

And it's already Easter! Where did the time go?

I love this time of year, it's lighter in the morning and stays lighter for longer at night. It makes you want to come to school and how lovely it is to see some of our pupils really trying hard to improve their attendance, especially Jack, well done!

As you can see from this newsletter it's been another busy term with lots going on. It's great to see the pupils taking part in so many activities, building their resilience and confidence as well as thinking about those in the community and the world around them.

Since Christmas we have also had new staff join us, Mrs Ellis-Mainprize (Catch Up Literacy), Mrs Yasin (Catch Up Maths) and Mr Brannan (Teaching Support). We are so pleased to have them on board and welcome them into the PRU family.

We have included some photographs and information from two of our Christmas Treats as we missed the deadline for the Christmas newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about them and seeing the pictures as much as we all did when we were taking part.

After the Easter break our Year 11's will look towards their GCSE examinations. The dates are all included in this newsletter. You will also receive a letter home to ensure you and your child are well prepared and they are able to perform in the best way possible. With this in mind all Year 11's will be bringing home a revision pack of workbooks. Please encourage them to use these books, take the time to look through them yourself and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Core Subject Teacher. These books are given to the Year 11's to help them to prepare for their exams and will enable them to reap the success they deserve. There will also be revision sessions after school, details will be sent out after the break.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and as always, we are here if you have any questions or issues.

Wishing you all a happy Easter and a safe and relaxing break.

Mrs Jo Fox

Assistant Head teacher



## English

There really has been some excellent work produced in English this term.

KS4 Pupils are working hard and pushing towards their GCSE English Language and Functional Skills exams. We have also had successes in the Step up to English qualification. An element of the exam is for pupils to participate in a speaking, listening and communication assessment, for this they have been researching their favorite music genre. This has led to some great discussions and informative sessions taking place.

In KS3, Charley produced a very informative power point on her favourite music artist, whilst Tegan created a very thought-provoking power point on the topic of Boxing.



As part of our World Book Day celebrations, all pupils were given a book as a gift. This was received really well. The books were wrapped up and presented to the pupils individually.

Sadly, we had a huge staff absence that day but as always Mrs. Ford created a fun environment, she dressed as Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz, and was found to be using the phrase "There's no place like home", throughout the day. Mrs. Trueman was Minnie Mouse and Mrs. Ellis-Mainprize "Miss Honey" from Matilda!

## Reading

During this last half term, we have made huge improvements to our reading programmes and encourage 'Reading for Pleasure' across the school.



We now have a fully functional library, a calm and comfortable environment full of fiction and non-fiction books that pupils and staff are free to borrow.

We have also introduced DEAR – 'Drop Everything And Read'. This involves everyone and we mean **everyone**,

A collage of posters and notices. At the top left is a green poster that says 'KEEP CALM DROP EVERYTHING AND READ'. To its right is a 'Grab A Book' sign. Below the green poster is a yellow notice titled 'Whole School (including staff)' with details about the DEAR initiative, including a list of weekly periods. To the right of the yellow notice is a blue notice about a Virtual Library Platform. At the bottom right is a small yellow notice with a link to the Virtual Library Platform.

taking part in a 20-minute reading session once a week at a set time.

This is proving very successful with pupils and staff, exposing them to a number of texts, articles and audio versions of books through our school Virtual Library as well as individually chosen reading books and subject specific reading.



We have also joined the EPlatform Programme, a form of an Online Lending Library. All pupils and staff have a log in and after downloading the App to their mobile phones or devices can borrow books for up to 2 weeks that they can read at their leisure. Books from all genres are available including Wellbeing and Self-Help books.

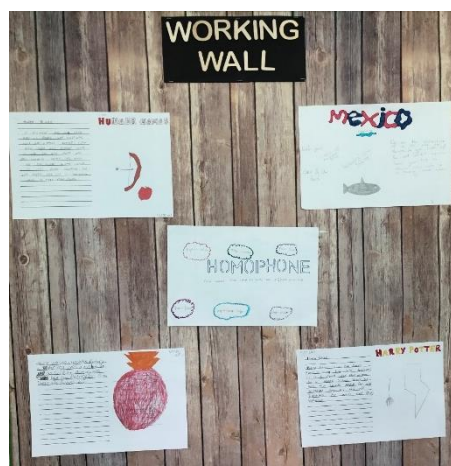


**If you would like to know more, please contact Mrs Fox at the school.**

### Catch Up Literacy

As a school we have introduced this with the intention of helping all pupils to regain their confidence and maintain progress across all subjects through Catch Up sessions that are set into the timetable for all pupils.

