

Life Skills Manor

Newsletter

Term 1 2025/26

WELCOME BACK – A GREAT START!

We've had a fantastic start to the new academic year, and it has been a pleasure to welcome both returning pupils and new faces to our school community. The energy around the school has been incredibly positive, and it's clear that students are settling in well and engaging enthusiastically with their learning. As Term 1 comes to a close, we're proud to reflect on a successful and productive start to the academic year. Staff have worked hard to provide meaningful and supportive experiences, and it's been wonderful to see the progress already being made. We'd like to thank families for their continued support and partnership—we're excited for what's to come in Term 2 as we build on this strong foundation.



Stay up to date with all the latest news, events, and important updates by regularly visiting our website and following our Facebook page for real-time information and highlights from school life.

First Day of Term 2: Monday 3rd November 2025

Inset Day: Friday 21st November 2025

Last Day of Term 2: Wednesday 17th December 2025 at 1pm

LIFE SKILLS ENTERPRISE

We're excited to announce the opening of Life Skills Enterprise, a new partnership school to Life Skills Manor, set to welcome its first pupils on 3rd November 2025. Following a successful Ofsted inspection during the summer, Life Skills Enterprise is now officially registered with the Department for Education. This new provision has been developed in response to the growing demand for high-quality SEN education and aims to mirror the values, approach, and success of Life Skills Manor.



**Life Skills
Enterprise**

TEACHER JAMES – LAND BASED STUDIES

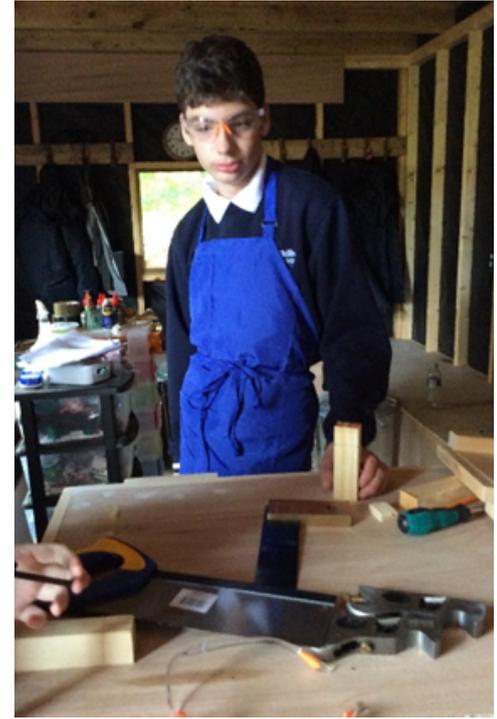
This term in Land-based, we have been doing LBS6 (looking after and caring for animals). This includes looking at how to care for our school ducks, guinea pigs, chickens, and our new tortoise called Herman. We have also been feeding the animals every morning and doing visual health checks. We have also been helping to keep the Therapy Garden maintained.



Nature is full of surprises and this week we found a wasp nest down at the allotment. But there was no need to panic as Kev from Pestruid came along and removed the nest allowing us to the allotment again. Kev also came into class and gave us a talk about the different stages of a wasp and how they develop. He brought along some great visual examples and we all found this super interesting. Kev was open to questions, and he told us all about the types of job he carries out and what a carrier in pest control looks like. Thank you Kev for turning up so swiftly and doing a great job.



CREATIVE CRAFT / GCSE ART



This term in GCSE art, the subject has been Surrealism. We have looked at a range of artists and identified what we like about their work. We followed this up by participating in observational sketching. We are currently working on our own Surrealism art pieces using PowerPoint. We did this by gathering different pictures and putting them together to create something new and surreal. Next term we will be taking our own photographs and creating our own surreal pieces of art. Neptune and Saturn have been working on health and safety in the workshop and exploring types of materials and how they can be used. We used our new workshop for the first time. Here we are making lap joints using tenon saw, shoulder planes and chisels.

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

This year we have introduced hospitality and catering to Life Skills Manor. We have been learning about the industry, looking at good and bad examples of hotels and exploring new skills such as making pickled onions. The onions we have used are from the school allotment. It is so nice to see the full story from planting to eating. We create our own labels using power point and AI. We then added our own names for our products and then adding details such as barcodes, ingredients and other additional information.



