



Serenity School Coulsdon Spring Newsletter





Spring Term at Serenity: A Season of Growth and Achievement

As we bid farewell to another busy and productive Spring term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the highlights, achievements, and areas where we can continue to improve.

This term has been packed with excitement, from our adventurous trips to Stubbers Adventure Centre and Flip Out to our fantastic World Book Day celebration—huge thanks to all the parents who joined to read to their child's classes! Staff and students also took time to celebrate World Happiness Day (more on this later).

Academically, our students are making fantastic progress: 93% are on track in their academic subjects, and 76% are on course to achieve Silver or above in their Investor in Me Award. An impressive 80% are on track to meet their 12 IEP targets, demonstrating real dedication and perseverance.

Beyond the numbers, I have been particularly touched by the kindness and empathy shown by many of our students. A special shoutout to Will M and Declan H, who truly embodied our Serenity value of 'We look after each other'—one by cheering up a classmate who was feeling down, and the other by helping a peer on a trip. These small acts of kindness make a big difference and are a testament to the strong sense of community we foster at Serenity.

Attendance: Every School Day Matters While some students have achieved fantastic 100% attendance, overall, attendance across the school is slipping. We need every student here every day to ensure they reach their full potential. Let's make the Summer term one of full classrooms and engaged learning!

Homework: A Huge Improvement, But Let's Aim Higher The progress in reading has been remarkable: in September, only 4% of students were on track with their reading challenge—by March, that number had soared to 69%! But we can do even better. Please support your child in spending at least 45 minutes each week on Myon and Freckle. Reading is key to success, and remember, only those achieving Gold in their Investor in Me Award will qualify for the residential trip.

MyChildAtSchool: Stay Informed Thank you to all the parents who have persevered with logging on to MyChildAtSchool, despite its challenges. This platform provides a wealth of information on your child's school life—attendance, behaviour, and homework success. If you're not checking it regularly, you're missing out on key updates and opportunities to support your child's progress.

As we head into the Summer term, let's keep the momentum going. With full attendance, continued dedication, and a focus on reading, I have no doubt we will finish the school year on a high. Wishing all of our students and families a restful break and looking forward to an even more successful term ahead!

Kind regards,

Jody Tranter MA NPQH

Head Teacher



Highest Attendance Spring Term - 100%



As you all know, **every school day matters**, as evidenced by the recent government report: [The impact of school absence on lifetime earnings - GOV.UK](#). [The](#) below pupils and families are giving school attendance the emphasis it deserves. Well done to all of the below pupils (and their grownups) for this achievement:

- *Divin*
- *Tyler*
- *Ibby*
- *Walid*
- *Kamal*
- *Leala*
- *Aathi*
- *Christiane*

Well done to the above students for achieving 100% attendance!

International Day of Happiness



Day of Happiness is celebrated on 20 March. It was set up by the United Nations (UN) in 2013 as a day to celebrate the things that make people all over the world happy.

We believe that happy students leads to a sense of belonging and safety. They are more likely to be engaged in their learning and motivated to achieve their goals.

Our activities for the day included a tutor discussion where students were able to hear and share ideas about happiness, a happiness quiz and ice creams for all!

Our Activities

Students voted on who they considered to be the happiest in their classes. Lots of names were put forward.

Students were asked who were the happiest members of our staff teams. I'm pleased to say that 19 different members of staff were named as being happy! I guess we are doing something right.

Students were asked what makes them happy. Answers included sunshine, friends, food, money, music, art, and care as well as Benny - our school dog.

And finally, students were asked to research which countries were the happiest. Finland was identified as being the happiest followed by France and Jamaica. Research says that Finland is ranked as the happiest country in the world for the eighth year running, with the UK coming in at 23rd.

Mrs P Dawson

Deputy Headteacher







Classroom News



Rowan

We have been very busy in school during this term.

During Communication and Literacy time, we worked on giving simple messages and practiced preparing some cards with simple wishes for occasions such as St Patrick's Day, Ramadan and Mother's Day.

Similarly, for World About Me, we learned more about those celebrations and even more, watching videos, selecting the pictures and customs of our liking and by creating relevant artwork.

We continued with creating art during our Art sessions, by experimenting with materials, colours and their effects, following the instructions of our tutor and impressing him with our good work.

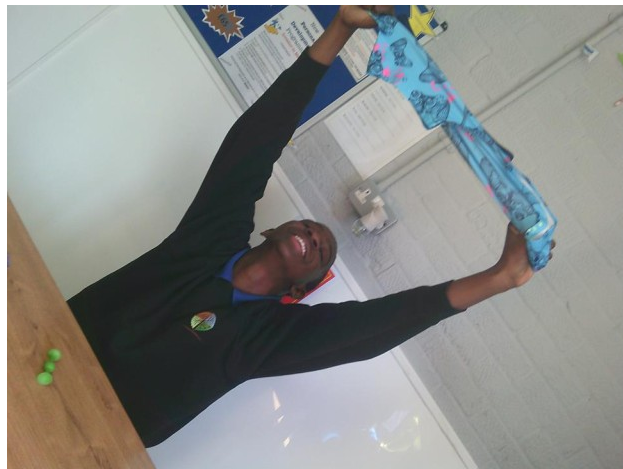
For Thinking and problem Solving we worked with numbers and their use, as well as practicing adding and subtracting them on paper.

