WARGRAVE HOUSE SCHOOL

ON A JOURNEY TOGETHER
Wargrave House
LEARNING ABOUT LIFE

Date: 31.03.2023

NEWSLETTER

See Page 4

Autism Specialist Award Beacon 2022

https://www.wargravehouse.com/

CEO Welcome

CEO - Robin Bush

Hello Everyone,

As we move to the end of the Spring Term, activity across the site shows no sign of abating. Our newsletter is as always filled with examples of what we, as a charity, are all about - packed with evidence of how our young people continue to grow and develop with the support of our hard working staff team.

Our advertisement for a permanent Head Teacher has recently closed and we are in the process of shortlisting potential candidates for interview. I will keep you updated. In the meantime Mark will be continuing his great work supporting the Education Team throughout the Summer Term.

Our rebranding as Remarkable continues and we are looking to launch additional social media and website outlets in the near future.

Many of you will be aware that last week we said farewell to Sue Murphy, our Senior Administrator who has served the school for over thirty years. I'm sure you will join us all in thanking Sue for her valuable contribution and wish her well in her new ventures.

In the meantime, I wish you all well and trust that you have an enjoyable Easter break.

Best Wishes

Robin

Remarkable
Autism. Redefining what's possible.

Head Teacher Welcome

Head Teacher - Mark Leicester

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to our half-termly Newsletter.

IHello everyone I trust you are all well and looking forward to the Easter Holiday. Hopefully with the weekly bulletins and with the half-termly newsletters we have kept you up to date and informed about your son/daughters' experiences at Wargrave House this term, and what a term it has been.

We have had trips and visits to music concerts, wildlife parks, visits to our local community, careers fairs, and spring fairs all within the last 13 weeks. You will see some great photos showing our students enjoying all these activities in this newsletter.
In addition to all these life experiences we have really focused on the quality of teaching and learning in our classrooms and have made great strides in both our English (including phonics) and mathematics provision. Our quality assurance including lesson observations, work scrutiny and what are called deep dives (where we spend time in the class and look at all that the students experiences) have been really positive and help tell us where we need to improve for our students. There are many positive developments and I am sure these improvements will continue into the new term.

As I stated in my first bulletin I was impressed by the efforts of the staff and the level of care they show towards all learners, and now at the end of the term when we are all looking forward to a break these standards I can confidently report that these high standards have been maintained. Well done to the staff!
On a personal note I have really enjoyed my first term at Wargrave House where I have been made to feel welcomed and be part of the Wargrave House and Remarkable Autism family, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all students, staff, governors and parents for their support. I should also take this opportunity to inform the Wargrave community that I will remain in post for the upcoming term until a permanent Headteacher can be recruited and that I am delighted to do so.

Finally can I ask you all for your feedback on the bulletins and the new newsletter and ask you to complete and return the short questionnaire when you receive it. Thank you in advance for that.

I hope all students and parents have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 17th of April.

Best wishes,
Mark

PS Fun fact: The chocolate egg was invented in the UK!

A positive thought for the holiday:
Easter is the only time when it is perfectly safe to put all of your eggs in one basket.

Anon

Anonr

National Careers Week

As part of National Careers Week, On Wednesday 8th March 2023 Wargrave House School held a careers fair. We had representatives from six community sectors who came in and provided interactive activities for the learners.

Our visitors were:
Chloe Johnson – Trainee Year 3 nurse.
Darren Jopson and Reece O'Brien – Barbers
Harry Banks Community Support Officer
Powers LP Community Team St Helens | Team 1
Martin Baker, Paul Nash and Katie Mottershead from @Saints Foundation
A special appearance from Boots - Saints Mascot!
Sheila Yorke and Ray Newby from Newton le Willows Gardening Association.
Staff member Gill Johnson provided Special Effects Make Up who is an SFX artist.
Diana ViVier from @Dis_designs very kindly donated the balloons and balloon arch to decorate the room for the event.
We were also very fortunate to welcome The Worshipful Mayor, Councillor Sue Murphy who opened the event.

All the students thoroughly enjoyed the morning trying new skills and discussing career pathways.
The staff and students made our visitors very welcome and a representatives from each class enjoyed a 'Mayors Question Time' where they came up with their own questions to ask.

