



The students started their DT project by researching famous clocks from around the world, this gave them some ideas for designing their own clock. They made a detailed plan which they followed step by step, demonstrating how to use appropriate tools in a safe manner. The end result was a fully working, painted and varnished clock, which I hope made it to their bedroom wall.



Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education went indoors at the start of the year with LazerQuest, Jump Maniacs, and pool at Squires. Students kept active and on the move out of the cold and wet and enjoyed team and individual challenges.

A wet spring didn't stop play and we have been outdoors making use of 4 different centres around Windermere - the YMCA, Ghyll Head, Tower Wood and Windermere Outdoor Centre. In addition Main Cabin students took part in sessions with MT Adventures in and around Coniston. While on dry land, activities have included raft building, assault courses, archery, tubing and firing off some spectacular water rockets! Students have climbed to dizzying heights, leapt into space, whizzed down zip wires and scrambled up ghylls—generally stretching themselves both physically and mentally.

On the water kayaking, canoeing and paddle boarding have been the main methods of transport with students developing skills and stamina. After all that physical hard work a bit of time was spent improving their driving skills by working on motorboat driving qualifications.

Working with a range of instructors, using safety equipment such as harnesses and helmets, squeezing in and out of wetsuits have all been part of the learning experience.



Students should feel proud of what they have achieved this year!



Victoria Hall

We have had a great year at Victoria Hall, with all students smashing their work, not only in record time, but also to a very high standard.

Qualifications achieved have included:

- ◆ Entry Level 3 Diploma in Skills for Learning and Employment
- ◆ Level 1 Diploma in Skills for Learning and Employment
- ◆ Level 1 Science
- ◆ Entry Level 3 ICT
- ◆ Functional skills in English
- ◆ Functional skills in maths

In the last half term, Victoria Hall students took on the challenge of becoming scientists for a few weeks. This involved completing practical science experiments which included testing 5 different types of materials to insulate a beaker to see which is the most effective in keeping the water hot, to using chemicals to test acids and alkaline and finally looking into how to keep a healthy lifestyle.



We have also looked at many PSHE units including budgeting, with a few of the student's eyes being opened to the reality of how much you have coming in, to what leaves your bank account on a monthly basis, which sadly for some parents has resulted in a couple of students deciding the best option is just to stay at home!

Enrichment trips this half term have included a quick trip over to Piel Island which is about 1/2 mile off the southern tip of the Furness peninsula on the smallest boat imaginable and a successful day out Go karting (bringing out the competitive side in both students and staff).

Outreach

Outreach support has taken a variety of forms throughout the year.

Students have been supported from both mainstream primary and secondary schools with some transitioning to SwitchED2. This has also given students time and support to becoming full time members of the SwitchED2 School Community.

The majority of the Outreach is on a 1:1 basis with one student receiving a bespoke package in Kendal where he has achieved Level 1 Functional Skills in maths and English and has also sat Level 2 maths (we are awaiting that result!) There have also been occasions when students have worked together for mutual benefit. After getting to meet students, a bespoke package of support is tailored to meet individual needs and interests. This is to build self confidence, self-esteem and the ability to manage themselves in a variety of social situations. Outreach has provided support for students who experience difficulty with social anxiety, encouraging them to spend time out of the house.

Cooking has been a very popular activity with students. This has taken place in both their mainstream school, at SwitchED2 and outdoors cooking on a fire pit on the shores of Lake Coniston. They have made a variety of dishes including calzones, chocolate cake, homemade crumpets, waffles, pancakes, English breakfast, popcorn and many other things.

I have worked with one student for over a year. It was very clear from day one that he enjoyed and showed a natural ability to ball sports. We started off playing foot golf and this progressed into hitting golf balls at a driving range. He showed a natural talent to a new sport, after a couple of months he started having golf lessons with a professional. He is very keen and has made remarkable progress. He has become a very proficient golfer. He has been able to transfer all of his skills to playing a full round of golf on a course very successfully.



