



# Newsletter

Term 2 - 2023



Welcome to our term 2 newsletter and what a busy term it has been! At Life Skills Manor we appreciate how important it is to be part of a caring community where everyone is equal. Part of creating a kind safe environment is finding time to reflect.

## Whole School

### •Remembrance day

We started off the month with Remembrance day. At school we remember those who sacrificed so much for our freedom. Kim and two pupils laid a wreath at the memorial in Sandwich. We had an assembly where staff spoke about their relatives and what they did during the wars. We all wore poppies as a sign of respect too.



### •Children in Need

On the 17th of November we held Children in Need. Some of us dressed up, others bought cakes and most of us helped to consume them! A big thankyou to everyone that bought cakes in, purchased cakes or gave a donation. One pupil was particularly outstanding, **Ruby Morrison** raised an amazing £70 for her sponsored walk bringing the school total to £140. Paul has kindly said the school will match this total which gives an overall **grand total of £280 to Children in Need.** Well done everybody!



## •Pantomime

The Christmas Panto was a great success this year and the pupils were fantastic. On both days, the pupils arrived at school prepared and organised. They boarded the coach just after 09.00hrs and headed off to Canterbury for the Marlowe Theatre to see Aladin. On arrival at the theatre there was an opportunity for everyone to buy popcorn and drinks before taking their seats. The performance was a truly magical Marlowe Christmas panto experience with the continuous jokes, water guns and audience participation. The pupils conducted themselves impeccably and were great ambassadors for the school. This was a wonderful way to kick off the Christmas season!



## Mercury

We have been busy in Mercury this term. We have been out in the community and even had the opportunity to visit the Science Museum in London to explore more about Space. We also have been doing some shopping experiences to develop our independence and social skills. In English, we have been looking at the book "James and the Giant Peach" for our comprehension activities and the students have built their confidence which has been amazing to watch.



All the pupils have enjoyed group reading sessions. One of the best experiences for the class was the opportunity for us to visit Clip and Climb twice this term. The students loved this experience and showed some amazing resilience towards new activities/fears.



As we come to the end of our Christmas term, we have all participated in getting into the Christmas spirit with a visit to the Panto and lots of Christmas fun!



## Mars



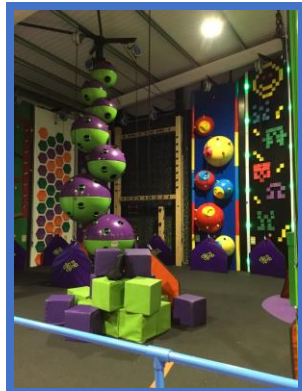
It's hard to believe as the term ends just how much we have packed into Term 2! We started this term with an amazing trip to the Science Museum, London. Catching the train from Margate station to London Victoria and then the bus to Exhibition Road. The students had such a fabulous time exploring all the Science Museum had to offer before embarking on our return trip back home. It certainly was a fun packed full day that left the students and staff with memories that will stay with them forever and some new skills learnt along the way.





Other trips this term that have worked alongside our educational themes in class have included Ramsgate fire station, which was not only informative but a lot of fun.

In class, we have been studying Roald Dahl's 'James and the Giant Peach' in English. Many students have participated in reading aloud and all have been developing their comprehension abilities. We even had a visit from our very own astronaut as part of our learning in science! It truly has been a fun packed term full of learning experiences.



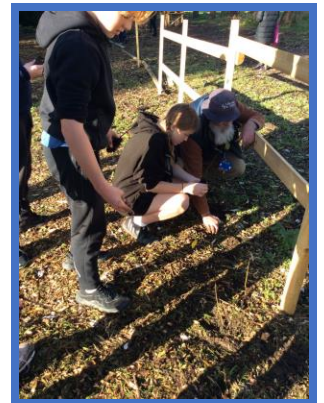
## Neptune

Clip and Climb, the students loved. Over the 2 weeks, determination and resilience were in abundance and all students were adventurous.