Furthermore, we worked on preparing simple meals during our Independence-Cooking sessions, such as pancakes, wraps, fruit salads and biscuits, which we enjoyed.

Our PE sessions were enjoyable too, following our tutors' instructions at the gym hall to play together using balls and other equipment, as well as in class by taking part in bowling games, taking turns among ourselves.

We also like our Music and Dance sessions, listening to a variety of music instruments and their sounds and experimenting with our dance to various rhythms.

Mr Dafkos



Olive

In Olive we learned about how to gain the attention of another person, and how to engage in a declarative 'conversation' with another, such as sharing ideas, thoughts, feelings with another person.

In art we learned about paintings and sculptures. In cooking we learned how to open a can, use an electric whisk and use a pan, and how to sort and classify foodstuffs. In Independence lessons we mastered how to clean teeth with no toothbrush, how to Independently charge a tablet and phone

We also learned about forming relationships.

Ms Sharyar









Walnut

Walnut Class has been working incredibly hard this term across all subjects!

In Problem-Solving, we explored creative ways to brush our teeth without a toothbrush and learned how to charge tablets and phones. In Communication, we focused on turn-taking in conversations, and in Independence, we practiced making healthy food choices.

The photos show us preparing a delicious and colourful fruit salad — a fun and nutritious way to apply our learning!

Ms Burke





Pine

In Pine Class this term, we've had a busy and exciting time with a variety of learning activities.

We explored forces by studying how different objects move on various surfaces, even timing their movement to compare speed. We also created our own tactile map of the school, with each student choosing items to represent different areas.

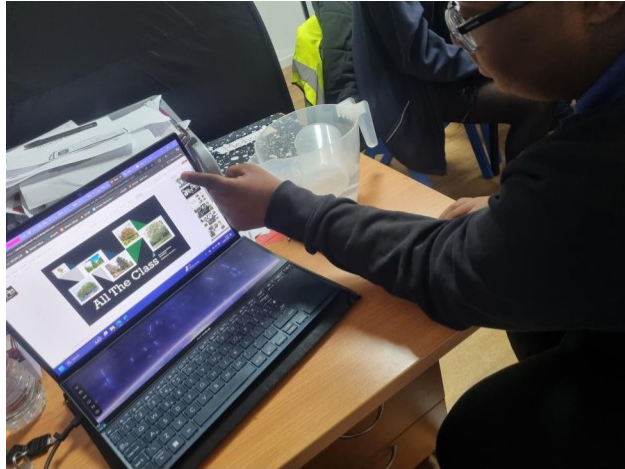
In art, we experimented with abstract techniques and controlled splatters, while also learning about cultural differences in jewellery and creating our own beads from flour, salt, and water.

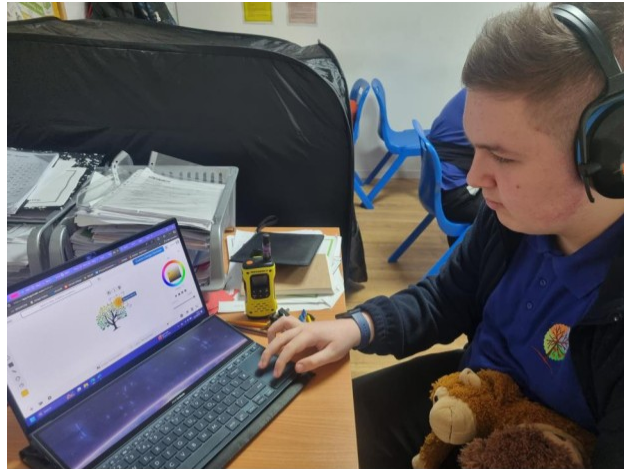
We worked together to produce a nurture-specific newsletter with input from all five nurture classes, sharing everyone's opinions.

We also designed logos and labels for food, and delved into the human body, learning about organs, bones, and their functions. It's been a productive and fun term filled with creativity and learning!

Ms Kovacs









Maple

At Serenity, we place great importance on nurturing globally-minded children. This term, we celebrated both International Happiness Day and Career Day, reinforcing our commitment to cultivating a positive and forward-thinking mindset in our students. It was heart-warming to see them engaging in these global celebrations with such enthusiasm, showing their growing awareness of the world around them

Another highlight of the term was our participation in World Book Week. Maple students took part in the event with full zeal and zest, showcasing their love for reading and their creativity. It's always a joy to witness the excitement and passion our pupils have for books and stories.

