

Principal's Report

Another school year is almost over, one in which we have seen The Centre School grow in numbers and start its own farm. The photographic records we have are superb and reflect our 3 key words '**Relationships, Resilience and Engagement**'.

We have held three sessions with the incoming Year 6 students, and these have been a huge success and will, I hope, enable them to have a relaxed summer holiday whilst looking forward to September.

Thank you all for your support and enjoy the summer.



Sue Raven

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There are lots more photos and info on our Facebook page, Twitter feed and Instagram page. You can get to these from the home page of the Centre School website.

The school website is www.astreacentreschool.org

Battlefields 2022 (1) - Back to the Front



At long last, we were able to resume our Battlefields trips to the Western Front in France and Belgium. It was wonderful to be back!

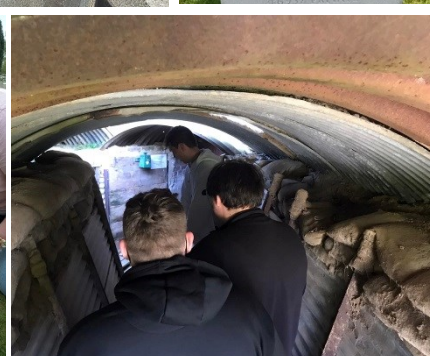


The group each had a handout that explained the different visits, and provided space for them to record their thoughts about each place. Bobby said, ***"This has been a great trip. I will remember laying the wreath together at the Menin Gate. I was very nervous about the trip and I nearly didn't come. I'm so glad that I did!"*** Braydon said, ***"The trip was a brilliant experience."*** Caiden said, ***"It felt amazing to be one of the Cottenham Pals, and it was great to find a Tommy with the same name as me!"***

Rose said that the only thing she would change would be to stay out there longer!



Battlefields 2022 (1) - Back to the Front



Archaeology visit — Waterbeach Barracks

Back at the beginning of May, we were lucky enough to get a guided tour of the archaeological dig at Waterbeach Barracks, ahead of extensive house-building there. We got to see the dig sites, hear about their findings, and finally we got to help out with processing some finds. This involved very

careful washing, whilst making sure that nothing got mixed up with finds from other parts of the site!



Fen Edge Festival

Cottenham's fantastic Fen-Edge Festival was back with a bang in June. We entered some of our excellent student artwork. These were much admired, and won prizes! Jake was there to get his!



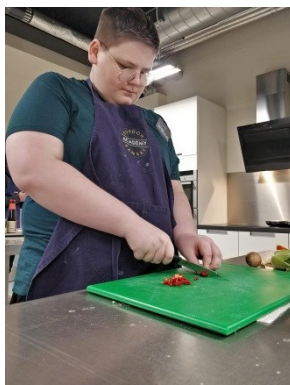
Duxford Fire and Rescue Service visits



The Public Services groups visited the Fire and Rescue team twice at the Imperial War Museum Duxford Airfield during May. This is part of their Gold Award and BTEC syllabus — they get to see a range of Public Service organisations to learn more about what they do. The students will also find out what the joining and fitness requirements are, what sort of training they do and see the equipment that the different services use. We are always made very welcome at Duxford (helps that CLM has known their boss for many years!) and the firefighters showed us all the impressive kit they carry to deal with any emergency in the museum, on the airfield, or even off-site helping the local Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue if needed.



Gordon Ramsey Academy



Tiffany, our cooking teacher, assisted by Ryan, took a small group of carefully chosen student chefs to the Gordon Ramsey Academy in Woking, near London. Here they got to learn from one of Gordon's own chefs; they practiced some techniques then cooked and enjoyed a range of delicious dishes.



It's all about the Poo — at Woburn Safari Park



Richenda took a group of Year 7 and 8 students to **Woburn Safari Park** in May.

After a great talk entitled "Poo in the Zoo", the students enjoyed drive around the animal habitats. They saw lots of different animals, including monkeys who jumped up on the car!



Van Gogh Immersive Experience



I went to London to the Van Gogh Immersive Experience. My favorite part of the day was the VR experience.
Tabe.C.

