



News from our Faculty for Creative Arts & Food Technology - Mr Luke Price

Student Artwork on Instagram

In the spirit of promoting our students amazing artwork, the Creative Arts Faculty regularly post photographic updates on Instagram of the work produced by our students across the Campus, from Key Stages 1 to 4. Parents/carers, students and staff are encouraged to follow this account which not only provides a link to many of the leading art institutes but also to the work of renowned artists.

Most students' work has been 'liked' at some point by Instagramers including professional artists. One of our student's pieces even received a comment from the artist **Quibe**, who actually influenced the work which was produced (please see the photo below).

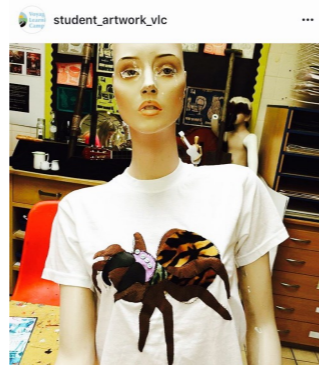


So far we have 124 followers but we would always like more!

So if you have an Instagram account please visit us, like the artwork, follow our account and feel free to make comments. Remember, the more followers we have, the more people who will see our students' amazing artwork!



Artwork by Shona (15) one of our Year 11 students— this is a Si Scott inspired Spider.



Follow us at: https://www.instagram.com/student_artwork_VLC/
Instagram: student_artwork_vlc

News from our Fundraising Committee

Our Fundraising Committee are pleased to announce that during the last few months we have been successful in our bids to obtain several different grants. These are as follows:

£12,000 from Tesco's 'Bags of Initiative' Scheme to develop the play area at our Primary site in Nailsea with a sensory garden and play equipment. This is a fantastic achievement and will make a real difference to our primary students.

£1000 from Avon and Somerset Police to increase the range and broaden the experiences of the students in our Key Stage 4 provision primarily through Citizenship and PSHE subjects. This money will help to pay for school visits from a variety of professionals and experts concerning but not exclusively, drugs, alcohol, racism, diversity, self-defence, discipline and looking after the environment.

£250 from Waitrose, through their Community Matters Scheme (green tokens) to spend on activities and lunchtime equipment / games for our Year 9 students who have recently relocated from our Nailsea site.

Achieving these bids will allow us to improve play facilities for our primary students, give new opportunities to our students in Years 9, 10 and 11 and overall greatly enhance our school. The Committee will continue to explore ways to secure additional grants in order to maximise the educational experience of our students.



NEWSLETTER

A few words from our Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to the Term 2 edition of our parent/carer newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you about my post as Principal. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in our bid to attract a field of candidates when the position was advertised in September. Our Management Committee have therefore agreed interim plans to cover the role until Summer 2017. I will therefore be continuing in my role as Principal but on a four day a week basis and our Vice Principal, Tony Hill, will cover the fifth day. I do not anticipate that this will bring many changes and the school should continue to run in the same way as usual. The role will however be re-advertised

during Term 3 in order to ensure that a suitable successor is in place for September 2017 and the start of the next academic year. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this please do not hesitate to contact either myself or my PA, Anna Chapman.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Best Wishes
Nick Donnelly
Principal

A few words from the Chair of our Management Committee

As 2016 draws to a close, it is a good time to reflect on what has been happening.

I feel very privileged to be the Chair of The Management Committee of the Voyage Learning Campus, and have enjoyed meeting students, staff and Parents / carers throughout the year, when visiting the sites at Nailsea and Weston.

What a year it has been, too, with many highlights, including:

- Excellent examination results.
- All year 11 students who have left us have moved on to either Further Education or Training / Apprenticeships. This is brilliant, and we wish our students the very best of luck for the future.
- Progress data for the school shows that students in all areas are making or exceeding expected progress. This takes enormous effort, and is a real achievement.

