

SwitchED2

July 2019



Message from Andy

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

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

We wish all the Year 11 students the very best as they progress into the next phase of their educational or work life.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter which will give you a flavour of the achievements and exciting times they've had.



This year in Maths, pupils have been working on a range of topics including perimeter and area, averages, using coordinates, data collection and generating sequences.

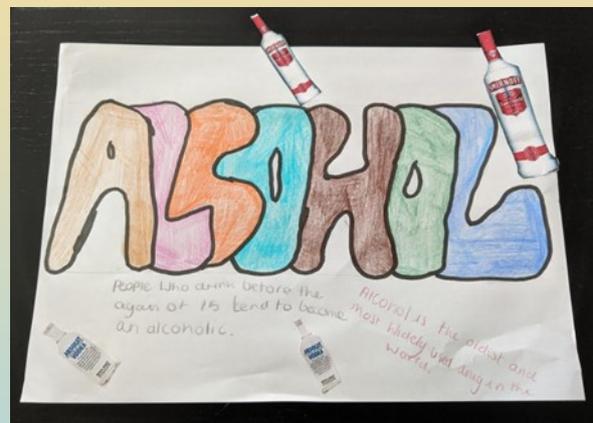
The effort students have put in has been reflected in some good progress for lots of our young people, with some making outstanding progress. If this is sustained, these pupils can expect to leave SwitchED2 with some strong Maths qualifications.



As well as learning and understanding how drugs and alcohol can affect someone, they have been learning about why people may take drugs, the side effects of certain drugs and the best places to receive help and advice if needed.



All the students have taken part in art lessons combining learning with creativity, their drawings have ranged from Animals such as deer, birds and crocodiles whilst completing land base activities.



The students have also used their art skills in Science and English to draw all sorts of great pieces ranging from amazing plants with great detail to identify different parts of a plant, to wonderful buildings dating back hundreds of years for English and History.



As part of our hospitality experience at SwitchED2, we have designed a curriculum with practical skills at its centre, building resilience in the students as they progress through the core competencies.

Our young people have been invited to take ownership of their learning by planning and ordering groceries to produce their own choice of meals.

This has provided them all with a very personalised learning experience, one which was immensely enjoyed by all but more importantly, has given them an excellent platform for their future independence.

***Ebony's choice: full
Sunday Roast -
delicious!***



We had the best time ever at Pizza Express. We learnt how to make pizzas from scratch and then used the big ovens to cook them. We even used the posh coffee machines

Year 9 student



It has been a busy year for learners taking part in the PSHE classes, as we have been focusing on two curriculum areas: Healthy Lifestyles and Preparing for Work. Everyone has taken part, on the days they have been in school, and we have seen learners' complete units, awards, certificates and diplomas. Some of the sessions have included getting everyone to produce a CV, ready to take to a work place or college; whilst others have looked at Introduction to Essential Work Skills and Understanding a Work Experience placement, as well as units such as Stress Management, Personal Action Planning and Substance Misuse. We have had guest speakers from Barclays Bank Money Skills team, which included running workshops on Digital Awareness, Money Skills/ Budgetting and How to Improve your CV.

As part of our Healthy Lifestyles classes, we have looked at sex and relationship education, healthy eating, drugs and alcohol, as well as discussions on how these can have a significant impact on individuals, families and communities. David Morris, from Cumbria NHS Sexual Health team, also ran a workshop on consent, contraception and sexually transmitted infections.

Next year we will be extending the PSHE Curriculum to look at the law, gang culture, gun and knife crime, E-Safety, CSE and Rights and responsibilities. Also Year 11's will focus on applying to Colleges, gaining Apprenticeships and gaining the necessary qualifications in order for them to progress on to further employment or education.



SCIENCE

This has been the first year of science at SwitchEd2. On the whole, all the young people have engaged well in their science work and activities. The Key Stage Four work has been based around the Open College Award at Level One. I am very pleased to be able to say that the overwhelming majority of year 11 students have worked hard enough to complete their units on plants, elements and compounds as well as the compulsory science investigation unit. They have also completed units on magnetism, energy use, fuels and pollution, human systems for survival and ecosystems and the environment. This has resulted in them all achieving the required standard to gain their qualification.

It has been pleasing to observe the efforts made by the students and watch their knowledge and understanding grow and develop over the year. Those in year ten have laid a very good foundation to go on and achieve well next year. The science program has been enriched by activities such as visits to open farms, museums and wildlife sanctuaries and zoos. This has helped broaden their appreciation of the subject and add to their knowledge and understanding.



