

July
2023

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



Well, what can I say other than what an amazing academic year that has been for us all!

It has been a year of great challenge to us all and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the exceptional work of the staff and pupils this year for overcoming these challenges.

As you will have experienced from previous newsletters and will see again through this newsletter, we have provided amazing opportunities for our pupils to develop both within and outside of the classroom. This has been verified through out Ofsted inspection who left us after two days of in-depth analysis with a flurry of supportive comments and a report that highlights the great strength that we have here at Foundry College.

I expect many of our pupils will be celebrating their results in August due to their high level of focus and attention to their studies. The Year 11 pupils have been sent emails to express how they would like to receive the exams result; either in person, email or via post so please make sure you have indicated your preference through response by the end of term.

We also recently offered the opportunity to say a final farewell to our Year 11 pupils through a celebration evening on Wednesday 1st November 2023. This will give us the opportunity to hear all about the first half term stories from them on their progress and for any of them in apprenticeship roles, about how life in the real world has been. At this evening we will also be giving out the official GCSE certificates which aren't released to us until this time. As well as the GCSE certificates we will be awarding the 'Jay Blundell Resilience Shield' to one pupil who staff felt overcame their individual challenges with an outstanding attitude to their studies alongside their own personal development.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break!

Best Wishes
Iain Thomas
Headteacher

'The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude.' **Oprah Winfrey**

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2023
Inset days: Friday 1st, Monday 4 th and Tuesday 5 th September
Term Starts: Wednesday 6 th September
Half Term: Monday 23 rd October - Friday 27 th October
End of Term: Friday 15 th December *
Spring Term 2024
Term starts: Tuesday 2 nd January
Half Term: Monday 12 th February - Friday 16 th February
End of Term: Thursday 28 th March*
Summer Term 2024
Term starts: Monday 15 th April
May Bank Holiday - Monday 6 th May - College Closed
Half Term: Monday 27 th May - Friday 31 st May
End of Term: Friday 19 th July*
Inset days: Monday 22 nd and Tuesday 23 rd July

* College finishes at 12.30pm on last day of term

Inset Days (College closed to pupils)



Friday 1st September 2023
Monday 4th September 2023
Tuesday 5th September 2023
Monday 22nd July 2024
Tuesday 23rd July 2024



PRIMARY

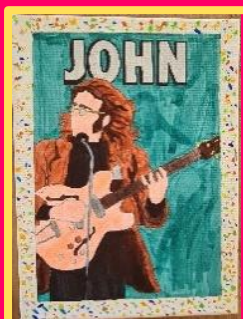
And here we are, another academic year drawing to a close. This July, we will be saying goodbye to one of our primary pupils, who will be transitioning to Year 7. We wish him all the best for this transition and for the future ahead.

Although engagement in transition activities has been limited, therapeutic activities have continued to be timetabled to enable opportunities for discussion around managing change. Activities have included the use of the sand-tray, art, gloop and messy play.

Within Maths, our Primary pupil has fully engaged in the Theme Park Maths project. This project requires the children to design their theme park (using and applying their knowledge of area) whilst working against a budget. This has resulted in very mature discussions regarding budgeting strategies as well as the importance of ensuring you have enough 'just in case' money! It was interesting to see the different approaches taken. The project guides children through a series of seasons, where they decide the admission fee based on certain criteria as well as increasing attendance numbers by promoting their theme park through different means of advertisement. Canva pro, the online design website, has been used to create a video advert for the pupils' theme park, not only addressing a key area of the English curriculum, but developing computing skills. It was very interesting to hear the pupils' opinion regarding when to pay off the initial loan – "Why do we have to wait until the end of Season 3? Surely it's better to pay it off earlier otherwise the interest will keep building!" We will be concluding our Theme Park Maths project with a visit to Legoland!

We are fortunate that our external provision at TVAP has continued as part of our weekly Primary Timetable this term and we have especially enjoyed the outdoor giant chess board which has encouraged and supported the learning of both staff and pupils. We have been on the quest to use the most effective 'opening moves' and it has become quite competitive.

Canvas art has become a firm favourite for one of our pupils and through this subject, there have been many discussions around music artists and their influence on society. Our pupils have demonstrated their ability to accept differing opinions when it comes to music preferences as well as showing a cultural understanding of different music genres.



PE

This half term the pupils have been consistently taking part in gym sessions both on and offsite. The pupils have worked hard across a range of cardiovascular and strength-based circuits. This has certainly left some pupils feeling it in their arms and legs the following day! Despite this, they keep attending and working hard which is great to see.

A handful of pupils have begun mountain biking at Swinley Forest where they have been navigating the trails with speed and precision. The boys have pushed their comfort zones and left smiling ready to return the following session.

In theory based lessons, the year 11 pupils who have been working towards their qualification have completed all their work and are now finished. Very well done.



