



Term 3

2nd February 2017

NEWSLETTER

A few words from our Principal

Dear Parents, carers and students

This has been a very positive term for the school and we are immensely proud of the judgements we received from the Her Majesties Inspectors (HMI) Ofsted visit on 10th January. We continue to be a good school with many very strong features and have very much improved again since our last inspection.

Inspectors commented on:

- How strongly the school is led,
The school sets high ambitious and realistic expectations for its students,
The excellent breadth of expertise in our staff,
The strength of provision for our primary aged pupils,
How well students behave with Centre's being calm and purposeful,

- How keeping pupils safe is at the heart of everything we do.

These are outstanding comments and are a testament to how hard our students, staff and Management Committee work to make certain that the Voyage Learning Campus is one of the most successful alternative provision schools in the country.

It is nice to take a little time to reflect on our achievements; however we will continue to strive to improve the Voyage Learning Campus and the life chances of our students.

Best wishes
Nick Donnelly
Principal

News from Our Faculty Lead for Numeracy - Mrs Jackie Charter

On March 1st all teaching staff will spend a day working on ways to improve numeracy across the curriculum. This will take two main themes to start with:

Helping students improve their mental and written calculations.

Many students and adults have a belief that they "cannot do maths". There are many reasons why the inability to 'do' maths affects so many children, and this follows them into adulthood, and it has little to do with intelligence. The major reason is anxiety. The best way to overcome that anxiety is to build on what they already know. Everyone knows more maths than they think which can then be extended.

We are going to be working as a team with a Learning Adviser from North Somerset to explore how we can help students improve their self-confidence with maths through looking at various methods of calculation and using these in interactive/problem solving tasks alongside regular but small practice sessions. I look forward to confirming how this will fit into the curriculum in the next newsletter.

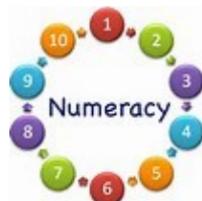
Highlighting areas across the curriculum, again starting at GCSE, where maths is used.

We want to use this to reorganise the maths curriculum where possible to ensure these skills have been covered before or at a similar time to when they are needed in other subjects. There is a lot of good practice going on in this area already across the VLC but we would like to do more and formalise what we do. We hope this will help students transfer their mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding between subjects.

And finally....

"Getting Up to Scratch" in VLC Nailsea- Numeracy Intervention

Three students are currently working on improving their numeracy and maths skills using a computer programme called Scratch. This 10 lesson project involves working with Alec, a qualified maths teacher, who has designed individual projects for the students based around their interests and development areas. These projects include applying their maths to programming Scratch to draw shapes, exploring technical drawing and designing and costing out a skate park.



Important dates for your diary

Table with 2 columns: Event and Date. Last Day of Term: Friday 10th February 2017; First Day of Next Term: Monday 20th February 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; 'What is the effect?' where the children have been exploring how both themselves and other things can have an effect and cause change. This has been across all subjects. In art they have been experimenting with different painting techniques and the effects it has. This has included using different tools to paint pictures, mixing colours and learning the effect of changing the tone. In history they have been studying the history of Weston-super-Mare with particular focus on the effect the railway had on the town, it's growth as a Victorian seaside destination and how children were evacuated to Weston during the War. They have really enjoyed looking at photos to compare how it has changed. They have been using their new founded knowledge in Literacy to write a newspaper report imagining they were on the first train to arrive in Weston, a diary entry about going on holiday to Weston-super-Mare and a story about evacuees.

In the last newsletter we mentioned how we had introduced a special breakfast every week where the children focus on an important issue for that week or a special festival. This term we have had special breakfasts to celebrate Australian Day, Chinese New Year and World Braille Day. During the Chinese New Year breakfast children had the chance to use chop sticks and during the World Braille Day breakfast, children tried eating their breakfast with a blind fold on to get a feel for what it would be like to be blind.

This term we have new school council class representatives; Charlie is representing Penguins, Harry D is representing Turtles and Shelby is representing Dolphins. They have had their first meeting and this term the school council are going to be discussing; how we can continue to make our school safe, ideas for World Book Day and coming up with ways to raise money for Comic Relief.

We have already started planning term 4 and we have lots of exciting things planned. Our topic is; 'What is good for me?' which is based around a 'Cooking' project where the children are going to be planning, making and evaluating a breakfast for another class. As part of the project we have a farmer coming to visit us to tell us more about where our food comes from. This is a very exciting project.

We are also planning to have an Easter crafts afternoon where all the parents and carers will be invited to join in some Easter fun with their child. Please watch out for some more information next term. In the meantime have an enjoyable half term.



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

It has been another exciting term at VLC Weston. After our successful Ofsted inspection Year 11 have completed a week of mock exams the results and performance of individual students in these exams, will help staff to put the best possible support in place to help students improve their final grades.