Nurture

JULY

Design Technology

We have looked at the 5 basic food groups and the Eatwell plate. The pupils have taste tested some 'grab and go' meals such as Cornish pasties, spring rolls and sausage rolls. They then did an outstanding job of designing their own 'grab and go' snack and the packaging it for it.

Following on from the success of this unit of work the pupils designed their own healthy meal, writing down the recipe and required ingredients. After purchasing everything required and with minimal adult support the pupils created some fabulous meals which not only looked amazing but tasted delicious.

Art

After an interest was shown in East Asia countries by many of the pupils in the cabin we looked into the art based around China. Some of the activities took a lot of patience such as drawing Chinese dragons and others such as clay dragons and terracotta army figures were a huge success.



Geography

We have had some amazing adventures around the farm using six figure grid references and a map, whilst following the grid references we were also challenged to identify map symbols and the height of the land above sea level.

Again, following on from an interest in Eastern Asia we have also looked at the Japan and where it is in the world. The pupils have described Japan's position in the world using longitude and latitude and learnt why Japan is so susceptible to earthquakes.

History

After most of the pupils in the cabin became interested in the Rubik's cube we decided to find out about its origin.

The pupils all took a different topic such as 'Who is Ernő Rubik?', 'How did the Rubik's Cube come to be?' and 'Fun, random facts about the Rubik's Cube'. They then researched their topic area on the Internet and made a poster to present the information they found out.

After Easter we focused on pirates and the pupils investigated different types of pirate ship and made their own galleon and sloop. They also looked at the jobs of a pirate and learnt about Blackbeard, creating posters for his capture.

Computing

Computing has been used a lot with a literacy, maths and science focus. We have used PowerPoint and Publisher to create informative posters and presentations.

We have collected data through science and maths activities and input this into an Excel document. From the data the pupils have created scatter graphs, line graphs and pie charts.

The latest computing focus has been with Coding. Pupils have used Scratch or Python to learn programming language and find and fix coding problems. Some pupils have progressed further and programmed their own interactive stories.

Motor Vehicles

Practically the pupils have had the chance to clean air filters and complete weekly inspections on a Mondeo to check the tyres, screen wash and oil. They have also changed the oil on a motorbike and investigated the cooling system within a radiator. Within other sessions the pupils have learnt about the highway code.

Animal Care

The pupils have taken an active role in cleaning out and feeding the two rabbits but the greatest success was solving the case of 'Houdini' the amazing vanishing rabbit.

The pupils decided that they would like a pet in the classroom, so they did some research and worked out the costings to get their own hamster. Since arriving the pupils have fed, cleaned out and tamed 'Nibbles'.



Nurture

JULY

Outdoor Education and Visits

The pupils have had the privilege of participating in some amazing visits this year which have shown a massive improvement in individual's confidence and trust. Throughout the visits the support and encouragement of the entire group was remarkable, no one was pushed too far but all were encouraged to reach their own personal limits by both adults and fellow pupils. Some of the activities the pupils endeavoured include; kayaking, low ropes, high ropes, climbing walls, orienteering, rafted canoes, walking trails at Grizedale Forest, trampolining, archery, laser clay shooting, caving and driving mini off road buggy's.

Alongside these adventurous activities the pupils have also visited the fire and police service and mountain rescue to learn about the important work they do in the community.



Maths

Within our environment we have the luxury of an amazing outdoor space and we have used this as much as possible in our sessions. The pupils have enjoyed walks down to the ship wreck in order to collect data about minibeasts. They have hunted for objects to sort in Venn Diagrams and Carroll Diagrams and made our own angle measurer to identify acute, obtuse, reflex and right angles.

The pupils have also had the opportunity to use maths in real life situations such as using timetables to identify which train to catch, working with money to buy train tickets and ordering and paying for a meal on a budget. Our joy for baking and cooking has led to lots of weighing, estimating and measuring and change has been calculated during trips to Pets At Home and Morrisons.

Other pupils have been working hard towards some qualifications in mathematics and after successfully completing their Entry Level 3 qualification in Maths some have gone on to complete their Level 1 award.

Science

This year began with an exciting topic based around the Vikings. Pupils had the opportunity to make their own butter, test different types of glue for strength and then make their own the Viking way. They learnt about micro-organisms and their importance in food production and planned own investigation about oil lamps. One pupil chose to alter the material used for the wick and the other chose to change the oil and I have to say none of us thought the lamp would stay alight for quite so long!

Next we looked at simple circuits. The pupils created their own circuits, drew circuit diagrams and learnt to wire a plug. Finally, the pupils looked into energy usage. They looked at renewable and non-renewable sources of energy and how we can reduce energy wastage.

