

# Spring Term Highlights

Hospital Education Service - Building Bridges to Brighter Futures



School Newsletter

Edition 10  
March 2022

## Message from the Head Teacher

The contents of our Spring Newsletter celebrate the wonderful achievements of your children this term. We have enjoyed the freedom of being able to organise school trips again and visit places that have brought what they have been learning about in lessons to life.

I would like to thank our pupils, parents, carers, staff and governors for your hard work and support this term. Enjoy spending time with family and friends over the Spring Break and recharge your batteries ready for the final term of the academic year.

Next term, we will be supporting many of our pupils with their next transition point. Our Year 6 pupils will be preparing for Secondary School and our Year 11 pupils have been busily securing education, employment or training for post-16.

For now though, take time to breathe and enjoy time with one another. See you all next term.

## Outdoor Education Prepares Path to Success

Since the initiation of Outdoor Education at Whitmore Park Annexe the external spaces have certainly felt better and brighter to be around. Pupils have been busily creating bug hotels, installing bamboo screening and planting flowers to make the outdoor areas a pleasant place to be.

Vicky Dunne, Education Manager from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, is tasked with empowering our pupils to develop a love for the outdoors and build an appreciation for the important part that our environment plays in our supporting our mental and physical wellbeing. Since starting the outdoor work at WPA, we now have a flower bed, hanging baskets, bamboo screening, bird boxes and an insect hotel.

More recently pupils have been working alongside Vicky and Mrs Ingram to create a path for the school community to gain access to the building via the garden area. The path made from bark will be particularly beneficial for pupils use different entry and exit points to access their lessons. As part of the Outdoor Education Programme, pupils have also had the opportunity to visit Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve. The trip took pupils on an exploration of the vast natural habitat enjoyed by a range of wildlife at Brandon Marsh and a hot cocoa was well received by pupils at the end of what was a very cold day.

If you are interested in joining our group for Outdoor Education, please contact your Lead Tutor or Mr Takolia for further information.

## Important Dates

New Term Begins	Monday 25th April
New Railway Station Visit	Thursday 5th May— Afternoon
Half Term Week	Monday 30th May— Friday 3rd June
Leavers Event	Friday 24th June
Last day of Summer Term	Friday 22nd July



## Advanced Maths Ignites Pupils' Fascination With Finance

On Friday 11th March staff and students across the service logged on to Zoom to take part in a careers workshop hosted by the Advanced Maths Support Programme. The event featured three people who use mathematics within their careers and they each shared insights into their industries. During the session we met Brooklyn, a Product Analyst with Just Eat Takeaway, Isabella who works in visual effects for UnionVFX and Kam who has worked in various roles relating to finance. All talked about their journeys into their careers and shared the experiences that they have had in their working lives.

There will be more opportunities with AMSP later in the year... watch this space!



*Mrs Dye - Lead Teacher for Maths*

## Wellbeing Spotlight: Exam Anxiety – Is it something to worry about?

As many students are preparing for tests and exams in the summer term, media reports focus on the stress and anxiety that some students can feel at this time. For some, the effects of stress can be minor or even positive but research suggests that one in seven students can feel highly anxious about tests. Here at Whitmore Park Annexe we have been working hard to tackle the concerns and worries our pupils will be experiencing in the run up to their GCSEs.

Tackling this common issue forms a critical element of our wellbeing curriculum, particularly as some of our pupils have a shared tendency towards heightened anxiety at key assessment points. This term, pupils have been invited to take part in a series of sessions to help them understand some important facts about exam stress and anxiety, whilst sharing some simple ways that it can be effectively managed.



The **STEPS** programme (Strategies to Tackle Exam Pressure and Stress) has been developed by Professor David Putwain at Liverpool John Moore's University and successfully delivered in a variety of mainstream and alternative education settings, such as ours. During our first three sessions, we have discussed what it feels like to experience exam anxiety and recognising the signs, explored how we can challenge negative thinking through positive self-talk and been introduced to some useful ways to help us feel calmer in particularly stressful situations.

Some participants have already started to realise the benefits of STEPS. We have been told they "liked that everyone was in it together" and the sessions meant "I didn't feel so alone" worrying about exams, with others stating they now "felt more relaxed and knew it was a natural feeling to worry about exams". There has been a wonderfully supportive atmosphere amongst those attending; one student in particular fed back they liked that it "doesn't feel rushed" and they found "the quizzes at the start" useful in helping them "to remember" what we have discussed. With three sessions remaining, pupils will investigate the best ways to plan and approach revision, talk about how to get motivated and the benefits of visualisation, with the hope they will understand what strategies work best for them. Working towards exams can create feelings of worry and being under pressure, however we hope with these sessions, pupils will feel they are more prepared to successfully tackle their summer exams.

