



THE CENTRE SCHOOL
COTTENHAM

Astrea Academy Trust
INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE

The Centre School

Newsletter - December 2021

Principal's Report



September seems a very long time ago!

We have packed a lot into this term, which this Newsletter should reflect. Two residential trips, the development of our farm and the establishment of the Centre School Gold Award are just some of the highlights. We will be talking about the Gold Award during the Home Visits in January.

We have aimed to underpin our work this term with the use of three key words:

Engagement, Relationships, Resilience

The photographs in this newsletter will provide evidence of this for our students.

The vast majority of students have made significant steps forwards this term, and we have been thrilled with Year 7. The Summer School really helped support the transition for those that attended.

Well done to all the staff for their tireless efforts during this term, and well done to all the students who have made the very best of all opportunities offered to them.



I hope you enjoy the Christmas break!



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

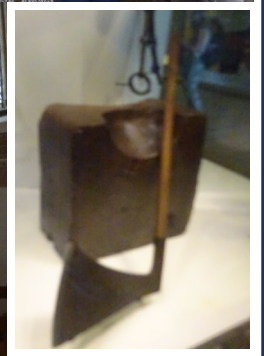




Send them to the Tower!



A group of keen Historians had the opportunity to visit the Tower of London late in July (after the last Newsletter was published). The trip, postponed from April 2020, was a chance to immerse ourselves in a thousand years of history, and support the learning in our lessons. For some, it was their first time in London, or on a Tube train. A tremendous visit, enjoyed by all.





Summer School



During August (doesn't that seem a long time ago!) we held our first ever Summer School! We could only invite quite limited numbers, so we used it as the opportunity to provide an induction for our incoming Year Sevens! We invited all our new recruits, and paired them up with a few seasoned campaigners for a bit of peer support. We had a great few days cooking and learning other life-skills (like ironing!) and using the new farm for the first time, as a good place to learn how to light camp-fires.





Brenscombe at last!



Brenscombe is a week's Residential on the glorious Jurassic Coast. It's an incredible opportunity for those selected to attend. Barry leads the trip, and has this report:

Having first booked this trip for March 2020, we finally managed to arrive in Dorset in October 2021. Just 567 days late! Thanks, Covid!

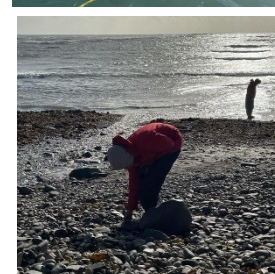
As usual, our group comprised 4 staff and 10 students.

The weather and temperatures were kind to us, and the students were able to enjoy Climbing and Abseiling, Low and High ropes challenges, speedboat rides around Poole harbour (ringo rides for the few who braved the cold water!) and the staff's favourite - a 3-hour coast walk to Kimmeridge Bay where 300-million-year-old fossils can be found wherever you look.

Many of our activities are challenging and we are immensely proud of all those students who persevere despite their fears.

As a special mention, Brenscombe 2021 will always be remembered by the staff as the year Mikey completed most of the tasks wearing his trademark suit and tie!

Amazing stuff. We are already looking forward to March 2022. Enjoy Christmas!





Grafham Residential



We have welcomed some new staff this year, and they are very keen! David bravely threw himself into the deep end by volunteering to attend a two day residential! The October trip was aimed at younger students, and was a great success! David writes:

With it being my first excursion with the staff and students, I really didn't know what to expect from the two days we had together at the Grafham Water Centre. I was also very new to the school having only been here for 4 weeks or so. But it was fantastic. The students enjoyed a few water based activities where they also got to throw some staff in the water as well, which they loved. They also took part in High Ropes activities and some problem solving.

All in all it was a great experience for both students and staff as it was the first time years 7 & 8 had been taken on an overnight stay.





The Centre School Farm



The Centre School has embarked on an amazing new venture this year. Masterminded by Chris Dunkley, the idea of the farm is to provide a different learning experience for students who are struggling to access education. It is also somewhere that any student can enjoy visiting, working, and looking after the animals. It has already become very popular, and lots of students have helped to set up the new infrastructure. We have chickens already (housed indoors to comply with the current Bird-Flu restrictions) and a new stable building awaits the arrival of horses!