Swimming

These sessions have been popular with the pupils throughout the year and are always looked forward to. Strokes such as front crawl have been perfected and harder strokes such as breast stroke have improved over time. The flippers are always a hit for speed and pupils now swim elegantly through the water with the dolphin stroke. Pupils have also been working towards certificates such as 'self-rescue'.

Music

Guitar

The perseverance and practise is evident with the progress which has been made. The music sounds amazing!

Drums

Our drum sessions certainly started with a bang and continued to be a huge success. The pupils have listened carefully to the rhythm and successfully managed to play individual parts in harmony.



Motor Vehicle

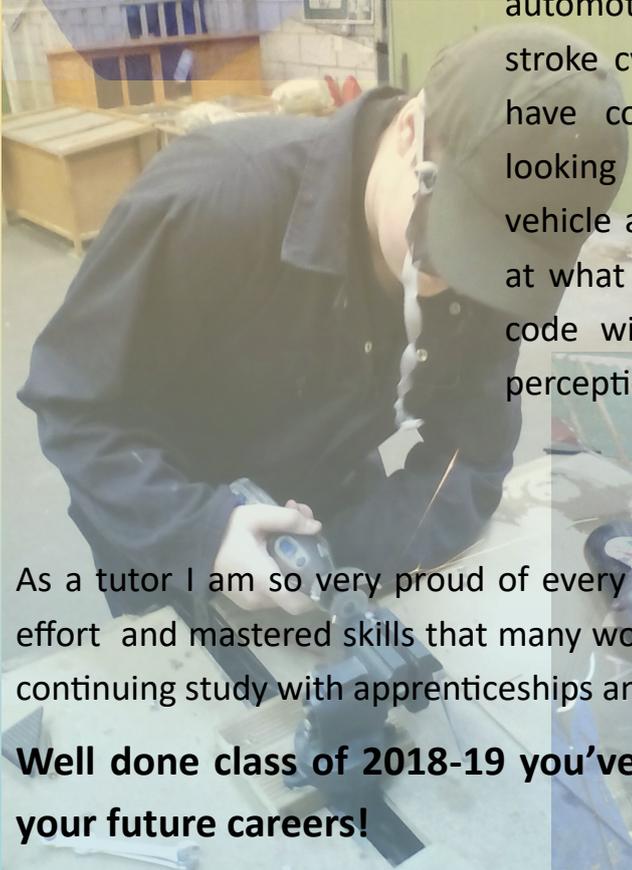
Academic Year 2018-19

This year the students have covered many different aspects of Mechanics and Engineering, from the basics to more complex jobs that would have the average home mechanic scratching their heads.

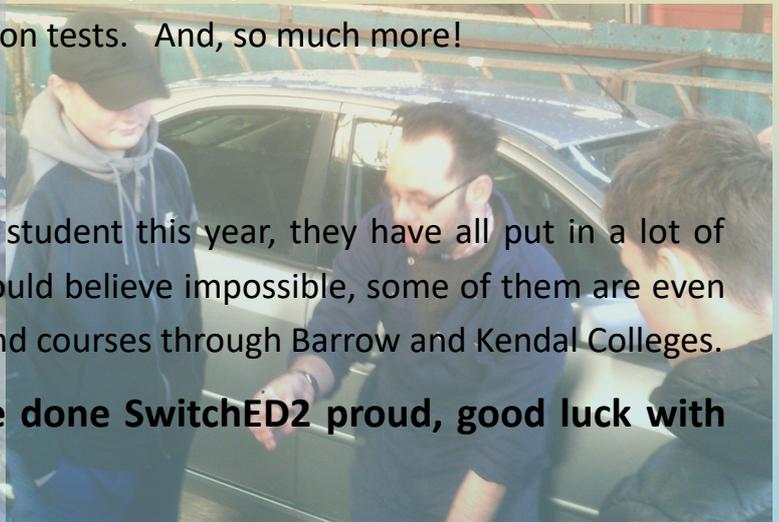
Each student has had the opportunity to participate in some 'serious' mechanics and not one has given up when the going got tough. The 2018-19 SwitchED2 Motor Vehicle cohort should be very proud of themselves, because, we are delighted with their continued efforts throughout the year.



Students have undertaken a variety of practical tasks and excelled in each of them, from minor; yet essential servicing to replacing braking systems on several vehicles. This year we have seen students remove and replace exhaust systems including; catalytic converters and entire exhaust systems.



In the classroom the students have engaged with serious automotive engineering, investigating the two and four stroke cycles, cooling and air conditioning systems. We have covered aerodynamics, vehicle diagnostics also looking at the ever changing technology that ensure vehicle and passenger safety. Students have also looked at what makes a safe driver, learning about the highway code with many completing mock theory and hazard perception tests. And, so much more!



