

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last term has been a busy one!

We have welcomed many new pupils to Foundry College this term and it has been wonderful to work with them in supporting their academic and personal progress with some of them already moving onto pastures new. We wish them well and know that they have the ability to flourish in their new settings. Alongside the new pupils we would like to take this opportunity to welcome some new members of staff: Dionne – has recently started with us within the admin team and is PA to the headteacher.

Desiree – started with us in September as our Arts and Crafts Teacher

They have all made a fabulous start to what we all hope are long and joyous periods of work within Foundry College.

As you will read throughout the newsletter, there has been some wonderful times to recap on from this first term of 2022-23 and I am so proud of all that has been achieved. We know that each term we welcome many new pupils into our 'Foundry Family' and each year they bring new challenges to us to be able to support them in the best fashion. After just completing the second round of educational reviews of the year we may make some changes to pupils provisions in order to try and find the most suitable curriculum for them to make the most progress.



Mock exams

Pupils in Year 10 & 11 have completed mock exams over the last two weeks and we would like to congratulate them all for attempting these and following the examination conditions throughout. They approached the assessments in a really positive way and I am confident this will act as a spring board for success next year, especially with some Year 11 pupils taking their IGCSE Mathematics in early January. Now they fully deserve a rest over the Christmas holidays.

Christmas Lunch

Yesterday a selection of our pupils and staff prepared over 50 Christmas lunches for pupils and staff. It was an amazing feat and the food was exquisite! There was a lovely festive atmosphere throughout the college with groups eating in decorated classrooms with Christmas music in the background. These times within our calendar give me a huge sense of pride that we can all come together and enjoy something together, which in such a fast paced environment we sometime don't have time to experience enough. I would like to thank all the team who make this possible including the extra colleagues who helped with serving so many people.



At the end of a busy term I would like to congratulate all our pupils on their successes of the past two half terms. There is so much to be proud of and I hope that they will look back with a sense of pride over what they have accomplished this year. I would also like to thank all staff at Foundry College for their hard work and commitment this year and all parents and carers for their support. May I take this opportunity to wish all members of our community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards

Iain Thomas
Headteacher

TERM DATES

College reopens on Wednesday 4th January 2023

HALF TERM

13-17 February 2023

EASTER BREAK

3-14 April 2023

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please follow the links to NSPCC and Wokingham Children's Services

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

0808 800 5000

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/children-and-families/child-protection-and-family-support/report-a-concern-about-a-child/>

0118 908 8002

Local Foodbank information:

<https://wokingham.foodbank.org.uk/>

0300 330 1189

<https://pilotlight.org/index.html>

ENGLISH

It has been a busy start to the academic year in English. In September we went on the first of our off-site visits. Our KS3 pupils visited the Story Museum in Oxford where they were immersed in a world of stories and ideas for the day. In October our KS4 pupils went to the Henley Literary Festival where they heard an inspirational talk from the author Stuart Lawrence. The talk centred on being the best person you can be and how to use your determination to create a better world for others. It turned out that not only were our pupils inspired; Stuart Lawrence was inspired by our pupils! Following feedback from one Foundry pupil, Stuart Lawrence was so impressed that he arranged a one-off meeting so the pupil could discuss his opinions and ideas in more depth.



In school, it has also been extremely busy. Firstly, we want to say a big well done to all our KS4 pupils who have recently sat mock GCSEs. Whilst challenging, this gives pupils the vital experience of the reality of their upcoming GCSE exams. Our pupils rose to the challenge and they should be proud of themselves. Alongside mocks, the main focus for our GCSE pupils has been to work towards completing their exam coursework component. This has seen pupils write in a variety of different styles: descriptive, narrative, informative and persuasive. For those who take English Literature, they have started the year looking at Shakespeare's famous play 'Macbeth' and more recently the seasonal novella 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. These texts open up the opportunity for valuable SMSC discussions around gender, leadership, manipulation and societal differences.