Mrs. Ellis-Mainprize has seen some hard work being applied in Literacy lessons this term. Pupils have completed baselines, revision for exams and completed research tasks.



Over the last few weeks, Year 11 have been looking at Question 4 from the English Language GCSE, Paper 1. The focus has been the understanding of the vocabulary used in greater depth. Pupils have used the mark scheme to identify how marks are awarded to ensure opportunities are not missed during the exam.

KS3, Year 7, 8 and 9 have been researching a celebrity of their choice. This task has enabled them to use skills such as reading, vocabulary work and



retention of information. Both Charley and Tegan have worked really hard, included several celebrities on their presentations.

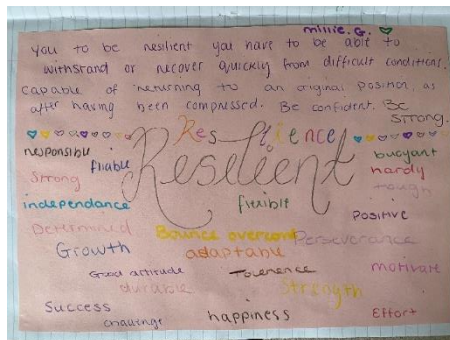
During World Book Day, pupils all worked towards creating a book cover for a well-known book of their choice. They were then tasked with summarising the story to encourage others to read it. Some of these can be seen in Room 9 on display.

## **Social Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) with Miss Grainger**

This term in SEAL, we have been learning about building our resilience and about emotional wellbeing.

What does the word 'resilience' mean to our pupils? Well, Pierre and Corby made a fantastic representation of what being resilient means to him using the Lego.

The pupils have learnt that resilience is an important skill to learn as it gives us the strength needed to process and overcome the stresses and barriers that life may throw at us.



us. Millie G produced an excellent mind map about resilience. Tyler, Millie, Andrew and Aurelia had a very open discussion around identifying our individual strengths and development points as well as practicing their problem-solving skills. Resilient people tap into their strengths and support systems to help

them overcome challenges and work through problems, something which future employers will look for!

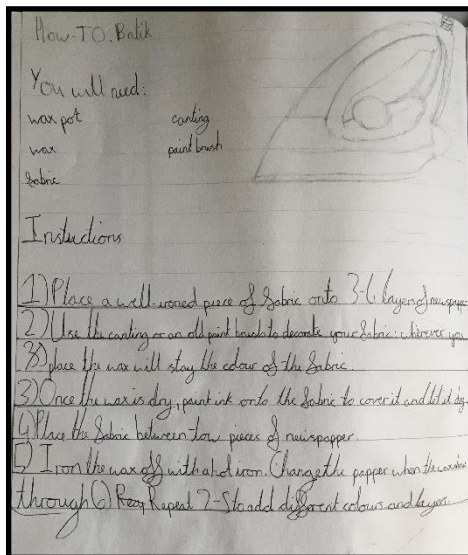
Our pupils have also been busy learning how to support their emotional wellbeing. The pupils have been exploring the links between physical and mental wellbeing as well as creating a list of personal strategies to keep a healthy mind and body. Charley, Tegan and Michael created an impressive piece of work focusing on enhancing their emotional vocabulary, it was brilliant to see them working as a team and supporting each other.



## Art

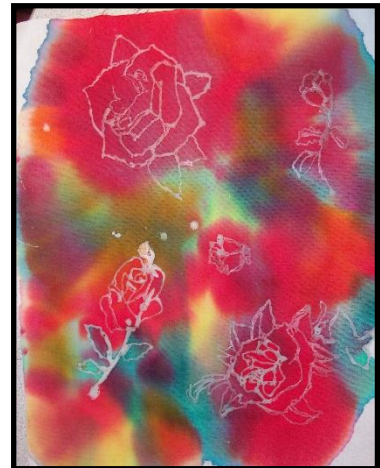
Time to get down to the basics. Learning new skills can sometimes push us out of our comfort zone. It can be exciting and frustrating all at the same time, as we discovered when we set about learning how to batik. What's a canting? Asked Pierre. This is a canting...