Robin Bush CEO of Wargrave House thought what an incredible event it had been and how hard everyone had worked to make it such a success.

World Book Day

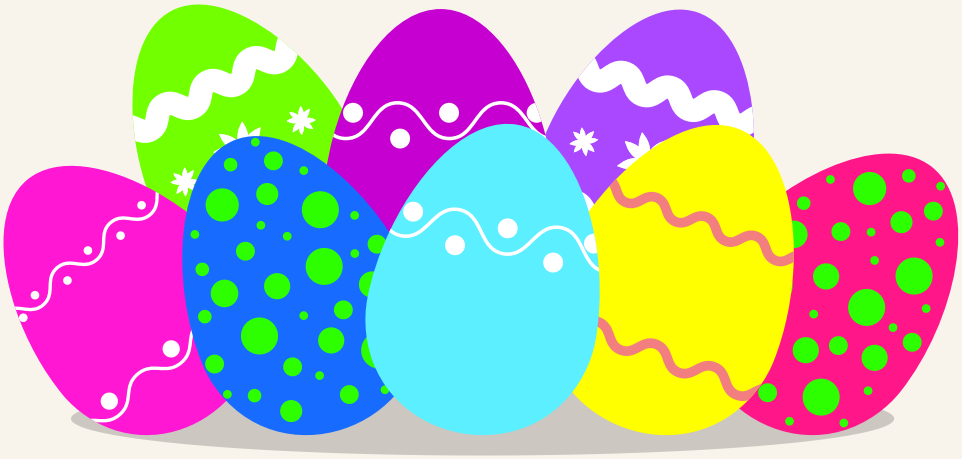
On Thursday 2nd March, 2023, Wargrave House celebrated World Book Day in style! Learners and staff were invited to dress up as their favourite characters and talk to other learners and staff about their chosen character & book.

Our school theme this year was characterisation. Each class participated in different activities to explore the idea of characters and character development. Classes participated in the following activities: fuzzy felt character making; wooden spoon character making; hand puppet character making; manga comic strip making & digital character making. Our learners demonstrated a great sense of enthusiasm and enjoyment when participating in these events and produced some outstanding characters.

Well done to you all. We are very proud of you at Wargrave House School!

Easter Bunny Visits Wargrave House School

We welcomed the Easter Bunny and some of his friends on Friday 31st March. All of our students received a chocolate egg and a chance to meet our furry friend. A big thank you to Councillor Terry McGuire and Business For Youth for their visit.



An Important Reminder About Medication

Any medication sent in to school needs to be in the original packaging with a completed parental consent form.

Medication will be sent home at the end of every half term.

We are introducing a receipt system so either yourself, or the escort collecting your child/young person will sign to say they have received this at the end of half term. At the beginning of half term you or the escort will sign to say they have handed it over to school or as and when you send medication in during the term time.

If you have any queries around medication contact

KirstyBrown@wargravehouse.com

OUR TOP TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR LEARNER SAFE ONLINE

Not sure what advice to give your child? Our pointers have got you covered.

1. Be careful about talking to people you don't know and trust in real life – anyone can pretend to be a child online. If you do talk to people you don't know, don't give away personal information – such as what street you live on or where you go to school, or share your location with them. Say no to any requests they send you for images or videos of yourself, and stop talking to them.
2. Set your profiles to private, to limit what others can see.
3. Think carefully about what you share and with who. Once you've shared an image, you've no control over what the other person does with it. Remember, it's illegal to take, share or view sexual images of under-18s, full stop.
4. Be mindful of your digital footprint. What you post online now could come back to bite you later, like when applying for jobs, college or university.
5. If you see something upsetting, or someone bullies you, tell an adult you trust. Report it too.
6. When reading news online, ask yourself what the source is, when it was published, and whether it could be a hoax or made up. Read beyond the headline too.
7. Remember, people try to make their lives look more exciting and interesting online. There's a lot people can do with photo editing to make their photos look better. So don't assume everything you see is a true-to-life representation.
8. Watch out for hoaxes and scams, like messages you're meant to forward on or that ask you for payment details or your password.
9. Take any content that seems to glamorise gang lifestyles with a very large pinch of salt – it's not as glamorous as it looks. Be wary of schemes promising easy cash for receiving and transferring money too, they're almost definitely criminal activity.
10. Watch out for loot boxes or other parts of games where you pay money to take a chance on getting a reward – you can get sucked into spending lots of money on them.