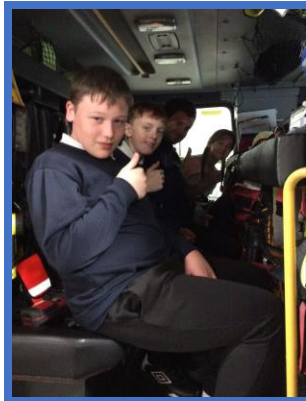
Neptune have had another busy term, both in and out of the classroom. We finally received our first tree delivery with 420 saplings turning up ready for planting. Though the weather has now turned we were able to get out on one of our brighter days to plant some.



Juliet's café in Ash, the students were able to order and pay for their own drinks whilst socialising together. 2 cinema trips – one to watch, Railway Children 2 and the other as our end of term trip to watch Wonka at Vue cinema on the first day of its release. Of course, we cannot forget our yearly visit to the panto to watch Aladin. This was enjoyed by all.



Neptune attended the fire station in Ramsgate for a visit. We were kindly shown around, learning about all the different aspects of the station. The students impressed with their conduct, interest and questions. The highlight was a chance for students, and staff to sit in the fire engines and pose for some photos.



## Saturn

Saturn class have had a busy term, starting with pumpkin picking at Felderland Farm, followed by carving at Halloween.

As usual, Neptune again showed their love of sport. They attended the Thanet Inclusive Sports dodgeball session based at Hartsdown Leisure centre.

The students also attended a football tournament in Aylesham where, on a rain-soaked day they competed against other SEN schools from the local area. They conducted themselves extremely well and went on to be undefeated all the way to the final, where they were beaten (narrowly) by the eventual winners.



Students also visited various colleges for tours, looking at areas of interest, such as engineering, music and art departments. These visits were extremely successful with outstanding behaviour and fantastic careers advice.

Participation in Odd Sock Day, for Anti-Bullying Week; Children in Need cake sale; Wonderdome Science; baseline assessments; Pantomime trip to the Marlowe Theatre and Ice Skating at Quex, are some of the many activities our students have completed.



Saturn class all contributed to the class Christmas decorating competition, as well as the table decorating.

For Saturn's assembly they presented the history of Christmas Jumper Day, talking about Save the Children and Christmas morals.



## Jupiter

At the start of the term Jupiter and Saturn had several trips booked based around cultural capital and careers. This helped pupils to gain a better understanding of a possible transition into further education. It also offered an insight into the skills needed to apply for jobs and possible career options.

They started off by visiting colleges. Pupils selected from a range of colleges which included Canterbury, Broadstairs, Dover and Folkestone. The colleges offered pupils a tour and information them on the courses they run and what is needed to attend the college. Notably, pupils were very excited to see Dominator II from the Robot Wars series and learn about the mechanics behind the build. Further to this, a VR/streaming room that Dover campus had to offer gave a great insight into the progress of technology in the colleges.

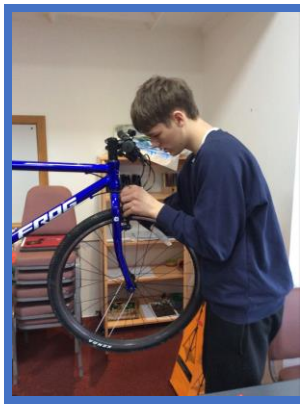
Thank you to all pupils for their engagement on the tours and for being great ambassadors for the school.

Pupils from Jupiter had mock interviews with Education Business Partnership, where they were also able to discuss any questions that remained after the college visits.

We had a visit to the Fire Station in Ramsgate where we met staff. They told us about their job roles and responsibilities and the wide number of jobs that the fire service attends. They kindly gave us a tour of their facilities where we saw their offices, sleep quarters, training facilities and we even got to look at a fire engine known as 'the pump'.



During lessons in the afternoon, we have been working towards our Duke of Edinburgh silver award. One part of the course is bike maintenance. We visited Halfords where we bought cleaning equipment. We are now in the process of doing up and making two bikes safe by firstly creating a list of the faults.



As a class we have been taking care of the school animals. We made sure they had food and were kept clean and safe over this cold period. We have been learning in our Land Based lessons about how to risk assess each individual animal and how to work out their needs. We have been looking at how to treat issues such as red mite on hens and exploring what space they require to remain healthy so they can exhibit normal behaviour.