This small, inoffensive looking tool is what proved to test our nerve as we realised we needed a lot of practice to paint the hot wax just where we needed it to go.



We practiced our design ideas first using clear wax crayons and water colours to make sure we were happy with our composition. Next came another unknown skill to some...ironing! "Ironing is not art." Exclaimed a bemused Andrew.

It turned out that there was quite a bit of important preparation to do before we could start using our new tools.



Ironing cotton cloth, tracing out final design ideas onto it, waiting for the hot melted wax to reach the correct temperature and so on. Was it fiddly? Yes! Was it worth it? Most definitely!





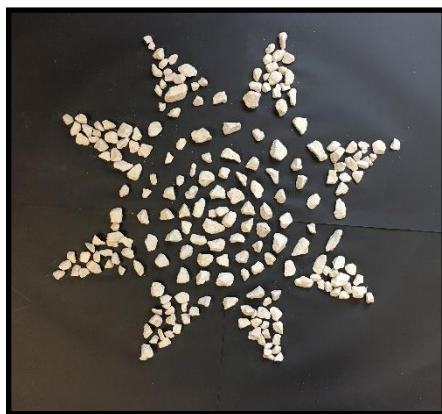
## Art Project 2



"We can't make art out of leaves and twigs!" Andy Goldsworthy would beg to differ considering his entire art career has been based on just that. Stones and slate? Speak to Richard Long.

Looking at the work of these artists and others working with similar natural materials, it turns out you can make art out of just about anything!

We had to get used to the idea of not being precious about our art this half term. A lot of land art only exists in photographic form.



We learnt new words like temporary and ephemeral...cue our photography skills.

Aurelia got to grips with the subtleties of the many different green tones within just one variety of

shrub, producing a beautifully intricate leave mosaic.



## PSHE



Now we know all about how to protect our sexual health, we have concentrated our efforts on passing on our advice to others. We set about producing posters and leaflets signposting where teenagers can go to get help and advice in our local area.

We now know that there are many places to get emergency contraception and that if we need any advice, we don't need to suffer in silence because we are embarrassed. These carefully thought out pieces of work mark the successful conclusion of our first ASDAN PSHE Short Course unit.

A massive well done to all the pupils who have worked really hard on them. What they have managed to achieve is making talking about the subject of sexual health a normal part of life ...and there is no excuse not to be safe because condoms are free!



<https://www.yorsexualhealth.org.uk>



## **Science**

### **Key stage 3**

In Science, pupils have been working on the AQA Entry Level Qualification and covering the Key stage 3 curriculum to ensure all gaps in knowledge are filled.

Units covered included 'Cells and the Human Body'. Here we can see Charlie, Lizzie and Tom working on a practical to test foods for different nutrients.



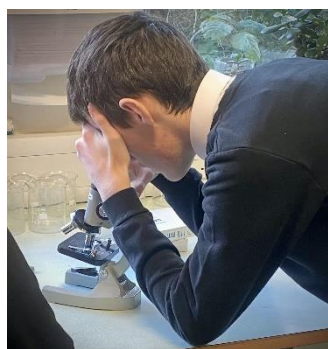
We have also covered units on Elements, Mixtures and Compounds.

Pierre is learning to separate liquids using the 'Liebig Condenser' to complete a distillation practical and make pure water from a mixture of ink and water.



### **Key stage 4**

The year 11s are now working towards the AQA GCSE examinations in May and June this year. Here we can see Tammy and Andrew practicing using a microscope in order to write down instructions on how to make a slide, to look at plant or animal cells.



This is a typical question on the exam paper where pupils need to be able to describe the method of ten different required practical assessments, describe how to get good results and explain the results they have found.

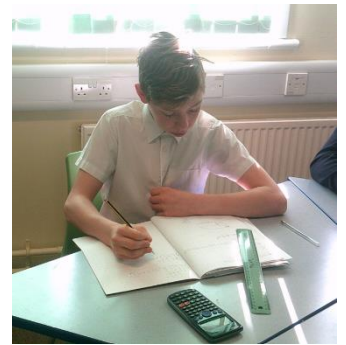
We are looking forward to revising all units so that the Year 11s are ready and confident to take their examinations.