Vocational Studies

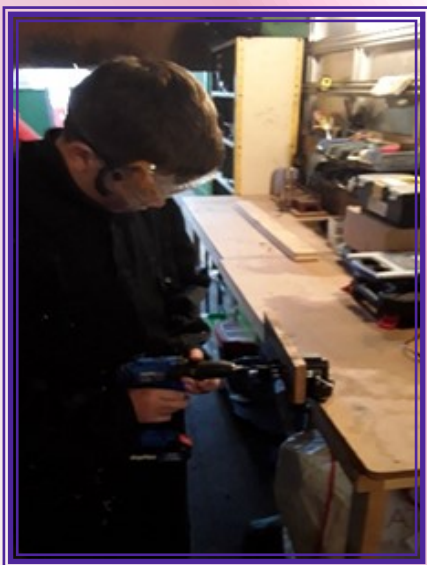
This year the students have looked at various different aspects of their vocational studies from motor vehicle tasks to practising their woodwork skills.

All students have been involved in the weekly upkeep of our small vehicle fleet helping to ensure all tyres are checked for condition and pressure and making all relevant fluids are topped up accordingly.

The students have all played their parts in helping to construct a wooden chill out area, by breaking donated pallets and accurately measuring and cutting pieces to length before sanding, painting and fixing with electric power tools.

Some of the students took their skills even further and were able to build a 3 tier brick wall demonstrating good working practice by keeping their work stations clean and safe at all times.

For those that are with us next year we will be continuing with motor vehicle tasks and will be able to credit this with the completion of unit work, for those sadly moving on it has been a pleasure working alongside you and good luck for the future.



ICT

This year, students in the nurture cabin have explored using application software, kicking off with game designing on scratch, students were tasked with creating a game from concept to the finished product. To do this, they needed to look at coding and their functions, character and back drop design, objective setting, and much more resulting in some impressive and imaginative games being created.

From there they looked at excel software, delving into all the different functions and sums we can do and the scenarios we might need. Then we used this new found knowledge to do some problem solving, from helping to keep a project in budget to organising sports events results the - students have shown impressive comprehension!



In the KS4 cabin, students this year have made fantastic progress and achievements in their ICT. They have learnt a lot about ICT for personal use from e-safety to email and input devices, engaging in a range of different computer technology skills. We have had fun using different apps and software. Students have learned some code to make functioning animations and games, from hidden animal challenges to disco divas. We looked at Kahoots, with students choosing from a plethora of random themes creating weird and wacky quizzes which the whole school have enjoyed playing and testing their general knowledge. They have also explored QR codes, using them for real life application by participating in a scavenger hunt, finishing off with them making their own.



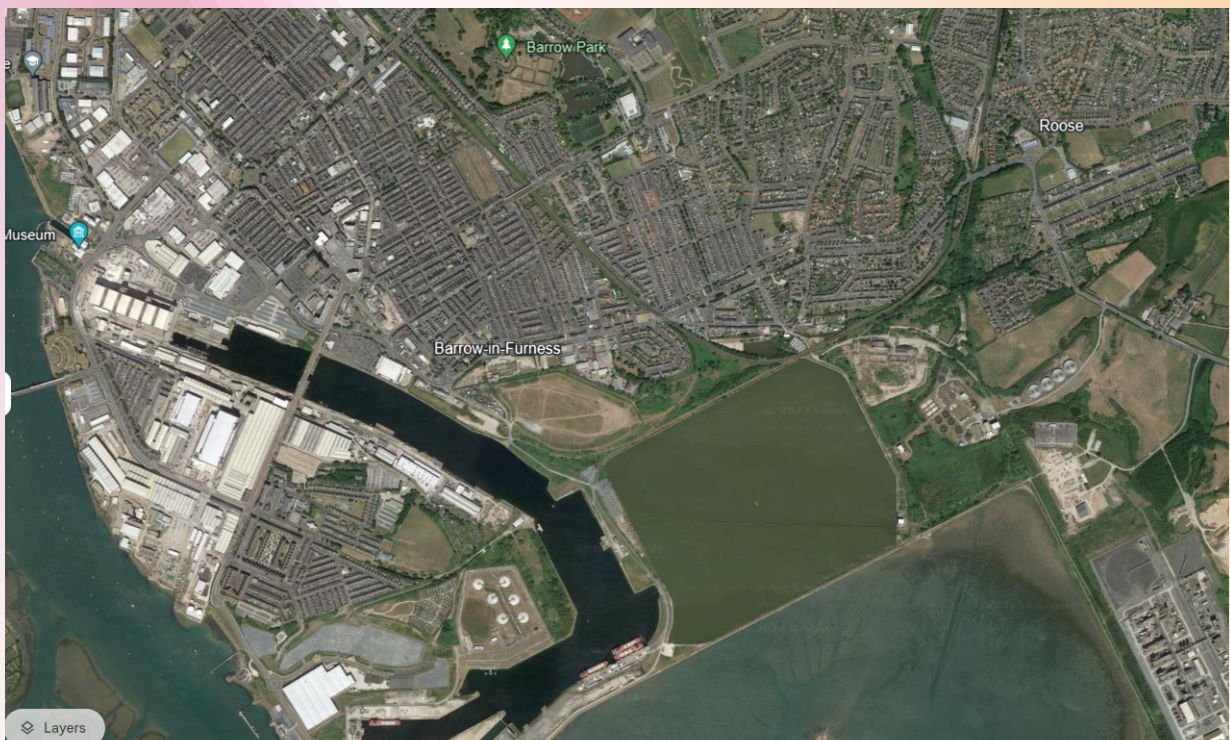
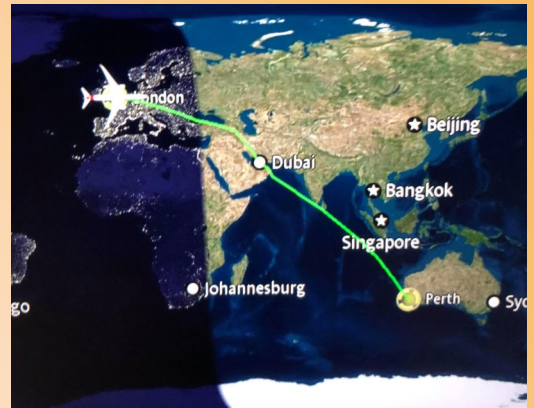
GEOGRAPHY