Some of the Key Stage 3 pupils have been accessing bouldering and climbing sessions at The Oakwood Climbing Centre this term. It has been great to watch their teamwork and resilience develop alongside their climbing skills.



HUMANITIES

News just in. This pupil has won the RS Prize at her home school. Congratulations!

This photo was taken just a few weeks ago. It's an Religious Studies. lesson. It takes a lot of research and a pupil needs to have an open mind and a willingness to consider the beliefs of other people. What do you do if you don't agree with someone's deeply held beliefs? We don't take offense. We don't make a fuss. We quietly and calmly 'suspend our disbelief' and try to put ourselves in the shoes of those other people and see things from their point of view. I am sure you will agree that this is very hard to do, but it's a great skill to have for future life with all the problems it will throw at you. It helps you to be calm and confident in situations that may be really challenging; a real life-skill.

Likewise in Geography we have to develop important skills. We don't simply learn facts, but we examine the causes of circumstances and try to ask the hard questions. Recently we have been looking at how scarce resources such as water, food and energy are managed. Yes, we learn about the 'water cycle' and how we build reservoirs and move water into our homes. However, underpinning all this we have to ask questions about fairness and justice and how we treat each other. How can it be right that young pupils in some parts of the world have to walk miles to collect water and bring it home? We in the developed world spend on perfume, in two years, about what it would cost to bring fresh water and sanitation to all the countries that need it. At Foundry, our business is not just about programming children and increasing their knowledge of facts. We are in the business of growing and changing hearts and minds and helping tomorrow's adult to see beyond their own environment.

History...It's the 'Marmite' subject. It seems you either love it or hate it. Napoleon said, "History is a set of lies agreed upon". Henry Ford said, "History is more or less bunk". Howard Zinn, an American historian said, "If you don't know history, it's as if you were born yesterday. If you were born yesterday then any leader can tell you anything." Once again you see, the skills are important. We have been looking at Elizabeth 1 and the native Americans this term. Elizabeth, the last of the Tudors, was skilled at propaganda, just as her father was. We try to get below the surface, behind the portrait, to know and understand the reality of peoples' lives in the sixteenth century. Most students enjoy this approach especially when they see how relevant it is to our times and how manipulative government and influencers can be.

My favourite quote is "History cannot predict the future, but it explains the present".
Enjoy the Summer break.

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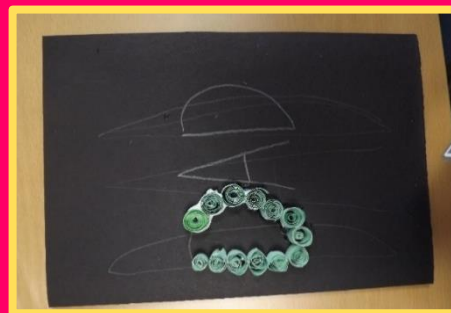
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ART & CRAFT

This term, our students have been building 3D sculptures in cardboard and on canvas, using wire and clay. They have also been learning tips on drawing and linear line techniques.



The students also learnt about the craft technique of paper quilling, and created Rangoli designs (using coloured rice) appreciating how people may use art to express themselves, and show their worship and devotion to their religion. Anais also designed a unique 3D piece on canvas about sound waves, and used one of her favourite songs as her inspiration.



In Photography...

This term Tony has been learning about how to utilise the camera to:

- ❖ Change the viewpoint
- ❖ Experiment with lighting
- ❖ Adjust the shutter speed to create either frozen images or blurred movement.



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ART & CRAFT

Foundry College Art Exhibition

This year we have been very fortunate to have been able to collaborate with South Hill Park in Bracknell, and also receive additional funding from Wokingham Arts Society.

As a result of this, our students from years 6 through to 11 are currently exhibiting over 30 pieces of art & craft. The exhibit will be running from July until the end of August 2023, and is being held within their Wilde Community Gallery, South Hill Park.

South Hill Park are very keen to get involved with our young people, so much so, that we now have plans for two craft workshops which we hope will take place early next year, with various groups of local artists. Through speaking with them, I can see that they are a very supportive and inclusive arts centre.

On a more personal level, I have been really impressed with the innovative ideas and creativity of our students this year, and I look forward to welcoming some more artistic talent in September.

Make sure that you take your family and friends to the above event, it's free! And I wish you all a great summer.



ENGLISH

Over the past few weeks, our Year 11 pupils have been working hard in their revision lessons and have now completed their final exams. For all, this has seen them complete their GCSE English Language exam. For some, they have also completed GCSE English Literature or English Functional Skills exams. We know how hard all our pupils worked and we want to congratulate them for the mature approach and calm composure shown towards their exams. Now that the exams are over, we wish all our Year 11s a restful break before their next steps beyond Foundry.