## **Maths**

The spring term has been a busy time for maths students. Many have received the results of their first Mathematics Functional Skills Examinations from the end of last term and have gone on to take their second set of Mathematics Functional Skills Examinations this term. Christy passed his Mathematics ELC with a grade 2 and Emily and Lewis have been making great progress working towards their entry level qualification.



Year 11 are currently revising for their GCSE examinations. These are some of the GCSE maths topics that our pupils have been studying during this spring term: Working with Number Systems, Probability and Fractions, Decimals and Percentages.

The GCSE mathematics examinations for year 11 next term consist of one non-calculator and two calculator papers. These examinations assess pupils' skills in abstract reasoning with an emphasis on problem solving skills and a connection to 'real life mathematics'. Problem solving and justification of their solution has become an important part of our pupils' mathematics lessons.

## **Container Project**

Mrs Chopping tasked Pierre and Corby with the job of identifying the best position in the car park for a couple of containers; one for gym equipment and one for a cycle workshop.



They measured the car park for a scale drawing. Using the scale to position the containers and then calculating the cost to insulate and clad the inside of the containers with plywood. There is a display outside Room 1.



## Catch Up Numeracy

Catch Up Numeracy sessions have now been added to the timetable. In much the same way as the Catch-Up Literacy sessions work, the main idea is to ensure pupils feel confident and are not missing out on skills that they may need as they head towards their end of year targets.

Mrs Yasin is our Catch-Up Teacher and is a favourite with the pupils for her great sense of humour and lively lessons.

The pupils are all responding really well and attending lessons weekly to help with knowledge filling and ensuring progress.

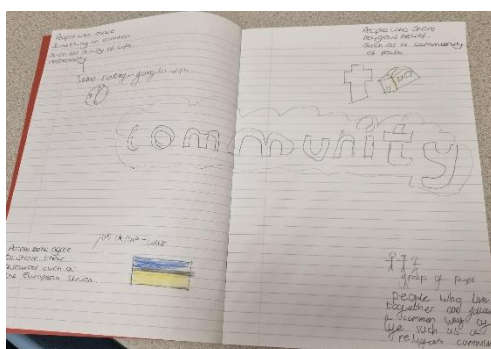
## RE



In RE this term we have been looking at two separate topics: The first is 'RE and Art', pupils have looked at how we view art and what we consider to be religious art?

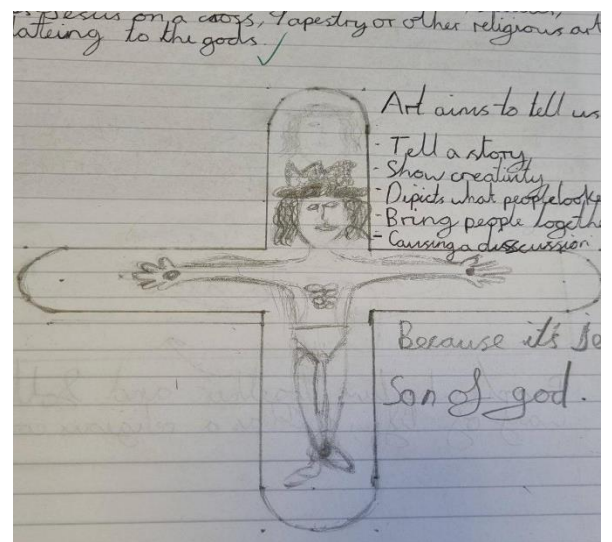
We viewed several different images and pupils discussed them giving their personal opinions and thoughts. Pupils

then participated in creating their own piece of art incorporating their personal interpretation of religious aspects.



The second topic we looked at was 'Self and belonging'. We have identified what the word 'Community' means and how we as individuals fit in to it. We looked at

collective groups and also spoke about factors that may affect how we live our lives or feel about ourselves within the community we live.



## Careers

During Career lessons this half term Year 11 pupils have been focusing on Post 16 options.

Pupils have been researching local colleges and apprenticeships ready for when they leave in June. Most year 11 pupils have applied for college and have had their first interview which is great news!