Our GCSE Literature pupils recently went to a production of A Christmas Carol as a chance to see one of the texts they are studying brought to life on stage. And as we approach the holidays, we head out on our last trip of 2022. Both our KS3 and KS4 pupils are marking the end of term with a Christmas tradition by attending a performance of the Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime.



For our KS3 pupils, at the start of the year they focussed on the art of storytelling, linking in closely with their trip to the Story Museum. This saw pupils both reading ghost stories and exploring narratives told through the format of song and rap. In the second half of term, pupils have been scrutinising non-fiction and working out what purpose a text has been written for; who it's aimed at and how successfully it achieves its purpose. As part of this, pupils have also been learning about the techniques of persuasion... just in time for Christmas!



MATHS

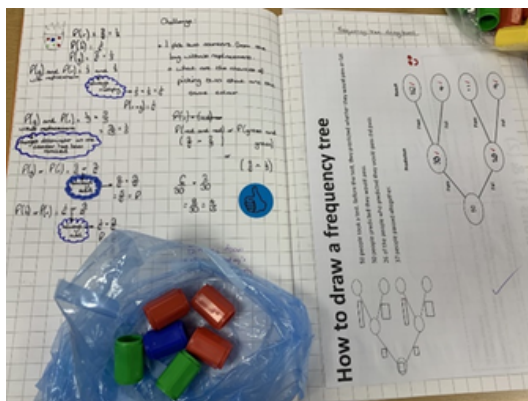
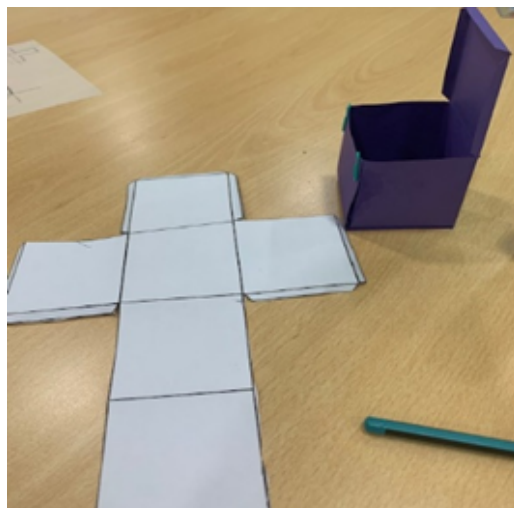
We have had a busy Autumn term in the Maths department



Some students have been calculating what percentage of their body weight they can lift in Maths/PE crossover lessons. Ask Rich if you'd like to see how much you can lift when you are next in the gym. 😊



Some students produced shapes out of nets during a revision lesson for the ELC unit on geometry.



We have had a few KS3 students join us recently and they have been enjoying lessons on probability.

KS4 students have studied topics including:

- Probability and Venn diagrams
- Standard form
- Pythagoras
- Indices
- Linear graphs
- Statistical averages
- Fractions

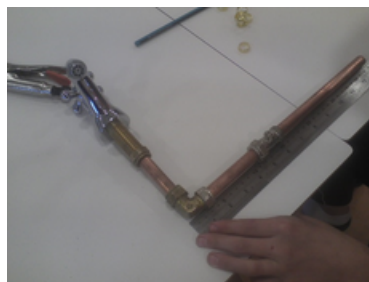
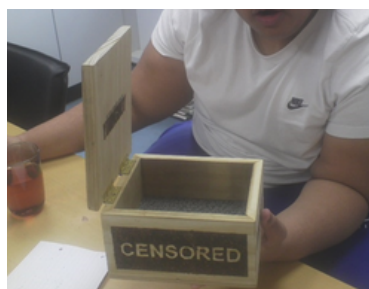
Year 11s have been studying hard so they are ready for their iGCSE exams in January and a couple of students have successfully been completing units towards their Entry Level Certificates.



OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES

It was a fairly gentle start to the Year in the Occupational Studies department but as the term has proceeded our pupil numbers have grown and it has been a pleasure to see how many want to study Occupational Studies.

Most of the Year 11 pupils who have been here some time, have already completed at least 1 unit at their chosen level and one or two are keeping their options open, having completed units of study at both levels. Others are now well into their chosen areas of study and have almost completed enough units to gain their qualification. The most popular units continue to be those with focus on the construction industry such as Plumbing Skills, Hand Carpentry Skills, Introduction to Plastering Techniques and Brickwork Operations.



For pupils wanting to go into construction related or horticultural work, the Occupational Studies qualifications not only give our pupils a chance to try out and develop their skills but also the edge when it comes to securing work. During this term a number of pupils have had the opportunity to use their skill in real situations around college and out in the community. Two pupils have had the chance to visit Leighton Park school in order to help with the early stages of a 'Peace Garden' design and build project that we are hoping will give a further chance for off site learning opportunities during 2023 and beyond. We are also in discussion with other community groups and are hoping to create further opportunities for the pupils to practice their skills in real life situations.

FOOD

Pupils have been extremely busy in the kitchen this term learning how to cook various sweet and savoury dishes. Several pupils this year made and decorated cakes to enter into the Macmillan Coffee morning and all pupils had the opportunity to carve their own pumpkin. Pupils have taken great pride in their work and are often keen to share their creations with other pupils and staff on site.

The Year 10 and 11 pupils continue to complete lots of written work on Food preparation skills and balanced diets contributing towards their NCFE qualification. KS3 pupils have enjoyed a mixture of practical lessons alongside learning about the importance of nutrition and the Eatwell guide.

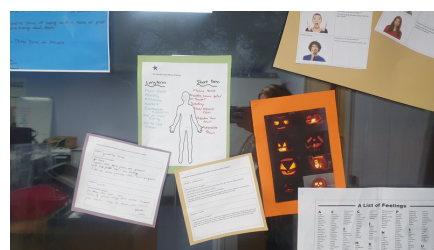
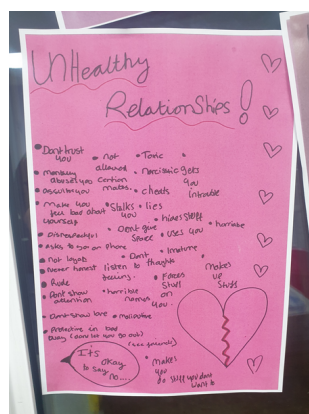
As the Festive season approaches many pupils are getting excited to help plan and prepare for the Foundry Christmas dinner giving staff and students an opportunity to enjoy time together to have a sit down meal and celebrate the end the term.



LIFE

Life lessons are an essential part of learning for pupils who attend Foundry College. So far we have covered a wide range of topics from Emotional wellbeing, Healthy Lifestyles to learning more about Diversity, prejudice and discrimination. During these lessons pupils are given the opportunity to discuss and reflect on various issues to help them gain a better understanding of themselves and the world around them. This term we have delved into the different types of prejudice and the laws around equal opportunities and discrimination, to having open and honest conversations around what makes various relationships healthy or unhealthy to exploring our emotions and managing stress.

Alongside this we have been fortunate to have several workshops and guest speakers such as Basic First Aid from the Red Cross and Reach Out Arts with their Anti Bullying workshop the pupils this term are growing in confidence to take part and get involved which is lovely to see.



Alexander Devine Children's Hospice

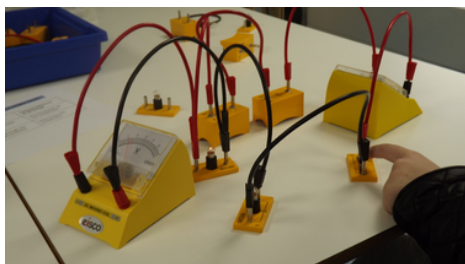
This year, Foundry College will be continuing to build links in the community by supporting a charity. Pupils were invited to make suggestions as to the charity they would like to support and, after collating suggestions, it was put to the final vote. Our pupils chose the local children's charity Alexander Devine Children's Hospice. Based in Maidenhead, the charity provides specialist care and vital support to children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.