- We have received very positive feedback, from Parents in Tuition, as well as other areas of the school. It is good to hear feedback, as it helps us to focus on what could be done differently in the future, and to build upon what has gone well.
- Our School Improvement Lead Professional has highlighted the quality of teaching and feedback to students. Well done to the staff team on this one!!
- A really successful Art Exhibition was held this year - with lots of local coverage, and very positive community feedback.
- Students have been supported to make numerous visits - To Tyntesfield House, rock climbing and various museums - all very much enjoyed.
- Successful funding bids to Tesco's, and others, have contributed positively to the development of the school.

I would like to wish you and your families and friends a very Merry Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year, and look forward to meeting you again in 2017. Gill Scott

Important dates for your diary

Last Day of Term	Friday 16th December 2016
First Day of Next Term	Tuesday 3rd January 2017
Next Inset Day	Wednesday 1st March 2017





News from Assistant Vice Principal Mrs Alyson Mitchard - Nailsea (Primary)

In Primary this term our topic is; 'How can I light up people's lives?' where the children have been exploring all the things they are good at and finding some hidden talents across all subject areas. In Art they have been learning about different printing techniques with the aim of producing their own Christmas cards (please look out for their masterpieces as these will be coming through the post). In Design & Technology they have been making musical instruments and learning how to sew. These newly acquired skills will be put to use in Science on 'Light and Sound' work and Literacy where students will make puppets and present their own show of Cinderella. We are hoping to film the show and send copies home for students to share with their families.

This term we have introduced a weekly special breakfast, with a dedicated menu, where students focus on an important issue or a special festival. This term we have enjoyed a firework breakfast where the children completed activities about Guy Fawkes and enjoyed sprinkles on toast. We also had a Remembrance Day breakfast where the children made a poppy wreath and observed a minutes silence. We have also used breakfast time to think about bullying and road safety.

We have started a School Council which meets each week to discuss important issues. Each class has a School Council representative who is in post for one term before a different student takes on the role, allowing each student to have a chance at the role throughout the year. This term students have been discussing; things that would make

them feel safer at school, how breaks and lunchtimes can be improved, ideas for raising money for Children in Need, ideas for a school disco and ideas for rewards when their class achieves 200 points. The representatives have taken their role very seriously and are very responsible at speaking with their class and reporting back during meetings.

The school council also played a very important part in organising events to raise money for Children in Need. Organised a non-uniform day where students either wore their pyjamas or a fancy dress costume. They also organised a teachers versus students penalty shootout. I bet you can guess who won! Teachers also dressed as school children, wearing Voyage Learning Campus sweatshirts, much to the surprise of the students!

We are looking forward to Christmas Week and have lots of events planned. On Tuesday 13th December we have a Christmas Disco after school, on the 14th we are going to the Hippodrome to watch Cinderella on Ice and on the 16th we will be having a Christmas dinner. There will be more information to follow about each of these events.

Great News! The 'Tesco Bags of Help' voting finished two weeks ago and we have just heard the great news that we have come first and have won the highest amount, £12,000. This is going to be used to develop a Sensory Playground. Thank you to everyone who supported us. We will keep you updated with the development of the playground.



News from Lead Teacher Miss Ashlee Copeland - Nailsea (Year 7 & 8)

Term two has been very productive for our students and we would like congratulate them for completing baseline assessments in English, Maths, Science and IT.

Science and Art lessons included a trip to the park to collect leaves and other natural items in order to produce non-permanent installations. The work was blown away by the wind showing that its transient nature is partly what makes it so beautiful!

Students also dissected chicken legs to investigate the working of multicellular organisms. Some students said that this experience made them want to become surgeons or vets whilst others said it had put them off eating chicken for a while! A unicellular organism experiment was also conducted changing variables to show what impact this had on the growth of yeast. Then making bread to show the effect, tasting it and using the data gathered to make results tables and draw graphs. Food dye was also used to make potions for Halloween showing diffusion in different temperatures of water.

English lessons have focussed on non-fiction this term exploring the life of Pirates and reading biographies. Students have also studied famous and inspirational people, past and present, including Usain Bolt and Dave Pilkey.