Two different groups of students got to travel to London to see an amazing immersive Van Gogh exhibition. The students were impressed, as you can see!

I Found the Vincent Van Gogh Museum trip very entertaining, I particularly liked the projector room showing all of Vincent's artwork and the journey, hardship and achievements he lived through.
Lysander Hirst

Justin said, "I learned a lot about Van Gogh from going there. It was exciting, and a breath of fresh air. It was a unique experience!"



I tried Japanese tea at the Van Gogh Museum then I went to the VR Experience and saw Van Gogh's artwork in the place he lived. It started off in his bedroom, my favorite but in the big room where his artwork was projected onto the walls.
- Eric

I went to London to see the Vincent Van Gogh Immersive Experience. My favorite part was the immersive room projecting Vincent van Gogh's artwork.
Tyler W

NCS — National Citizenship Scheme

To quote the NCS website at **wearencs.com**:

NCS is a space where young people can become world ready and work ready, and raise their voice to make a positive difference together. Where they can explore who they are and who they want to be, with no fear of judgement or failure.

A space for everyone to feel at home, no matter where they're from. To connect with other like-minds, learn new skills, make an impact in their community and better their employability. NCS lets them say 'No We Can'.



Rob, Nat and Rose escorted the students on the NCS residential. Rob writes:

The NCS programme invited students along to Kingswood activity centre in Overstrand near Cromer to learn life skills, leadership and resilience. The students were encouraged to partake in several activities that challenged their comfort zones and asked them to trust one another.

These activities included rock climbing, Bush craft, Jacobs ladder, archery, beach craft, enterprise planning and team building.

Some of the students were unsure about sharing a room with others, and some were worried about staying away from home. However, with the support from their peers, the NCS staff and the centre staff, all students managed to get through the programme.

We are very proud of every one of them, as they showed fantastic sportsmanship to one another and other students from other special schools and have made some long lasting friendships.

Since returning to school the students planned a social action project which included baking cakes and desserts for the local elderly community support group. When we delivered them they were all very thankful and gracious to our students.

NCS — National Citizenship Scheme



Fishing

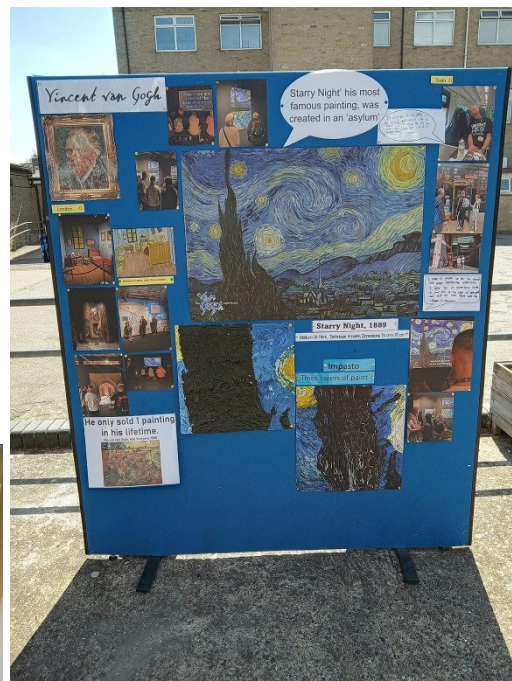
Fishing continues to be an important activity at the Centre School, and we have been able to introduce our incoming Year 7s to the activity during their recent taster days.

The annual Fishing Match made a triumphant post-Covid return in early July, and saw Henry taking first place, with Callum in second and Ronnie in third place. Thanks to Hooked fishing tackle, Mad Baits, Willow Grange and St Ives Angling for their generous donations to the prize fund.



Centre Celebration

We have not been able to hold our annual Centre Celebration (our Open Evening) since 2019, and it was great to invite everybody back. The school looked fantastic, and there was so much amazing student work on show. We have taken on the Sixth Form since the last Celebration, and we now have quite a few more students. We were taken slightly aback but just how many people turned up! It was great to see so many parents, families, friends and former students who all came to see what we have been up to. One former student present was Joe Hinson; he is one of the best skateboarders in the UK, and is now competing in European competitions!