*Mrs Stringer - English Teacher and ACT Lead*

## Drapers' Hall Visit Provides Pupils with a Musical Masterclass

Just before half-term in February, Mr Stannard from Coventry Music invited young people from Whitmore Park Annexe (HES) and Mr Green to spend one of their regular Monday afternoon Music sessions at Drapers' Hall - the grand building opposite the old cathedral ruins. Managed by the Historic Coventry Trust, Drapers' Hall has had different roles through the years - accommodating the Drapers' Guild and as a Magistrates' Court, as well as in its latest incarnation, as the home of the City's Music Service. During the Second World War the basement was used as an air-raid shelter, and it is amazing to think how close the building was to being destroyed.

The beautiful ballroom with its chandeliers and resonant acoustics was a wonderful space for HES students: Madison, Ed and Iona to spend some time relaxing and making music in such a luxurious environment. This certainly got the creative juices flowing and we all enjoyed the opportunity. Madison and Ed worked on the finer details of a song composition/performance for vocals/guitar/conga drums and Iona practised Abba's Mamma Mia for cornet and piano.

HES students demonstrated a mature approach to their music studies and expressed their appreciation afterwards. Asif Takolia, Assistant Head Teacher, commented that 'as a service we recognise the value of learning outside the classroom and the positive impact this has on pupils learning within the classroom. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and we hope Mr Stannard is planning another visit soon!'



(L) -  
Entrance  
to Drapers  
Hall



(R) -  
Grand Hall

## Virtual Reality Workshop takes Pupils to the Himalayas and Beyond

On Thursday 24th March the Hospital Education Service hosted a Virtual Reality workshop for KS4 pupils. The workshop was in partnership with Coventry Libraries and their pioneering Digital Spaces project which aims to provide library users with high-quality virtual reality and immersive audio experiences. The workshop gave pupils and staff an opportunity to experience a range of BBC Award-winning content that included an enthralling seat aboard a Lancaster Bomber right into the heart of Nazi-occupied Europe. The audio was broadcasted at the time in 1943 to the British Public by BBC War Correspondent Wynford Vaughan-Thomas as he gave an insight into what the brave service people had to go through during the second world war.

Other stories included a climb up Mount Everest and starts off in the heart of the French Alps and follows some of the world's best mountain athletes pursuing their sports and explaining their motivations behind it. The journey takes you to the most extreme VR locations filmed on this planet and finish on the summit of Everest itself. Pupils were able to witness what it's like to be engulfed in a Himalayan avalanche, cross a crevasse and stare deep into its depths, take a huge rock climbing fall, camp under the stars, and soak in the view from the 'Top of the World'.

Thomas, our ICT and Digital Ambassador, enjoyed the experience and commented 'It felt you were actually there and you feel like you are part of the journey. The Everest experience was the best for me'.

Digital Spaces continues to be hosted across Coventry Libraries and further information can be found online at: <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/libraries-1/digital-spaces-coventry-libraries>

## Herbert Art Gallery and Screen Printing Workshop

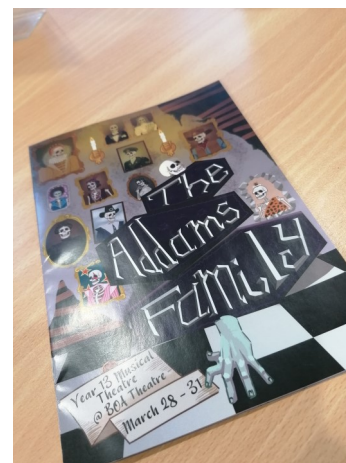
On Wednesday 23rd March pupils were lucky enough to visit the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. Upon arrival the group was greeted by a tour guide and taken to view the Daniel Lismore Fashion Exhibition. It was a unique experience and the intricacy of his garments and mannequins was truly mesmerising. Inspired by the exhibition, pupils were then invited to take part in a screen printing workshop. Screen Printing is the process of pressing ink through a stencilled mesh screen to create a printed design.

It was a real challenge but pupils produced amazing work they can be proud of.



## HES Alumni lands role in The Addams Family Production

We always love to hear how our former pupils are getting on once they have left our service, and this week we heard from Katie Hill, a member of our Class of 2020. In the last newsletter we spoke to Katie about how she had been getting on and things were looking great at her new setting. More recently, in Year 13, Katie has starred in a production of The Addams Family at the BOA Theatre. The production ran from March 28th-31st and tickets were sold online for the general public to purchase. Katie was cast as the Grandmother of The Addams Family and what a creepy job she has done. Well done Katie! We are so proud of you. See you on Broadway!