We began this term by revisiting key concepts from previous terms, ensuring that everyone was on solid ground before diving deeper into new material. To reinforce these concepts, we integrated ICT lessons into our curriculum, allowing students to research, explore, and complete tasks independently. This not only helped deepen their understanding of the subject matter but also empowered them with valuable 21st-century skills, preparing them for a future of digital literacy and independent learning.

In addition to academic milestones, there were also some fun, rewarding trips for those who earned them through their dedication and hard work. These trips were a fantastic way for students to experience learning outside the classroom, fostering teamwork and a sense of adventure.

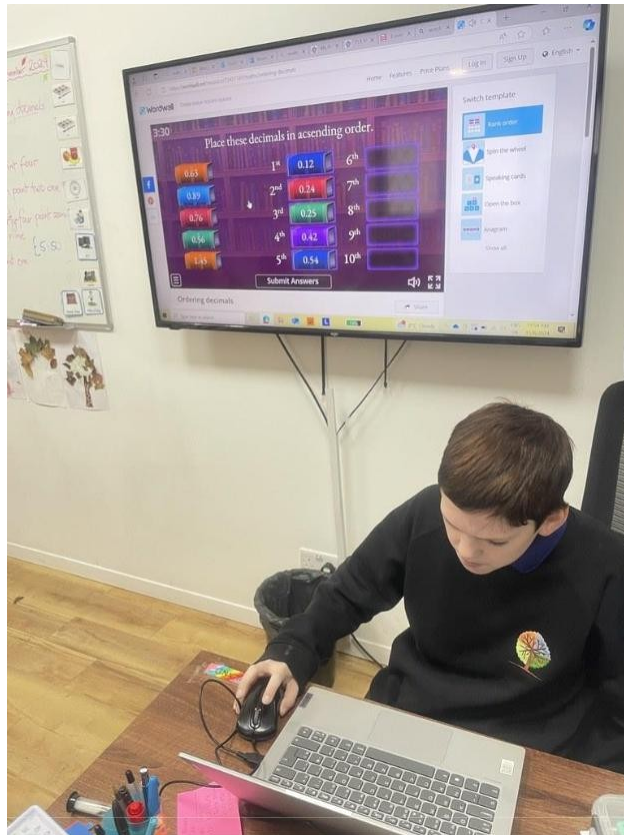
As we look forward to the next term, we are excited for all the potential our students will continue to unlock. We encourage everyone to aim higher, challenge themselves, and raise the bar even further. Together, we will continue to grow and achieve great things in the term ahead.

Ms Umar









Elm

It was lovely to be able to welcome new student Declan to our class, he has made a good start. Charlotte is now one of our student councillors and did such a good job of leading the Semi Formal Assembly one afternoon, that the Deputy Head Ms Dawson said she can leave it in the capable hands of the students from now on. Joshua, our other student councillor has also done a great job feeding back students' ideas and suggestions at student council meetings.

All students have improved tremendously with their homework in Freckle and My On and in their weekly spelling tests. Often getting nine out of ten or full marks. All participated really well in World Book Day dressing up as a book character and participating in activities such as writing a story and designing a book cover.

Charmaine and Kye completed Mock exam papers in English and Maths and did very well. They will sit the actual Functional Skills exams in the Summer Term and we are rooting for them to do well.

Charlotte, Jacob, Tyrese and Kye all had full attendance this half term and have been invited to a multi-activity school trip to Stubbers in Essex. All of them enjoyed the trip and would love to

return soon! Richie also received an award for most improved student, while Ralph won an award for most improved handwriting.

Ms Wilson



Sapling

We loved seeing the animals in animal therapy this term, including the flapping chickens and the baby lambs.

In forest school we grew herbs, climbed trees and helped build a greenhouse and compost bin.

In English we have loved doing our suspenseful story project .

It has been fun to go outside as a whole class during lessons, we have been doing practical activities in classes like PSD and SL.

In February we also visited Hever Castle, the childhood home of Ann Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII. We loved the trip and would love to return!

Ms Land



Sycamore

Sycamore Class have had a brilliant term. They have tried hard in all lessons, doing things such as building their own shapes in Maths with clay, and evaluating how environmentally friendly our school is for PSHE. The class have enjoyed reading *Boy In The Tower*, also having debates and discussions during English.

As a reward for all of their effort, we went to the Bowling Alley, followed by the Arcade. We started at the lanes, where everyone eagerly chose their bowling balls, splitting into teams of students vs staff.. In the Arcade we tried everything from Mario Kart to air hockey, and even tested our skills with claw machines. The day was filled with lots of energy, teamwork, and friendly rivalry, making it a memorable trip for all.