Further information:

This factsheet was produced by Safeguarding Training Centre from The Key: www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding

OUR TOP TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR LEARNER SAFE ONLINE

5 Ways to Keep Children Safe Whilst Gaming

Gaming continues to be one of many children's - and parents! - favourite pastimes. However, many parents have concerns over how to keep their child safe while gaming. Here at Ineqe Safeguarding Group, we've been busy testing consoles and games to identify areas of risk to promote a safer gaming experience for children.

Video games are fun and remain popular among **young and old** users alike.

Research by Ofcom showed that approximately **62% of adults in the UK** were reported to have played videos games in 2020, propelled by the COVID-19 pandemic and the stay-at-home restrictions.

With all this fun, it's important to remember that playing video games comes with **risks.**

Our online safety experts have compiled the following top tips to promote a safer gaming experience for children.

Some have **in-game purchasing** while others contain **age-inappropriate** content. These risks can significantly increase when a child is playing and interacting **with other gamers online.**

1 Choose the right child-friendly game

Choosing the right game for the child in your care can be difficult. Some parents and carers feel pressured to buy a game which might not be age-appropriate.

12 To help you make the choice, we have explored the PEGI age rating system and highlight the designated ratings of the most popular games around.

You can use the **PEGI** *(Pan European Game Information)* labels found on **all major games** to help inform your decision. PEGI is the video game content classification system used for evaluating games based on their themes. It is broken down into the following levels:

3	Suitable for all ages.
7	Includes content with scenes and sounds which might frighten younger children.
12	Slightly graphic violence which is non-realistic/fantasy.
16	Violence included which is similar to real life, bad language, and the use of drugs tobacco, and alcohol.
18	Includes motiveless and gross violence, the glamourisation of drugs, and explicit sexual activity.

PEGI rating system also includes content descriptors which are symbols that quickly tell you the themes included in a game. Categories include:

For help with teaching children about PEGI ratings, use our free lesson plan on oursaferschools.co.uk.

PEGI Ratings for some of the most Popular Games around:

- Minecraft – PEGI 7
- Among Us – PEGI 7
- FIFA 22 – PEGI 3
- Call of Duty Black Ops: Vanguard – PEGI 18
- Spiderman; Miles Morales – PEGI 12
- Fortnite: Battle Royale – PEGI 12
- Mario Kart Live: Home Circuit – PEGI 3
- Call of Duty: Warzone – PEGI 18
- Minecraft – PEGI 7

Always remember, PEGI ratings focus on in-game content and not communication between players in online games. Children and young people in your care may be exposed to offensive or inappropriate language from other players via their headset and live chat functions in many games.

Using PEGI ratings and online safety advice can help promote safer gaming for children and young people in your care.

2 Begin the conversation about gaming safety settings and in-game purchases

Whether the children and young people in your care are new to gaming or are experienced gamers, **it's important to have conversations regarding the risks and benefits of gaming.**

This is also the perfect time to talk to them about safety and privacy settings.

You might be met with **opposition** but talking about why privacy and safety settings are important can help keep the gamers in your care onside. You might want to talk about what might happen if these aren't enabled.

Feel free to use the top tips in this article to help **guide your conversations.**

The gaming world and its risks evolve all the time, and naturally so will your conversations about keeping safe while gaming.

It's important not to feel like this is a thankless task or pointless conversation when explaining the importance of safety and privacy while gaming. Enabling these settings is something you and the gamer in your care can do together.

Explaining why safety and privacy are important will help support a child or young person's understanding and respect for these decisions.

It can help to focus on how restrictions on games will change as they grow older. This will give you a perfect opportunity to encourage the gamers in your care to continue talking to you about safety and privacy online.

Check out our Console guides on **ineqe.com**

Loot Boxes have been compared to gambling. This is because gamers pay for items with real-life currency and in-game currency without a full understanding of the risk and reward of those purchases.