It costs £2.3 million each year for the charity to be able to provide care and support free of charge for children and their families. At Foundry we would like to work together to help raise vital funds. We have kickstarted this fund raising by having hot chocolate Fridays where, for a suggested donation of 50p, children can purchase hot chocolates with all the toppings as a warming way to start their Friday mornings.

Further fund raising events will be taking place throughout next year and we would encourage you to discover more about the charity and the fantastic work they do by visiting: <https://alexanderdevine.org/>

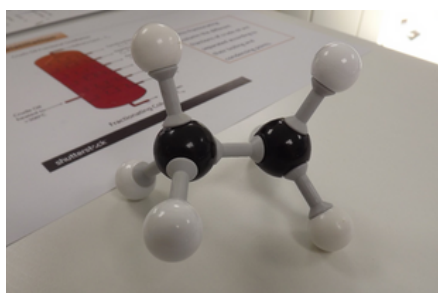


SCIENCE



Many of our pupils started this term with making simple series and parallel circuits and then moving on to investigating the resistance of a wire. For pupils who will take GCSE exams this is one of their required practical activities.

Here one of our pupils is filtering copper sulphate solution in order to make a pure dry sample of copper sulphate crystals. This practical involves several steps and is a great way to become familiar with many pieces of equipment.



When learning about the products of crude oil pupils are encouraged to model hydrocarbons using Molymods. This helps with understanding how atoms are bonded as well as an opportunity to use gross and fine motor skills.

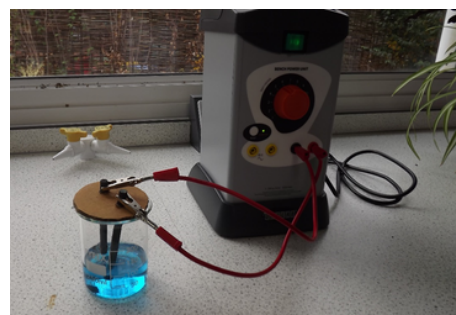
A pupil works on writing up an experiment relating to comparing energy transfer in two different kettles.



In this lesson pupils were learning about displacement reactions having learned about reactivity of metals.



Following the displacement reactions the pupils then moved on to learning about electrolysis of copper chloride. This also provides an opportunity to revise electrical circuit principles which some pupils had worked on earlier.



ART

We have had a very productive few months with most of the art students making seasonal items (with their own unique & surprising twists!) such as; Halloween Masks and Christmas fridge magnets.



You may have been met with the distinctive and beautiful aroma of log fires wafting out of our room, as the students have also tried their hand in using the wood burning pyrography tool.



Spray painting, clay work & acrylic painting on different surfaces like wood & tile, have also become firm favourites, not only with our art students but others from around the college. It has become a relaxing way to spend their down time moments, whilst giving them opportunities to engage with others.



HUMANITIES

This has been a busy half-term for all of us. It's one of the longer periods in the year and we have to make the most of this in covering the essential topics. This is one photo of what could be many instances of pupils working hard in class, trying to reach their own targets.

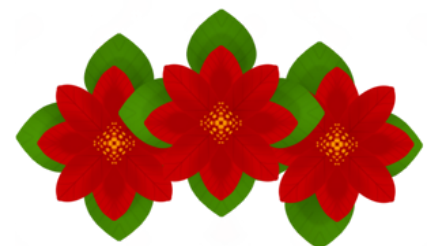


This was History. Together we were studying the American Civil War. It was one of those wonderful lessons where it would be hard to say who was teaching whom. We were learning together. Other pupils have been working for their GCSEs studying Crime and Punishment. This is a wide-ranging topic, beginning with the Anglo-Saxons and ending with the present-day legal system. So far none has been in favour of a return to the days of the Ducking Stool, treadmill or hanging, (to say nothing of drawing and quartering!).

