

Principal's Report

Welcome to our April Newsletter!

Those of you who follow us on social media will have seen the piglets at our school farm! Unbeknownst to Chris Dunkley, Pumpkin the pig was pregnant when she joined us. Chris has had to get a bit of help and support from local experts, but all in all, he and his band of helpers have managed really well.



The farm continues to grow, and although the weather has been trying at times, the students have shown great resilience and battled through the ice, snow, wind and rain to ensure that the animals are fed and watered.

There have been two Art trips to London to see the Beyond the Streets exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery. The trip was hugely enjoyed by all participants—photos on p12! As I write this, we have just received pictures of the students on the beach in Dorset, having just arrived ready for the Brenscombe residential. Our passion for providing opportunities for students to learn and grow in a variety of settings will be reflected in this newsletter.

Our morning session last Friday was based around Mental Health and Well-being; this was very well received by the students, as the photos on pages 8-9 show!

I hope you have a very happy Easter and we look forward to seeing everyone back ready for the Summer Term.



Sue Raven

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

Centre School Lessons

It's not often, in the bustle of lessons, that we get chance to take photos of what the students are achieving. But we have a few for you in this issue of the Newsletter! They are from a variety of subjects, and show the range of our curriculum. Note the use of more tactile or hands-on lessons, and learning outside the classroom—these are all powerful ways of getting the messages across!



Centre School Lessons



Eruptions in the Bungalow!

Matthew is one of the students who works 1:1 on a bespoke curriculum in the Centre School's Bungalow. Matthew liked everything we did for our display of work on plate tectonics, Volcanoes and the Ring of Fire.

Matthew says: ***"We made the back-drop first and I did all the painting. I searched and chose the pictures to make the models look realistic. I really like making models look like they do in real life. It is important to me."***



Matthew wanted a shire horse on the island farm, similar to one seen at Wimpole Hall on EC visits. He made a pig model from Wimpole as well. ***"It's a classic pink pig. Pigs tend to be pink!"***

Matthew visits the school farm every week. He said ***"I used to really like the chickens but now I really like the horses,"*** so those models were included in the Pacific Island display as well.

Other animals were inspired by those seen on Extended Curriculum journeys, or seen around the school site, especially the squirrels that have kept the Bungalow students entertained!

Matthew wanted a train track and siding on the island display to show how the extra produce grown in the fertile, volcanic soil gets to market. Matthew learned how to make and use a template to get all the sleepers under the track the same size and learned how to measure the distance between locomotive wheel so that they fitted correctly on the track. Early in the term Matthew did some good practical maths comparing different track gauges, considering different narrow gauges up to current standard gauge.

The variety of locomotives in the display reflected an ongoing research project into the history of locomotives right up to present day with a state-of-the-art Stone Blower. Matthew researched how the machine worked and picked out some finer detail to include in the model. He thought a Stone Blower would help the people of the Island build and maintain a train track.

Centre School Farm

The Farm has had a busy term, and Spring has well and truly sprung! The biggest surprise this term came from Pumpkin, one of the three pigs that joined the farm late last year. We didn't know, but she was pregnant when she arrived! Dunks got a big surprise when he arrived at the farm one morning and she had five piglets! With a bit of help and advice, the piglets are doing very well!

To keep up, check out the weekly (usually!) #FarmFriday posts on our social media.



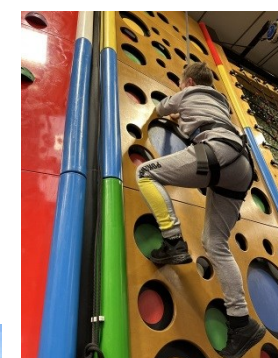
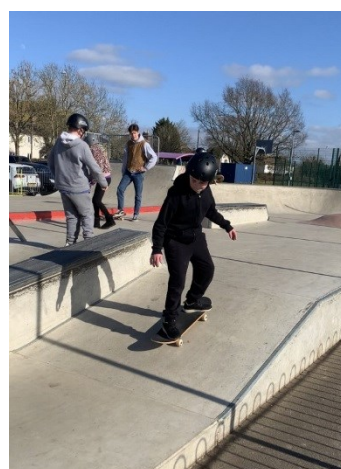
Centre School Farm

The maintenance and improvement of the farm's infrastructure is an on-going job, and students learn and practice a range of skills!



Extended Curriculum

In the afternoons, our students take part in the Extended Curriculum, often off-site. There are a vast range of options, designed to interest and benefit all our students.



Student Voice — Safeguarding discussions

Annabel (our Safeguarding Lead) writes: As part of having a responsive safeguarding curriculum, staff have been meeting with small groups of students to gather their thoughts about different topics around safeguarding and the issues they think young people should be aware of.



Online Safety Workshop — Wednesday 19th April

The NSPCC are running a parent/carer webinar on online safety. Online safety is an area that TCS is continually working on to ensure that our students are aware of how to be safe and know the risks involved when they are online. It is vital that parents and carers are also supported with how to keep children safe when they are online.

Does your child spend time exploring online?

The internet's a great place for children to learn, create, chat with friends and family, access information or support and explore fun apps, sites and games. But exploring comes with risks, so it's vital we know how to keep them safe online.

