

Formal Curriculum Report May 2018

Teachers continue to offer a whole host of learning experiences and opportunities to our Formal Pupils, which I always look forward to reporting on.

During Life Skills Lessons pupils filled the school corridors with an array of exotic aromas. Mrs Sutherland confirms how “the topic of Indian Cooking was very popular last term. Students enjoyed preparing and tasting both spicy and sweet dishes using a wide range of spices and ingredients.”.

Pupils not only develop their Design & Technology skills during their Art lessons but also extend their thinking and perceptions of the latest technology. Miss Kemp reports on the pupil positive achievements. “Last term, form HS have been learning about how robotic advances are reshaping our world. Pupils considered the use of Drones, Driverless Cars and Human Robots. Pupils considered positive and negative impacts to the development and use of these kinds of robots before designing and creating their own robots using junk modelling techniques. The group have once again been really focused and have produced a fantastic range of outcomes which really reflect them as individuals”.

Mr Hayman advances students knowledge and skills to ensure they can fulfil the course requirements to become successful ‘Scientists’.

“In key stage 4, students completed their coursework unit on electrical circuits and started to learn about light and sound. We explored the school to find out which rooms echo most and least, compared the speed of light and sound on the field, measured sound levels around the building and reflected and refracted light.

In key stage 3 students found out about the seasons, did a small topic on forces and learned about different types of rock”.

Miss Strivens organised an E-Safety day, guiding, supporting and providing formal teachers with the relevant information to enable them to offer effective lessons for our pupils. Miss Strivens describes what was included. “The E-safety day proved to be very successful with all pupils (Form LH, Form JK, Form ME/SH, Form HS and 6th from students) engaging in conversations about -

- Keeping personal information safe
- Safer social networking
- Safer searching
- Cyberbullying
- Safer Gaming

The day was very useful as a tool for gaging pupils usage and understanding of their online world and this was reflected in the B-squared assessments”.

What a pleasure to hear how the Formal Students are progressing their Literacy skills and how their handwork is being recognised and celebrated. Mrs Ellis proudly reports. “Over the last term all the pupils have continued to make fabulous progress in all areas of English. However, it is in the area of writing that particular improvements have been made. The independent writing skills of pupils in form ME have shown a marked improvement in spelling, grammar and punctuation. They have worked so hard for a long time to develop these skills and now their hard work is paying off. It is lovely to see and the staff who support them with this have been quite ‘blown away!’

At the start of term we received the moderator’s report from the WJEC regarding the coursework that we had submitted in December. The units entered were ‘Exploring Shakespeare’, ‘Creating Narratives’ and ‘Exploring Poetry’. I am delighted to report that all

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candidates passed and were awarded the same level as that of the internal moderation. The written feedback from the moderator was excellent and demonstrates the high standard which our pupils are capable of achieving and provides recognition of their hard work.

'It is evident that this is a very caring centre and much thought and imagination has ensured the candidates are able to understand and demonstrate their learning effectively. The Shakespeare DVD was of an exceptional standard and it is evident that the candidates have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the play. Please congratulate both the staff and students for their dedication and hard work.'

Our pupils work was also mentioned in the Principal Moderators Report (January 2018).

'A memorable DVD of a classroom performance of 'Macbeth' was included in this series for one centre whose students have profound and multiple learning difficulties proving that Shakespeare can be for everyone if studied appropriately'.

We are delighted that the achievements and hard work of our pupils have been recognised and really enjoyed sharing this with them. They were justifiably very proud of themselves"!

Mrs Ashby has forged a very beneficial link with Paul Weston, which has hugely benefitted our students learning and development both musically and in their technical skills. This venture also highlights how learning can be shared, not only for the pupils but for the adults too. Mrs Ashby informs.

"Paul Weston from Laboratory Media worked with the 6th Form and the KS4 group. The work was based on the Jungle Book. We created classic Indian music using Thumb Jam (Musical app on an ipad) and a drum machine. This was used in the production of Jungle book.

We also helped to create a sound tunnel, which the audience walked through to the performance.

Paul has made a short film to show the sound tunnel and is uses our Indian Music. This can be found at <https://youtu.be/2buAlyxzYqM> This was a very successful terms work.

From this Paul set up a training day for staff in special schools and those working in mainstream schools with children with disabilities. This was to share the practise from The Clare School".

Pupils in my form have really enjoyed participating in 'Celebrations'. We have had lots of Pupil Birthdays and we have all helped to make them a Birthday Cake and played party games. Their favourite game is 'musical statues', which they are all very good at!

Pupils also worked very hard on a variety of activities to produce some beautiful gifts for their mum's for Mother's Day and performed in a Mother's Day Service.

At the moment my pupils are getting really excited as this week we are going to Eaton ale Activity Centre. I will look forward to reporting on this event!



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