

Formal Curriculum Report July 2018

I can't quite believe we are almost at the end of another school year and what a year it has been...the 'Beast from the East' hit us hard during February and now we are basking in beautiful hot sunshine, let's hope it continues throughout the Summer holidays!

Jan continues to provide our pupils with a whole host of experiences and opportunities during their life skills lessons. She reports on how pupils really pulled it out of the bag with their incredible creations.

"We had great fun designing and decorating cakes to celebrate the wedding of Harry and Meghan. Seven classes took part and there were some very creative and imaginative designs. Form HS were declared the winners but every cake was amazing".

Pupils maths skills and knowledge is advancing under the guidance and direction of Mr Hayman, he reports on the progress and achievements of our pupils.

"Key stage 3 students continue to work on individual programs of study. This included telling the time, fractions, drawing shapes and measuring capacity.

Key stage 4 students continue to work hard on their WJEC coursework. Year 11 students are now completing their last unit, year 10 students will continue into next year".

Science continues to provoke pupils curiosity of how and why things work and happen. The promotion of practical activities from Mr Hayman ensures pupils learn from hands on experiences.

"Key stage 3 students enjoyed learning about magnetism. They explored attraction and repulsion, built a compass with a magnet floating in a dish, built a fishing game and tested the strength of magnets in lots of different ways.

Key stage 4 students worked hard on the last piece of this year's coursework, learning about light and sound".

Mrs Strivens enabled pupils to participate in a variety of activities, which really promoted a love of learning about the world around us.

"Environment Week had the school engaged in outdoor learning once again, there was a buzz around school as pupils left the classroom for the outdoors. 30 Days Wild (a project run by The Wildlife Trusts) gave pupils the chance to continue with Environmental Learning but also to do something

small relating to being outside, exploring the Wild. The selection of 30 Days Wild Widget symbols provided scaffolding and scope for both pre-formal and formal pupils from Nursery up to Sixth form to embrace doing something a little wild each day. Staff on numerous occasions reported moments of surprise when pupils engaged with nature and expressed themselves. Posts on social media shared the work and interests of the pupils. I saw many new opportunities for outdoor learning that supports the school development".

Our pupils continue to enjoy their literacy learning from exciting opportunities and experiences provided by Mrs Ellis and her team.

"Over the last half term all the pupils in Secondary have continued to work hard in English lessons.

FE have been working hard to complete the 'Exploring Narratives' unit of the Additional English course. They have also been carrying out focussed work on the development of

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speaking and listening skills, using news events from the 'First News' newspaper to stimulate conversation and discussion.

KS4 have completed one half of the 'Exploring Audio/Visual Texts unit'. This has involved watching the film 'Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory' and exploring the events and characters. They have demonstrated fantastic understanding with considerable insight.

KS3 have continued to work on the development of their literacy skills and the exploration of stories. They all continue to make great progress and are steadily expanding their knowledge of a range of stories.

In addition, in June. the Beanstalk Charity held an event to thank the volunteers in Norfolk and Suffolk for their support. Mrs Ellis, Amber Atkins and Mrs Atkins were invited to attend and say a few words about the impact of the charity's support. The event was held in the Forum and was attended by volunteers and representatives from schools. There were also talks by two well known authors and a puppet company. It was a privilege to be asked to speak at such an occasion and was a lovely opportunity to be able to thank the volunteers. We will be continuing to receive support from the charity throughout the next academic year".

In my previous report I highlighted how our yearly residential at Eaton Vale was imminent...WOW what an fabulous time we all had! The pupils, which included my form, forms SH/ME, JK and DB were amazing. Pupils experienced a whole host of activities, which included; canoeing, abseiling, rock climbing, archery, backwoods cooking, rifling, catapult shoot out and a sing song around the campfire. Year on year the pupils continue to amaze me with their resilience to try new experiences, really giving it their all, I was so proud of their achievements as were they when they persevered to get to the top of the climbing wall and managed to abseil down the tallest tower! For some it was their first time away from home, in a new environment and with unfamiliar people but again they took it all in their stride and excelled in self confidence and assurance in their abilities.

It makes it all worth while, as you can imagine everyone works tirelessly to ensure all pupils get the most out of the experiences and opportunities on offer. If it wasn't for the staff's generosity of their time and the support we receive from volunteers, then we wouldn't be able to offer such bespoke opportunities and experiences.

A special thank you to all staff and volunteers, especially Mrs Bagshaw and Lee (an ex student) for ensuring we were all topped up with delicious meals, enabling all too participate fully in the activities!

Wishing you all a wonderful Summer...long may the sun shine!

Lisa Henman
Formal Curriculum Lead