

## Secondary Newsletter December 2019

As we arrive at the end of another busy term in Secondary, there is much to be proud of and celebrate.

Our new curriculum underwent some significant changes at the start of term, which resulted in some essential class moves and timetable adaptations. We were impressed with how well the students adapted to these changes, and my thanks go out to everyone involved in this transitional time for the secondary phase.

I'm extremely proud of the bold and creative curriculum we have on offer for all students: we have an extremely talented group of teachers and teaching assistants, all of whom show commitment and passion every single day. Our project-led approach to learning has already enabled our students to encounter brand-new, exciting opportunities. Here are some of the highlights...



### Lifeskills Faculty

In the Lifeskills Faculty, Key Stage 3 students prepared and ran a Christmas dinner party for a large group of guests, made up of parents, carers, staff and governors. This project required them to develop their team-work skills and communication skills, and they worked on these in a range of tasks throughout the term. Of course, they also had to develop their skills in food preparation; they did this with the help of a professional chef from the local company *Cook Kitchen*. The dinner party was a roaring success, where students came into their own as chefs and hosts.



Our Key Stage 4 students have been learning about the value of money and their enterprise skills through a project about running a shop. Students practised their money-handling skills and interpersonal skills through shop role plays before they helped to run a real-life sweet shop in school for a week. They then prepared a range of products that were sold at the school's Christmas bazaar; the Lifeskills stall made a profit of £64, and this money will be reinvested into the Lifeskills enterprise fund for future events.



### STEM Faculty

Terms 1 and 2 pupils in KS4 have been learning the world around us. Pupils have been broadening their scientific view of the world around them, developing an understanding and appreciation of the wide range of chemicals found and used in the home, and that the disposal of these can have an environmental impact.



Some students produced some amazing reports on the impact of plastic on our environment:

End plastic pollution - Daily news  
 Our Planet is important, because it's  
 Where we live. One big problem  
 That Us causing damage to Our  
 Earth and Our animals is plastic  
 pollution This is a big problem that  
 everyone can help with

Fact – the amount of plastics that  
 humans use every year weights the  
 same as 30 million elephants.

What can we do to help?

- Stop throwing plastics in the sea.
- Say no to plastics shopping and  
 camer bags.
- Re – use water bottles don't buy  
 bottled water.

- Don't have plastic straws have  
 paper straws.
- Talk to you family about buying  
 things that are recyclable.

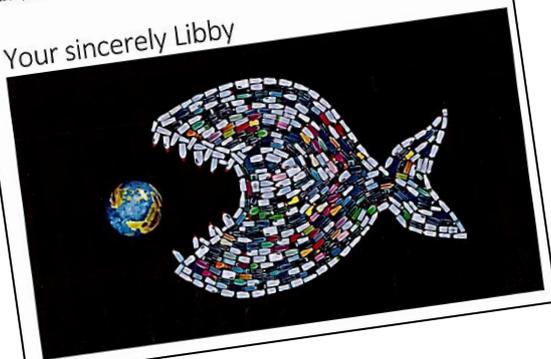
By the year 2050 there could be  
 more plastic in the world's oceans  
 than fish!



Ms  
 Swanstree avenue

Dear Gordon Henderson  
 I am writing to you because we are worried about plastic pollution in the ocean .  
 I hope to explain that plastic is destroying our planet.  
 I Feel it is very important that we keep our planet plastic free because fish and many other  
 animals our eating plastic.  
 If the situation continues as it is we won't have any animals or people.  
 Furthermore I feel that we need to change .  
 Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I would change the planet.  
 Lastly I would like to say that I hope you take this really seriously and important .

Your sincerely Libby



Libby wanted to write a letter to our local MP to share her  
 concerns and demand action:

Key Stage 3 pupils have been learning about themselves and  
 the science of the human body. They have applied their  
 maths and science skills to gathering, recording and  
 classifying information. Their project work has required  
 them to report on their findings, and these have included  
 oral and written explanations and displays.





## Creativity Faculty

In the Creativity Faculty, Key Stage 3 pupils have been learning about animation in media studies, developing their skills in creating a series of

stop-motion animations using iPads and a range of materials, including Lego, post-it notes, mannequin models and even themselves! In art they have created animal masks from papier mache, which they then brought to life in drama and music. They composed their own music to perform to, becoming their animals!



There were also opportunities for some students to visit the theatre during this project, with trips to the Marlowe to see 'Annie' and 'Nativity'.



In Key Stage 4 the media studies option groups have been working on tasks for the Exploring Films Genre topic of the WJEC Entry Pathways Creative, Media and Performance Arts course. We've been studying settings, characters and story events that are similar from one genre to the next. Recent tasks have seen pupils producing film trailers linked to specific genres. The art option groups have created a cityscape based on New York and Tokyo. They have learnt how to construct 3D models and printing techniques which they used to create window effects. The cityscape included a road network and park which they have gone on to develop with animation clay.



## Humanities Faculty



In the Humanities faculty, students have been learning about diary and autobiographical writing. They have been learning about the Diary of Anne Frank and have been writing their own diaries. They have also written and produced their own autobiographies. Pupils have explored computerized autobiography book templates and learned how to create an e-copy of their personal autobiography.





## Wellbeing Faculty

Both KS3 and 4 focused on invasion games in PE for Terms 1 and 2. Hockey, Tag Rugby and Handball – the main games being taught, played and enjoyed. A KS3 group ably demonstrated their handball skills to parents for their showcase event, all taking part in a mini tournament and skills lesson. Handball is especially suitable for all our pupils and they have all made excellent progress.

## Challenger Troop

The students attending Challenger Troop have had another successful term, developing their self-discipline, team-work skills, and their levels of independence. Special congratulations should go to those students who received honours at this term's awards evening:

**Cameron** – Most Improved

**Jake** – Best Effort

**Guy** – Best Turned Out

**Jamie** – Top fitness (winning this award for the third time; he competed against students from three schools for this title!).

## Christmas Festivities

Students and their families really got into the Christmas spirit at this year's *Christmas By Candlelight* concert. All classes took part and were accompanied by a live orchestra. Staff treated students to a pantomime performance of Cinderella, and they really got into their roles! There was plenty of audience participation, and lots of laughing!



Once again, apologies to those who did not secure a ticket.

## Goodbyes

And finally, it is with great sadness, that we have to say goodbye to some of our wonderful secondary staff members.

Stacey McKelvie, Jerome Xavier, and Assistant Principal Graham Richards will all be moving on to new posts at other schools.



Stacey has made a range of significant contributions in Secondary over the past year: she has taught English and maths, and led our new class-based group, Picasso. We will miss the colour and energy that she has brought to Secondary.



Jerome has been with us for five and a half years, and has made a massive impact to PE across the school. He has helped to enrich the lives of our students through a wide range of sporting activities. One of his most significant successes came in victory at the South East Panathlon final last year.

Graham has led the Secondary phase since 2015. He steered us to a second outstanding Ofsted grading in 2019 and has been instrumental in the launch of our new curriculum. He leaves us to take on a role as head teacher, and we are in no doubt he will make a huge impact in his new school.



We wish all of our staff members that are moving on – including some much loved teaching assistants, Yvonne and Kirsty – all the best for the future.

And, as Christmas and 2020 approach, I would like to wish every student, family member, and member of staff a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Liz Brobyn-Ross  
Secondary Assistant Principal