



# SwitchED2

## Christmas Newsletter

### 2020

#### Message from Andy

As we near the end of term, it is a pleasure for myself and the staff to not only reflect upon the pupils' achievements but also their engagement in the activities on offer.

I would like to thank you as parents and carers for supporting all our young people to achieve the very best they can this term and in the future. We've had an excellent term with 88% attendance, (of which only 5.10% has been unauthorised) despite the cold and wet weather.

I hope you enjoy reading about the learning experiences our young people have been involved in this Autumn Term.

Have a very peaceful and happy Christmas. Having worked hard all term, our pupils will be ready for a break and the opportunity to recharge their batteries. I look forward to welcoming them back on Tuesday 5th January 2021

**Buon Natale e Felice**

**Anno nuovo**

**(Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year)**





During English this term, students have been working on completing units towards their Open Award Qualification. They have focused on the importance of reading and communication in the workplace.. Students have discussed how a variety of job roles and tasks require an individual to read and communicate effectively. In addition to this we have taken part in a range of tasks that require us to be effective communicators such as, barrier games, running our own café and directing our peers to reach a given destination using maps.



Students have also worked on improving their reading skills by following a range of written instructions to complete tasks such as wiring a plug, putting up a tent, baking and making origami animals. They have also learnt a range of common work place health and safety signs.



This year has been a very busy one; so far the pupils have been exploring numerous things relating to maths.

The pupils started with Time, converting Analogue to Digital and vice versa. A good discussion followed, who was it that invented the time frames for a minute, a day, a month, and a year etc and when was the beginning of time.

Our next topic was exploring percentages, finding out the percentage of an amount using real life situations, showing that they know what a multiplier is.

Next came Money, being able to recognise Coins and Notes, (needless to say the pupils managed that with great skill)

The pupils then went on to converting Capacity and Length from Metric to Imperial and Imperial to Metric, followed by Volume using the formula LWH.

This was closely followed by Plans and Elevations, lines of symmetry, calculating, comparing and ordering numbers to one million and finding out the volume of 3D shapes using formula, including  $\pi$ ,  $r^2$  and  $r^3$ .

As well as all that, the pupils have completed a number of units towards their Open Awards Qualifications.

On a personal note, I have to congratulate ALL the pupils who have worked extremely hard and have made excellent progress throughout the year so far.

WELL DONE!





Food technology this term has included health and safety in the kitchen environment, understanding the principles behind food and nutrition and using a number of practical cooking techniques.

Our young people have cooked and baked a range of recipes from biscuits to homemade burgers and everything in between!

They have also been given the opportunity to create their own lunch menus which they have then gone on to prepare and cook themselves. A selection of meals enjoyed have included home-made pizzas, sirloin steak and chips and honey and ginger salmon fillets.

I am particularly proud of the Christmas hampers they have produced and hope you also enjoy the fruits of their labour!.

All these aspects have started to develop the pupils skills and abilities in the kitchen.





During humanities this term students have taken part in studies related to the Norman Conquest and its effects of Britain. Students have taken part in a range of activities related to the 3 battles of 1066, Fulford, Stamford Bridge and Hastings. We have used a range of sources to gather information including watching videos, using maps to locate battle sites and to plot the journey the Vikings and Normans took to invade Britain. In addition to this students also used google to find a range of facts and located information from textbooks and worksheets. Students have engaged well in sessions and discussions particularly when learning about the Harrying of the North. Students have enjoyed taking part in a range of quizzes each week based on the previous weeks learning and this has at times got quite competitive.



# Science

Throughout the term, learners have made fluffy slime, firework lava lamps, penny boats, rockets using recycled plastic bottles and bath bombs.

Many of our learners are working at different levels and we have produced several experiments at Level 1 and Level 2. This term we have focussed on acids and alkalis. Learners had to conduct a variety of experiments which have involved using many household products such as bicarbonate soda, lemon, vinegar, hand sanitiser, washing up liquids and many more. Learners were asked to determine which ones were acids or alkalis using a universal indicator made from a red cabbage solution. This enabled them to establish how strong or weak certain products were by using the PH scale. During the lessons all learners adhered to wearing personal protective clothing and the correct equipment.