## HES says Goodbye to Art Teacher - Mrs Linnecor

Mrs Linnecor our Art Teacher will be leaving us at Easter to start a new full time role as Head of Art at Maidwell Hall School in Northamptonshire. Mrs Linnecor joined us in Sept 2017 and has really grown the Art provision across the service. Mrs Linnecor has worked across all 3 parts of the service and supported pupils to create stunning pieces of Artwork which have been showcased around Whitmore Park Annexe school. Pupils have also benefited from learning Art outside the classroom with pupils often visiting exhibitions and galleries.

We know how dearly you will be missed across the service and wish you all the best in your new role.

## Air Museum Visit sees Pupils Engagement Take Off

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Mr Green and Ms Sanderson took TJ and Jack, both in Year 9, to the Midlands Air Museum, in Baginton.

Local engineering and aviation history is strongly represented here. The strongest theme, is the story of the jet engine and jet-powered aircraft. There were a variety of exhibits, both inside and out. The boys discovered WW2 artefacts and battle displays and were shown the first flying channel aircraft. We all decided we would not have felt safe flying in that! However, the most exciting exhibits, were the fighter jets and bombers. Students really enjoyed sitting in the cockpits and visualising life as a bomber pilot. This was their favourite part of the trip.

TJ commented "It is amazing to see how small the cockpits actually are, with so little room to move and how do the pilots remember which knob is which?"

A favourite for everyone, was the Vulcan XL360, 'The City of Coventry'. We were all amazed at the size of this V bomber and its huge wingspan. The weather was very kind to us and we were able to have a picnic outside, in the shadow of fighter jets and helicopters. The students enjoyed the trip and would certainly go again. It was a great experience and a fun day out. Well done to all involved.



# Updates from the Hospital School

The spring term at UHCW has been busy as usual, with lots of special days and thematic weeks celebrated.

We started the term thinking about new beginnings and setting new year's resolutions. Pupils created star decorations to remind them of their goals and sent themselves letters; these are to be opened at the end of the year and pupils will reflect on the extent to which they have achieved them!

In February, Primary pupils' learning was themed around the Chinese New Year and the Winter Olympics. As well as providing fun contexts for Maths and English learning, these themes helped pupils to find out about different cultures and parts of the world, reflect on determination and character (and as always, allowed ample opportunities for exciting craft and art activities!)

National Careers Week engaged pupils across both Primary and Secondary in thinking about their futures, identifying their strengths and interests and finding out about different jobs. From four-year-olds who want to be astronauts and who made junk rockets to zoom to the moon, to sixteen-year-olds studying the chemistry of hairdressing, lessons were tailored to pupils' interests across many curriculum subjects.

Science Week was popular, with a Secondary Science quiz declared a firm favourite of the activities offered.

We are delighted that our Primary book trolley is now bursting with an exciting range of fiction and non-fiction and are grateful to the charity ReadforGood, who contributed towards the collection. We look forward to being permitted to hand out books again on the wards and feel that we are very drawing closer to this being the reality. Until then, we are using online books through our Twinkl subscription and library services to ensure children continue reading for enjoyment.

Our small classroom on ward 16 has seen a little more action over the past term, although keeping within the rules of only one pupil making use of it at a time. For pupils in for several days, the change of scene makes an enormous difference to them and they love having so many learning resources to hand!

From the teaching staff at UHCW, we wish you all a wonderful Easter holiday.

Mrs Morshead



Selection of Pictures from the Hospital School.

## Aspire Pupil achieves Apprenticeship Position

As we begin to look forward to the Summer Term, here at HES we have been busy supporting pupils to secure post-16 destinations in Further Education, Employment or Training for September. Maddison, who is currently studying GCSE's on the Aspire Pathway, has done exceptionally well to secure herself Apprenticeship with the NHS. In September, she will be a Trainee Healthcare Assistant based at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire. Maddison will be working on the wards supporting nurses to provide care to poorly patients who are admitted. Maddison hopes to train to be a mental health nurse in the future and is our first pupil from HES to go onto an Apprenticeship. We know Maddison will be an asset to the Healthcare Industry and will go onto great things.

Well done and we look forward to inviting you back in the future to tell us about your experiences.

