



THE CENTRE SCHOOL
COTTENHAM

Astrea Academy Trust
INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE

The Centre School

Newsletter - December 2022

Principal's Report



In September we started with 21 new Year 7 students, something we had not done before. Those students have done really well, some of them had been out of school for long periods of time but they have managed to get back into school routines with great success. As a year group, these students have made excellent progress in terms of learning, but also socially as well. They should all be very proud of themselves.

We are crawling towards the end of term, during which there has been a lot going on, including three residentials, a huge undertaking in itself, thank you to all the staff that made these experiences possible. You can read about these and many more experiences in this Newsletter.

The farm continues to grow, an injection of funding from a charity will enable us to develop the farm even further. More on this to follow in the New Year.



Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas & New Year. We will see you in January for the home visits!

Sue Raven



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

The school website is: www.astreacentreschool.org





Grafham Water Residential



Within a few weeks of our new Year 7s arriving, a group of them (plus a Year 8 for support!) went on a short residential to the Grafham Water Centre. A brilliant three days saw them paddle-boarding, climbing, biking, climbing the high ropes and trying their hands at archery. A great start to the school year!





Fishing



Fishing continues to be very popular and beneficial, and Billy wrote an article for this newsletter about his experiences. However, your Editor has misplaced it... Sorry Billy — hopefully in the next issue!



Meanwhile, over in the Bungalow...

Matthew works in the bungalow, with his tutor Sarah. They follow a bespoke curriculum that builds on Matthew's interests and enthusiasms to reach into many different areas and topics.

A recent topic has been the use of narrow-gauge railways in mines and quarries. Matthew brought in his love of the animals at our farm when he built a model to illustrate his learning.

Lottie and Doris inspired the horse pulling the carts at the mine. Matthew says, "I always say hello to the birds and the goats and the pigs first, then I go to the horses. Both the horses (at the farm) inspired me to make the models and I switch between the two horses. This week Doris is pulling the cart and Lottie is in the field."





Brenscombe



Brenscombe is a week's Residential on the glorious Jurassic Coast. It's an incredible opportunity for those selected to attend. This October, the weather was wonderful!





Brenscombe

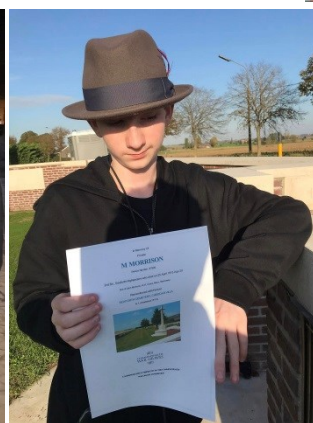




Battlefields 2022 (2)



The October Battlefields trip was a great success (once we'd got past the Dartford Bridge closure!) and I hope these photos capture that. This time, we had a tank theme, and we managed to see three WW1 tanks—two originals (one dug out of the ground after being knocked out in the Battle of Cambrai) and one running replica built by Belgian enthusiasts. As usual, Battlefields was an unforgettable learning experience.





Battlefields 2022 (2)



A serious bit, from Annabel - Student Welfare.

Responding to the Ofsted Report into sexual abuse and harassment.

Following the Ofsted review into sexual harassment in schools (June 2021) in which it stated that schools should 'act on the assumption that sexual harassment is affecting their pupils', The Centre School has undertaken various actions to address the issues raised in the report.

The definition of sexual harassment includes behaviours such as sexual comments or jokes, physical behaviour, upskirting, displaying pictures/photos of a sexual nature and online sexual harassment (Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022.)

In December 2021 staff training was delivered to raise awareness of the issue amongst the staff team. A review of the PHSE curriculum was completed and in January and February 2022 sessions were delivered to all students during PHSE lessons covering sexual harassment and sexual violence.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and PHSE Lead met with single sex groups of students in December 2021 and again in May 2022 to discuss the issue. Feedback from the students in these sessions identified several actions, which have now been completed.

A survey will be completed by students in the New Year to identify any gaps in understanding around the issue which The Centre School will then follow up.

Students can speak to any member of staff at any time if they have concerns about sexual harassment or sexual violence at school. They can also use the "I wish my teacher knew" boxes or the confidential locked box outside Designated Safeguarding Lead's office (Annabel Gerrard Croxon.)

Students or parent carers can also contact school confidentially via the Report a concern link on The Centre School website. If you have any questions or queries please contact Annabel Gerrard Croxon (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Martin Gerrard Croxon (PHSE Lead).





School Farm



It's been an amazing term down on the school farm. From the balmy late summer days of September, through autumn and harvest, into the hard frosts of winter — the students and staff have been hard at work. From the upset of the break-in and thefts, to the amazing response from all our supporters to the Just Giving appeal, it's been a bit of a roller-coaster! These photos hopefully show the fun as well as the work, as we all enjoy spending time with the animals and getting lots of fresh air! Thanks to everyone that helps out—special mention to Tiff's mum Julie!