We also want to say a big well done to those Year 10s who sat alongside the Year 11s and took their English Language GCSE early. Whilst they haven't been able to celebrate by starting their summer holidays as early as the Year 11s, these Year 10 pupils have been able to start exploring poetry in Literature! They have been developing both an understanding of the poems in their anthology and the skills needed for analysing unseen poetry. For those in Year 10 who are focusing on their English Language skills, this term has seen them develop the techniques needed for both narrative and persuasive writing.

Our Key Stage 3 pupils have been busy taking part in a reading scheme and, following the feedback they've provided, it is a programme that we are going to look at rolling out to all pupils next year. Alongside their reading skills, lessons have had a practical element and focused on personal safety. Pupils have learnt about fire safety, first aid and the recovery position. All skills and knowledge which we hope our young people will never have to put to the test but giving them the confidence should they need to.

This year we introduced the 'Oracy Topic of the Week' to support pupils' communication skills across the board. Each week a question on a topic was displayed around the college and staff and pupils had the opportunity to explore, discuss and respond to this question during mentoring or lesson time. These debates and discussions encouraged pupils to use listening, speaking, persuasive and comprehension skills, and promoted British Values through mutual respect, freedom of speech and tolerance.



OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES

As we draw to the end of the year it is a real pleasure to report that all the year 11 pupils studying Occupational Studies completed their units and have achieved a Level 1 or Level 2 Award. One pupil has completed his Level 1 Award and has continued with his studies to achieve a Level 2 Award in Exploring Occupational Studies which is excellent.



For the first time this year two pupils have successfully completed Level 1 AQA Unit Awards in addition to their Occupational Studies units. These are typically much shorter and less involved units of work that focus on the development of a particular skill but there are an enormous number to choose from and the units can be selected to match the needs and interests of the pupils. They have been very useful when time has been too limited to completed a full OS unit or a pupil has been struggling to engage with a longer-term commitment.



OCCUPATIONAL
STUDIES

The most popular units this year have had a focus on the construction industry such as Plumbing Skills, Hand Carpentry Skills, and Brickwork Operations. One pupil however, is now working on Level 2, Unit 22 which is a really interesting unit with a focus on creating and developing an item of soft furnishing and two pupils have completed Level 2 units with a focus on using email effectively.



The Occupational Studies qualifications are a great way to learn the basics in the world of construction and other vocational areas – which is simply not catered for in mainstream schools. Several of the pupils who have just left us are planning to further their OS studies at college, through an apprenticeship or are looking for employment in the field.



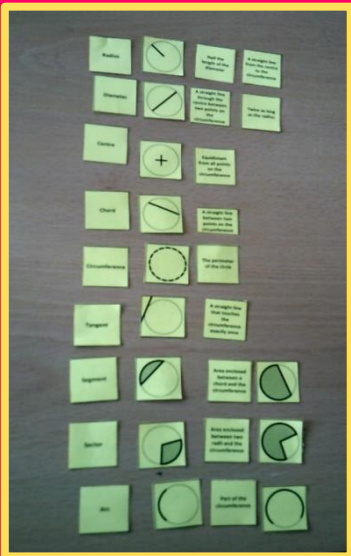
MATHS

In the Maths department we have had a very busy term.

Year 11s have prepared for and sat their GCSE exams. We wish them the best of luck with their results this summer and hope they move onto amazing next steps 😊

Year 10 pupils have been learning all about linear graphs, surds and circles!

Our KS3 pupils have been learning about transformations. How many lines of symmetry can you find in your name?



Year 10s match-up activity on Circle theorems

Wishing all our pupils, staff and friends of Foundry a lovely summer break.



KS3 pupils played a 4 operations game

SCIENCE

Investigating the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide using catalysts also provides a great opportunity to test for oxygen!



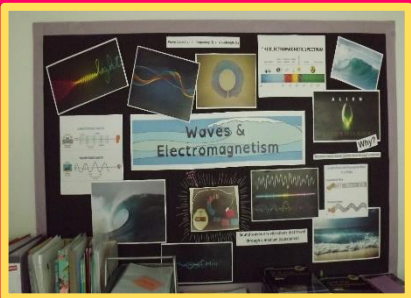
Year 10 pupils used iodine to test for starch and were able to see the changing results as the starch was broken down with amylase.



Thinking about good principles in basic hygiene provided an opportunity to make soap!



In a collaboration between physics and art one pupil chose a favourite song to be represented as a waveform. This was then incorporated into a piece of artwork.



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FOOD

It's been a busy final term as the year 11's have been planning and creating a two course meal for a children's party or wedding. Pupils have worked extremely hard to plan and create some beautiful dishes for their final assessments towards their level 1 / 2 Food and Cookery qualification. Pupils have worked incredibly hard to complete their portfolios and I wish them all the best of luck for the future.