# Sport and Leisure

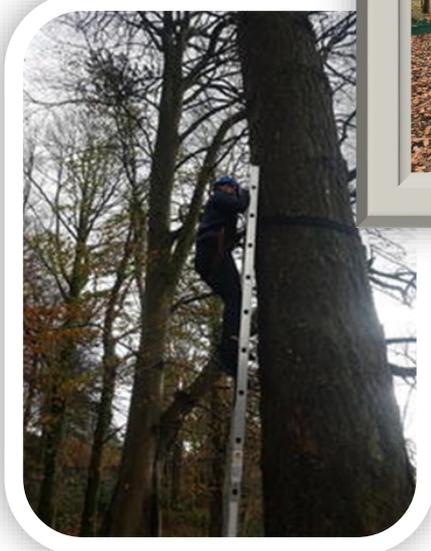
Once a week we attend Kendal Lads and Girls Club and participate in sport and leisure activities. Learners soon picked up the skills of Boccia and demonstrated they were very good at working as a team and became quite tactical, it was also noted that some learners were more competitive than others. Learners are given the option of what they would like to have a go at and much of this term they have played pool, dodgeball, table tennis and one young man organised a small football match which led to a penalty shoot out.





# Outdoor Education

Learners participate in Outdoor Education where they have undertaken a wide range of activities including Kayaking, swimming, jumping off the jetty, abseiling, sailing, canoeing, driving the powerboat, low ropes course, the tree climb and the telegraph pole. Some learners have overcome many fears and we have watched their confidence and self esteem develop throughout this term. Many have abseiled from cliff faces, kayaked and canoed solo, worked as a team on a Katamaran and drove a power boat with one to one tuition from the instructor. Also, for the first time I have witnessed one individual climbing to the top of a telegraph pole, stand on the top and then do several keepy ups with a football, very impressive to say the least.





# Land Based and animal care



Land-based studies includes a wide range of topics : this term we having been working towards qualifications involving plants and planting, identifying weeds, sowing and propagation, identifying the correct tools for certain tasks and how to care for a small animal. Learners are involved in the tasks around the school site and some learners have identified future projects such as extending the raised beds and given ideas as to what to plant and when in the coming months.

We have also been looking at the safe use of power tools –learners have had the opportunity to create some gifts for our Christmas hampers, such as wooden candle tea light holders, Christmas candle glass jars, wooden plant pots and a photo frame.

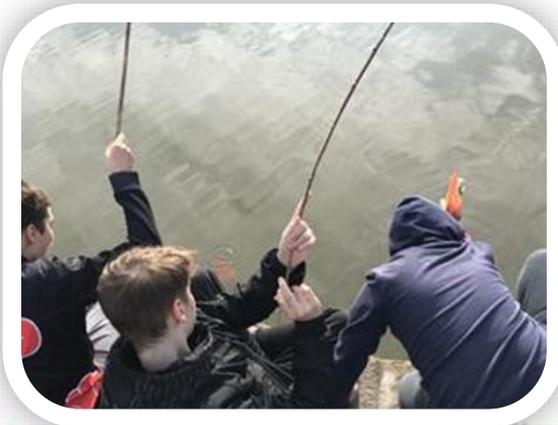
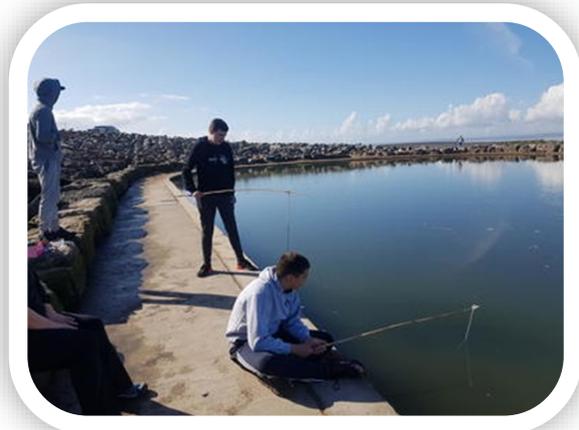
During land based we have also been making a variety of animal gifts and treats for a local charity Blea Tarn Farm Animal Sanctuary. Learners have made dog treats, small animal toys such as pompoms, chew toys and toy rags made from jeans and other materials. We have also visited the sanctuary to donate the gifts.