Games now provide warnings on their labels if they include in-Game purchases.

Games that have in-game purchases include:

- Fortnite
- Grand Theft Auto 5 (GTA5)
- Marvel's Spider-Man: Miles Morales
- Call of Duty Black Ops: Cold War
- Call of Duty: Warzone
- FIFA 21
- Roblox
- Among Us

Remember, if a child or young person in your care wants to play online, they may have to pay for a subscription service if they are using a PlayStation, Nintendo or Xbox console.

3 Usernames: Keep it random to keep kids safe online

When using consoles and games, users are required to create a username, which is sometimes called a 'Gamer Handle'.

This is the name you are identified by on your online gaming accounts *(PlayStation Network or Xbox Live).*

Whether they're playing Fortnite Chapter 3 or Call of Duty: Vanguard this Christmas, children and young people in your care will need a username.

Xbox and PlayStation assign random usernames and we advise that you keep them.

When the children in your care use a random username, they are less likely to be identifiable online.

If the gamer(s) in your care wants to personalise their username, make sure they avoid using any personal information, such as first or second names, football teams, or school names.

4 Know when to take a break from gaming

Many of the top games this Christmas such as Fortnite are created to engage their players. One of our online safety experts refers to this as *the Pringle Effect – i.e once you pop you just can't stop.*

Many of the most popular games are designed to form strong gaming habits. Game designers use persuasive design tools that work to encourage gaming sessions that can last hours on end.

Encourage the gamers in your care to take a break or use our resources to set a time limit on gameplay.

5 Make sure the child in your care knows where to go for help with gaming

Gaming is fun and can have real benefits for children and young people. But it's not without risks, as highlighted above.

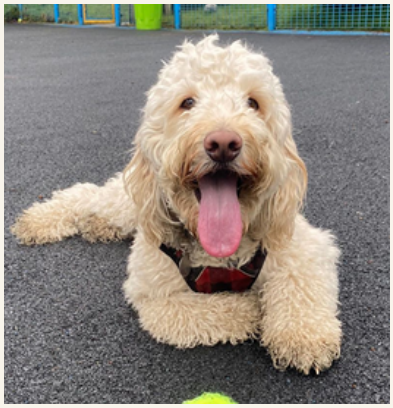
Gamers may interact with strangers via online games, where they might be exposed to age-inappropriate content, or experience bullying and harassment.

Make sure the gamer(s) in your care knows where to go for help if they need it.

This can be you or any other trusted adult.

It's important that they have someone to talk to if they have any interaction which makes them feel uncomfortable while playing games.

To help the children and young people in your care have a safe and fun gaming experience, visit Ineqe.com to find more resources and useful information. By doing this together, you can be part of their gaming journey, positioning yourself as someone who they can go to for help.



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Nico's Pupdate

Since Nico started at Wargrave in September 2021, he's grew so much. It's difficult to believe he was ever quite this tiny...

Nico has not just grown in size, but also into his role as a Therapy Dog. Whilst in training, Nico worked with just a few students each week. This half term he has supported fifteen students in regular sessions and provided lots of support to students who have felt in need of some extra Nico time.

Wednesday 29th March was an extremely special day for Nico as it's was his 2nd birthday! As Nico doesn't work on Wednesdays, students wished Nico Happy Birthday on Thursday when he proudly wore his Birthday bandana around school.

Happy Birthday Nico from everyone at Wargrave House

New Menus starting 17th April

YOUR MENU THIS WEEK

WEEK ONE — WEEK COMMENCING 17.04.23, 01.05.23, 15.05.23, 05.06.23, 19.06.23, 03.07.23, 17.07.23

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	Cheese and tomato pasta bake (Gluten, Milk)	Beef burritos served with salsa nachos (Gluten)	Pepperoni pizza (Gluten, Milk, Sulphites)	Roast chicken pie (Gluten, Milk)	Giant fish finger (Gluten)
PLANT POWER	Cheese and tomto pasta bake (Gluten, Milk)	Quorn curry (Soya, Egg)	Cheese pizza (Gluten, Milk)	Quorn and veg pie (Soya, Egg, Gluten, Milk)	Veggie fingers (Gluten, milk)
SIDES	Garlic bread and broccoli (Gluten)	Rice and peas	Nachos coleslaw and corn (Gluten, milk)	Roast potato, peas or broccoli	Chips, baked beans or peas
PUDDINGS	Ice cream (Milk, Soya)	Jelly	Cupcake (Gluten, Egg)	Donut (Gluten, Soya)	Biscuit (Gluten, Milk)