In the nurture cabin this term, we planned a trip to Australia, working out the flight path and time it would take to fly there—non stop it would take 17 hours!

On arrival in Sydney the students planned a campervan trip along the Gold Coast, choosing famous landmarks and beaches they would visit.

We completed a project on the largest continent Africa and the 50 countries it is made up of and the oceans that surround it. The students chose animals to research and located which African country they could be found in.

Nearer to home, we have used local maps to locate our school and homes and some students were surprised to find photos of their homes on Google Earth and then spent ages following the roads to their local shops and parks. One of our students planned a visit to a local attraction as part of his unit work and his trip to Laser Quest in Barrow was enjoyed by the other students in the cabin, especially finishing off with lunch at KFC.

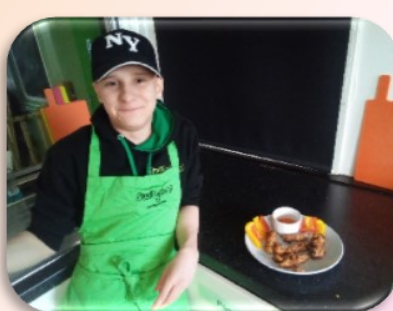




Throughout the academic year, pupils have been fully engaged in honing their culinary skills within the Catering curriculum. They have dedicated their time to mastering various techniques, such as pasta and pastry making, as well as developing the precise knife skills essential for preparing vegetables in Chinese cuisine and intricate piping techniques.

The pupils' repertoire of dishes is impressive, ranging from traditional Italian fare like cannelloni and carbonara to more exotic options such as chicken curry and egg fried rice. Additionally, they have created comforting classics like risotto and macaroni cheese. For those with a sweet tooth, pupils have showcased their baking prowess by creating delectable treats like chocolate cake, lemon drizzle, apple pies, and profiteroles. We can only hope that some of these delicious creations made it home for families to enjoy!

In addition to the practical aspects of the course, we have also delved into essential topics such as food safety and storage, various cooking techniques, and the significance of maintaining a balanced diet. Moreover, some pupils' enthusiasm for culinary excellence has not gone unnoticed during lunchtimes, where they have eagerly embraced the role of a sous chef. Their dedication to refining their skills in the kitchen has made meal preparation smoother.



catering

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

slow cooked pork	carbohydrates	jelly babies	deep fry
burgers	chicken	custard	fajitas
cheese	flambe	gratin	potato
soufle	sweets	broil	layer
roast	sushi	boil	fry
KFC			



In the nurture cabin last term we focused on healthy eating, we discovered that using Greek yogurt as a healthy alternative doesn't always make the best cakes and muffins, but it does make the most delicious frozen berry yogurt bark.