Some of our pupils are hoping to gain an apprenticeship and pupils will start to apply for these posts in the next few weeks. Next term our focus will be to start preparing pupils for their



transition from school to college and moving on to bigger and better opportunities.

The other year groups have been exploring different career pathways and focusing on raising their own aspirations.

Pupils have been exploring different aspects of careers, including decision making, relating school to work, leadership, punctuality and exploring their personalities in relation to job opportunities.

We are hoping to arrange visits to local businesses and employers over the coming half term pupils which will help to inspire pupils and increase their motivation to engage in education.

Some of our pupils have attended the Technology College for some construction sessions. This entailed gaining experience with a variety of materials.



## Job Fair



On 4<sup>th</sup> March, Year 11 pupils attended the Scarborough Job Fair.

Scarborough Job Fair is an event that is run annually and provides the opportunity for pupils to meet future employers and education and training providers with a range of job and course vacancies that may be of interest.





This year, employers included the NHS, Sainsbury's, Haven, Gl group, Sever field, Saint Celia's, Happy Futures and many more.



Further education providers included Skills Village, Coventry University and the opportunity centre.



All the pupils who attended engaged well and asked relevant questions relating to their career hopes. Some pupils took information leaflets and job descriptions in areas they showed interest as well as freebies!

## **Attendance**

Attendance this term has been quite a struggle. We have noticed that some pupils regularly take time off school. We understand there are many issues that can affect a pupil's attendance, but please feel confident we are here to help and support families to improve attendance across the school.

The Department of Education states that a pupil's attendance should not be lower than **85%**. If you look at your child's school report you will be able to see their current attendance percentage.

**Did you know?**

**10 minutes late  
every day = 33 hours  
lost learning each  
year!!!!**

Although we have many pupils that are exceeding the percentage which is fantastic, we also have some who fall below.

If you are concerned about your child's attendance or we have been in touch already please contact us. We are here to help in any way we can.

Being on time is also vital for your child's education. Arriving late to school is unsettling for all and can often lead to disruptions and disturbances which then have a huge impact on everyone concerned. Again, all it takes is a text or phone call to let us know you are running late.

Communication is so important; home and school need to work together to ensure pupils are present and ready to learn.

The most improved attender this half term is Jack in Year 11. His attendance has been 100% consistent for the past 4 weeks! We are all so proud of your achievement and hope it continues. Also, a huge thank you must go to mum for all of her support and working with us.

Well Done Jack!



## Christmas Ice skating for High Pass.

The pupils who were on the last High Pass before Christmas had a real treat and went to the Pop-Up Ice-Skating Rink in Scarborough.



Lizzie and Mrs Ford went to go to see Santa at Boyes, and then for a delicious hot chocolate and posh cake instead.

All the pupils and staff had a fantastic time, especially Mrs Chopping who was like Torvil and Dean spinning around the ice!

Andrew found the challenge of staying upright impossible at times but was helped round the rink by some of the others.

Everyone used the "Penguins" to help them skate which was really funny to watch.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and agreed it was a great treat to get them in the mood for Christmas.

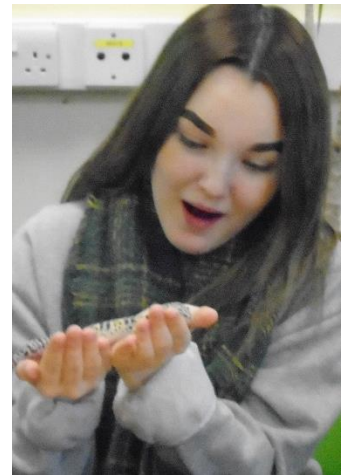


## Christmas Treat

It is always nice to keep a surprise until the very last minute and to see a school full of children totally engaged and involved in an activity. This is exactly what happened on the last day of school before the Christmas holidays.



All pupils, from both the Alexander Centre, Primary/Key-Stage 2 and off site provision, as well as a former pupil gathered in the common room with no idea that they would be facing their fears and also some very cute critters.



The visitors were Reptile Rendezvous they arrived and introduced their audience to a variety of animals

including: A Meerkat, Tortoise, Tarantula, Snake, Lizards, Tenrecs and a Skunk!

