

*Life Skills Manor*

# Newsletter

Term 5 2025/26

## NEWS, EVENTS AND CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS



### TERM 5 – SUMMER

As we move through another successful and positive term, it has been wonderful to see our school community continuing to thrive. With the arrival of the warmer summer weather, there has been a real sense of energy and enthusiasm around the school. Students have shown great commitment in lessons and extracurricular activities, and it has been fantastic to celebrate so many achievements both inside and outside the classroom.

A This term has also seen many of our students taking part in their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and preparations. We are incredibly proud of the resilience, teamwork and determination they have demonstrated throughout these challenges. Whether facing long walks, changing weather conditions or working together to solve problems, students have approached each experience with maturity and perseverance. Alongside this, we celebrate Mental Health Awareness Week with activities and discussions focused on wellbeing, kindness and supporting one another. It has been encouraging to see students engaging so positively and openly, reinforcing the importance of looking after both our physical and mental health as a community.

**First Day of Term 6: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June '26 – Last Day of Term 6: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July '26 @1pm**

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## TEACHER JAMES –

Well the sun has its hat on and it is a welcome sight. This has allowed us to carry out animal cleaning duties in the sun. We have been taking it in turns to clean the animals out and have enjoyed cuddles with the rabbits and guineapigs and seeing how the chickens have grown so fast. We have also been watching David Attenborough's secret life of the garden which I know we have all found interesting and learned quite a bit about the animals on our doorstep. Also, now the GCSE art is completed, Jupiter have been gaining skills in the school's Design and Technology workshop. They have been working on basic safety and how to use a range of saws when dealing with different materials.



## LAND BASED STUDIES

This time of year is always busy down the allotment. Keeping on top of weeds, planting spuds and cutting back the hedges. All classes have been getting stuck in and helping. The spuds have already started to grow and we hope that we get super large onions like we did last year.

## CREATIVE CRAFT / GCSE ART

Within Creative Craft pupils have now gained the knowledge and understanding of how to create a lap joint. They are now applying this to a more completed project and producing a lap joint box.



## HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

This term we have been looking at types of contracts within the hospitality and catering industry. We have looked at the pros and cons of a range of contracts including zero hour, part time and permanent contracts. We have also been looking at food hygiene in the kitchen and how to marinate chicken in spices and yoghurt to create a grill cooked chicken tikka. Here are budding future chefs prepping their food.



## TEACHER JO - KS4 - TRIPS

Whilst a mixture of Saturn and Jupiter were busy practicing their Silver DofE the remainder of the classes visited Quex Adventure Golf, where there were two extremely competitive games of crazy golf. The first group had a leader right up to the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, but they were beaten by 1 stroke. There was almost a steward's enquiry!

The second group were boasting about their hole-in-one's and both teams compared their strategies and prowess over a sumptuous ice-cream. Communication skills, team-building and individual development was key. A fabulous afternoon, with lots of fun and laughter.

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

As part of Mental Health awareness Week, students and staff wore green for the day (on Thursday) and took part in a quiz and watched a video about a young boy who overcame his mental health issues. Then on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May, Saturn class presented an assembly on Mental Health Awareness, showing another video about dealing with mental health.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/av/39383026>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxIDKZHW3-E&t=38s>