Ms Payne





A note from Ms Noble, English/Humanities teacher and Oak Tutor

English

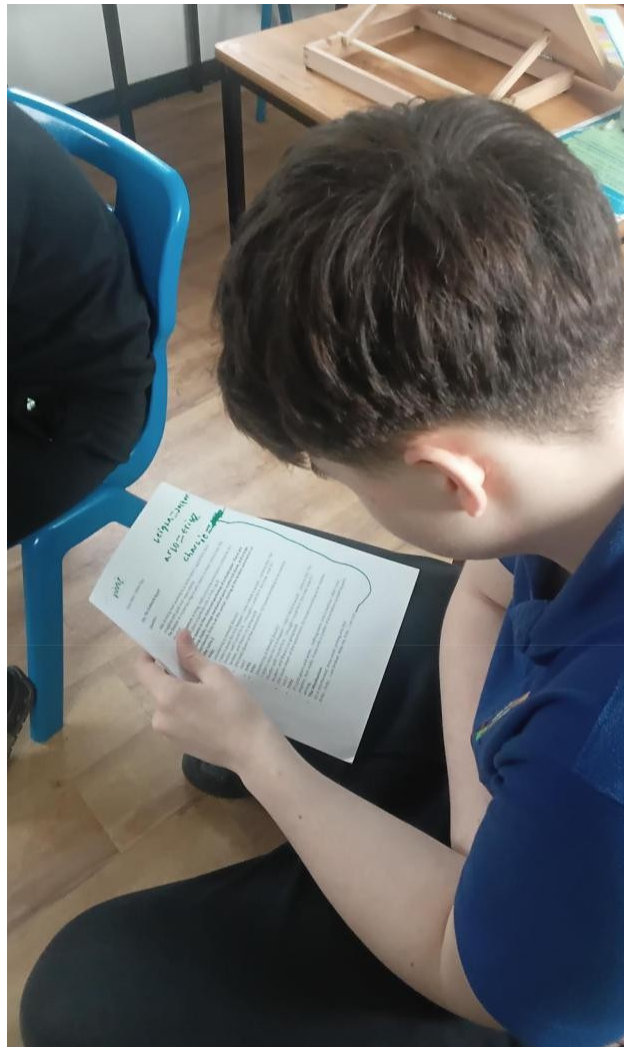
Chestnut/Oak - We have been reading the text: *Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen, a story of mystery, mental health and suspense. I would like to mention a particular student, William Monkhouse, who has progressed academically and continues to build a positive relationship with staff.

Willow - We have been reading the text: *Clockwork* by Phillip Pullman. I wrote a short play in March 2025 based on Fritz's story. I encouraged the students to play some of the characters in the text such as: Fritz (Arlo Mirza), The Doctor (Leigha Stone), the Mechanism (Charlie Smith) and the narrators, (Oliver Leamon) and (Kian Kennedy). We had so much fun. Even though students read from the script, some added words/phrases to make the characters they were playing more interesting (and with humour too!)

Humanities

We looked at the topic: Climate Change. I was particularly impressed with the students' knowledge and expertise about this subject. One of the students in Willow, Arlo Mirza, recently

wrote a student government policy about what changes he would like to make. He particularly stressed the importance of government intervention, and how Climate Change should be a priority in order to reduce the public demonstrations seen recently in the news. He stated that people will continue to be affected by the changes in the weather, recycling procedures, pollution and other thought provoking such as banning electric cars and invest in petrol cars. He thought these concerns should take effect immediately!





Forest School

In Forest school we learned about the ecosystem, how to make compost and most importantly we are creating our own vegetable and herb garden! We also planted fruit trees and talked about the importance of trees and plants.

Together we built a greenhouse which taught the children how to work well as part of a team.

This term was full of fun experiences and gaining useful knowledge!

Ms Lukacs



















PE/Sport

This term has been a fantastic one for the PE department, with students making great strides in both practical and theoretical areas of physical education. Our practical sessions focused on hockey, where students worked diligently on developing fundamental skills such as dribbling, passing, and shooting. These skills were then applied to game scenarios, allowing students to showcase their growth and understanding of the sport. It was wonderful to see so much progression across all classes. Later on the focus shifted to basketball. Once again, students honed their basics—passing, dribbling, and shooting—and demonstrated impressive improvement in gameplay and teamwork.

In our theory lessons, students have been equally engaged. Our Level 3 students delved into the Sports Coaching unit, exploring the roles and responsibilities of effective coaching. They studied different learning styles and how these can be applied to athletes in various situations and everyday life. A highlight of their term was planning and confidently delivering their own coaching sessions to younger classes, which they did brilliantly. At Level 2, students have been exploring the Developing Sporting Skills and Tactical Awareness unit. They've learned about skill classification, tactics in sports, the role of technology, the influence of role models and applying KPIs to sports performances. The progress they've made in understanding these concepts has been outstanding.

Meanwhile, our Level 1 students have broadened their knowledge on the importance of a healthy lifestyle. They've explored balanced diets, the various components of fitness, and leadership skills, examining what makes a good leader and the value of leadership in life.