As a tutor I am so very proud of every student this year, they have all put in a lot of effort and mastered skills that many would believe impossible, some of them are even continuing study with apprenticeships and courses through Barrow and Kendal Colleges.

Well done class of 2018-19 you've done SwitchED2 proud, good luck with your future careers!

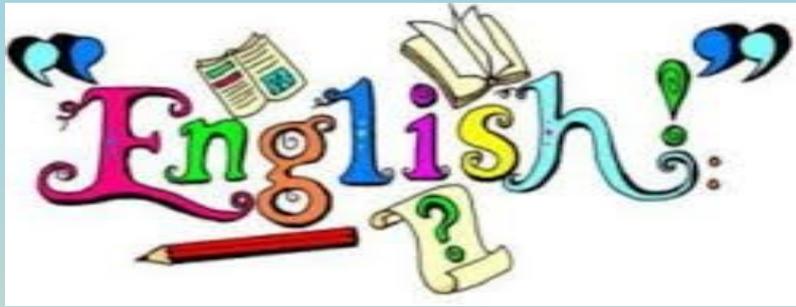
Land based Studies and Animal Care



In Land based and Animal Care, the students have all passed Units in 'An Introduction to Ground Preparation, Sowing and Growing Plants, An introduction to Caring for Animals and Feeding Animals'. The standard of work produced has been high and all students have shown a real hard working attitude when it came to the practical application of their knowledge and skills. The result has been a healthy crop of produce this year including courgettes, aubergine, sweetcorn, mange tout, tomatoes, squash and radish as well as a beautiful display of nostrum outside the Nurture Cabin door.

We have also been learning about the amazing lives of our resident Ospreys here on the Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve. The students produced an excellent, well researched and informative display detailing the impressive migration path these birds undertake every year. We visited the site of the nesting birds and got to explore their habitat at close range. The photography produced from this trip was of an excellent standard and the trip was a great experience for all involved.





This spring and summer has seen the students achieve some amazing results in English Functional Skills where they have been working towards, and have achieved, their Open Awards Entry Level 3 qualification .

The standard of work produced over these two terms has been very impressive. The students have made great progression in their skills and abilities and richly deserve the successes they have achieved.

We have had some great class trips including a visit to Cartmel Priory to learn about the Priory's founder and protector, William Marshall 1st Earl of Pembroke, the world's greatest knight and Regent of England after the death of King John. He was pivotal in the formation and signing of the Magna Carta and it is likely thanks to his good name that King Henry VIII left the Priory standing during the reformation.

Huge congratulations are due to all our students for all their hard work and achievements and we bid a fond farewell to those year 11's who will be leaving us this time round. We wish you all the very best for the future and look forward to welcoming the year 10's back in September.





All our learners are encouraged to take part in activities at least one afternoon a week, and we work with a range of local providers to give them the chance to try out a wide variety of activities. The vast majority of the activities are about getting learners to try new things, stay healthy, gain self confidence and have fun. Our Outdoor Education activities have consisted of:

Brockholes – Archery

Mobile Adventure – Ghyll Scrambling and Raft Building

Waterpark –Sailing, Kayaking, Canoeing, Rock Climbing, Indoor Climbing Wall, Abseiling, Low and High Ropes Courses and Team Building activities.

Regent Park Studios- Nerfing and Trampolining

Salt Ayre – Xheight -Indoor climbing Challenges and Gravity – Outdoor Heights with Zip Wires, Jumps and Leaps

Horse riding – learners have achieved a number of AQA units at Witherslack Horse Riding School, many of the learners had never been on a horse, but have really enjoyed horse riding, developing a range of skills in a very short space of time. Next year we will continue to offer these activities, and also try new activities that the learners will enjoy. We are also looking at developing Young Leaders' awards, as well as the Open Award Units we already cover.



School Holiday Dates

Academic Year 2019-2020

Term 1 - Autumn 2019

Development Day: Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Term Dates: Wednesday 4th September - Friday 18th October

Autumn Break: Monday 21st October - Friday 25th October

Term 2

Development Day: Monday 28th October 2019

Term Dates: Tuesday 29th October - Friday 20th December

Christmas Break: Monday 23th December – Friday 3rd January 2020

Term 3 - Spring 2020

Term Dates: Monday 6th January - Friday 14th February

February Break: Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

Term 4

Development Day: Monday 24th February 2020

Term Dates: Tuesday 25th February – Friday 27th March

Spring Break (inc Easter) : Monday 30th March - Monday 13th April

Term 5 - Summer 2020

Term Dates: Tuesday 14th April - Friday 22nd May

May Day Monday 4th May

May Break: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Term 6

Term Dates: Monday 1st June - Friday 17th July

Development Day: 20th July 2020