Maths lessons have been conducted using a 'Monster' theme in recognition of students who have become 'Maths Monsters'. Artwork has been added to the classroom ceiling to celebrate students efforts and achievements in what can be a difficult subject.

Theraplay is working well through the use of team activities such as balloon modelling, hand stack and human knot. Sessions are held every morning, starting with play and finishing with a calming down period before lessons begin. Theraplay helps students with motivation; team work and social skills as well as ensuring every day gets off to a positive start.

Rewards - Students have enjoyed reward trips this term at Il Paradiso in Nailsea, Ten Pin Bowling, Laserquest and a trip to the cinema to see 'Fantastic Beasts and where to find them'. These trips are a reward for consistently good behaviour and a great opportunity for students to try new activities, helping to build their confidence and self-esteem. One of our students, a keen photographer, has also had the opportunity to work with Damien Lovegrove a professional local photographer who kindly provided a fantastic opportunity for our student to develop his photography skills.

I would just like to thank you again for all your support and to wish you a very Happy Christmas.



News from Vice Principal Mr Tony Hill - Weston (Year 9, 10 & 11)

VLC Weston has had another successful term. Year 11 students are working hard towards their GCSEs, Entry Levels, BTEC and ABC exams. Some stunning work has been submitted by students in all subjects. Year 9 students have made a good start this year having the opportunity to access a number of enrichment activities including Bristol Zoo, the Museum and @Bristol.

All students have been able to access their own individual fitness programmes at the gym. Mrs McKenna, with the support of the Fundraising Committee also managed to

secure a grant from the police enabling students to attend some self-defence courses.

Year 11 students are currently undergoing their independent careers interviews with some students already successfully attaining a college placement for next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish students and parents a Happy Christmas and thank parents for their continued support.



News from Lead Teacher Mrs Nicola Young - Milton (Tuition)

As Christmas rapidly approaches I have been reflecting on all the achievements made by our young people.

Several students have returned to mainstream schools after significant illnesses and we wish them all the very best for the future. The perseverance, resilience and good humour shown by these young people has been overwhelming and our staff have remarked at what a privilege it has been to be part of their learning journey.

Many new students have joined us over the past two terms and I would like to thank the teaching staff, non-teaching staff and students for making them welcome.

Year 10 continue on their GCSE journey with so many students stepping up to the demands successfully and with enthusiasm. Key Stage 4 students celebrated the end of term one with a social communications session where students choose from a variety of group work activities including cake decorating,

Tai Chi, beauty therapy and games. This proved really popular with students (and staff) and enabled students to socialise in an informal yet supported environment.

Our Year 11 GCSE certificate celebration took place on the 23rd November. Many alumni attended, celebrating over a cup of tea and a Mr Kipling buffet of exceedingly good cakes! All students who attended have successfully transitioned to college with the majority thoroughly enjoying their courses or apprenticeships. We wish them all well and hope they will continue to inform us of their progress moving forward.

Children in need did not pass us by with many students and all staff dressing up to

raise money. Students decided that the money raised should be donated to CLIC Sargent - a charity which supports children with cancer and leukaemia, this was primarily because this charity has supported several of our young people when they have been unwell. Many Tuition students have their own difficulties and to think so generously and supportively of others is a real credit to them.

Christmas can sometimes be a difficult time for students with health issues so we at Milton wish you all a restful, healthy and **Happy Christmas**.



News from Our Faculty Lead for Literacy - Miss Francine Magee

Reading and Phonics

Reading is a life skill and it is therefore vital that our students have this skill in order to be able to function in today's society.

Consequently one of our aims is to ensure that students leave us with an improved reading age to enable them to make the next step in their education. We are therefore committed to filling any gaps in 'phonetic knowledge' that our students may have.



In order to help us achieve this aim every student across the

Campus has a daily phonics / literacy session as part of their timetable.

More information about this can be found on our website on the Literacy page (within the Curriculum section).

Alternatively please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further, I am based at the Weston site and you can contact me on 01934 425522 or by email at:-

Francine.Magee@voyagelearningcampus.org.uk.

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