During this term students from Years 9 through to 11 have had the opportunity to experience a wide range of different enrichment opportunities, these have included:

- Banwell Equestrian Centre,
Self-defence classes,
Osprey Outdoor Centre,
Pause and Engage Mentoring Centre,

- Tyntesfield National Trust,
Military Preparation College.

As part of our PSHE programme and our strive to keep students as safe as possible, we have invited a number of outside organisations to come to talk and answer questions from our students on a wide variety of topics, these have included talks on British Values and the Government Prevent strategy. Prevent as those of you who had the opportunity to read our last newsletter or visit our website is the Governments drive to ensure students are protected from being radicalised.

Management Committee Update

We are pleased to announce, following an appeal for parent representatives to join our Management Committee that we now have two new representatives. Mrs Karyn Lockett and Mr Alan Murdie, both parents of students in Year 11 at our Weston site have joined the Committee and will be invited to attend their first meeting next term. Together they will provide a parents voice on the Committee.

Further information about the Management Committee is available on our website at the following address:

www.voyagelearningcampus.org.uk/about-us/management-committee/

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

There has been much to celebrate at key stage 3, including excellent attendance and a number of successful reintegration programmes in place.

Student Council

Our school council is up and running again this term, with officially elected members. They will be taking on ideas from other students on how to improve all aspects of their school life. They will also be discussing ideas for mentoring students at key stage 2.

RSPB

Students enjoyed a visit from the RSPB. There was a presentation followed by a wildlife walk where students went looking for birds, identifying species and tallying their findings for use in a survey. The students, armed with binoculars, were very enthusiastic and it was a lovely afternoon where they also learnt about the

environment and how it is affected by humans and climate change.

Science

As a reward for finishing the unit of work on cells, including multi-cellular organisms we dissected a lambs heart. Some of the brave students then decided they would like to try some so **they fried and ate one!**

Police Presentation

The Police will be visiting our site on 1st February for a presentation centred around gangs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for working with us in order to support your child. It is vital that we all work together so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

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

Term 3 has started well at Milton with Year 11 students carrying out mock GCSE examinations. Many of our students found this week challenging however acknowledged that the practise is invaluable preparation for the summer exams. Year 11 have also begun their controlled assessments in science lessons, researching and carrying out experiments investigating how human coordination improves with practise. In English, students are avidly working to win a Kindle by producing a descriptive piece of extended writing about their favourite song lyrics. The Youth Employment Service has also visited and carried out interviews to support students with careers advice and college applications.

We continue to use raffle tickets to reward students' efforts, completing a draw every week to reward one lucky winner with a prize. The student gaining the most raffle tickets is rewarded with a prize and certificate at the end of each term. Well done to Kerry and Charlotte who received prizes for term 1 and term 2.

We are also delighted to welcome a new member to our team "Sweep" our Pets as Therapy dog (PAT dog). Sweep is working with the students on Fridays and is supporting the reduction of anxiety. We are all amazed at the effect Sweep has had on some students, encouraging attendance and providing distraction and support for those who are finding studying extremely challenging.



Safer Internet Day 2017

Safer Internet Day — 7th February 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet'



Safer Internet Day is an international holiday celebrated to promote safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones across the world.

Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre the celebration sees hundreds of organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

Globally Safer Internet Day is celebrated in over a hundred countries, coordinated by the joint Insafe/INHOPE network, with the support of the European Commission, and national Safer Internet Centres across Europe.

Safer Internet Day 2016 reached 2.8 million children and

2.5 million parents!

Students across Voyage Learning Campus will be taking part in the Safer Internet Day 2017 Competition were they are asked to come up with a positive e-safety acronym using the words CHANGE or UNITE – inspired by the SID2017 theme, Be the Change: Unite for a better internet. There are different categories for each acronym based on students age range i.e. primary/secondary.

For more information please visit the Safer Internet Day website:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2017>

Facebook launch Parents Portal

Facebook have launched a new advice area, the Parents Portal. This is designed to help parents make the most out of their Facebook account, whilst also giving tips and information on how to keep themselves and their children safe online.

The full Parents Portal can be found at:
www.facebook.com/safety/parents

Please remember that Facebook require users to be at least 13 years old before they can create and use an account.

GCSE Grades are changing

This is just a reminder, for those parent/carers with students in Year 11, that GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. English literature, English language and maths will be the first subjects to be graded in this way from August 2017.

Students will therefore receive a mixture of letter and number grades in Summer 2017. To see how the numbered grades compare to the current A*-G system please see the Ofqual table to the right.

If you would like to discuss this further please speak to your young person's Head of Centre or contact our Exams & Data Officer, Abbe Hayward on 01934 425522 or by email at:

Abbe.Hayward@voyagelearningcampus.org.uk

New GCSE grading structure		Ofqual
New grading structure	Current grading structure	
9		A*
8		A
7		
6		B
5		
4		C
3		D
2		E
1		F
		G
U		U

GOOD PASS (DIE)
5 and above – top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above – bottom of C and above