The Centre School remembers Eric Nash

Following the Centre Celebration, there was another gathering to finally pay our tribute to our much respected and missed friend and colleague, Eric Nash, who we lost in August 2020. COVID restrictions have prevented us from showing how much we miss Eric — until now.

Dom and Bradley, working with colleagues at New Meaning, built an incredible bench. Kilo created a wonderful mural that captures one of Eric's favourite phrases, Rob organised a brilliant photo display, and Sue Lester helped coordinate the presentation of a new Trophy in Eric's name. This will be presented annually to a student who has made the most of their time at The Centre School.

Many members of Eric's family, friends and former colleagues were present, and we are very grateful to them for coming. It was a wonderfully bitter-sweet occasion; those of us lucky enough to have been here with Eric continue to feel his loss, but it was great to share our memories of him with his family and friends, and to recognise how his legacy will live on at our School.



Margaret later wrote this wonderful message.

"On behalf of the Nash family I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all the love, kindness and warmth we were shown on the evening of 16th June. Prior to this evening we had all known what a special place the Centre School held in

Eric's heart, what became abundantly clear was just how much Eric meant to the Centre School. From the moment we arrived at the BBQ, through visits to his classroom, the unveiling of a stunning piece of furniture made by the boys and the photo montage wall all presented under one of Eric's favourite sayings, we couldn't have been made more welcome by anyone in his 'second home'. Eric had a passion for education and for helping everyone he met achieve their very best, having visited Cottenham I am clear his legacy and vision will live on. From Eric's home family to his school family - thank you."



Mountfitchet Castle visit — Year 7 and 8 History

A visit to Mountfitchet Castle and Toy Museum in June helped us learn much more about Norman life. We got to feed lots of animals and birds, try lots of tortures, and lock the staff up as well!



"I liked feeding the peacock!"
- Aaron



"I really enjoyed feeding the animals. This was the first school trip I have been on, and I look forward to going on many more!" - Callum



"It was all awesome! They used to have a lot of torture!" - Elijah



"The Toy Museum was great!" - Leo



"I liked being in the stocks!" - Eric

Bovington Residential — tanks very much!



A small group travelled to Dorset and Wiltshire in June to visit the amazing Tank Museum at Bovington (a dream come true for Mikey) and other local places of interest. Driving around in such beautiful countryside was a delight in itself! We stayed overnight in Weymouth, and visited Salisbury the next morning. We finished at the



Boscombe Down Aviation Collection at Old Sarum airfield, where everyone pretended to be fighter pilots! We are very lucky to be able to develop the interests of our students with trips like this, and they learn lots of life skills as well as having fun!



The School Farm

The school farm is very well-established now, and the **#farmfriday** posts on our School social media are a good place to keep up with progress. Following a staff working day during the May half-term, lots more infrastructure is in place, such as additional fencing, deep beds and so on. The bees have arrived, and finally there is running water!

Our Welsh Mountain Ponies Doris and Lottie are very settled now; Lottie is becoming much less anxious and now welcomes being groomed and walked. More hens and a cockerel have joined the first batch, and we have ducks as well! The polytunnel is an established growing area, and salad veg is being picked.

Students get involved with lots of jobs. The ponies always need mucking out, grooming and walking. The hens need feeding and watering, and they lay plenty of eggs! Electric fences need careful maintenance, and crops need planting, watering and picking.



TCS solution to summer heat — Aqua Park!