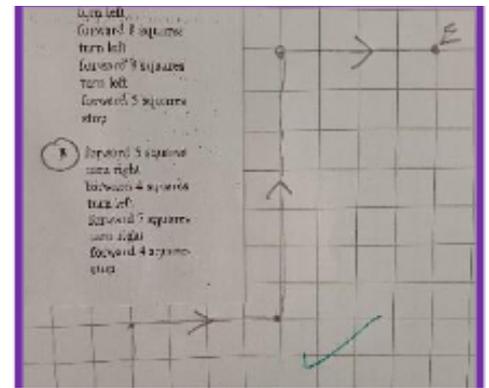
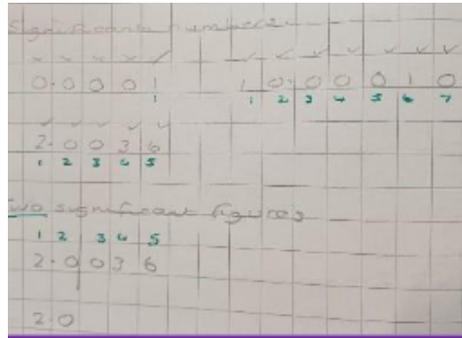
Life Skills Manor

TEACHER CIARAN - KS4 MATHS

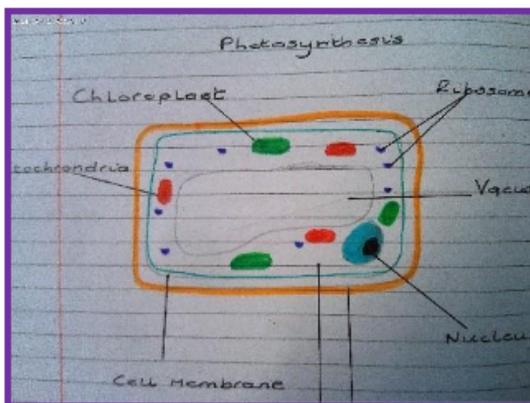
Neptune - We focused on honing our number work. Students frequently practised their times tables. Students did problems involving the four operations, before progressing to more testing questions.

Saturn - Students began the GCSE course this term. Students worked on the four operations including decimals. Students practised their times tables including questions with negative numbers. Students learnt about multiplying and dividing big numbers including decimals. Students also used rounded numbers to estimate answers to real life problems.

Jupiter - We worked on knowledge and skills required for Entry Level and Functional skills qualifications. Students practised number operations which included problem solving type scenarios. Topics included: addition, subtraction, short and long multiplication, and division. Students progressed onto shading and adding fractions. Students followed a set of instructions to create journeys.

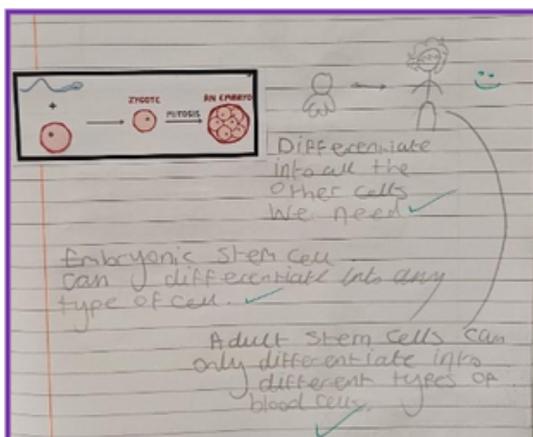


KS4 SCIENCE



Neptune - Students learnt about cells before progressing onto specialised cells. The class really enjoyed using microscopes and saw some interesting patterns inside the various cells. Students researched different nerve cells and explained their function in the body. Well done, Neptune.

Saturn - Students learnt about cells before progressing onto specialised cells. Students used microscopes to look at animal and plant cells, before drawing images of the cells. They learnt about growth in animals and plants. Well done, Saturn.



Jupiter - Students learnt about cells before progressing onto specialised cells. They used microscopes to look at animal and plant cells, before drawing images of the cells. Students also learnt about growth in animals and plants. They drew some fantastic diagrams with explanations about how we grow. Students researched nerve cells and created a presentation detailing their function in the body.

MARS CLASS – TEACHER HANNAH

What a fantastic first term we've had in Mars class! The children settled back into school life excellently and have all worked so hard this term! In our maths lessons, we have been looking at the four key calculations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, as well as doing some work on telling the time. Our English topic has been non-chronological reports with our class reader being Last by Nicola Davies which is a book about the last male Northern White Rhino, Sudan, who died in 2018 leaving only two female Northern White Rhinos alive. We used this book as a stimulus to write a non-chronological report about Northern White Rhinos which included description, facts and technical vocabulary. We have also read the book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl this term in preparation for our English topic next term. In Global Studies, we have had a Geography topic this term of Globalisation where we have learned about the positives and negatives of global brands such as McDonalds. In science, we have been learning about the topic of Animals including Humans where we have looked at food chains and digestion. This linked brilliantly with the Zoolab workshop where the children showed their knowledge about food chains when looking at and discussing the different animals that we saw.



We also finished the term with a wonderful trip to WildWood where the children saw lots of different animals, which again linked with our science topic of food chains. The children have worked so hard this term and should all be so proud of themselves! Well done Mars Class!

