



THE CENTRE SCHOOL  
COTTENHAM

Astrea Academy Trust  
INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE

# The Centre School

## Newsletter - December 2020

### Principal's Report



This has been a very difficult term for all schools. The Centre School has managed just two days since September with all staff in, which makes it very difficult to put things in place as we have been forever moving staff around to cover absence. Staff have worked tirelessly to provide the best education possible for our young people and some of the work produced has been excellent.

We had several year 7 students join us in September (and two year 6 students), which at first was difficult. Some of these young people had been out of school for long periods and really needed to get back into understanding a routine with boundaries, others had worked 1:1 almost exclusively. The progress these young people have made has been phenomenal: **Aleksey Tillyard, Tarik Lebbad, Will Leonardi, Matthew Morrison, Peter Gregory, Tyler Webster, Aaron Deloughery and Tayla-J Maycroft.**

In this newsletter, you will see that we have managed to keep lots of things going despite lockdown etc. Grafham has seen lots of young people taking the opportunity to challenge themselves in activities such as high ropes and speedboating. During lockdown 2, Xtreme 360 opened especially for us so that we could fit in some much-needed exercise.

Fishing has, of course, continued throughout with lots of students braving the cold and learning new skills. They have to put up with Crox moaning about being cold, but most of them are used to it by now. Hopefully in January, we can be up and running in all areas of the extended curriculum.

Happy Christmas to you all, but more importantly, let's hope for a more settled and positive 2021.

**Sue Raven**



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

**The school website is:** [www.astreacentreschool.org](http://www.astreacentreschool.org)





## What students think about Lockdown



### Kaylee has written this, to express her thoughts about the events of 2020:

*I am going start by talking about how this year has been a difficult start. Being in lockdown has changed everyone's school year, for example, being off school for 6 months and finding it hard to do the work that was set as I didn't have the resources that I have now. The first lockdown was challenging, I ended up getting out of my routine of waking up early, getting ready and going to school getting my head down with the work I was set. When we started going back to school it felt strange and awkward, everything just felt different and it all changed so quickly. There were a few things that was kind of annoying but the one good thing is we were in a bubble and that made things easier. The afternoons changed due to coronavirus as we couldn't go anywhere as it was a group of 6 or they were not open. I started to settle back into school and my morning routine was back to normal, everything was feeling good again and then the second lockdown came out of nowhere!*

### Olivia sees it this way:

Lockdown

I get to sleep late

I can work when I want

Staying safe

Annoying

I don't get to see all my friends

Not hugging people

It's hard





# NCS

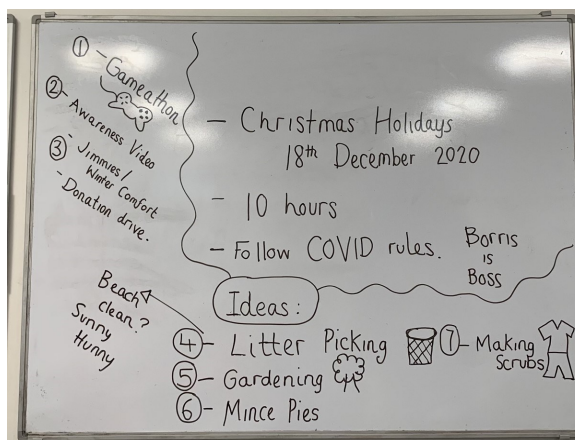


The National Citizen Service is a government-funded programme that supports the development of young people with activities that build their confidence, independence and life skills. Some of our Year 13 students have been involved in the social action part of the programme this term. This involved some classroom sessions and two visits to the Grafham Water Centre. **Olivia writes:**

*I am really pleased to be finally taking part in NCS after all the time I have spent shielding this year.*

*A few of us went to Grafham Water for 2 days in October, just before half term. After our journey in the minibus and a few circuits of the car park ( thanks Kilo!) we arrived. On day 1 we did team building exercises. We had to drag a bin with a ball inside and not make a noise, see how many people we could get on a wooden board and move boards to get each other to the island. In the afternoon we had archery which was OK.*

*On day 2 , we got there without detours and was the high ropes for those who could do it. I stacked crates to help. In the afternoon we made a den in bush craft. Now we are back we are helping the community. This is by making and delivering mince pies to the elderly and gardening.*





## Fishing success in 2020!



### Tom Legge, our professional angling tutor, sums up the Autumn term:

The big return after the long summer holiday saw plenty of Centre School students keen to resume fishing as a safe and healthy outdoor activity, and we were able to welcome newcomers to our school joining our ranks.