Across all levels, it's been a privilege to witness the students' enthusiasm and dedication. The PE department is incredibly proud of their hard work and achievements so far this year!

Mr Priest







Art

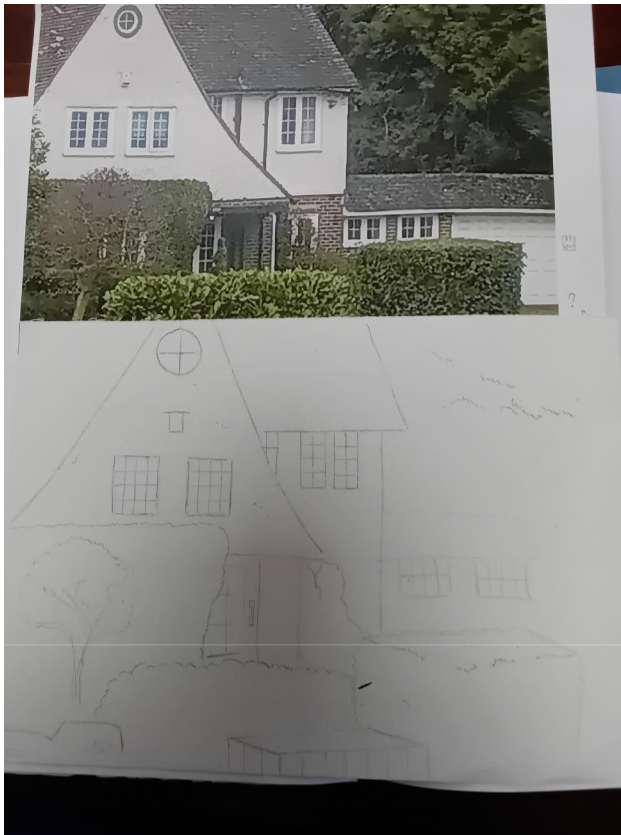
This term, KS3 students learnt about advertising and focused on producing a poster for a product. They looked at the work Of Abram Games, the graphic designer who produced many posters for London Underground. Below are students' reimaginings to one of his posters promoting visits to London Zoo by tube.

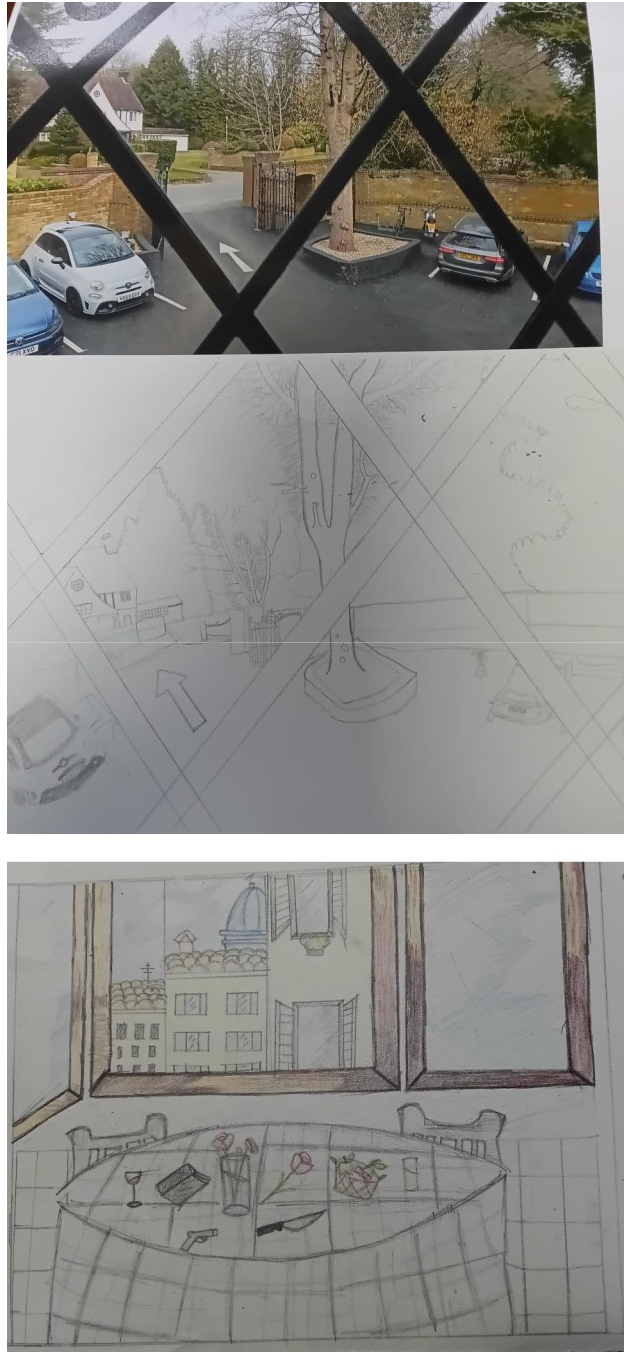
In KS4, Students are working on the theme "inside looking out". Using photographs taken from windows and doorways of the school building, they recreated these scenes applying different tools, techniques and materials.

