

Headteacher News



Term : February 2015

Whole School Topic: Different Places, Different Lives

Where has this term gone to? Time has just flown by and our students and staff have worked their socks off developing some incredible learning in their class groups. Before Christmas we introduced the Friday afternoon Inclusion for Learning session. These have been nothing short of amazing – enabling students to work together on various projects and learning together regardless of their abilities and skills.

Donnington and Tintagel Class have finally moved into their brand new classrooms. It has been a long wait, but very well worth it. These roomy and light facilities have made a real difference to learning in the class.

Our pupils in Beaumaris and Appleby have been very pleased with their new activity frame. This was purchased thanks to a donation of nearly £10,000 from St. James' Place Trust, who we are very thankful to. The equipment is very well used by the pupils and enables them to have more things to do during breaks.

Our Green and Amber football teams again took part in a special schools football tournament at The Madejski Stadium. Lots of goals were scored from our talented lot as well as some very impressive goalkeeping. But, most importantly, and as always, our young people were impeccably well behaved and ambassadors for The Castle School. Well done guys.

World of Work Update

The Last term has been a very busy and productive one for the World of Work programme. We have had twenty students on work placements and welcomed three new organisations to our programme namely, The Watermill Theatre, Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa and Pizza Hut. The organisations we work with make an extremely valuable contribution to the developments of our students by broadening and enriching their experiences

Hello my name is Shannon and I have been a staff governor for many years (too many to remember!). I became a governor because I wanted to learn more about the big picture, the running of the school and to be able to represent the staff at the meetings. I started on the Finance and Premises Committees but in the last year have moved to the Staffing and Curriculum, Pupils and community Committees, which fits nicely with my Leadership roles of whole school pupil progress and curriculum as well as behaviour support. I have been very proud of the governors in the last year. They have had training both with West Berkshire and with me to learn more about our assessment and recording processes to help them fully understand the data, charts and numbers I give them 3 times a year! Because of this they are able to ask appropriate questions and also recognise the fantastic progress our pupils have made. I also try to keep them up to date with any of the fun things and special news that is always happening in this busy place of learning.

Shannon Booth, Assistant Headteacher and teacher governor

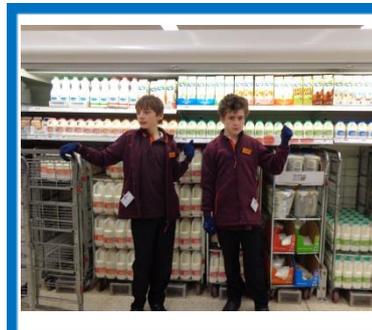
Some photos of our learning



Enjoying our new play equipment



Waitrose work placements



Work placement in Sainsburys



Inclusion for Learning afternoon

in the World of Work. To celebrate these achievements we are hosting a Celebration Event on **13th March 2015**. A range of organisations will join us in recognition of how much both students and supporting organisations benefit from the programme.

We continue to work with the 'When I grow up' project (funded by the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities). They will be coming into School on Wednesday 11th February to run workshops with Tintagel and Donnington Classes around preparing for future employment.

Louisa McClure
World of Work Coordinator

Have a wonderful half term and we will see all our students back at school on **Monday 23rd February 2015**

Thanks, Jon Hewitt (Headteacher)