Hopefully you will have been saved from making tea at home a couple of evenings and been surprised with tasty pepperoni pasta and margherita pizza. The students have produced a variety of sweet treats including rainbow cupcakes, pineapple upside down pudding, chocolate fridge cake and an all-time favourite, Victoria sponge cake.



PSHE

This year our pupils have had the chance to take part in a wide range of activities that will help prepare them for life in and out of school. We cover a range of topics, some fun others quite serious giving students a chance to reflect on matters that concern them. Both cabins cover similar subjects but tailored to suit their age and maturity.

A unit on alcohol awareness gave students the chance to thoroughly examine empty cans and bottles to see how the alcohol content varies, the number of calories drinks contain and what non-alcoholic alternatives are available. We also considered how alcohol can impact a person's mental as well as physical health.

In a unit on sex and relationships the importance of consent, how to form healthy relationships, contraception and different sexual lifestyles were covered. Students responded to these sessions with a mix of embarrassment, humour and maturity!

Personal care & hygiene, healthy eating were also covered.

With an election called we spent some sessions finding out how the British parliament works, what the different political parties stand for with debates about some of the issues - Conservative plans for National Service weren't that popular!

In PSHE we also try and think how we can help other people and Red Nose Day is always a highlight with the whole school enjoys doing silly things for money as can be seen below!



Animal studies

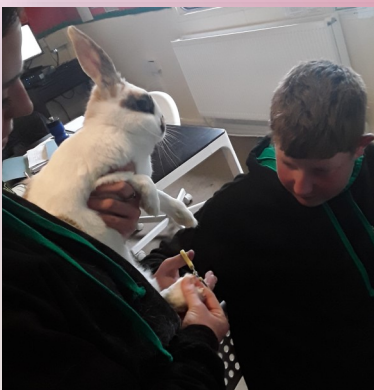
Animal studies in the nurture cabin started with looking at our resident furry friends (the rabbits), we looked at how to check they were healthy and how to clean out their enclosure. We then looked at all the needs of different pets and which one would suit us according to where we lived and what we do. Then the students created a shopping list on what they would need to buy their perfect pet.

Another project involved dissecting some owl pellets to see what they had for dinner! This helped us with a greater understanding on the food chain and where all the levels get their energy from to move and grow! This helped us explore not only the local wildlife's food chains, but even some exotic animals!

The students in the main cabin have taken a peek at the 'behind the scenes of the animal kingdom'. Looking at the food web, they considered the ecosystem around us, the sea and even the desert. We have also been looking at anatomy and physiology from skeletons to fur and scales! Students have stormed through their unit working, the focus being on small animals. They have practiced good handling skills by completing health checks on our resident rabbits, and undertaking full grooms.



Students have explored opportunities in animal care and an array of commercial aspects to animal care including how to maintain an animal enclosure and keep it clean, not every one was as keen to do this job!



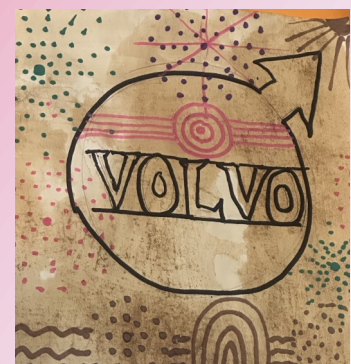
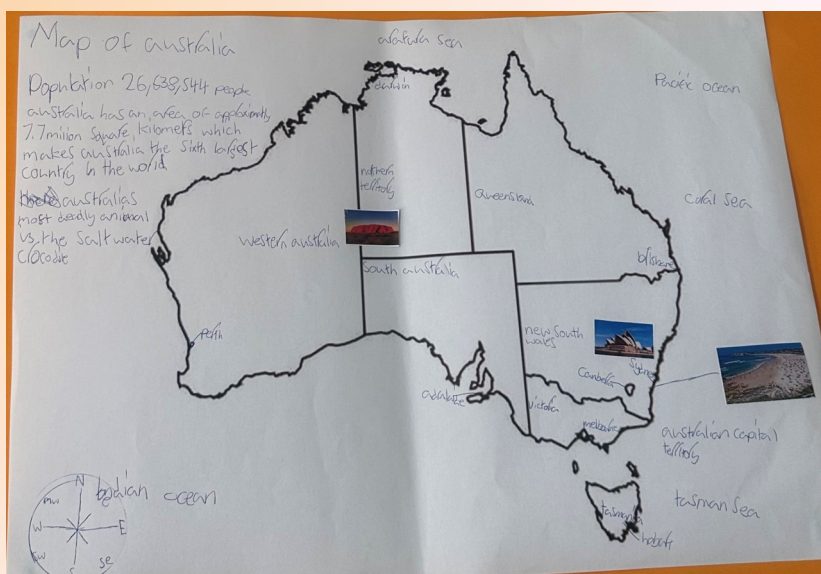
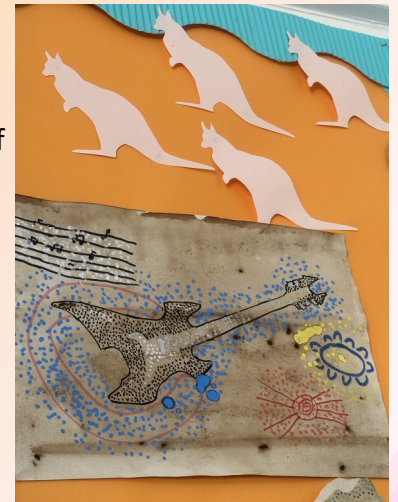
Humanities