In Geography we have travelled the world without leaving the classroom. Deserts and tropical rain-forests have been our main areas of study with recent weather giving us a good feel for the wetter parts of the Earth. We have been able to discuss all sorts of political and moral issues relating to animals and the natural world generally. One student has even persuaded me to change some of my diet, no mean feat.

Our lessons are filled with serious topics and the determination that the next generation will make the world a better place. It can be quite challenging and humbling to be a teacher here at Foundry. It has been rare to have pupils come here having opted for Religious Studies in a previous school, but that has been the case this term. We are looking at Human Rights at the moment and at the teachings of Islam and Christianity in relation to our rights. It's a study fraught with difficulties and just coming to terms with definitions can be quite a task. However, we approach it with determination and a willingness to listen to each other and be tolerant of other views and ways of life.

At the end of an old year and the beginning of a new, we stand committed to our pupils and their welfare and wish all of you a "Happy Christmas" and a prosperous and healthy New Year.



SPORT

This term we have continued to take advantage of the different local provisions of mountain biking at Swinley Forest, badminton and the gym at Loddon Valley. These provisions have provided a great opportunity to work on both pupils physical and mental well being through varying levels of challenge.



Mountain biking at Swinley has offered up new challenges with the changes to the forest through the autumnal season. The added leaves and changing weather has meant the pupils have had to rely on their skills to navigate the trails. We are very fortunate that we are able to access the members only area known as 'The Summit', this is a specialised training area where the pupils have had specific teaching on how to corner and navigate the terrain as best they can. The pupils often leave the sessions having impressed the coaches with attitudes and skill levels across the trails.



Loddon Valley Gym is another area in which pupils have spent time working on their overall fitness and well being. The pupils who attend, fit right in to the environment and are able to communicate with other gym goers in a polite manner around using and waiting for equipment. The girls who have been taking part in their lessons are beginning to grow further.

In confidence and this is shown by their smiles and senses of achievement on the mini bus home.

We have begun to play badminton this term which has been driven by one year eleven pupil in particular. This pupil has a real competitive streak and takes no prisoners when competing with pupils and teachers alike.

Primary Classroom Christmas Update

Dressing the Christmas Tree – Wokingham Town Centre

Market Place in Wokingham was the venue for the second event in the annual Living Advent Calendar and it saw local schools bring forward their decorations to add to the tree, watched and aided by town mayor, Councillor Philip Mirfin.



The primary and secondary pupils collaborated to produce an amazing decoration based on The Grinch – the pupils covered a football with many layers of Papier Mache which was then painted green and varnished, to withstand the Winter weather. It looked fabulous so look out for it on the Christmas tree

Reverse Advent Calendar

The lead-up to Christmas, the Wokingham Food Bank were asking for donations for a fun Reverse Advent Calendar. Leo, in primary, went around the college asking staff to make a pledge to donate items for the hamper. It was a great success and we received so many generous donations. The Primary Team visited the drop off point and Leo handed our hamper in to the warehouse staff. Well done and thank you for supporting this important cause.



Oakwood Climbing Centre

Our primary pupils continue to be lucky enough to participate in a range of activities at Oakwood Youth Challenge. We have also been joined by a number of primary pupils supported in Wokingham Primary schools by our Outreach Team. It has been amazing to see the pupils make progress in their resilience and we hope to work with many more pupils in the future.



Classroom Focus

This term our focus has been on increasing pupil engagement and therefore our timetable has had to be very flexible to accommodate the needs of our pupils.

Throughout the term, our primary pupils have completed Art and Craft tasks, including designing and making a scarecrow, solving Maths mysteries, using 1Decision videos to address PSHE topics and a wide range of board games to initiate conversations regarding social and emotional development.