Carp fishing dominated the first half-term, with groups under the expert tuition of Crox and Stu enjoying great sport. Highlights include the capture of a 20-pounder by Rhys M...who enjoyed it so much that he caught the same fish twice!

Proving that fishing isn't just for the lads, teacher Nat and students Kia and Jacqueline made some great carp and perch captures.

The annual school fishing match, which was delayed from July by Covid, finally went ahead in early October at Frasers Fishery where Reece C defeated 11 rivals to lift the trophy with 18 lb of carp, closely followed by Tom and Dom.

As always, the colder weather after half-term saw pike fishing become the focus for the 'hardcore few' who enjoy the pursuit of these fearsome toothy predators.

Four students this term have achieved the honour of landing a double-figure pike - Jack W with a superb 15 lb fish, Daniel with a 12-pounder, plus Dom and Harry both netting 11-pounders. Best of the newcomers so far this season is Tarik with three pike.

**The hunt will resume in 2021...**





## More Fishing!

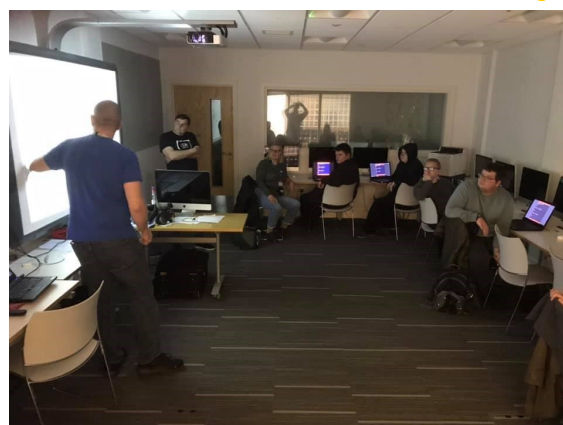


**Jacqueline is becoming a keen angler, and she is not letting the colder weather put her off!**

*I go fishing with Crox on Wednesdays. Sometimes we go to Ely or sometimes other places. Some places are better than others. Sometimes I only catch little fish and sometimes I catch nothing at all but I did catch a big perch! It can get a bit boring when you don't catch anything but it's good to get a big fish!*

## The Centre of Computing History at TCS

For some of our students, one of the highlights this term has been the weekly visits of Dan and Jason from the Centre of Computing History, Cambridge. They have been working with our students to make a computer game review video, create simple computer programs, play and investigate lots of older games and games systems. Dan and Jason will be back with us in the New Year, when students will learn to program their own games.



## The Music Goes On in 2020!

**Ismael, our brilliant Music Therapist, writes:**

*In spite of the lockdown we have managed to keep the music going, and this term had a few new students coming to the music garage. This has included some good drummers, DJs, rappers, singers and even a couple of dancers.*

*With so much new different talent coming to the Centre School we are hoping that things go back to normality by the summer. This should let us enjoy some superb performances during the Centre Celebration in June 2021.*

*We will be also having some repairs done in the music garage along with getting a few new instruments. Great news!*





# Grafham Water Centre — Legends!



Our brilliant friends at Grafham Water Centre have been superb this term, offering us lots of different activities!



## Other Lockdown activities



With so many of our usual venues closed during Lockdown II, we had to get even more creative! Scootering proved popular, and we are very grateful to our friends at Xtreme 360 in St Neots, as they opened up just for us.





## Sweet Art Work!



### A recent design brief in Laura's Art lesson:

A new dessert restaurant is opening in Cambridge. They are commissioning local artists to create pieces of art work to be displayed within the shop.

- Hung from the walls of the shop (or ceiling)
- Sculptures – window display or out on shelves - displayed within glass cabinets

They have provided no other specific requirements, other than size- it has to fit through a standard size front door!

**Work by Annabella, Ethan B, Lysander and Mark**





## Horrific injuries!



### Look away if you are squeamish!

In Lockdown II, when we couldn't get out much during Extended Curriculum, Laura chose to inflict these awful injuries on students!

It started with Laura's tutorial on achieving burns, wounds with objects and cuts using various stage makeup techniques and props, then students had a go at recreating wounds themselves.

They used flour, Vaseline, water, latex wax with toilet roll as a foundation. And don't forget the most important ingredient — **fake blood!**



## Dates for next term

The ongoing Coronavirus situation means that we cannot do our usual home visits once again this term, so you will receive a telephone call from a member of your student's House Team.

This will be during the training days on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Training Day: **Monday 4th January 2020 (closed to students)**

Training Day: **Tuesday 5th January 2020 (closed to students)**

Term Starts: **Wednesday 6th January 2020**

Half-term: **Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2020**

End of term: **Friday 26th March 2020**

