

I think all of the Formal Teachers are of the same mind...in that this term is absolutely flying, and pupils are continuing to wow us with both their engagement in their learning and the progress they are making!

Mr Bloomfield is continuing to promote our links with Christ Church, extending the invitation to all pupils to participate in Christian Celebrations, which is being warmly received. In addition, the Autumn Term lends itself to raising the profile of music and drama, in which pupils highly achieve.

“The term has been very busy in Music, and will get even more so as we approach Christmas!

The whole school went to Christ Church for the Harvest Festival, which was successful enough for us to be taking everyone again for the Christingle Service on 2nd December, where we will all be making our Christingles during the service. All the primary classes are busy preparing for the Christmas Nativity Production, secondary classes are working on Reggae and Christmas Music, and FE continue to work hard on their ASDAN Towards Independence: Sound, Rhythm and Music course.”

Mr Hayman persists in advancing students maths knowledge and skills, enabling all to achieve at their personal level.

“Key stage 3 have made a good start to the term. We have several new students and they have now been well assessed and are working at their cutting edge levels. Our existing key stage 3 students are all working on a bespoke curriculum and have moved seamlessly into the new school year.

In key stage 4 students are working on different pieces of accreditation work including WJEC entry level units and ASDAN units at various levels.”

Also, Mr Hayman continues to provide students with practical activities to promote excitement and enjoyment in their learning and understanding on how things work.

“Key stage 3 students started the year by looking at seeds to finish off our plants work from the summer term. They then moved on to work on changes in materials which was great fun, very messy and we all loved it.

This half term we are learning about electricity with a big focus on personal safety and how circuits work.

In key stage 4 students firstly completed work on chemical products and how they affect the environment. We are currently working on electricity with a reminder about safety but then a deeper focus on electronic components, different kinds of circuits and taking measurements of voltage and current.”

We welcome our new Humanities Lead, Mrs Thompson who has settled well into life at The Clare School. She has shown real passion in the organising and delivery of well thought out lessons to engage students, ensuring they are understanding their learning and progressing their knowledge.

“The Autumn term has whizzed by in a flutter of Sikhism and WW2.

KS3 enjoyed focussing on the home front during the second world war by making Blitz sensory paintings, air raid shelters and taking part in an evacuation (we evacuated on an imaginary steam train to the Sixth form centre but all the pupils used great imagination skills to really get into role). They also took part in creating poppies for the Remembrance memorial at Eaton. Their work was very well received and looked beautiful alongside the other wreaths.

We were all lucky enough to get to meet the rather engaging Mr Singh to kick off our Sikhism study. He came to school all the way from Northamptonshire bringing with him real life artefacts, a harmonium and lots of stories. He taught us all the Sikhism is about

seeing everyone as equal which is a lovely way of facing daily life for us all. He also left us a story book and a rumalla cloth which has been used in a small reflection area in the classroom to display our diva lamps, which are glittertastic!!!! All the pupils have shown a real interest in learning about the different cultures and traditions and are looking forward to a visit from Jaya dance at the start of December so that they can learn some Bhangra dancing which is used throughout Sikh festivals and celebrations.

All in all it have been a super first term of the school year, with lots of creative focus to share learning and facts.”

The Art Department led by Miss Strivens has seen a hive of activity, offering students bespoke art activities to promote their love of learning through art.

“Form LH have been learning about World War One in their class. We have made cross curricular links by focussing on World War One in Art and Design Technology. Staff have been impressed by the students knowledge and transferring this into art lessons.

For example we were learning about artist Georgia O'Keefe and how she had her first exhibition in 1916 and one pupil commented "wow that's 2 years after the start of World War One". Pupils also learnt about trenches and were able to create small world trenches including the many different joining methods they had learnt.

They have also enjoyed making parachutes and learning about the World War One artists who created different types of camouflage. Students in Form LH are very engaged and have started to make set designs for their Nativity performance.

Form HP, Form RT/SH and Form HS are working towards their ASDAN Independence modules in Craft Making. They have been working with textiles mainly and we look forward to being part of the Norwich 'Makers Festival' at the Forum where there work will be exhibited alongside artists in the region for 16 days. We will be sharing through photographs, words and textile pieces how we communicate and in Art and Design Technology.

Sixth Form have been working really hard to create items for the Christmas Fayre. They have been working both independently and collaboratively to create items and also think about how they can market and present their items too.

This year we have taken part again in the 'Arts for School Project' in which every pupil made an A4 Christmas card design. These are currently online or parents to buy. The sales from the cards will go to the revamped library and towards a collection of books about famous artists to support the pupils art learning.”

“As Miss Strivens mentioned my form have been learning about WW1 we looked at the different countries that were involved, the Allies and the Central Powers. We found the countries on a map and coloured the Allies and the Central Powers different colours. There were more Allie countries than Central Powers.

We shared a story 'One Boy's War', which was based on a true story about a young boy who ran away to fight in the war. Pupils thought the story was good but very sad!

We also shared another true story 'Stubby', about a war dog, who's bravery helped to save lots of soldiers and earned him lots of medals. Pupils really enjoyed this story, which had a really happy ending! Pupils researched other animals that helped during the war and shared their facts with their peers. Valton discovered that a Canadian Soldier bought a black bear, which was to become his regiments mascot. When the regiment came to England to help in the war, the bear was left at London zoo as the Regiment had to go to France to fight in the trenches. This black bear who was named Winnipeg, after the place his owner was born inspired the stories of Winnie the Pooh.

Pupils created some fantastic artwork to show respect for all of the soldiers that sadly died during World War 1 and thought about the feelings of the soldiers by creating 'Letters

Home' & 'Poems'. Their amazing work is displayed outside the dining room, please pop and have a look when you are next in school.

Last half term pupils hard-work and behaviour was rewarded with their chosen trip to the Dinosaur Park, which also lent itself to pupils participating in science activities within the classroom. This half term due to the marble jar being filled again, pupils have chosen to go to the Cinema and Cosmos again!

Last week pupils enjoyed their first Opera, more information on this can be found on our Facebook Page.

Christmas activities are beginning to come into play and pupils will be very busy for the next two weeks, creating Christmas gifts, which you will be able to purchase at our Christmas Fayre, please come and support us!"

We all wish you an early very Merry Christmas!

Lisa Henman
Formal Curriculum Lead