Mr Essel









Meet Oluyemisi Adalakun- Your Health & Social Care and Food Tech Teacher!

Hello everyone! I'm Oluyemisi, and I'm thrilled to be teaching Health & Social Care (H&SC) and Food Tech here at Serenity School. Over the years, I've loved helping students explore how our bodies work, how to care for others, and how to create delicious, healthy food—all while making learning fun and accessible for everyone.

In H&S, we learn about valuing adults and children, and exploring health and safety measures in schools, care home and work setting. In Food Tech, we get messy (in the best way!) while building confidence in the kitchen, trying new flavours, and understanding how food fuels our bodies. Every lesson is designed to celebrate each student's unique strengths, whether we're practising life skills, teamwork, or creativity.

What I love most? Seeing students proud of what they've achieved—whether it's making pizza, learning about kindness, or discovering a new favourite food! Let's keep making this year full of laughter, learning, and tasty surprises.

Feel free to say hello—I'm always here to chat or share ideas!



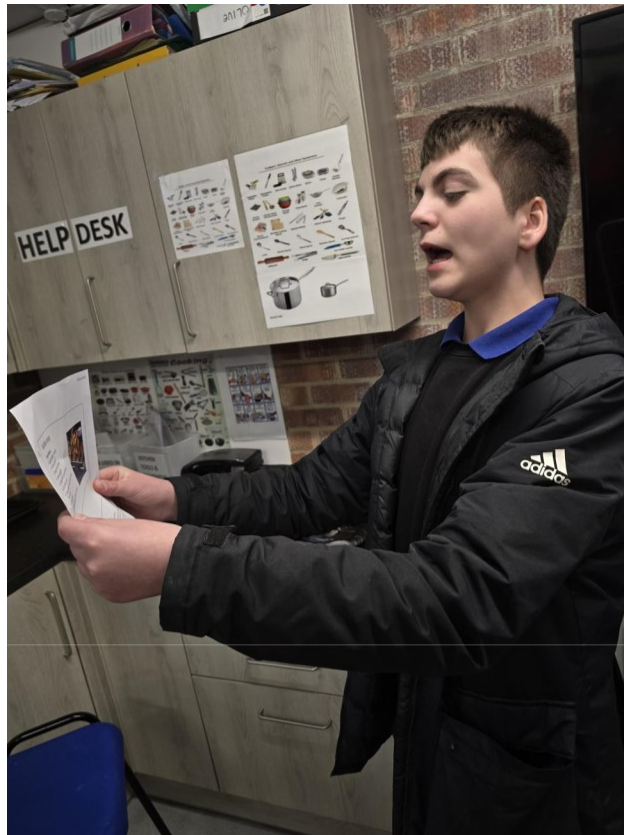




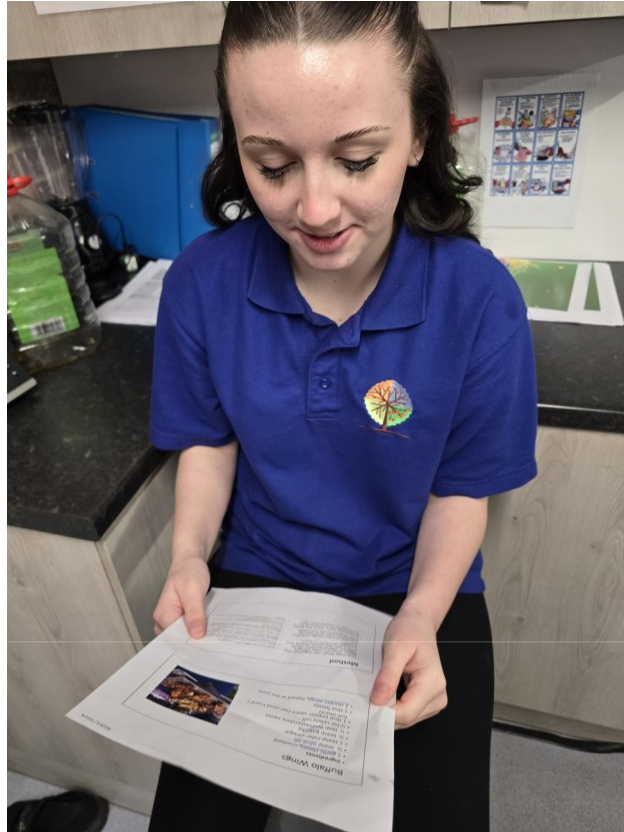












World Book Day



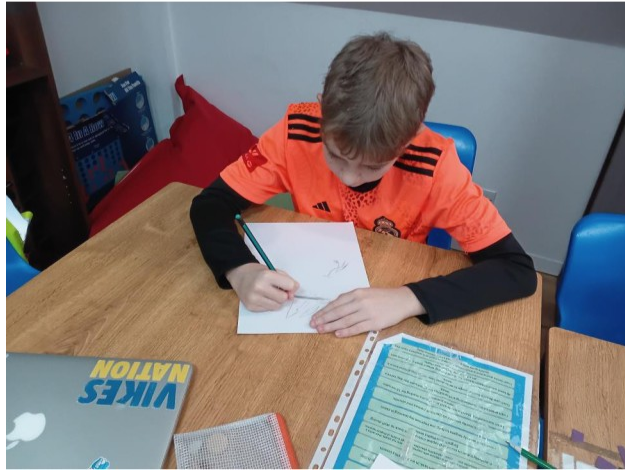
In March we celebrated World Book Day. Both staff and students embraced the opportunity to take part in the day.

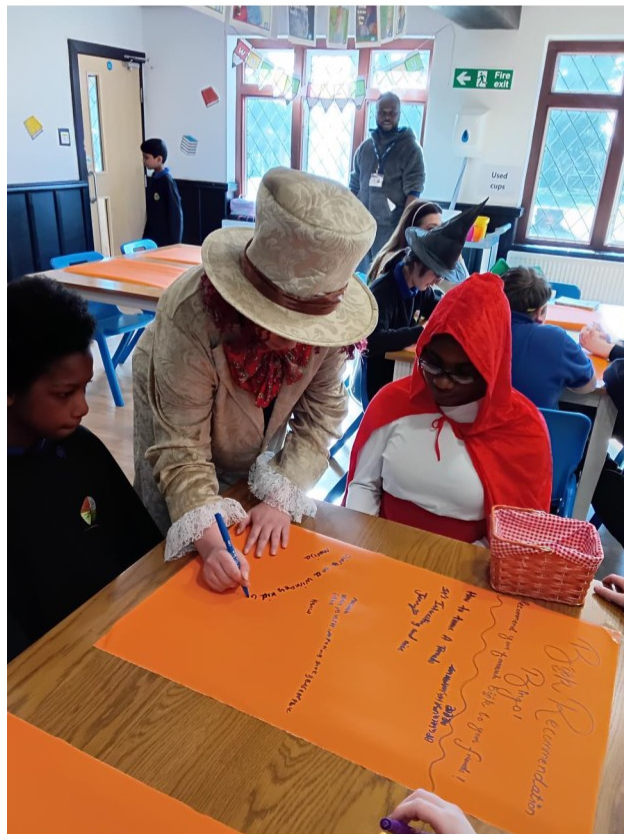
Events included dressing up as a favourite character, the treasure hunt, reading and book cover making.

Reading opens doors to adventures, allowing students to enhance their imagination and creativity.

The day was also supporting our reading initiative through Myon. As you are aware, reading forms part of the Investors in Me end of year award. If you have any questions regarding access to Myon, please let us know.

Thank you for fostering a love of reading in your children and supporting them in their literary journeys.

























Stubbers Adventure Trip