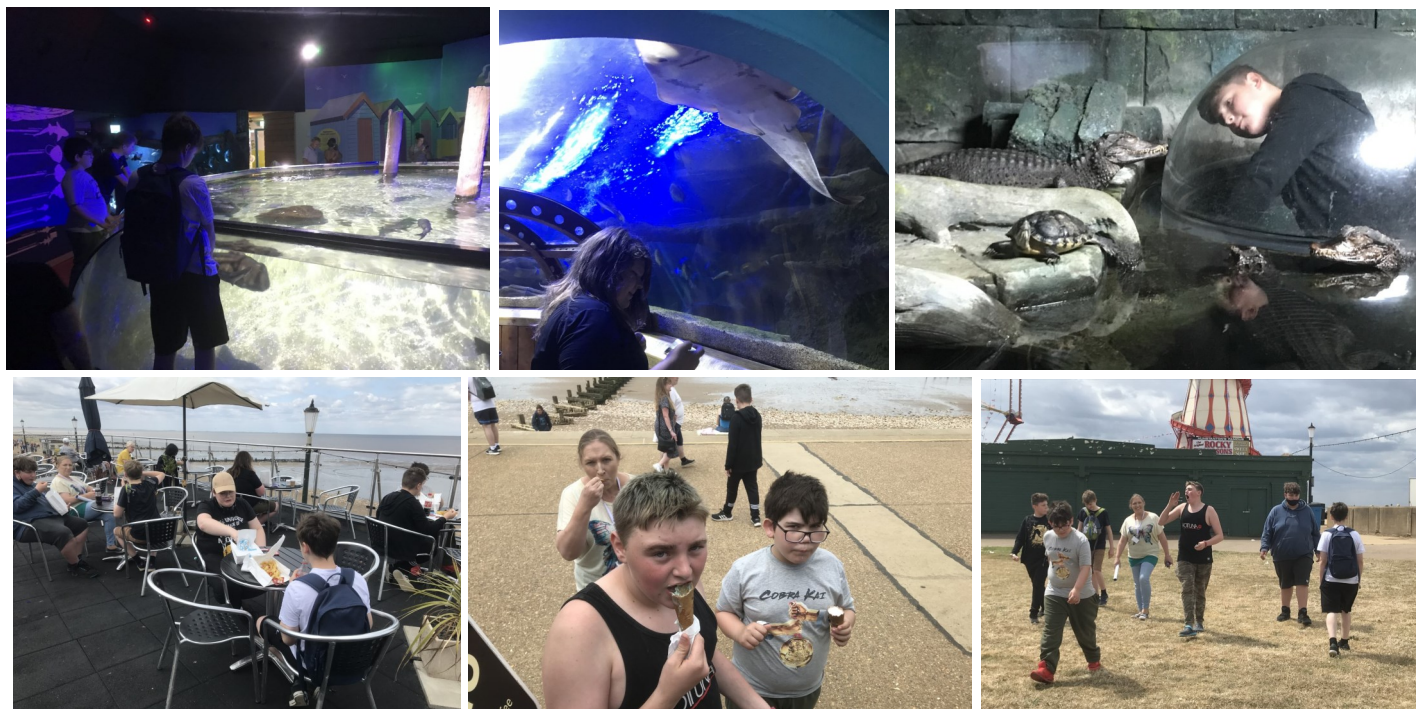


Towards the end of the Summer Term, as temperatures started to rise, we took 2 groups of students to the Aqua Park at Wyboston Lakes. Great fun for all—and good exercise!



Bronze and Pink House trips to Hunstanton

As the school year moves towards it's (sweltering!) conclusion, two Houses decided that a trip to the seaside was in order. First to go to Hunstanton was Bel's Pink House, followed a few days later by Bronze House. Bronze have done very well this year, moving up to second position in the House point table — highest previous position was 7th! We visited the Sea Life Centre, which the students found really impressive, before having fish and chips for lunch and an ice cream on the beach.



Dates for next term

There are two Training Days at the beginning of the Autumn Term, and our staff will be coming out for Home Visits on **Monday 5th September**.

Times of meetings, and the staff coming to see you, will be on the letter sent with this newsletter.

Training Days: **Thursday 1st / Friday 2nd September 2022 (closed to students)**

Parent Visits: **Monday 5th September 2022 (closed to students)**

Term Starts: **Tuesday 6th September 2022**

Half-term: **Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October 2022**

Training Day: **Monday 28th November 2022 (Closed to students)**

End of term: **Friday 17th December 2022**