Love the food that loves you back

Available daily

Jacket Potatoes or Barms with Beans, Cheese (milk), Ham, Tuna. All served with Salad.
Fresh Fruit also available.

MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE SHOULD INGREDIENTS BE UNAVAILABLE

YOUR MENU THIS WEEK

WEEK TWO — WEEK COMMENCING 24/04/23, 08/05/23, 22/05/23, 12/06/23, 26/06/23, 10/07/23

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	Meatballs with spaghetti (Gluten)	Chicken burgers (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Sausage roll (Gluten, Milk, Sulphites)	Yorkshire pudding filled with Sasauge (Gluten, Egg, Milk, Soya)	Chicken nuggets (Gluten, Soya)
PLANT POWER	Quorn meatballs with spaghetti (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Southen fried quorn burger(v) (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Vegetable sausage roll (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Yorkshire pudding filled with Meat free sausage (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Veggie dippers (Gluten)
SIDES	Veg of the day Garlic bread (Gluten, Soya)	Fries and peas	Wedges and beans	Mashed potato, peas or broccoli (Milk)	Chips, baked beans or peas
PUDDINGS	Ice cream (Milk)	Krispie cake	Pancakes (Gluten, Milk)	Gingerbread biscuit (Gluten, Milk)	Cookie (Gluten, Milk)

Love the food that loves you back

Available daily

Jacket Potatoes or Barms with Beans, Cheese (milk), Ham, Tuna. All served with Salad.
Fresh Fruit also available.

MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE SHOULD INGREDIENTS BE UNAVAILABLE

Dates for your diary

31st March - School Closes.

As we know, some of our students struggle to attend appointments both at school and with external providers, we can provide a service utilising visuals and social stories. Let the school know if you feel your child would benefit from this service.

17 April - School re-opens
24th - 28th April - Wargrave Science Week

Community Updates

Community Updates

Engage

The highlight of Engage's term was visiting the Woodlands Alpaca Farm. The students interacted with some of the young alpacas, donkeys and Shetland ponies. The students had a very sensory session stroking the animals. They also enjoyed the alpacas special food.

Engage hope to visit again soon.

RISE 1

RISE 1 went to Knowsley Safari Park this half term where they saw lots of different animals. The students had a lot of fun there meeting animals they knew and some they didn't. We also enjoyed looking at the colourful map to see how big the park actually was.

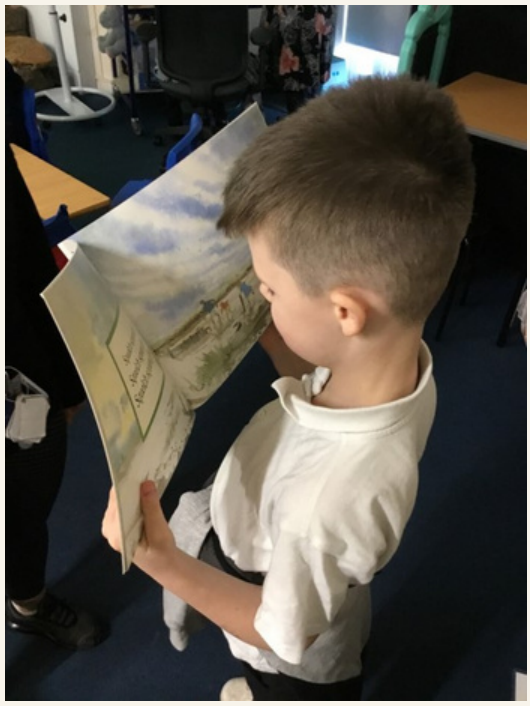
RISE 1 enjoyed baking this half term. We used lots of measuring skills, and maths skills to make sure we had the right amount of cornflakes to chocolate ratio for our cornflake cakes.