That's why we'd like to invite you to join our FREE workshop: '**Keeping children safe online**'.

The internet's a great place for children to learn, create, chat with friends and family, access information or support and explore fun apps, sites and games.

That's why we'd like to invite you to join our FREE workshop!

Our workshop will:

- Help you understand how kids experience the online world
- Show you resources and tools that could help keep them safe
- Empower you to guide them on their journey

Please have a look at the details below on how to join.

Topic: **NSPCC online safety webinar**

Time: Wednesday 19th Apr, 2023 6-7pm

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 828 9420 8324

Passcode: 317409

Well-Being Day

The Centre School holds regular House Days, where we spend a morning learning and experiencing more about important subjects that don't come up in the usual curriculum.

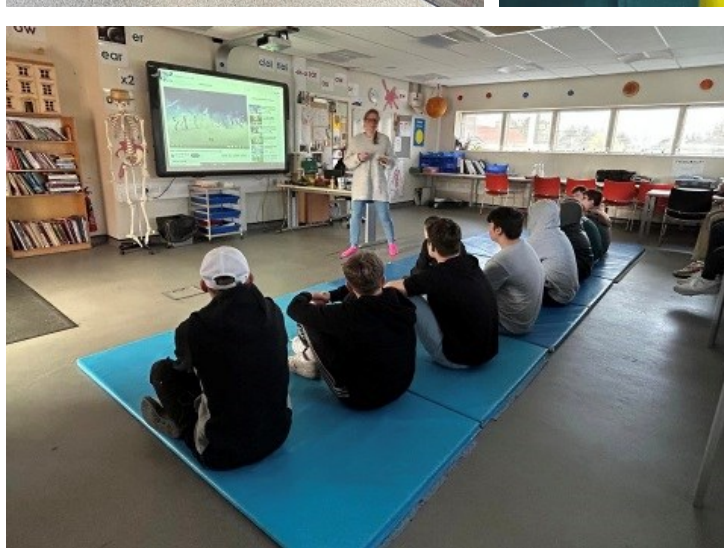
This time, Well-being was the theme. The students, working in their House Teams, moved around a series of activities designed to cover different ways that we can achieve and maintain good mental health.

We demonstrated the importance of physical exercise, creativity, mindfulness, and the need for good sleep. The students also got to make memory jars, in which their reflection on their past and their thoughts for their future are represented by layers of coloured sand. CLM, who led the Art activity, was amazed how focussed and quiet the groups were - totally engrossed in their work. This allowed the staff to join in with the activities too, so everybody benefitted!

The students (and the staff!) engaged very well, and I'm sure we all took away some great ideas for ways to boost our well-being!



Well-Being Day



Art Trip — Street Art Exhibition



Two groups travelled to London to see the **Beyond the Streets** exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery. It clearly blew them away! Some of the students were in London and on the Underground for the first time.



"I love this room, it's so sick" Jake C

"I'm flabbergasted" Alfie S

"I'm so excited, I just can't keep still, I want to keep moving" Eric

"This is so awesome" Logan



Fishing

Martin "Crox" Croxon writes:

From October through to March students have been taking part in a Perch fishing Competition.

This season has seen some very impressive catches, and the number of fish caught has been very good!

Manson was the overall winner in both the biggest fish and the most Perch caught. Perch fishing is a very skilful technique and requires lots of patience and watercraft skills.

New student Billy caught some very nice fish and as you can see from the final number list he almost caught Manson!

Well done to all the students who took part in the Competition.

The Results are:

1st : Manson 79 fish and biggest Perch 2lb 12 oz

2nd: Billy 74 fish

3rd: Tyler G 67 fish 7th: Alfie M 30 fish

4th : Bobby 49 fish 8th: Liam S 19 fish

5th : Tyler Mc 34 fish 9th: Reece S 15 fish

6th: Kyla 33 fish 10th: Cristiano 12 fish

Stu Taylor writes

After a long winter the carp have finally woken up and TCS students are taking full advantage!

Some huge hits of fish are being recorded on a regular basis and staff are planning lots of exciting trips to new lakes for after the Easter holiday.

Big congratulations to Billy who broke his PB twice in a matter of minutes with 17 and 18 pound commons! Well done Billy!



Brenscombe Residential



As this issue of the Centre School Newsletter goes to press, a group of ten students and four staff are in Dorset on the brilliant Brenscombe residential trip. They arrived in great weather, stretched their legs on the beach, and then stretched them even more on an evening hike up to the stunning remains of Corfe Castle!



Dates for next term

There is a Training Day at the beginning of the Summer Term, and our staff will be coming out for Home Visits on **Tuesday 18th April**.

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

Training Day: **Monday 17th April 2023 (closed to students)**

Parent Visits: **Tuesday 18th April 2023 (closed to students)**

Term Starts: **Wednesday 19th April 2023**

Bank Holiday: **Monday 1st May 2023**

Coronation Bank Holiday: **Monday 8th May 2023**

Half-term: **Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2023**

Centre Celebration: Thursday 15th June 2023

Training Day: **Friday 16th June 2023 (closed to students)**

End of term: **Wednesday 19th July 2023**