MERCURY CLASS – TEACHER BRAD

Mercury Class has had a truly wonderful term! The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm and teamwork in all their learning. Our new pupils have settled in amazingly well – they've quickly become part of the Mercury family, bringing fresh ideas and energy to the classroom. A real highlight of the term was our very successful trip to Wildwood, where pupils were able to consolidate their learning about food chains by observing animals and their habitats up close. Everyone asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated a great understanding of how living things depend on one another. We've also enjoyed taking part in the school football matches, where teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship shone through. It's been a term filled with curiosity, laughter, and achievement – well done, Mercury Class, for such a brilliant start to the year!

Trail Blazers

Riley and Will have both had a fantastic experience taking part in the Trailblazers intervention this term. They have thoroughly enjoyed the practical activities, including cooking delicious food and taking part in some amazing fishing sessions. Both boys have shown great enthusiasm, teamwork, and a real willingness to learn new skills. The Trailblazers team have been full of praise for their positive attitudes and effort, giving them wonderful feedback throughout the programme. As a result of their hard work and commitment, Riley and Will have been invited to use the Trailblazers equipment with their families during the holidays – completely free of charge! This is a well-deserved reward for their dedication and success.

THERAPIES AND INTERVENTIONS

We're committed to providing the best support to help every student thrive!

What's Been Happening at the Therapy House?

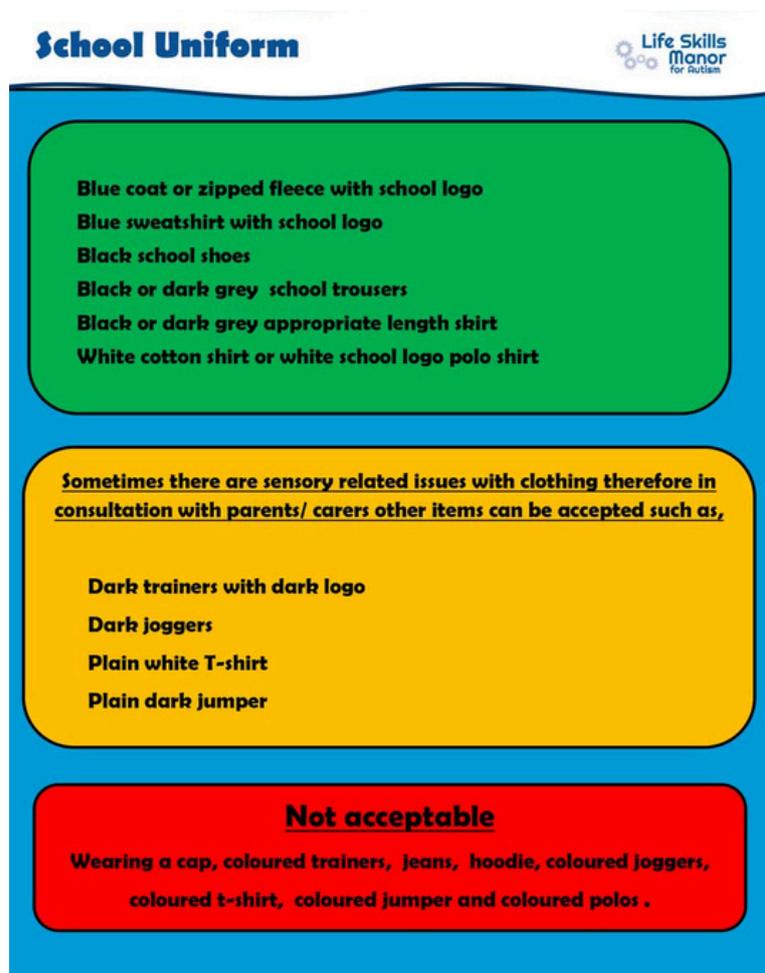
It's been a busy and exciting start to term at the therapy house, with a variety of interventions and groups running to support wellbeing and build community. Recent sessions have focused on meal preparation skills, mindfulness and meditation, alongside our joint Occupational Therapy/Psychotherapy neurodiverse awareness group, which continues to provide valuable insight and shared learning.

Our two lunch clubs include movie club and Anime club, both have been a real hit. Movie club has taken us on a nostalgic trip back to the 1980s with classics such as The Goonies and E.T., sparking plenty of laughter and conversation. Anime Club has also been buzzing with energy and enthusiasm.



Finally, we're delighted to welcome Sarah, our new therapy assistant, to the team. Sarah will be bringing fresh ideas and will be starting some new interventions soon under the guidance of the wider team and we can't wait to share what she has in store.

Uniform Policy:



The poster is titled 'School Uniform' and features the Life Skills Manor logo. It is divided into three colored sections: a green box for acceptable items, a yellow box for items accepted in consultation with parents, and a red box for items that are not acceptable.

School Uniform

Life Skills Manor for Autism

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 .



Life Skills Manor



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Liked

Message

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