School Farm





Art



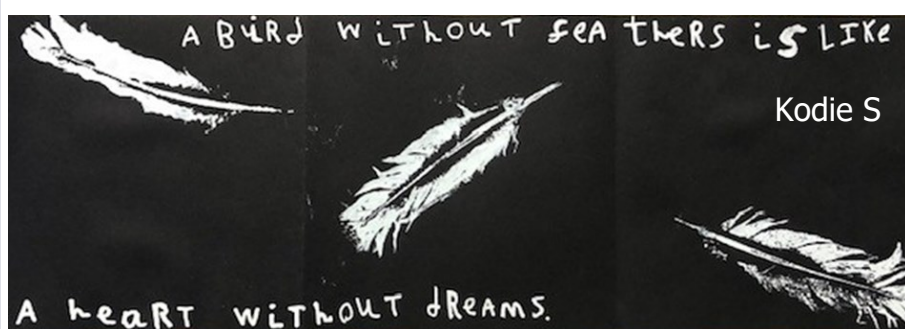
Cross-curriculum art project -Forrest Gump

Students looked at the use of symbols to represent deeper meanings or themes not only in art but as a form of visual literacy in every day life. We discussed the symbolism of the feather in the Forrest Gump film and then students were inspired to use the feather to create artworks. Students explored various printing and drawing techniques to create their pieces.

Laura Aves—Art



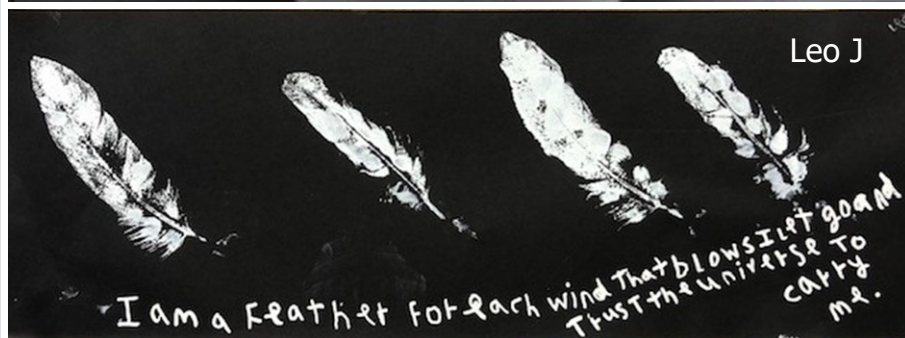
Eric



Kodie S



Sean J



Leo J



Eric



Sean J





Art



Christmas Card Enterprise.

Each year students create a piece of artwork that can be photocopied to make christmas cards, that they can then take home or sell to staff at TCS. This year students got to experiment with and explore the medium oil pastel. Students were set criteria that they had to meet in order to receive their Christmas cards. I was looking for a smooth transition from one tone to the next using the tried and tested technique of blending, and for a smooth and consistent application of the medium, all students excelled and several students were able to use the skills that they had learnt to demonstrate how to achieve certain outcomes.



Eric



Reece B



Lee



Jake B

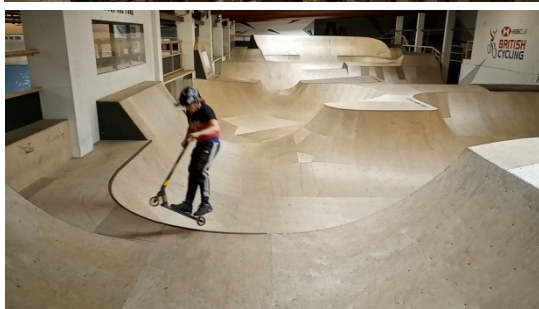
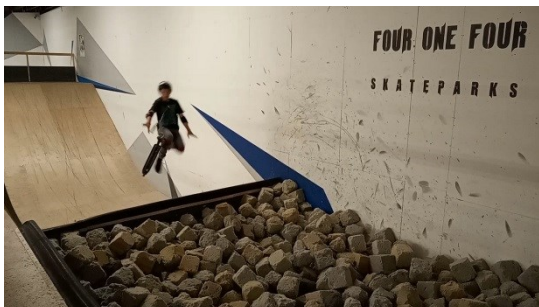




Kilo's Corby Crew



This term Kilo and his Corby Crew have been continuing to practice their skills at **Adrenaline Alley** as part of Centre School's exciting Extended Curriculum program. The activity gives our students the opportunity to gain confidence and expand their own skill set while mixing with some of the UK's finest extreme sports participants, including **Olympic BMX gold medallist, Charlotte Worthington MBE!**



Dates for next term

There are two Training Days at the beginning of the Spring Term, and our staff will be coming out for Home Visits on **Friday 6th January 2023**.

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

Training Day: **Wednesday 4th January 2023 (closed to students)**

Training Day: **Thursday 5th January 2023 (closed to students)**

Home Visits: **Friday 6th January 2023**

Term Starts: **Monday 9th January 2023**

Half-term: **Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2023**

End of term: **Friday 31st March 2023**

