

Governors Report May 2019

The Spring Term has been both busy and productive and has zoomed past and here we are now well in to the Summer Term! It is a pleasure to report on the opportunities and experiences our students continue to receive from our skilled and talented teaching team.

Mr Bloomfield extends and promotes the students talents, as well as organising enjoyable events for our pupils and parents. He proudly highlights students achievements.

"The Secondary production, 'Mary Poppins' was very well received by parents and carers in March. The children were, as usual, wonderful: they all demonstrated their talents and skills with enthusiasm, whilst clearly really enjoying creating and performing their scenes. We also had a lovely 'Mother's Day' celebration at school this year, hosted by Shawn from Christ Church. It was a lovely relaxed atmosphere and the children produced and presented beautiful Mother's Day gifts".

The English Department have been working tirelessly to ensure the library meets the needs of our young readers. Additionally, the team effectively supports students to reach their full potential. Mrs Ellis informs of both students and staff efforts.

"Last term Becky King (librarian) and I finished the mammoth task of categorising the picture books in the library. These have been sorted in to ten categories; general, rhyming, nature, PSHE, classics, one to one, early years, older readers, no text and topic. All the books have been labelled and colour coded. We hope that this will make it much easier for staff and students to quickly select books that meet their requirements. We have also 'pruned' the books and added some new titles.

We have received excellent feedback from the external moderators at the WJEC for the coursework that we submitted in December.

'This is a very caring and supportive centre and a great deal of effort has been invested in ensuring the candidates meet all the assessment criteria imaginatively.'

This would not be possible without the outstanding support, enthusiasm and imagination of the support staff who work with the students involved. For this submission these were; Kay Rose, Sam Roe, Becky King, Ruth Thurling, Emma Collins and Jordan Howard".

Miss Strivens excitedly reports on progression within the Art Department.

"ASDAN Towards Independence modules were introduced in Art and Design. Students were already familiar with the layout and could follow the layout. They have very much enjoyed the ASDAN 'Pottery and Ceramics' module including using the potter's wheel. Pupils like looking through the large sketchbooks filled with artwork and photos. Anna Gok has looked through the pottery sketchbooks this term as has Fyfe. We now move the 'Making Pictures' module which introduces screen-printing as a new technique. I am looking forward to co-ordinating the art exhibition. Rachel Burrige and I are working together to help plan this across formal and pre-formal from nursery to sixth form".

Students have been working extremely hard completing their coursework, supported and guided by Mr Hayman.

"Last term Key Stage 4 students completed their coursework unit 'Science and the Human Body'. This was a huge piece of work that the students have been working on since before Christmas. This will now be sent away to the examination board for moderation and will contribute to their overall science accreditation. Key Stage 3 students worked on properties of material and forces.

Some Key Stage 4 students continued their WJEC coursework. Topics included Data handling and 2D and 3D shapes. Others continued with their ASDAN personal progress maths work which included a huge range of maths topics. Key Stage 3 students all worked on very personalised programmes covering a range of shape, direction, measurement and number topics".

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Miss Parkinson has been providing students with both informative and educational experiences to advance their knowledge and skills.

“Last term Form ME/SH enjoyed a visit from a police officer because we have been exploring the World of Work. She discussed her role in the community and also talked to the students about E-Safety.

Forms HP, HS and ME/SH all enjoyed a fantastic trip to Eaton Vale. They got the chance to go canoeing, abseiling, rifle shooting, catapulting, archery and backwoods cooking. Both staff and students enjoyed the residential trip very much”.

The highlight of the Spring Term for my pupils was also their residential to Eaton Vale Activity Centre. They were joined by Mrs Hatfield and her staff and pupils. As always pupils were a pleasure to support during all of the activities they participated in. This experience and the opportunities offered to pupils is so beneficial to both their learning and well-being. An important aspect is that they can socialise with their peers and have a sleepover! I am always in awe of pupils perseverance during activities and at the friendship groups strengthened. Special thanks to all involved for generously giving up their time!

Within the classroom, pupils continue to ‘try their best’ working on their individual timetables and coming together to work as a team. Once again they have almost filled their marble jar and are imminent with choosing a fun activity to share!

The Summer Term is well underway and this week we have been participating in Science Week ‘The Cycle of Life’, with lots of exciting events and a trip out to Melsop Farm. More information to follow in my next report!

Lisa Henman
Formal Curriculum Lead