Staff, pupils and guests all had a chance to handle, carry or view the various creatures with more or less enthusiasm. A great deal of bravery was shown by all involved, not least the visiting animals, as can be seen in the pictures of everyone getting acquainted.

All in all it was a great morning.







## Displays

The displays around the building are really starting to come together now. We wanted to share a few with you so that you can see what the pupils have been working on recently.

This is our SMSC Tree.

We have covered it in photographs of staff and pupils participating in activities together to broaden horizons and bring us together as a community.

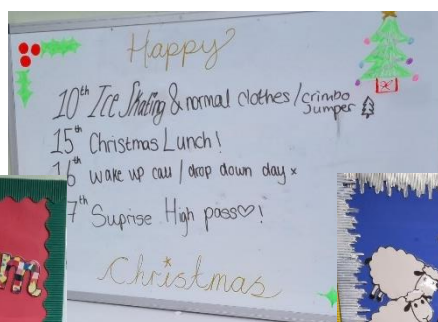
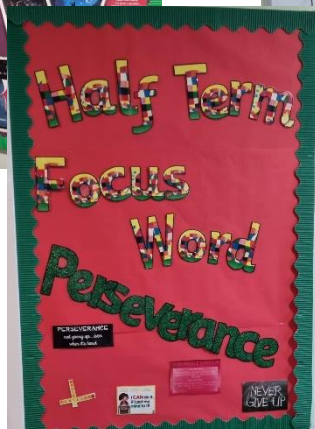


We have a beautiful British Values Board.

This looks at democracy and informs us of how the country is governed.



Some of our other displays include High Pass ideas, reading for pleasure as well as advice on how to get a good night's sleep.





## **Primary Provision with Miss Goodman and Mrs Abdel-Karim**

It has been a busy term at the Alexandra Centre.

Firstly, we have to say a massive congratulation to Konnah. All his hard work with us has paid off and he is making a very successful transition to St Martins Primary School. Initially he went for 1 hour with us, he then did this by himself and the time there gradually increased.

He now attends St Martins for 3 full days and Thursday and Friday he comes to us. After Easter he will attend one more day, then in July he will be attending full time. Initially he was a bit nervous but now he absolutely loves going and we love hearing everything he has done there!

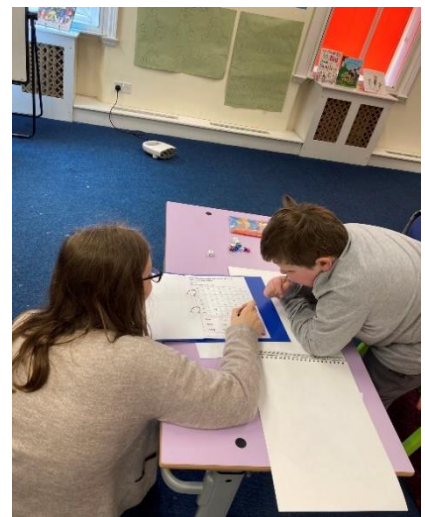
Well done Konnah, you should feel so proud of yourself, we certainly are!



Kieran has had a wonderful term with us. Initially he struggled with a routine but he has put in a lot of hard work, he now comes to school happy and understanding he has

his tasks to do.

We introduced the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds phonics programme which Kieran has been working through. As much as he loved stories and being read to, he struggled to do this independently. However, using the phonics programmes and putting in all his hard work, Kieran has read a book by himself recently and is now able to spell and write his name. We are so proud. Well done Kieran!







Isla also started with us just before Christmas. She has worked really hard this term to control her emotions and follow a routine. She is now coming to school much happier and understands she has a timetable to follow.

She absolutely loves treasure hunts, so we do a lot of maths and reading this way. She is improving her writing skills by writing treasure hunts for us to

do. Isla is an accomplished reader and loves reading stories in our new reading corner.

Isla is also a talented artist, she likes drawing so we have created a space for all her drawings. You have worked really hard this term Isla, well done.



We have also welcomed 3 new pupils, Jacob, Leo and Tommy. We look forward to getting to know you better over the coming weeks.

As mentioned earlier we have set up a new reading corner that is full of books, literacy resources, bean bags and toys. The pupils love using it to either read quietly or listen to stories.