RISE 1 love being outside so so were excited about our trip to the Three Sisters for a walk and run and seeing what exciting things we could see

RISE 2

ENGLISH

In English this term, we have been doing lots of speaking and listening. We have talked about our favourite snacks and why they are our favourite. We have learned about rhyming words as we have read our favourite book "We're going on a bear hunt".



MATHS

RISE 2 have been very very busy doing lots in maths. We have been practicing subtraction, space, shape and measurements. We have looked at the time on the clock, 2D and 3D shapes and sorting using groups. We have also been practicing our times tables

RISE 2

SCIENCE

RISE 2 have enjoyed doing experiments in class this half term. We have used our prediction skills to find out how waterproof different materials and items were like an umbrella.

MUSIC

In Music, RISE 2 are very proud of Alfie who has been practicing very hard for weeks to be ready for the show on Music Day.

EXTRAS

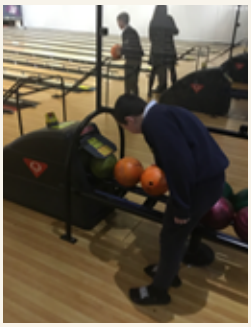
This term RISE 2 have been looking out in the community around the school to see what areas are used for. We have visited the local park and watched as the new houses are being built. We have been to the local community centre to practice using money and counting change. RISE 2 have also enjoyed festivities in the school joining in on the Easter festival.

BASE 1

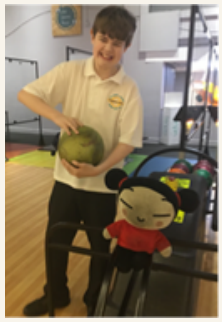
BASE 1 loved seeing the different types of careers on career day! They made biscuits to find out what it would be like to be a baker.

In art, BASE 1 enjoyed painting some cardboard. It felt very different from painting on paper.

BASE 1 practiced their communication skills using Lego We took turns being the reader, the provider and the builder on some projects out in the sun.

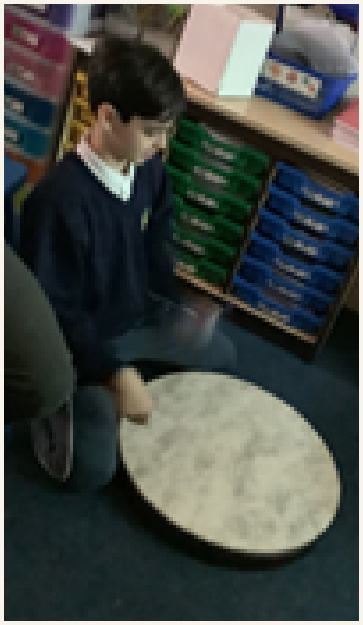


BASE 1 loved going bowling this term and some of us even got a strike! Well done BASE 1



BASE 1 helped raise money for Red Nose Day by dressing up. The noses were uncomfortable though!

BASE 2

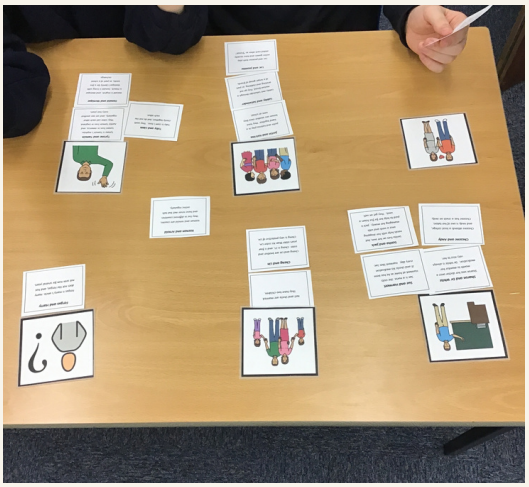


We have been practicing the song, Just the way you are by Ed Sheeran for our Easter performance and we have been using different musical instruments as well as signing the song lyrics.

Careers day was enjoyed by all our learners who all took part in trying different jobs. They also got to ask the Mayor of St Helens some questions about her job!

