



TEYNHAM NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Head Teacher's Christmas Wishes

It would be an understatement to say that this has been a very busy two terms. It's not only been busy it's also been exciting as we've welcomed new staff and 24 new pupils since September to our growing school. Having so many new pupils has been challenging at times but as our staff have focused on building strong relationships with all our pupils and class team building, it didn't take long before the atmosphere around the school began to feel settled and with pupils demonstrating a commitment to their learning. New pupils, new teachers, new class dynamics have given our school a new energy which we are excited to explore in order to continue to support our pupils' individual needs and improve their outcomes for the future.

Knowing that we would begin the academic year with so many new pupils, we decided to spend the first week and a half on team building and STEM activities to help settle pupils in and to identify gaps or weaknesses in pupils Executive Function skills. This was the first time we tried a skill based approach to the start of a term but by all accounts it proved quite successful and an effective way of supporting pupils engagement.

During the second full week of term and the 1st full week of our academic timetable, we were visited by Ofsted for a 3 day inspection. Although we were expecting an inspection this academic year, having it this early in a new academic year presented an additional challenge to ensure that we had enough evidence to accurately demonstrate the quality of education we provide for our pupils. The feedback was extremely positive affording us with a 'Good' grading overall including two areas of 'Outstanding', Personal Development and Behaviour and Attitude.

I am pleased for you to see through reading our newsletter many of the wonderful learning opportunities our pupils have and how well they enjoy and engage in their learning. This wouldn't happen if it weren't for the dedication and incredible hard work that our amazing staff, parents, foster parents and Governors do to support the whole school community. It's an absolute pleasure to be the Head Teacher of such a unique and special school and your continued support is what makes us so amazing and why our pupils are able to achieve so well.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and happy holiday season, we are looking forwards to seeing you all in the New Year.

Carole Cox
Head Teacher



Landbased

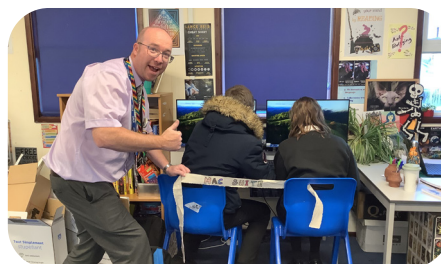
The pupils have been working hard on the allotments this term. The pumpkins that we grew this year were amazing but we hope to do even better next year! Each class had a pumpkin and had to decide what they wanted to do with it. We had some very creative designs including this one by Cedar class.



Photography

Students studying GCSE Photography welcomed two new computers to help with their editing skills. Very quickly, we have seen what creativity we have at ISP Teynham. All the photography students have been taking advantage of these fantastic resources and have enjoyed changing their pictures.

The Year 11 students decorated their own clothes for a fashion shoot using a chemical process called cyanotype. They took advantage of the beautiful surroundings to show off their designs.



Business

Students who took GCSE Business as an option went on a trip to the Kneats Court, Isle of Sheppey to show them the different types of businesses and products available. I was pleased to see how students engage with the business by talking to staff members and remembering all topics learning throughout the term. Students also ran a profitable stall at the Christmas fair.



Choir and Drama Club

The theme this term in choir and drama club have been developing our confidence performing in front of an audience as we work towards our incredible end of year performances at the Marlowe Theatre and O2 arena respectively.

In drama, we have particularly enjoyed group drama games focusing on bonding as a group and being aware of yourself and others on stage. These have included charades, rhythm master, pass the click and swap it. For the past few weeks we have had great fun rehearsing and filming our 'concise' A Christmas Carol and it was great to show it to an audience on the open afternoon. It made leaders particularly proud how other pupils supported those who could not attend the final filming or were struggling with their performance by taking on multiple roles, being with them on stage or helping them rehearse their lines. It is what ISP is all about.

In choir, we have been learning songs and dance routines for our O2 performance in January, but we have enjoyed a few weeks away from these songs to prepare a festive selection, which the choir members helped choose. It was a great success when we performed these on the open afternoon. We had different soloists, a cannon, audience participation and pupils helping keep rhythm by clapping, clicking and playing the jingle bells. The extra rehearsals and effort that the pupils put in really impressed and pleased the choir leaders. This attitude will serve you all well in future.



Panto trip

This term, our KS2 and lower KS3 pupils went to the Pantomime at the Marlowe theatre. It was a great experience for everyone involved and the pupils represented our school really well. Afterwards, our year 7 students said,

“It was really good. I liked the part with the flashing lights in the dark best”

“I really liked the bit when Aladdin was flying on the carpet”

“I enjoyed all of the show, but my favourite part was when we got to dance at the end”