To finish off a super busy year we all went to see a pantomime, ice skating and all made Christmas decorations in the hope of winning one or all of the three school competitions. Best dressed tree, best dressed classroom and best dressed table. This is a photo of our nativity which we all made. From all of us in Jupiter, we wish you all the best and hope you have a restful time over the Christmas period. See you in the New Year!



## Therapy

This half term pupils in Jupiter class have participated in Fun and Healthy Food sessions as part of our new independent living offer over in the therapy house. Pupils have made smoothies and fruit kebabs, practising cutting and decorative skills.

Pupils in Mars and Neptune class have been further testing out our scooter boards to their limits in sensory circuit sessions! Learning how to work together as a team and against each other competitively in short station activities and practising different strategies to support calming including use of the body socks, stretchy tunnel, and body scan videos.



All pupils had the opportunity to experience our interactive 'Wonderdome' workshop this half term. Pupils climbed into the giant dome and learnt a wide range of facts about space and the role of an astronaut.



We've had further staff training on the Thrive approach, staff have practised a Thrive based activity of making memory jars, which has been embedded in class sessions and Carolyn our Speech and Language Therapist has delivered training on language disorders.

We would like to welcome our new therapy assistant Lucy Gaughran to the team. Lucy has experience working as a teaching assistant in an SEN school and will be supporting pupils with their OT and SaLT sessions and the embedment of the Thrive approach. Furthermore, we are pleased to announce that Rob (psychologist) will be working an additional day (Thursdays) as of term 3 to support both pupils and families.

## DofE

This term Saturn class have made a great start to their voluntary work at Monkton Nature reserve. This work placement for the Saturn class will continue for three months until the end of February to fulfil the requirements of the bronze DofE award.





Our young people have been working mainly outdoors in the reserve and have completed a variety of tasks from clearing leaves to path maintenance to overseeing the bird feeders. The manager and educational officer of Monkton Nature Reserve have already praised our young people for their positive attitude and work ethics. The reserve would also like the students to feature in an article in one of their own newsletters. Well done Saturn class, an excellent start to your voluntary work.



## School uniform

Blue coat or zipped fleece with school logo  
 Blue sweatshirt with school logo  
 Black school shoes  
 Black or dark grey school trousers  
 Black or dark grey appropriate length shirt  
 White cotton shirt or white school logo polo shirt

Sometimes there are sensory related issues with clothing therefore in consultation with parents/ carers other items can be accepted such as,

Dark trainers with dark logo  
 Dark joggers  
 Plain white T-shirt  
 Plain dark jumper

## Not acceptable

Wearing a cap, coloured trainers, jeans, hoodie, coloured joggers, coloured t-shirt, coloured jumper and coloured polos.

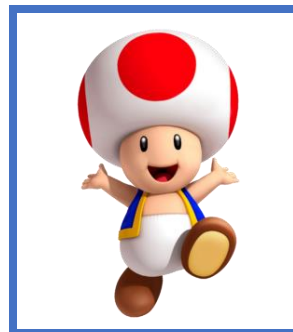
### PE KIT

White school logo T-shirt  
 Dark Shorts or Joggers  
 Trainers

## The Games Master

Games review by Thomas Sullivan

Welcome to my term 2 games review. This term I have decided to review Mario Kart on the Wii. This game is for up to 4 players. You can select your own characters such as Donkey Kong, Mario, Peach Bowser and a little mushroom dude.



On the startup screen, you can select if you want to use a motor bike or car, automatic or manual. The point of the game is to race your friends around several theme tracks. The theme of the tracks include rainbow road, beach, classic racecourse and Bowser's castle. Within the game you can collect boxes which can contain objects like banana skins which make other players slip, mushrooms which make you fast and rocket that makes you catch up. This normally only comes if you are in last place. If you are new to the game, I would recommend you being part of a team as this will help you to gain extra points.