To start the year off we explored art. Students looked at a broad range of artists and explored an array of different artistic techniques. This gave them skills to make some amazing artwork they were more than proud to show off.

We then looked at accessing the countryside. We worked on our map reading techniques exploring the local area identifying key places on the map. They then successfully plotted a route to an average walking speed and duration—not that easiest task with just a ruler and piece of string!

One country students ventured to was Australia where they looked at a variety of aspects of the country. This included learning about convicts and the crimes they committed to get their one-way ticket to Australia. They have also looked at places of importance and where they are in the country.

The project ended with them completing their own original artwork.



Enrichment

The students have been to different venues in order to engage in a variety of sports.

On the wet and cold days, students have been in the local sports hall, but on the dry sunny days they have taken full advantage of being out in the sunshine at the local parks and rugby centre.

They have enjoyed playing lots of different PE style games working on hand eye co-ordination, balance, special and tactical awareness, strength, speed, agility, reaction time and decision making.

Sports that students have engaged in and have included:

- ♦ Football
- ♦ Basketball
- ♦ Rugby
- ♦ Cricket
- ♦ Ultimate Frisbee.

When working individually the pupils have been learning important fundamental skills, but the real value has been when they have worked in teams showing great skills in sharing equipment and working together to develop their communication, confidence and co-operation skills.

In the nurture cabin, the students have enjoyed improving their general fitness on Tuesday afternoons when we have visited local parks and attractions to play tennis, ball games, complete assault courses, follow woodland trails and used outdoor exercise equipment.



Enterprise

Over the past year students have been busy preparing for our Christmas Sale by making a range of products from upcycled materials such as: signs, wooden snowmen, light up bottles, dog toys, and enhancement mats. In addition to this some students enjoyed creating a range of bath bombs and designed labels and packaging making sure all ingredients were listed in order to safely sell these to the general public at our Christmas Sale.

During the spring term, students took on the challenge of completing a project. After discussing a range of projects they could undertake the decision was made to create bird boxes. The team were split up into job roles including,

- ◆ Purchasing
- ◆ Marketing,
- ◆ Production
- ◆ and finance.

Students researched a range of websites to find a suitable and simple design for a bird box and learnt that different breeds of birds required different sized flight holes. After an initial spend of £54 on wood and screws the students began the production. By the end of half term students had made a total of 15 bird boxes and managed to sell them all earning a profit of £70! Thank you to all parents who supported this project, we look forward to hearing any nesting stories you may have.



2024—2025 Term Dates

Term 1 - Autumn 2024

Term Dates: Wednesday 4th September - Friday 25th October
Autumn Break: Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November

Term 2

Term Dates: Monday 4th November - Friday 20th December
Christmas Break: Monday 23rd December – Monday 6th January

Term 3 - Spring 2025

Term Dates: Tuesday 7th January - Friday 14th February
February Break: Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

Term 4

Term Dates: Monday 24th February – Friday 4th April
Spring Break: Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April

Term 5 - Summer 2025

Term Dates: Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 23rd May
May Day - Monday 5th May
May Break: Monday 26th May - Friday 30th June



Term 6

Term Dates: Monday 2nd June - Friday 18th July

**We wish you all a very safe and happy summer
and we look forward to welcoming our young people back in school
on Wednesday 4th September**

Another piece of amazing freehand artwork by
our resident artist Ruben Atkinson—yr 8

