

We are all happy to be back to life at The Clare School and the Summer Holidays seems like a distant memory! We welcome both new staff and students to the Formal Curriculum, who all appear to be settling in well. This report will detail some activities that took place towards the end of the Summer Term and the opportunities and experiences pupils will be involved in during the Autumn Term.

Pupils were really involved in supporting the numerous events during the Summer Term Jan reports.

“The last half term was a very busy one in Life Skills with students involved in baking cakes for the many events taking place; Summer Party, Leavers Assembly, Miss Hullet and Mrs Ashby's leaving do”.

Our new Humanities Teacher is oozing enthusiasm and is keen to offer interesting and exciting learning opportunities to our pupils, Miss Parkinson informs.

“I intend to begin the year with History and will introduce students to the wonderful world of the Romans. Students will be able to explore the ways in which our world is so different in comparison to the Roman time. Students will then be looking at Religious Studies and focussing on Christianity. Our students will be given the opportunity to explore with artefacts and resources. This will encourage them to feel, see and smell a range of objects from herbs and spices to jewellery and clothing. We will then be focussing on the fearsome Boudicca and her reign of the Iceni tribe.

Form HP will be joining up with Form LH to go on a visit to the Castle to discover even more about the Romans.

Leading up to Christmas we will be looking at the places of worship in Christianity, the ways to behave in Churches. This will include celebrating Christingle and visiting Christ Church.”

Mr Hayman took advantage of the hot weather to carry out some investigating with our pupils.

“Science in the summer term is always good fun. We find lots of reasons to get outside and enjoy the school grounds and everything that lives there. The very dry weather meant that we did not find as many frogs and invertebrates as we usually do, but it was interesting to see how the heat and lack of water affected everything.

Key stage 4 students completed their coursework on light and sound and key stage 3 worked on magnets and then found out about animal life cycles.”

It was a proud day for Mr Hayman when he supported pupils to participate in a Maths Day.

“The highlight of the summer term in maths was undoubtedly the maths day held at Sidestrand Hall, with six of the other Norfolk special schools. The weather was lovely of course and some of our key stage 2 and key stage 3 students took part in outdoor maths challenges against other schools. We came home with 'The Most Sporting Team' award and every student was awarded a medal.

Key stage 4 students continued to work hard on their coursework, which is almost complete for those in years 11 and 12.”

It is an exciting time within the English Department with the introduction of a Reading Champion, Mrs Ellis describes their intentions.

“The development of speaking and listening/communication and literacy skills continue to be the main aims of English lessons in the Secondary Department. The development of these skills will be facilitated in a range of ways, from early play activities to more formal situations. In addition in Key Stage 4 the pupils follow the Additional English course.

As this is 'The Year of Reading' at The Clare School there is an even stronger focus on the development of reading. We now have a 'Reading Champion' whose role is to listen to a target group of pupils on a daily basis. These pupils have been selected as we are certain that with daily reading sessions (in addition to the regular in class reading support) they have the potential to make significant progress. Baseline assessments will be carried out at the start of the year and these will be repeated at the end of the year. Clare English is undertaking this role and it is already well underway with the pupils enjoying and thriving on the daily half hour sessions."

During the Summer holidays Mrs Strivens was very busy organising her new classroom, as she has taken over the Art Department. She reports on her intentions for this term. "ASDAN modules will be introduced in Art and Design Technology this year. Students will work towards awards in 'Printing' in the Autumn term for example. ASDAN fosters independence, progression and the assessment reflects how the students can and have engaged with the themes.

Students will be encouraged to be as independent in making their own choices and reflecting on processes. Linking some Forms current themed learning to being creative in Art will hopefully provide more cross curricular links and learning. Art and Design Technology B-Squared will be followed in Art".

Mr Bloomfield and Lauren Rackham supported pupils to put on an outstanding show, he proudly reports.

"One of the highlights of the summer term was the awesome Variety Show, in which our secondary pupils showed off a fantastic array of performances and worked really hard with staff to show off their amazing skills and talents".

The music room has been reorganised by Mr Bloomfield in readiness for his new position.

"I am really excited about working with many different classes in my new role as the Music lead, and pupils have already showed me their enthusiasm, skills and love of music, through the 3 main aspects of music: performing, listening and composing. The primary classes are readying work and songs for the Harvest Festival service (as is the signing choir who will be making a guest appearance!). Their focus will then be on the Christmas production, as well as continuing their weekly music lessons focussing on engagement, interaction and responding. Secondary classes are working on a variety of topics including group rehearsing / performing, instrumental skills, musical elements and, of course, having fun!"

Towards the end of the Summer Term my pupils were rewarded for all of their hardwork and fantastic behaviour! We went ten pin bowling and had lunch at the Clock Tower, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. Pupils are continuing to impress us with their enthusiasm to further their learning and rewards include both verbal praise and encouragement as well as a marble to fill our jar, which when full, again pupils will vote on where they would like to go!

I welcome three new pupils to our form, two who have moved up from Mrs Hatfield's form and the third from a local mainstream school. I am pleased to inform that all three have been made to feel really welcome by their peers and are settling in well.

Our pupils are continuing to extend their Literacy and Numeracy knowledge and skills through personalised learning plans. Within Literacy this year pupils are being supported to take ownership of their learning by being responsible for their folders and ordering which Literacy activity to participate in, assessing their achievements and identifying their next steps.

This term we are planning to visit the Castle Museum to further pupils knowledge of the Romans and we will be participating in a Victorian Christmas at Gressenhall Rural Life Museum.

Lisa Henman
Formal Curriculum Lead