Students who achieved excellent attendance, behaviour and learning achievement this term were rewarded with a trip to Stubbers Adventure Centre last week. We all had a fantastic day out. It was interesting to see how students from different classrooms mingled and got along, as well as encouraged each other to participate in various activities. One of the students in Oak, shared with the staff that he was scared of heights. At first, we could see he was reluctant to continue once he was up with the harness. He was told that we knew he could do it, but if he

felt very uncomfortable with the situation, he was advised to go back. Instead, to our surprise, he pushed forward and overcame his fear of heights, saying that he is a man of his word and had promised his sister he would do it.

Another student from Sapling showed his determination to climb higher on the wooden structure without help. When offered assistance, he said, "I have got this."

A pupil from Elm was very eager to communicate with different staff members. Although he refused to join most activities, he suggested that laser tag could be a good option for him, as the rifle shooting was too loud. He saw a few planes flying overhead and identified them as warplanes, linking them to the historical period in which they flew.

We're so happy to continue this relationship with Stubbers, where Investor In Me Gold pupils will have access to a residential trip in early September.





















Investor In Me Reward Scheme

The investor in Me Award is a programme that is run throughout the whole school.

It is designed to recognise and celebrate the hard work and achievements of our students! This initiative aims to encourage a positive and motivated learning environment, where every pupil has the opportunity to thrive.

The programme accounts for attendance, academic, behaviour and therapeutic progression providing a platform for ALL students to experience success.

The Investor in Me Award programme has 3 levels- Bronze, Silver and Gold worth

£65

£150

£250

Students gain access to rewards up to these values if they successfully complete their chosen level!

Program Criteria per Pathway

Investors Contracts

Each student will need to write down their chosen target (Bronze, Silver or Gold) and sign their name on the contract.