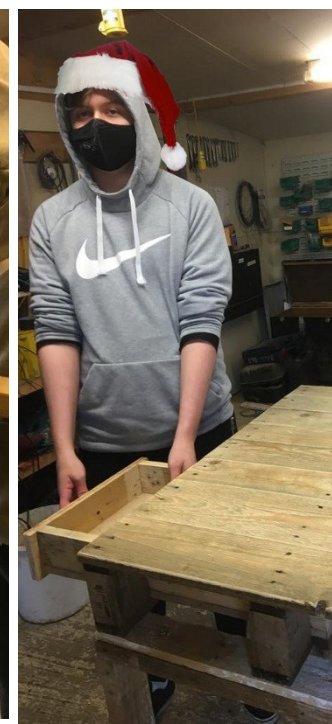




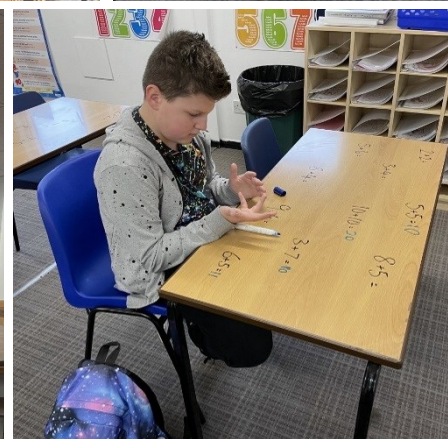
Work Experience



Work experience is a vital aspect of life for our older students, and we try to offer that opportunity to as many students from Year 10 onwards. Covid has restricted the range of employers who are willing and able to host work experience students, but here are some photos from two organisations that we use regularly. We have worked with the Phoenix Trust at Milton for many years, and students placed there get involved with making concrete products, woodworking, catering and other activities. At New Meaning, students help build prefabricated micro-houses for the homeless. Our students relish the time out of lessons, and recognise that work experience is a stepping stone to the next stage of their lives.



Lessons





Extended Curriculum



Cooking with Ben!

Professional chef Ben Sulston has been in school this term working with a very keen group of students. They have been learning about such topics as pasta making, chicken butchery, and bakery as well as knife skills and professional chopping techniques. They are having a great time, and have produced some amazing food!





Photography at Shuttleworth



In early November, a small group of students (working with Rob and CLM) travelled to the amazing Shuttleworth estate at Old Warden in Bedfordshire. As well as the world-famous collection of cars and aeroplanes, there is also the beautiful Swiss Garden - a magnificent place to take photographs on a lovely autumn day! The students made the most of the opportunity, and the staff were very proud of their dedication. It was a great day, and we will definitely be heading back there soon!

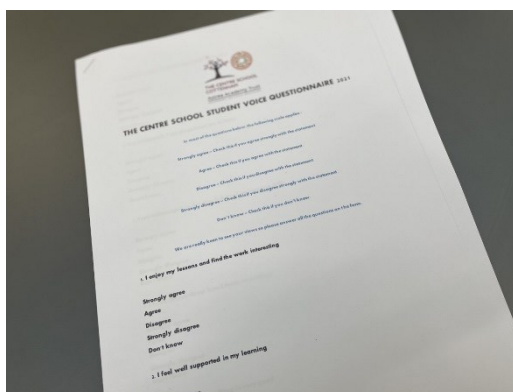




Student Voice



Not long before we broke up for Christmas, Student Voice met for the first time in a while. The team was made up of Alfie, Kaylee, Manson, Cody and Charlie D, and they discussed the aim of Student Voice which is to give them some input into the school. They talked about school dinners (a perennial topic!), Extended Curriculum, Lesson planning, and want to plan some community work. Student Voice would like to deliver hot cross buns to elderly people locally, and maybe to organise an egg hunt for some pre-school children at Easter. The Student Voice students are all very keen, and they filled out a questionnaire on things they like and don't like at school.



This term has been brought to you by the words:



Engagement

Relationships



and Resilience!



Brenscombe 2021

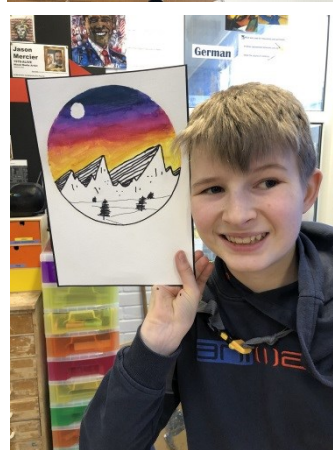
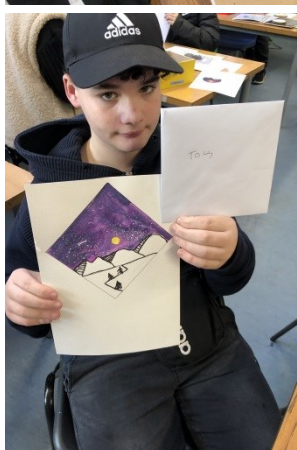
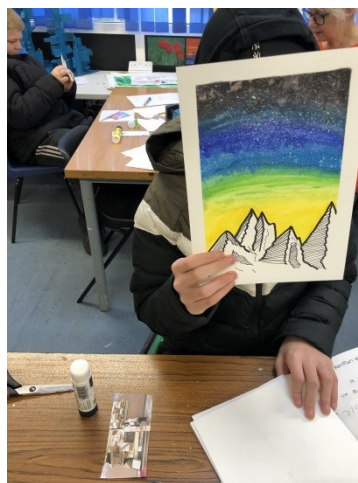




Christmas Cards



In Art, students have been producing some fantastic Christmas cards! Some enterprising young people have then been trying to sell them to staff!



Dates for next term

There is a Training Day at the beginning of the Spring Term, and our staff will be coming out for Home Visits on **Wednesday 5th January 2022**.

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

Training Day: **Tuesday 4th January 2022 (closed to students)**

Home Visits: **Wednesday 5th January 2022**

Term Starts: **Thursday 6th January 2022**

Half-term: **Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February 2022**

End of term: **Friday 1st April 2022**