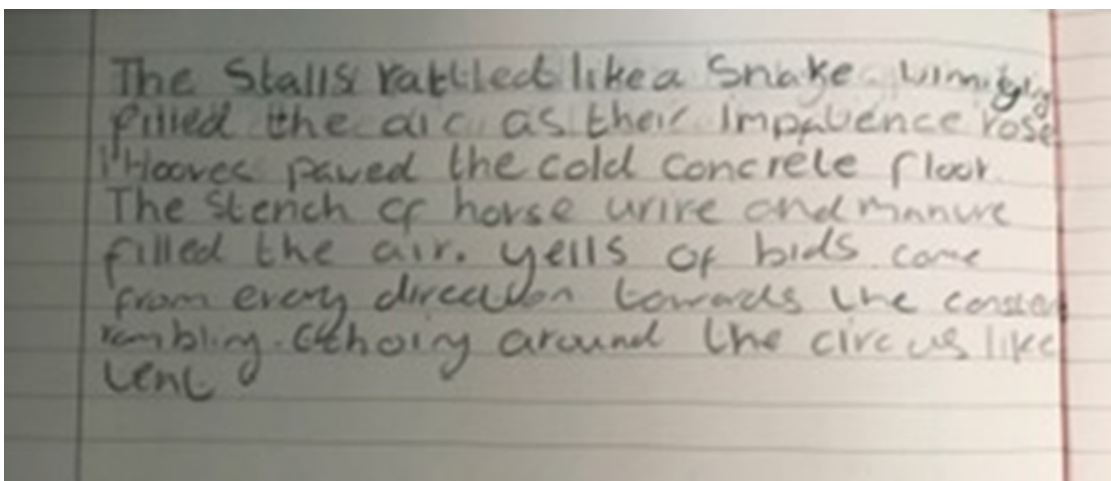


## TEACHER JO - KS4 ENGLISH

Descriptive writing has been the key focus for this term. We have been creating, and analysing, character descriptions – looking at profiling using inference. Alongside this we have also incorporated the description of settings and locations (using senses to create imagery) to build the beginning of a story. We discussed genres, in detail, using various books to identify when tension is building.

We looked at Slim's description in *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck; the entrance through the wardrobe in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis; as well as *Tell-Tale Heart* by Edgar Allen-Poe.

Structure of texts will take us into Term 6, where we will be analysing how a text is formed using story arcs, building of tension to a climax, and the final resolution.



By AI.

### Plan

I will create a horror, thriller story with tension building from the start all the way to the end. I will add subtle hints foreshadowing danger later in the story with language techniques and structure to build tension. I will add 4 characters 2 being women and 2 being men. It will be evolved around the fact that they stumbled into a old house whilst hitch hiking through the Appalachian Mountains.

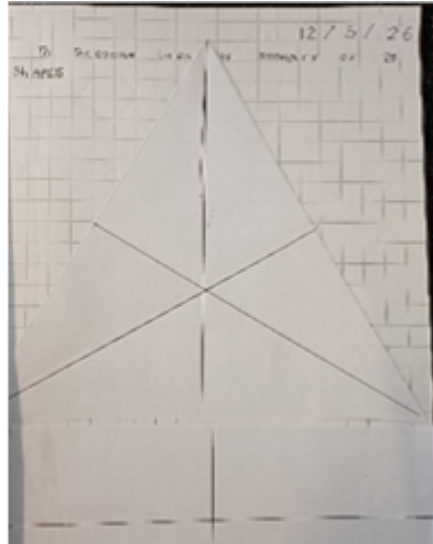
As I awoke from my deep slumber the subtle sound of rain drops dripped quietly down the side of my tent, I peeled my eyes open and peered around the tent slowly I couldn't help but notice how quiet everything seemed. It seemed oddly scary, the tree branches swaying, crows hawking but there was an odd vibe, one that won't just disappear. As I was lost in deep thought Jacob suddenly opened my outer tent cover and peered through, Asher I've just popped on the kettle would you like a brew? As I suddenly woke from deep thought I answered without question, "Yes mate". who do you think I am without my morning cupper. Madelyn and Anne aren't awake yet; to be fair we did walk 40 miles yesterday just reaching the outskirts of the forest.

I stepped out of my tent and peered through the canopy of trees and saw what looked to be a flock of crows staring motionlessly at our tents there looked to be about 13 of them I thought out loud. By KL

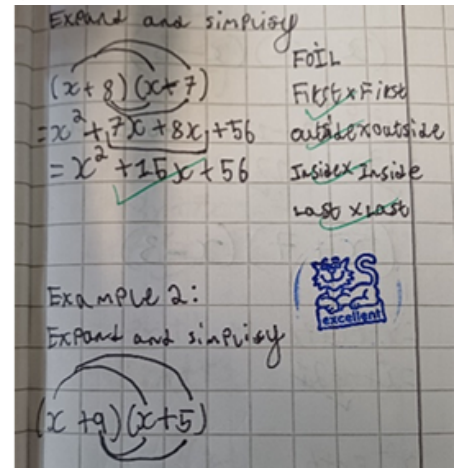
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## TEACHER CIARAN - KS4 MATHS & SCIENCE

**Neptune** - We progressed from drawing 2D and 3D shapes to working out properties of shapes. Students recapped on prior learning, such as drawing and naming shapes, before looking at angles and symmetry. I would like to give a shout out to Neptune's TAs - Harry and Elaine - who are always up for getting involved. Many thanks for all that you do!