We have also been using the Zones of Proximal Development to teach our pupils about the learning journey. This has involved exploring the power of the word 'yet' as well as the importance of revisiting prior learning to consolidate and build upon our knowledge. This is a large piece of work which will continue throughout the year.

In order to build our resilience, patience and determination, the primary class has been building challenging Lego Star Wars sets. So far our primary pupils have completed Boba Fetts' Slave One spaceship and we are in the process of building Luke Skywalker's X-Wing Starfighter. Our pupils are thoroughly enjoying their time building Lego.



CAREERS

We have been busy with our year 10 and 11 pupils so far this side of Christmas, with many more events and trips planned for the new year. Currently this year our pupils have had access to:

- 1:1 career sessions with me for careers advice and guidance, including
- completing application forms, CVs and putting together a 'career action plan'
- Visit to Bracknell & Wokingham College
- Visit to Berkshire College of Agriculture
- Mock interview preparation session at Leighton Park with their HR team
- Mock interview practice at Leighton Park with their HR team, including receiving feedback
- Group sessions with our Enterprise Advisor Nicole Fox, firstly supporting them in understanding job adverts, what employers are really asking/looking for and where to look for part-time jobs.
- Work experience
- Parent meetings/discussions
- Visits and sessions that have been booked for the new year include;
- Visit to Reading College
- Visit to University of Reading
- Continuing group sessions with our Enterprise Advisor to cover how to complete a job application, further interview preparation advice, another opportunity to participate in
- a mock interview and creating CVs
- Continuing 1:1 careers advice and guidance sessions
- Parent and Pupil Information Evening
- Celebration of National Careers Week with a multitude of speakers coming in to discuss their career journeys and raise aspirations, along with enterprise activities
- Work experience
- Alternative provision visits
- ASK apprenticeship sessions

If you would like any further information regarding what we do at Foundry College to support careers or would like to come in for a discussion about next steps for your child, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Vix Padgett vix@foundry.wokingham.sch.uk

WORK EXPERIENCE

As part of the curriculum, we offer our KS4 week long and extended work experience opportunities whereby they go to a placement for 1 whole week or 1 day a week for 6 weeks. This is a great opportunity for our pupils to gain first-hand knowledge of the 'real world' and an insight to their potential industry of choice. We currently have one pupil working with Woodley Pets, one pupil working with Burley Lodge Equestrian Centre and another who has successfully completed their opportunity with Stablecrott.

In the next term we will have pupils going out to the following placements; H2O Hair To Order, Woodley Gardens Day Nursery, All Saints Primary, Knowl Hill Cattery, Binfield Dog Rescue, Estate Maintenance Team at Leighton Park School and Howdens Woodley and Jungle Reptiles, with others still in the pipeline. We are always open to suggestions and support, so if you know of anyone who would like to work with us in providing invaluable experience to our pupils, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Vix Padgett vix@foundry.wokingham.sch.uk



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Foundry College pupils were proud to host again their Tea and Cake afternoon in order to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Trust. Visitors were able to come on-site on Friday 28th September with multiple rooms set-up selling cakes made and donated by staff and pupils. Each year we pay homage to a theme and this year it was focused around 'a favourite book and/or TV/Film'.

Classrooms were decorated with homemade bunting, posters and cakes to welcome visitors, including local neighbours, Brambles Centre staff, Foundry College Management Committee members alongside staff, parents and pupils. Each of our pupils took on the task to sell as many cakes and raise as much money as possible, which resulted in our entrepreneurial pupils raising the bar even higher from last year's cohort and raised an amazing £181.94 in just two hours.



Additionally, the annual cake competition between staff and pupils was back with a vengeance, with our highest participation of pupil cakes entering this year than we have ever had before! It was a closely fought race, but this year's winner was one of our Primary pupils, with his amazingly decorated Charlie and The Chocolate Factory cake. Well done Leo!