# Enrichment

As part of our enrichment programme, students have the opportunity to get out into the local area and access local resources and activities. Due to Covid restrictions this has been somewhat restricted, but where possible we have tried to offer learners a broad range of activities and educational visits. Visits have included:

- Halton Multi use game area and skatepark
- Golf driving range
- Foulshaw Moss-Osprey/bird watching
- Williamsons Park- dog walking
- Eaves Wood
- Visits to Blea Tarn to Animal Care
- Forbidden Corner
- Crabbing in Morecambe bay
- Ingleton Falls
- Blackpool Sea Life Centre
- Kendal Gym and 3G pitches



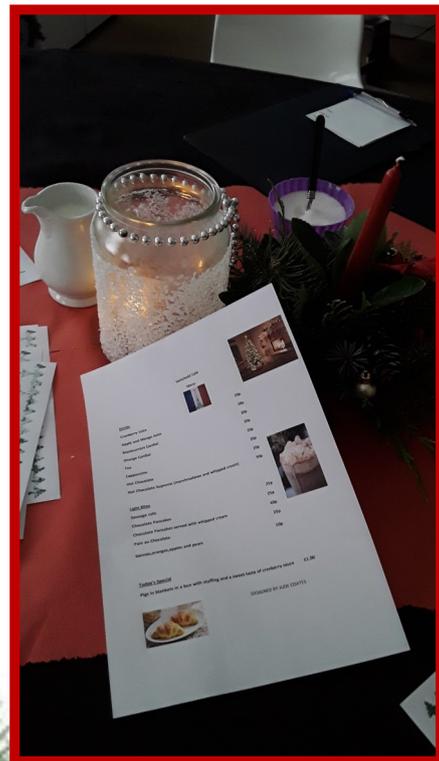
# The Cabin Cafe

A new innovation this term has been the introduction of a Café with the aim of not only providing delicious food and drink to staff and the nurture cabin students, but supporting and promoting the young peoples' communication skills.

Each week, students have decided upon and written a menu taking into account 'customer' feedback. They have also been responsible for the ambience of the café and designing invites. The improvement made each week has been very marked.

Last week saw the introduction of a café special—Bacon, brie and cranberry panini and this week, they are offering a Christmas special of pigs in blankets bun with stuffing and cranberry sauce.

This has been an incredibly popular and well received addition to the curriculum. Well done everyone!





### English

Within English each pupil has been working towards individual outcomes. Some pupils have been working towards their Entry level 3 Functional Skills qualification with an emphasis on reading. They have recently taken their reading exam and I am sure their hard work will be evident in the results.

Other pupils have had a book focus for the term and enjoyed reading *Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer and *Code Name Bananas* by David Walliams. Activities throughout the sessions have been linked heavily to the books and we have enjoyed writing diary entries describing a night in an air raid shelter during the Blitz as well following instructions to make goblin poo.

Within all sessions we have also enjoyed practicing spellings with invisible and rainbow writing.

### Maths

Within the cabin we have enjoyed developing our mathematical knowledge through a lot of games and practical activities. Through these games the pupils have shown a good understanding of place value, written addition and subtraction, short division as well as prime, squared and cubed numbers. The pupils have also enjoyed playing games of Bingo, Mathsopoly and Hit The Button to improve the speed they can rapidly recall multiplication facts.