This helps to serve as

- a reminder of the level chosen which cannot be changed once selected
- to make them aware of their commitment to the Award.

How can you support the Award choice?

- Make periodical progress checks with your child
- Asking your child's teachers and progress partners about their progress in the weekly phone calls
- Make sure that they are completing their home learning using Myon, Reading Eggs and Freckle for literacy and maths. Just 20 minutes per day at home needed.

Our Spring Term Homework Champions

This term, we've seen impressive dedication and growth from our students across various platforms, with standout achievements in Freckle, Myon, and AR Quizzes.

Freckle Growth:

- **KS3:** Athi showed remarkable growth, progressing by 4 months.
- **KS4:** Kyle R-A made great strides with a 6-month improvement.
- **KS5:** Harry D led the way, achieving an outstanding 15 months of growth.

Time Spent on Freckle:

- **Christiane** dedicated a significant 3579 minutes (**59.65 hours**) to Freckle.

Myon Homework (Reading at Home):

- **KS5:** Leala N read for 8 hours.
- **KS4:** Ralph dedicated 40 hours to his reading.
- **KS3:** Tyler read for 16 hours.

AR Quizzes:

- **KS3:** Aaryan excelled with 97 quizzes taken and 91 passed, alongside 8 articles (7 passed).
- **KS4:**
 - Richie took 39 quizzes, passing 38.
 - Ralph completed 51 quizzes, passing 43.
- **KS5:** Keira completed 17 quizzes, passing 10.

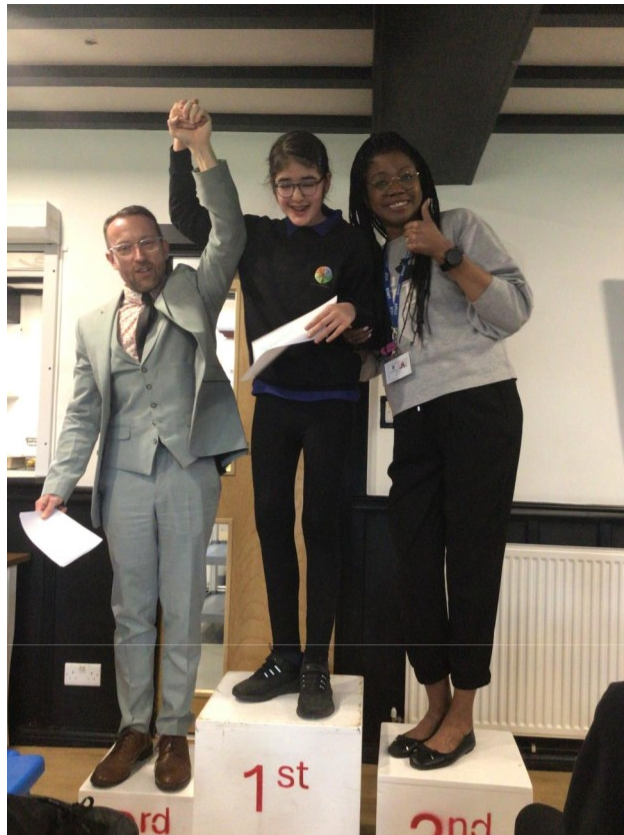
Class Prize:

The **Sapling** class achieved an impressive 87% accuracy in AR quizzes. As a reward, these pupils will be treated to a pizza party early next term.

Congratulations to all our Homework Champions for their hard work and dedication this term! Keep it up!







Tips for Managing Wellbeing Online



- **Have Regular Conversations with Your Child:**

Open Dialogue: Encourage your child to share their online experiences, including apps and sites they use and who they interact with.

Routine Talks: Make discussions about online activities, as regular as talking about their day at school to foster openness.

Alternative Support: Remind them they can also talk to other trusted adults or a Childline counsellor if they prefer!

- **Encourage Understanding and Resources**

Misunderstandings Online: Help children navigate online communication to avoid conflicts.

Childline Resources: Direct them to Childline's website for advice on feeling good on social media, coping with stress, and dealing with worries. The Calm Zone offers tools and activities for de-stressing, and the message boards provide peer support.

- **Awareness of Online Filters:**

Real vs. Edited: Discuss with children how online content can be filtered and edited, including images, videos, and even lifestyles, to help them maintain a realistic perspective.

- **Encourage Breaks:**

Digital Detox: Encourage regular breaks from devices to disconnect from online pressures.

Manage Notifications: Use app and device settings to silence notifications or activate 'do not disturb' mode to minimise distractions.

- **Use Wellbeing Settings and Apps:**

Helpful Apps:

BBC Own It: Offers advice for chatting online.

Headspace for Kids: Teaches mindfulness to children.

We wish all our students and their families a restful break. Please keep safe and well, and we'll see you all on Tuesday, 22nd April!