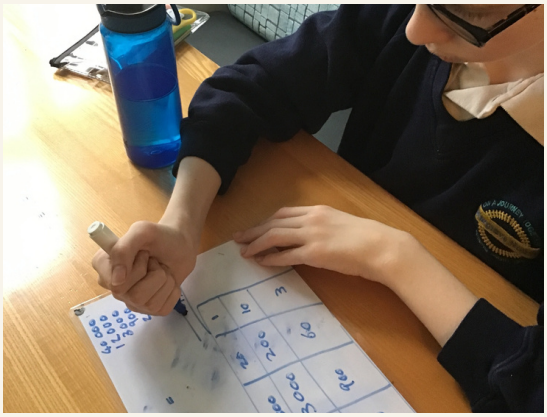
Ianis has been using his maths skills for measuring and English speaking and listening skills to build a bird box to hang outside. Well done Ianis!

BASE 3

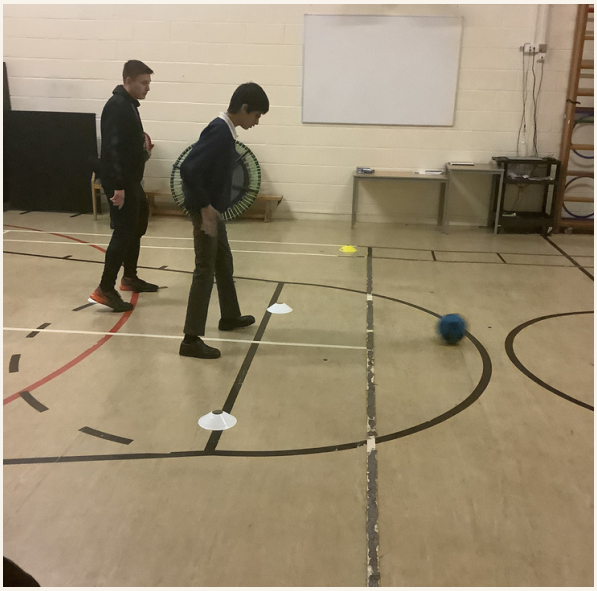


In geography BASE 3 have been looking at different spending habits and looking at online retailers to find different items.

In our maths sessions we have been looking at multiplication and where in our future we may need this skill.

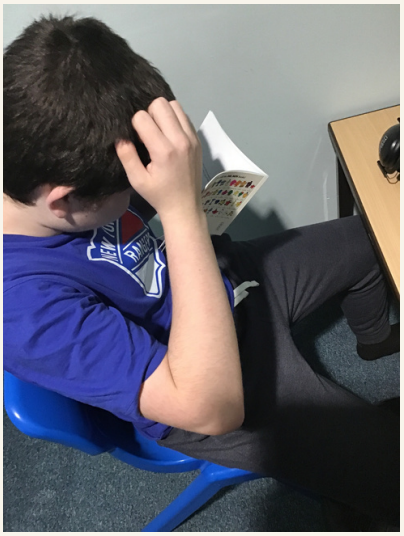


In our PE sessions we have been playing 'striking and fielding games. This has included cricket, rounders and kick ball. All of the learners have shown a great abilityin the different sports.



BASE 3

We have been preparing for our music day on 31st March by learning Rick Astley's famous song "Never Gonna Give You Up" using the boom whackers!



BASE 3 have been reading "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" again this half term. Our students have enjoyed the book so much they have been reading others in the series in their free time during class.

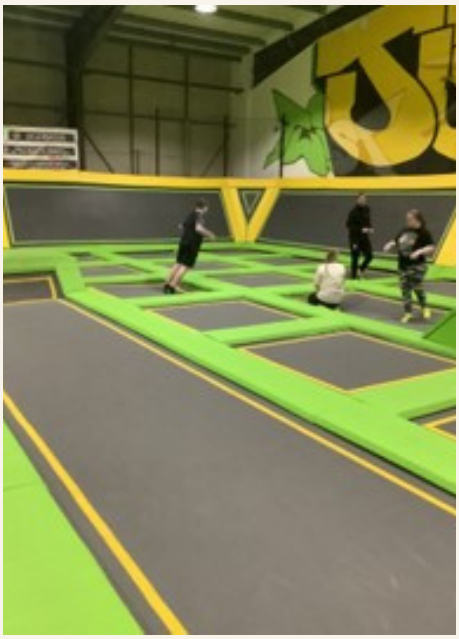
BASE 3 enjoyed celebrating World Book Day, Red Nose Day and the Summer fair this half term.