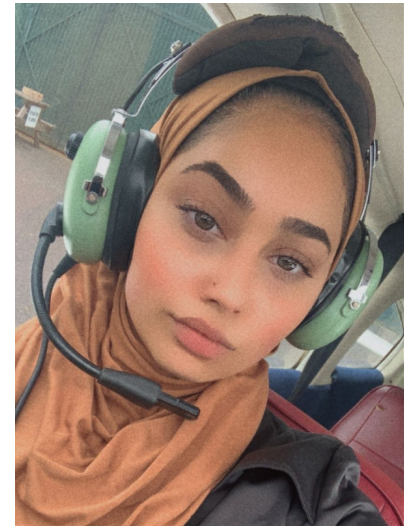


## High Flying Pupil takes to the Skies

One very determined pupil from our Aspire Pathway based at Whitmore Park Annex has been taking to the skies to pursue her dream career in Aviation. Aishah in year 11 has on her weekends been learning to fly a Piper-Warrior light aircraft as part of her ambition to gain a PPL (Private Pilot License). Aishah has done extremely well to gain a scholarship to complete her PPL and will be taking off from Tatenhill Airport in Burton-on-Trent.

Aishah's love of aviation has allowed to her to experience simulator flying of Boeing 737, 747 and 787 Max. These are the most common commercial airliner jets typically used to make journeys across the world.

In September Aishah hopes to take her next step towards her ambition by studying an Aviation and Airport Operations course which will give her a solid foundation towards her career aspirations.



## Talented Artist and Art Teacher Joins Hospital Education Service



From Monday 25th April, Mrs Gregg will be joining the service as our new Art Teacher. Mrs Gregg comes to us with over 20 years of experience in various settings. Currently working in a mainstream school, Mrs Gregg has taught using a variety of different media including textiles, clay and printing and looks forward to helping pupils to enjoy their art and create exciting things.

As an artist herself, Mrs Gregg paints abstract pieces based on memory and the way memory fades. Mrs Gregg will be working across the service including WPA, 1:1 Tuition and at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire.

We asked Mrs Gregg to name her favourite chocolate bar which was Green & Blacks. When it came to geography, her answer was equally sophisticated - Venice. Molto bene!

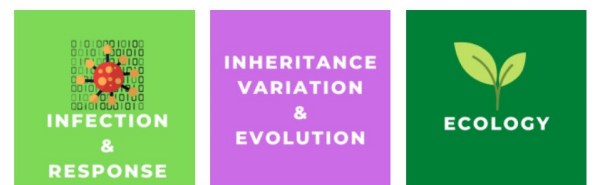
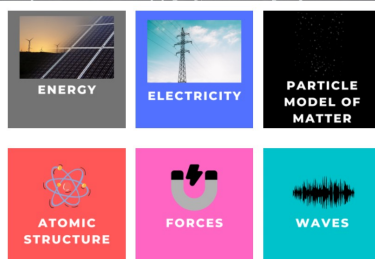
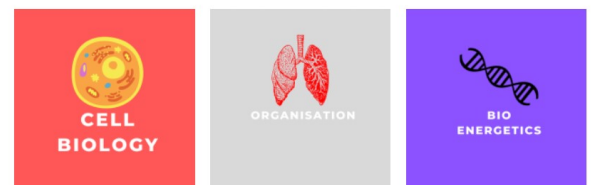
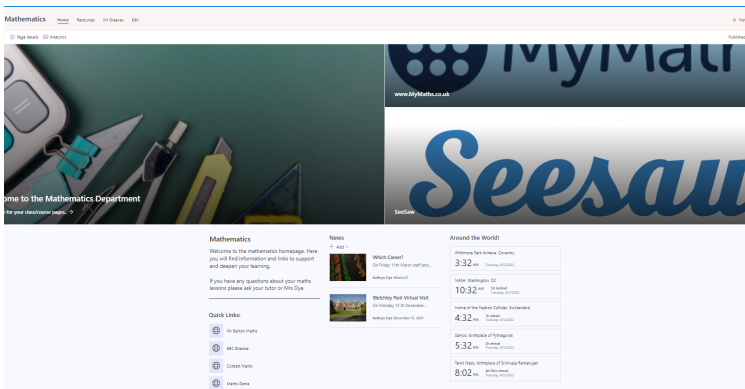
We look forward to welcoming Mrs Gregg to our team and I'm sure you will see her around very soon.

# Hospital Education Subject SharePoint Sites



Over the last term, behind the scenes, teachers have been working hard to create subject sites for pupils to access their learning at any time. The portal which is hosted on CELCHES will give pupils the opportunity to access resources, activities and quizzes created by their teachers. As a school, we understand that pupils need access to learning outside of lesson times and we have listened to feedback from pupils when creating the sites.

So far we have a site for Science, Maths and PSHE. As we move towards the Summer Term we will be launching further sites. You can find links to the subject sites on the homepage. We are asking pupils to have a look at the sites and offer feedback to teachers/Mr T about what they like and what could be improved and included.



**Half -term Highlights** shares events and activities that pupils at the Hospital Education Service have been involved in. If there is something that needs correcting or you would like to make a suggestions about what you would like to see in our newsletter please contact Mr Takolia.