Konnah, Isla and Kieran have used the letters and numbers mats to create their own game. It was wonderful to see them working together, working things out and playing the game.



After Konnah and Kieran had had a good week and it was a glorious day, we took a picnic and all went to the park. The boys ran about and were playing on the equipment, working up an appetite before we sat in the sunshine and had lunch. It was a lovely end to the week!



## **Assemblies**

Here at the PRS, we start our Fridays with our bright and energetic assembly. This is a great time to reflect upon the importance of positive attitudes and outlooks within the school community. Staff share their positive messages on a postcard for the pupils to take home and share with their families if they so wish.

During Friday Assembly, we also discuss High Pass. We have had some wonderful High Pass activities this term such as, Sea Life Centre, Breakfast at Scalby Manor, bowling and swimming at Alpamare to name a few! Congratulations to all that made it on to High Pass and thank you to the staff who organised the trips.

## **Starsky and Hutch**

During this half term, we have been very lucky to have the pleasure of some special guests join us for assembly. Martin Hutchinson has travelled all around the world by foot with his furry companion Starsky – The duo has walked over 36,000 Kilometres to date!



Hutch gave an engaging talk, along with showing us his videos from around the world. Hutch very importantly drew our attention to the plastic pollution he has witnessed and the devastating effect it is having on our planet. He showed us a video of tons of plastic waste being dumped into the Amazon River which left us stunned! It certainly left us all with food for thought. Starsky and Martin Hutchinson came to visit everyone at the PRS this term.



We all enjoyed learning about their travels and of course giving Starsky a well-earned fuss! We hope to see them again soon.

This was Starsky's birthday! Please note it was World Book Day hence the reason Mrs Ford is dressed up as Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz!



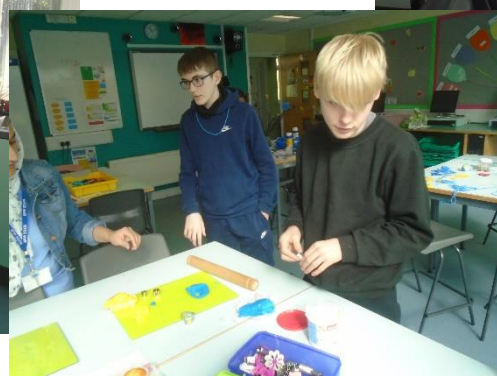
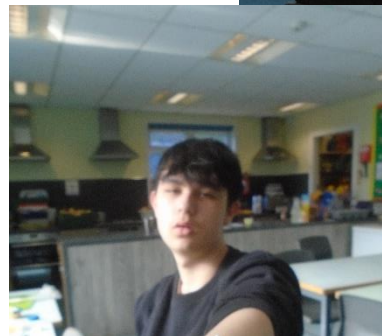
## Ukraine Day

On the 18<sup>th</sup> March we decided to raise a little bit of money that we could send to the Ukraine Crisis Fund.



We paid £1 to dress in yellow and blue and all participated in activities including cake decorating, ribbon making and other art projects.

The pupils showed great empathy and maturity when discussing the events in Ukraine.



## **Drop Down Day – Healthy Relationships**

At the PRU it is important that all our pupils learn how to stay safe outside of school. With this in mind pupils were given a day off normal timetable to take part in a Healthy Relationships drop down day.

The course consisted of a number of sessions designed to help pupils recognise characteristics of both positive and negative relationships, to recognise abusive behaviour within relationships and understand that abuse in any relationship is always wrong. Pupils were given advice on where to find help and support if they were worried about a relationship they, or someone they knew, found themselves in.

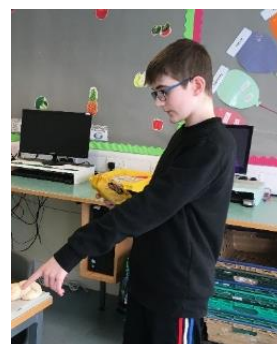
A session on safer online relationships taught pupils how to protect themselves and their personal information and manage online risks.

Everyone who took part in the drop-down day did so in a mature manner, reflecting the importance of the topics that were being discussed. Well done to all those who were there!

