

Governors Report Spring 2019

It was a very busy Autumn Term, leading up to Christmas, with lots of exciting events and visits being experienced by our pupils. Both staff and students have returned refreshed and ready for another successful term!

The multi sensory approach Mr Bloomfield used throughout this years Nativity was truly magical. He informs how “The Primary Nativity production: ‘Whoops-A-Daisy Angel’ was very well received by parents and carers before Christmas. The children were, as usual, wonderful: form LH learnt to sign all of the songs as well as learning a splendid dance routine with form JH, all of the pre-formal classes enjoyed taking part in the sensory elements including tinsel snow, scented presents, straw, fabrics, fans and the twinkly tea lights in the final song”.

Mrs Strivens continues to inspire the students with opportunities to engage with practical learning that inspires them, here she shares how students progressed last term and informs on what will be happening within Art & Design this term. “ASDAN Towards Independence modules were introduced in Art and Design. Students were already familiar with the layout and could follow the layout.

I chose the ‘Printing’ module to start with to introduce pupils being more independent in getting their own equipment, making choices and clearing away. The modules are varied and allow for flexibility so myself or pupils could choose their own module section to focus on or repeat. Pupils and parents seemed to like looking through the large sketchbooks filled with artwork and photos. Anna Gok held a ASDAN moderation meeting which was helpful as it enabled myself to stay on track and have the work reviewed at the end of the term rather than at the end of the year.

We now move onto our section Module which is Pottery which will be interesting! Much of the B-Squared covered this term will be on practical skills, dough, making, stacking, re-designing etc”.

Our new Formal Teacher Miss Parkinson is really enjoying progressing the pupils knowledge and is actively consolidating their classroom learning. She informs on visits that have been undertaken. “Form HP enjoyed two brilliant trips last term. We went to Norwich Cathedral and to Norwich Castle. We had a great time and really enjoyed learning about the Romans and Christianity”.

During the second half of the Autumn Term the Life Skills Room filled the corridors with an assortment of tempting aromas! Jan updates us. “The students enjoyed creating a range of Christmas delicacies from mince pies to cheesy Christmas trees and edible Christmas decorations”.

Mr Hayman continues to ensure all pupils are able to progress their Numeracy skills and reports on their progress “Key stage 3 students continued to work on individualised programs of study. Topics covered included fractions, weight, number puzzles, calculations and 2D shapes.

In key stage 4, students are working on coursework at various levels. Some students worked on their entry level 2 or 3 coursework, on the topic of fractions and then data handling. Others worked on ASDAN personal progress, covering a wide range of topics at highly differentiated levels”.

The learning that has taken place during Science lessons is highlighted by Mr Hayman. “In key stage 3 students learned about sound in the first half term and then about the human body and staying healthy between half term and Christmas.

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Key stage 4 students are working on WJEC entry level coursework at level 2 or 3. The first unit covered was 'Science Health and Safety' which we enjoyed until half term. Since then we have been working on the unit 'Science and the Human Body'.

Mrs Ellis and her team have been very busy advancing our pupils Literacy knowledge and skills, it is really exciting to hear the impact the introduction of the 'Reading Champion' is having on promoting keen readers. Mrs Ellis reports on pupils achievements. "The students worked very hard throughout the Autumn term and as a result great things were achieved in all areas in English. Coursework was submitted to the WJEC for the 'Communicating Experience', 'Exploring Narratives' and 'Exploring Events in Audio/Visual Texts' units. We should hear very soon if this work has met the required standard. There has also been noticeable improvement in the reading and independent writing of the pupils who are receiving the support of the 'Reading Champion'. This of course has led to these students having increased confidence in their own abilities and skills, something which is very visible but difficult to formally measure. In addition is the sheer pleasure that this group gain from having uninterrupted time reading to an adult every day. They can all be described as 'keen readers' and choose books rather than screens during leisure time. In the coming term HS will be completing their 'Exploring Shakespeare' coursework. This involves the acting and filming of key scenes from 'Macbeth'. This is already well under way and we are discovering new thespian talent in Key Stage 4. In March we will have the interim visit from the Basic Skills Quality Mark assessor. During this visit progress will be assessed on the goals which were set eighteen months ago to see if we are on track to achieve these".

My class had a very busy Autumn Term both within the classroom and further afield. We enjoyed a bespoke 'Victorian Christmas' with Form JH at Gressenhall Rural Life Museum. We joined Form HP with exploring Norwich Castle and the Cathedral, both fantastic experiences for all pupils involved, really bringing their learning to life. Once again Santa invited us to visit him in Jarrolds, to enable the children to deliver their letters and to receive an early Christmas present! Thank you to both John Adams and Jarrolds for arranging and funding this opportunity for the pupils.

Within the classroom, pupils continue to work hard in all areas of the curriculum, so much so that they have filled the marble jar again! Their efforts participating in hands on practical activities creating an assortment of wares to sell at the Christmas Fayre paid off and we raised £60, which has been spent this half term on another bowling trip, which the pupils voted for. In addition, they had lunch and ice-cream too!

I would also like to thank The Blackfriars Rotary Club, who once again hosted our Primary Christmas Party. They generously provided funding to allow all of the teachers to select an appropriate present for each of the Primary pupils. They also managed to source Santa, who presented all of the pupils with their Christmas presents.

Professor Lucy from 'Mini Professors' has been carrying out workshops within my class, which pupils are thoroughly enjoying. A few of the experiments they have been involved in include sending Santa to space, making snow and reindeer food, watching in awe as Professor Lucy used her 'magic wand' to fly a silver ball and they have even performed their own magic with a balloon, tissue paper and static electricity!

This term pupils are involved in lots of sporting events, organised by Gary and we will be exploring the Norfolk Broads upon a boat!

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