BASE 4

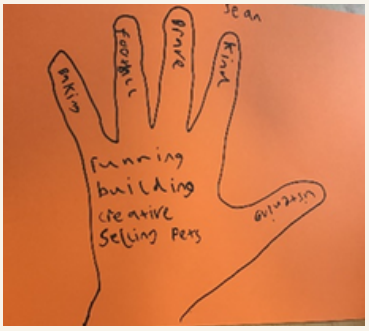
BASE 4 have had a fantastic and adventurous half term. We've learnt about circuits in Science, and understood the different components that contribute to a light switch. This really made us think.

BASE 4 have also been busy preparing Easter gonks, cakes and cookies for our Easter themed stall.

To end our term we had a brilliant treat day out at Jump Xtreme and the arcade.



BASE 5 & 6



Careers Lesson

On the 15th of March Viv Worsley visited BASE 5 & 6 from Connexions.
We worked with Viv and learned about different types of jobs and jobs that don't exist anymore such as a Knocker Upper.
We then discussed what the term 'skills and qualities' meant and what we thought our own skills and qualities were. Some of our skills and qualities were creativity, kindness, patience and organised.

Careers Fair

The students attended a Careers Fair at school as part of Careers Week. The students enjoyed the visits from Merseyside Police, The Saints Foundation and the Mayor of St. Helens Cllr Sue Murphy. The students enjoyed asking questions and completing a passport as they walked around the event.

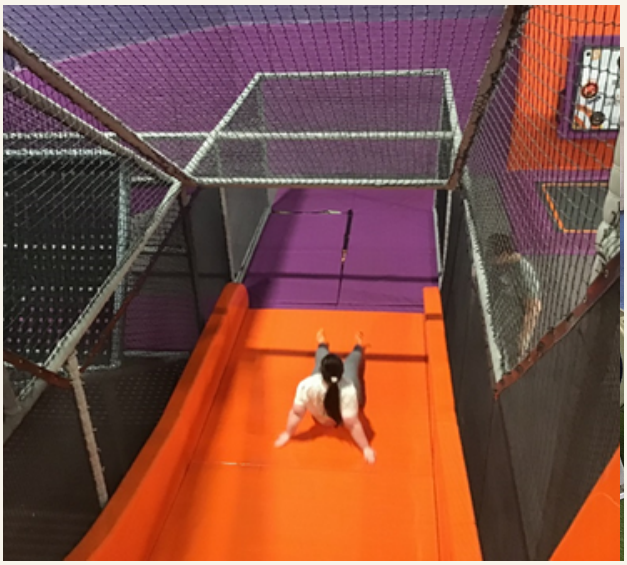
BASE 5 & 6

Maths - Measurements

As part of his NCFE qualification in mathematics, Jamie has been focusing on measurements.
He has used a measuring wheel, tape measure, body thermometer, traditional weighing scales and measuring cups.

Science & P.E – Visiting Gravity Warrington

The learners took a trip to Gravity in Warrington, to complete their science work around gravity. The trip also coincided with P.E. They had a fantastic time and even took on the gravity slide of doom!! The afternoon was finished off with an ice cream, of course!



BASE 5 & 6

History – Imperial War Museum Trip

To end this terms history theme, the students from BASE 5 and 6 took a trip to The Imperial War Museum in Manchester. They had a fantastic afternoon looking at artefacts that related to both World Wars.
The students enjoyed the interactive installations available.
The students behaviour while at the museum did the school proud.

The whole day was extremely thought provoking and highly informative.

BASE 5 Are Setting Up A Carwash

As part of their Duke of Edinburgh Volunteering BASE 5 went on a trip to the local car wash to get an insight in to how cars are cleaned.

BASE 5 will be washing staff cars for free! I'm sure we will have a few members of staff willing to help out