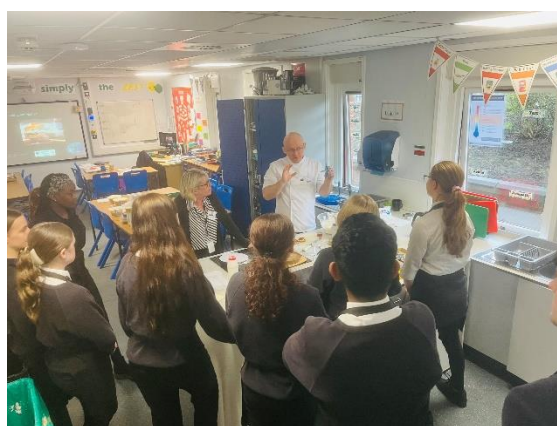


24th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another incredible half term since we returned from Easter, as many of our children continue to embrace the opportunities to gain more memorable and meaningful experiences.

During the first week of term, our children in Early Years had a visit from a Beekeeper. The children were fascinated as they learned so many interesting facts about bees and, as we have come to expect from our wonderful children, they listened, interacted respectfully with our visitor, and confidently shared what they had discovered about bees. They explored the beekeeping equipment, tried on a real Beekeeper suit and even tried some honey made by the bees! David, the Beekeeper, was so impressed with the children and commented on how well they engaged throughout the session.



In April, our Year 10 Hospitality & Catering students were visited by the Senior Head Chef from the Royal Armouries who spoke to them and demonstrated how to set up for service to achieve professional presentation skills. This was followed by a trip for the students to the Royal Armouries to learn about bar and table service - all in preparation for our much-anticipated evening at the Royal Armouries in June.



Towards the end of April, some of our Year 8 students went to The University of Leeds to study GeoScience and the effects of air pollution on the environment and people. They conducted scientific experiments around the university and did a campus tour to experience what life is like for a student at the university.

In early May, our Reception children visited the farm at Temple Newsam, where they enjoyed learning the names of the baby animals and playing in the playground. This was followed by a picnic lunch and a run around in the field – they all learned lots, thoroughly enjoyed themselves and behaved amazingly throughout. This linked nicely with their ‘understanding the world’ curriculum, where they have been looking at lifecycles. To bring this to life the children have been observing frog spawn developing into frogs and caterpillar eggs developing into caterpillars and eventually transforming into butterflies. The frogs and butterflies were appropriately released last week!



Also last week, work started on our new ‘Trim Trail’ in the Primary playground. Despite the rain, the team worked hard to complete this so that our children are now able to use this at break and lunchtimes, and in their PE lessons.

Over the last 5 weeks, Year 4 have been working alongside the Leeds United Foundation. They have been learning how to keep their minds and bodies healthy through both classroom-based and physical sessions. Last Friday, they were extremely lucky to be invited to Elland Road where they had a tour around the stadium, visited the changing rooms, media room and even went through the tunnel and onto the pitch! The day ended by making healthy wraps which were enjoyed for lunch, and a ‘design your own football kit’ competition. The children had a great time and really enjoyed the whole experience.



Our Year 6 students have been working incredibly hard towards doing their very best in the SATS tests this half term so, once all of the tests were over, we took them to Temple Newsam where they all enjoyed a pizza picnic and some time to enjoy themselves after working so hard. We are so very proud of them all.



Year 11 students have approached the first two weeks of their GCSE exams with incredible maturity and effort. So many of them have been arriving to school early to revise and enjoy breakfast with their peers and receive last minute tips and support from their teachers and friends prior to an exam, and even more have remained in school after hours to benefit from further optional revision opportunities. Whilst we try to do everything within our powers to keep students calm, there is no doubt that external exams can, for some, raise levels of anxiety. It is appropriate for me to remind you that if this is the case, and you feel that your child could do with some additional support, please do let us know and we will do everything we can to help further.

Our talented TLA artists have continued to create wonderful pieces. Artist of the Week and Photographer of the Week continues, and we never cease to be amazed at the wonderful work they produce! We have so many gifted children in school that I generally refrain from highlighting individual achievements. However, one of our talented Year 6 students recently had their artwork selected, out of over 21,000 entries from across the country, for online exhibition and physical display at The Royal Academy of Arts, for the Young Artist Summer Show (see picture on the right, below). An absolutely stunning achievement!!



I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful half term break and we look forward to welcoming all of our students back on Monday 3rd June 2024.

With my very best wishes,



Stuart Huddleston
Principal