KS3 and year 10 pupils have been just as busy preparing feasts to celebrate Eid, to fuelling peers and staff to celebrate the King's Coronation and our big help out volunteering day. Many have also started producing some excellent theory work to match their practical skills as they learn how to cook various sweet and savoury dishes safely and hygienically in the kitchen. It's great to see so many of the pupils willing to challenge themselves to cook complex dishes with a variety of fresh produce and ingredients they are not always so keen to eat!



LIFE

The year 11 pupils have been working hard this term to complete units on a wide range of topics including drugs and alcohol, healthy relationships and sexual health, emotional wellbeing, independent living and budgeting skills.

The life curriculum aims to help support pupils gain a better understanding of themselves and the wider world around them. I truly hope the our current year 11s who are moving on to pastures new feel more confident and able to progress and be successful in their next steps.

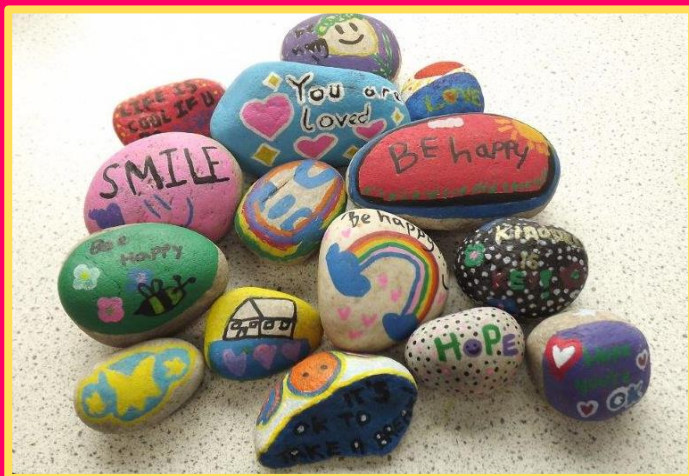
Many KS3 pupils continue to make good progress learning about healthy eating, the importance of a healthy lifestyle, personal safety and water safety.

We were fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Fruit Towers in London, Innocent Headquarters for a tour of their offices and to learn more about sustainability and product development. Pupils enjoyed competing with staff to re create one of Innocents most pupils smoothies Banana and Strawberry and won spectacularly.



FOUNDRY VOICE

Community giving has been the focus for the second half of the year. Alexander Devine Children's Hospice (our pupils' chosen charity) came in to deliver a workshop so pupils have a better understanding of where their donations are going and why their contributions are so valuable. As part of this, pupils created their own little act of kindness by designing kindness rocks, each decorated with their own positive message.



Just after Easter, we came together for our Foundry Marathon event. The aim was to walk, jog and run the distance of the London Marathon to raise money for Alexander Devine. On the day, the Foundry Family completed a distance of 54.2 miles (87.2km) – the equivalent of just over two marathon distances. For pupils who completed a distance of 1 mile (or more) we were able to also to enter them into a Guinness World Record attempt for the 'most pledges for an exercise campaign in one month'. Whilst unfortunately the bid to break the record wasn't successful, all pupils received a certificate for their contribution.

In May, pupils took part in *The Big Help Out*; an initiative as part of King Charles' coronation to increase volunteering participation across the country. Our pupils spent the afternoon volunteering by bag packing at Tesco (combining it with raising money for Alexander Devine); helping out at a food bank and being a companion at a care home. Our pupils did us proud with feedback from all the venues being really positive about how our "lovely" pupils "grew in confidence" over the afternoon.

We are looking forward to building on this year's fundraising successes and any pupils with suggestions about how they would like to get involved, volunteer and raise money for charity should let us know.



TRIPS

To celebrate the year and to conclude the Theme Park Maths project which pupils in Primary had been completing, a trip to Legoland was organised! Thankfully the rain clouds stayed away, although that didn't stop pupils and staff getting drenched – the water ride was a firm favourite! The miniland as always was a hit and it was great to see the geographical knowledge that the pupils had about significant landmarks around the world. The pupils did well to contain their excitement and anticipation for the Flight of the Sky Lion 'ride'. No-one knew much about it or what to expect which added to the suspense and it certainly didn't disappoint!



Some GCSE pupils were invited to a trip to Kew Gardens where they took part in an ecology session. As part of this they took soil samples in a couple of different sites at Kew and tested them for mineral content and pH. They also learned about the carbon cycle and decomposition.



FOUNDRY GAMES

We had a great end to term with the Foundry Games on Wednesday. This was an alternative sports day, organised and run by our Key Stage 3 pupils. They planned the games and activities, explored and decided on the menu for the day. They have been making games, including cornhole and target games, sewing beanbags and built a BBQ on the day.

A great day was had by pupils and staff alike. Well done to the 'A-Team' who won with 181 points!