### History

This term the pupils have been investigating 'Medieval life' they looked at the life of a Knight and made their own heraldic shields, they then went on to look at life in a medieval castle and compared it to life nowadays, deciding that it's much better to have heating in the whole house rather than just in one or two rooms of a castle.

The pupils then went on to look the 'Bubonic Plague' and how it affected the lives of both the rich and the poor, how the Plague was carried and the work of the Plague Doctor, this concluded with the pupils making their own 'Plague Cures'.

### Science

In the first half term we explored light. The pupils investigate shadows and created their own shadow giants, used prisms to separate white light into the colours of the rainbow and made their own periscopes to reflect the light and allow them to become secret agents and spy over high walls.

In the second half term we have investigated different forces. We made our own elastic band cars which we tested on different surfaces, made parachutes to test air resistance and designed our own boats to explore water resistance.

### Art

The children have enjoyed experimenting with different painting techniques and trying tie dyeing. They worked together to create an impressive paper plate polyhedron!

### Computing

In the second half term pupils were challenged to create a new game of their own using Scratch. They needed to move and edit blocks as part of an algorithm and add additional effects and features, such as sound or point scoring, to enhance the appeal of a game. All pupils successfully created both maze and splat games which were fun to play.

The first half term was based around staying safe online and we discussed safe websites, cyber bullying and information which should not be shared with others.



### Geography

The Geography focus this year has been 'Extreme Earth' the pupils looked at how the earth was formed, culminating in making a model Earth, using salt dough and food colouring, once dried the pupils labeled their models showing the Mantle, Inner core, Outer core and Crust.

They then went on to look at Volcanoes, labeling a cross section of a volcano, finding facts about Volcanoes, such as the 'Pacific Rim of Fire' the highest volcano, the Eruption Cycles, the most active volcano, and when they last erupted as well as those Volcanoes that are now dormant.

### Outdoor Education

Every Monday, whatever the weather, we have been to Coniston Waterpark. The children are always wrapped up and warm in wetsuits and waterproofs. They have all become competent at paddling canoes and kayaks, often paddling to an island or the other side of the lake for a picnic and sometimes a hot chocolate to warm us up. Usually everyone is happy to attempt new activities such as climbing up high poles and trees, rock climbing and abseiling. They have shown great balancing skills on paddleboards and enjoyed windsurfing and single handedly sailing their own sailing dingy. Ghyll scrambling was hard work but it was fun sliding down slippery rocks into the river and standing under waterfalls.

### Cookery

The pupils in our cabin enjoy Friday afternoon cookery sessions and add to their own recipe books each week, they are now almost full of lovely recipes for you to try together at home. A few savoury favourites from this term have been sausage pasta bake, spaghetti carbonara, cupcake quiches and sausage rolls. The cheesecake, bread and butter pudding and sticky toffee pudding all looked and smelt delicious, I hope they tasted as good!

### Design Technology

We have enjoyed a variety of design and make activities throughout the first half term including candle making, soap making, crayons and crabbing sticks. The main focus, however, has been woodwork and the pupils have enjoyed using saws and drills to create photographs frames, planters and tea light holders.

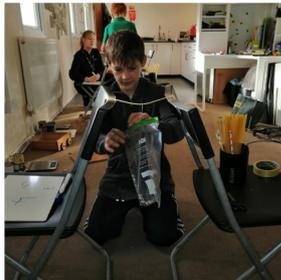
### Guitars

Pupils participating in guitar sessions have worked very hard already this year. They now have 11 tunes from their Rockschool grade book under their fingers and are all set to very soon move up to grade one. They have shown a good level of skill playing versions of Jimi Hendrix's Hey Joe as well as Adele's Hello and Bill Withers "Ain't No Sunshine".

# DECEMBER

North Pole

Santa's Shop



# DECEMBER

North Pole

Santa's Shop



We hope you have a  
wonderful  
Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year

We look forward to seeing  
you after Christmas  
Our first day back is  
Tuesday 5th January 2021