**Saturn** - Students worked brilliantly again. They learnt lots of new vocabulary and new work. Students continued with Algebra and learnt brand new material. The students really worked hard combining prior knowledge with new skills. Students learnt about expressions, factorising and expanding of single and double brackets. Best of luck to all students sitting the GCSE exams this year. Enjoy!



**Jupiter** - I have kept this photo in again, to incentivise students, We will do more baking in term 6. This term we reviewed our work from term 4, before moving onto exam type questions. We also did a probability experiment and students engaged brilliantly with the task. In this example, the theoretical and experimental probability did what they were supposed to do!

Congratulations to everyone who passed their external exams as it is a very big achievement! Also, best of luck to the two students sitting the GCSE this term and next term.

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**Neptune** - This term, students started a brand-new subject. Students started the physics part of the course for the first time. Students learnt about distance, speed, time and acceleration. We did a practical lesson, which combined road safety with part of the course. Students estimated distances by pacing them out and worked out stopping distances for cars at various speeds. We then added the writing bit to the experiments and to help this, one of the students did a sprint and the rest of the class had to calculate his speed. All students engaged really well with this task.

**Saturn** - This term, students started a brand-new subject. Students started the physics part of the course for the first time. Students learnt about distance, speed, time and how they are linked. Students also learnt how to draw distance time graphs, which will also be taught next year as part of the maths' course. Students applied their knowledge to working out braking distances for cars in normal conditions. Then students had to think what would change these distances and what might happen if this was the case. Students also extended this to working out acceleration.



L.O: to be able to calculate speed, distance and time.

Word Bank: Distance, Speed and time

Average speed, acceleration

Acceleration = Change in speed (M/S) / time taken (S)

$25 \div 10 = 2.5$

Acceleration  
M/S<sup>2</sup>      $A = \frac{25 - 0}{10}$

$= \frac{25}{10}$

$= 2.5 \text{ M/S}^2$

To be able to calculate speed, distance and time.

Word bank: Distance, Speed and time

Speed     Distance  
D  
S x T     Time

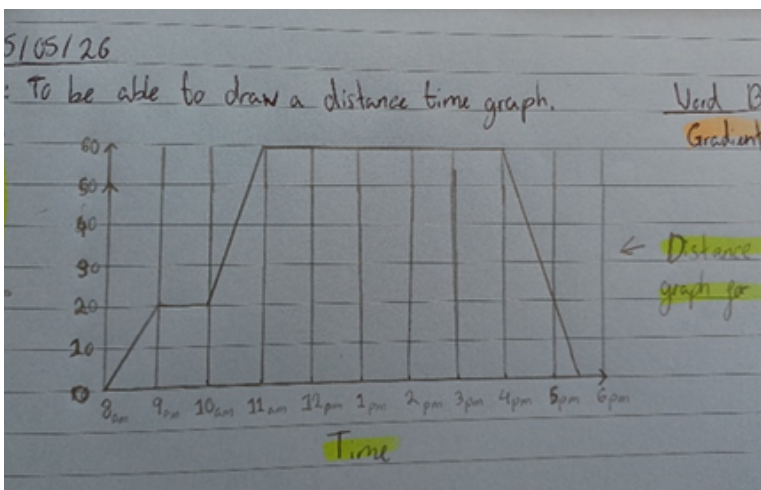
Tony's sprint

20m

S x 4s      $S = \frac{20}{4}$

$= 5 \text{ M/S}$

**Jupiter** - This term, students started a brand-new subject. Students started the physics part of the course for the first time. Students learnt about distance, speed, time and acceleration. Students also learnt about the difference between renewable and non-renewable energy. Together we completed a distance-time graph together. Students answered various questions about the graph.



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