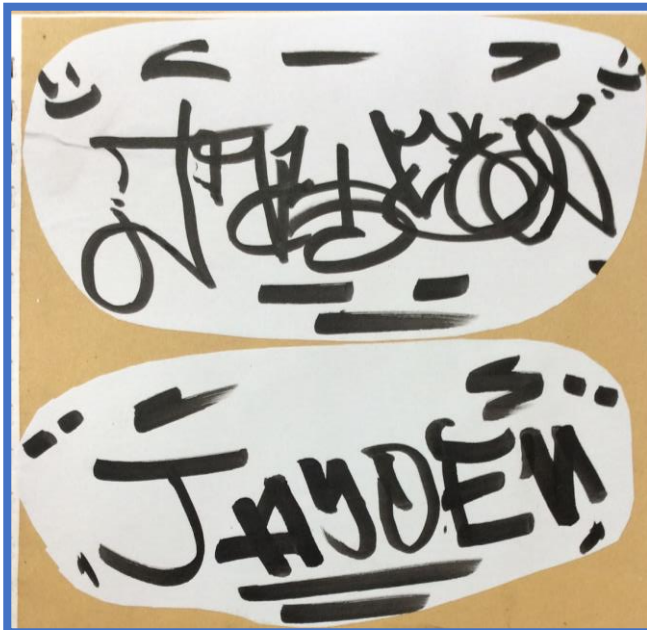
Graphics	Engagement	Sound/ Music	Skill Level	Overall
5/10	9/10	8/10	5/10	9/10

## The Art Gallery

Welcome to our art gallery. Here are some of the great creations which the pupils at Life Skills Manor have created this term as part of their GCSE course work.



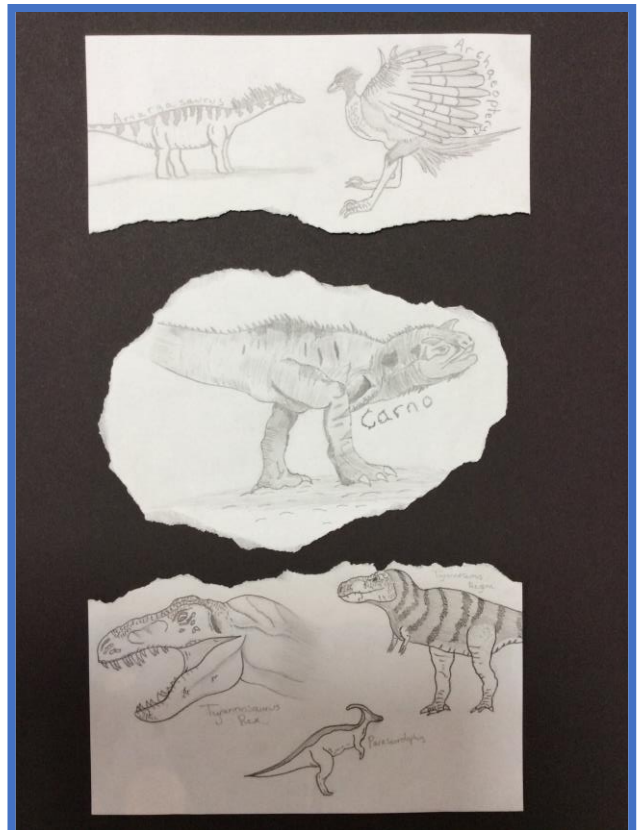
**Blake** - Initial ideas inspired by Spindle Horse Studio