## **Parent Cooking Day**

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March the PRU opened its doors and kitchen to parents. We arranged an Easter cooking session for parents and pupils to share time and make some Easter treats. Corby and his mum had great fun making some Easter bread, which they had for their tea!

Due to Covid our numbers were low but we really hope that next time it proves more of a success.





## **Summer Exam Schedule**

Functional Skills & GCSE

Exam Entries

May & June 2022

Exam Schedule			
Date	Start Time	Duration	Exam
16.05.22	9.15am	30mins	Functional Skills – Maths Level 1 – (Non-calculator)
16.05.22	1.15pm	1h 30mins	Functional Skills – Maths Level 1 – (Calculator)
16.05.22	9.15am	30mins	Functional Skills – Maths Level 2 – (Non-calculator)
16.05.22	1.15pm	1h 30mins	Functional Skills – Maths Level 2 – (Calculator)
17.05.22	9.15am	1hr 45mins	GCSE – Science Biology - Paper 1
18.05.22	9.15am	1hr 45mins	GCSE – English Language – Paper 1 (Creative reading & writing)
19.05.22	9.15am	1hr	Functional Skills English L1 – Reading
19.05.22	1.15pm	1hr	Functional Skills English L1 – Writing
19.05.22	9.15am	1hr	Functional Skills English L2 – Reading
19.05.22	1.15pm	1hr	Functional Skills English L2 – Writing
20.05.22	9.15am	1hr 30mins	GCSE – Maths – Paper 1 (Non-calculator)
07.06.22	9.15am	1hr 30mins	GCSE – Maths – Paper 2 (Calculator)
10.06.22	9.15am	1hr 45mins	GCSE – English Language – Paper 2 (Writers' viewpoints & perspectives)
13.06.22	09.15am	1hr 30mins	GCSE – Maths – Paper 3 (Calculator)
15.06.22	09.15am	1hr 45mins	GCSE – Science Biology – Paper 2

**Any problems please contact us as soon as possible.**

## **P.E.**

This term the pupils have been focusing on badminton, volleyball and boxing.

The boxing is, as always, courtesy of Scarborough Amateur Boxing Club where the pupils are put through their paces by boxing coach John Brownlie.

Badminton was a great success with the majority of the pupils taking onboard all of the coaching tips provided by staff to the extent that after just a few lessons they could give several members of staff a challenging game.



Next the pupils were introduced to volleyball, which was a new sport for most of them, however they soon got the hang of it. All of the pupils showed great teamwork, which is essential for volleyball, and most importantly they all enjoyed it.





## **Head teacher's Message**

As you can see it has been a whirlwind of a term and the pupils have managed to engage in many different activities despite the various setbacks Covid has thrown in our way! It has been a difficult few months with many staff and pupil absences, it has often felt like two steps forward three steps back, but we have made small steps of forward and many of the pupils are progressing way beyond our expectations.

Due to low attendance being a concerning issue, which has serious implications for the pupils' academic progression; we decided to focus more attention and funding on our high pass rewards this term. These are rewards at the end of each week for attendance and behaviour, we also listened to pupil voice which overwhelmingly voted for trips and visits which would motivate them to improve their attendance and behaviour. Some of the more successful ones have been ice-skating, Secret Realm and Alpacare. We will continue to focus on these end of week rewards as they not only encourage the pupils but often provide opportunities for them to find alternative activities in which they might be successful and experiences they may not have tried before.

It is also time to say goodbye to our Business Manager Mary Mortimer. Mary has been with us for the last 7 years and has been the backbone of our school. Staff describe Mary as 'wonderful, helpful, supportive, knowledgeable and always calm.' She will be a great loss to the school and we will miss her very much, but we wish her all the happiness in her retirement, enjoying her gardening and her grandchildren.



### **Dates for your Diary:**

Professional Training Day School closed to all pupils – **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Back to school for all pupils - **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Extra Bank Holiday, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Bank Holiday Monday – **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022**

Summer Exam Schedule Begins – **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

(Please see exam schedule for specific dates)

Half Term Holiday – **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Back to School – **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Last GCSE Examination – **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Official Leaving Day for Year 11's – **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Sports Day – **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Positive Parent Review Day – **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022**

Last Day of Academic Year – **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022**

Back to School – **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