**Jayden** - Typography inspired by Banksy



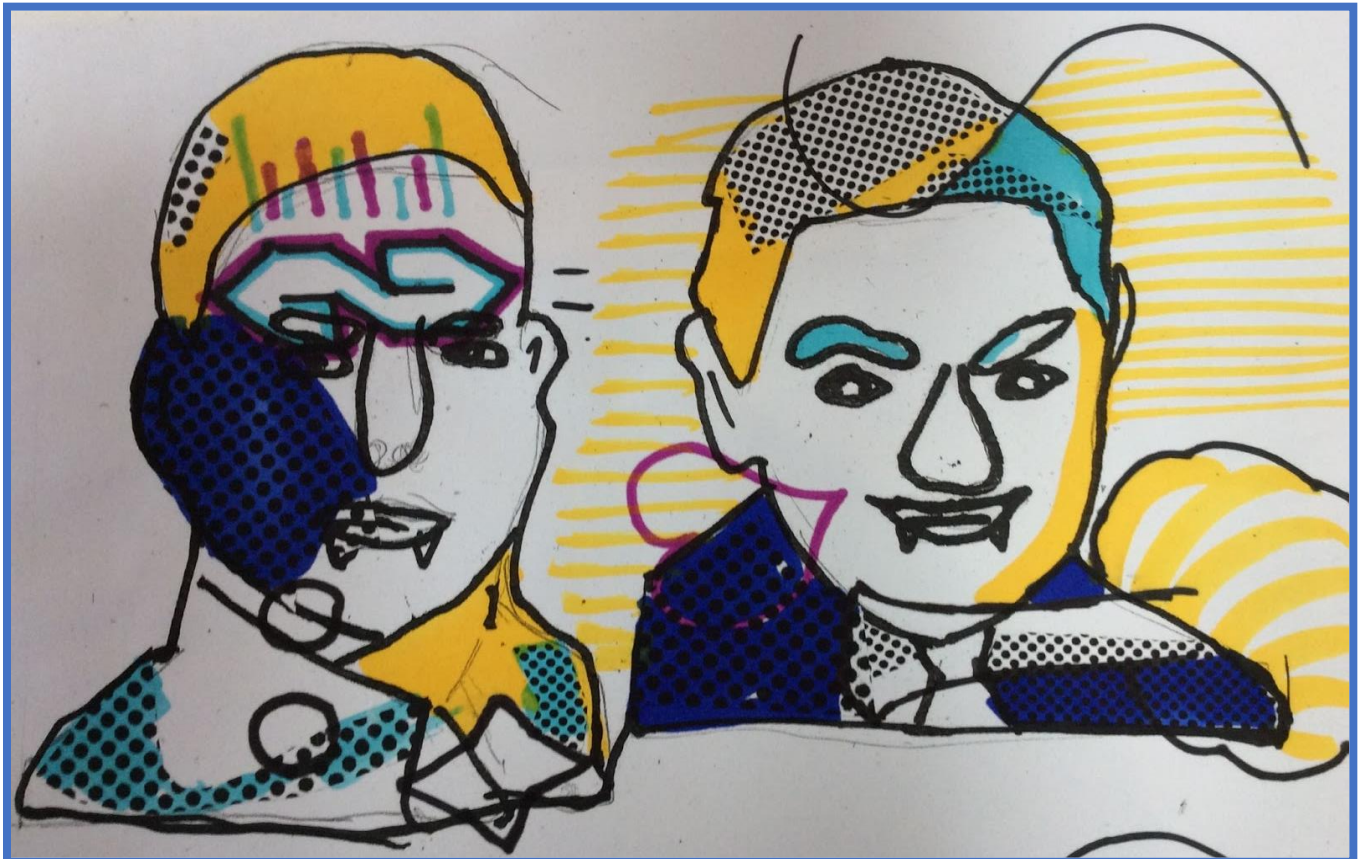
**Syd** - Developmental work inspired by Picasso



**Fin** - Initial ideas for his GCSE work



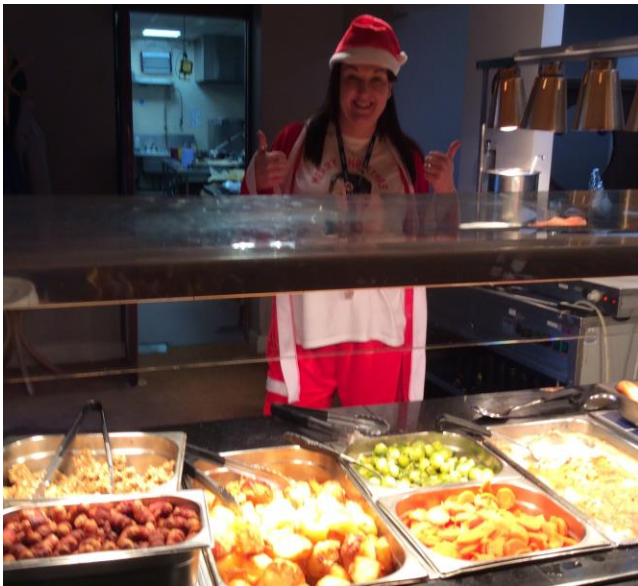
Billie - Sketchbook development work with annotation



Jay - Lichtenstein inspired work

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas Party 2023. May next year bring you good Elf.



Wishing all at **Life Skills Manor** a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.