

WESSEX LODGE SCHOOL

SPRING 1 NEWSLETTER

Head Teacher Report

This half term saw significant changes for Wessex Lodge School, a lot of work has gone into improving the school with the addition of a new classroom, staff area, the launch of our new middle school annex and the relocation of the school office.

In addition to this we have introduced some key improvements in the way we work, including; planning chunking sheets, broad curriculum and enrichment subjects, attendance action plans, staff and student surveys, establishing the school council and co-working with Triskele Farm.

Since the new year we have welcomed two new students, Daniel and Kian and soon to be a third, Shirley, but unfortunately have had to say goodbye to Chloe and Zoe. Best of luck to them in the future.

All in all we have achieved a great deal. The length of the newsletter is growing, as we not only grow in size, as a school, but as our students grow in confidence. Although impossible to list all the successes this year so far, this taster makes us look forward with anticipation to the next bulletin.

Warmer weather certainly won't go amiss...and if you think we've been out and about this half term...you haven't seen nothing yet...roll on Spring!!! - **Nigel Troop**

'I must say thank you to you all, I am so happy with Liam's progress and everything he has done, and he would not have done this without you . So thank you so much for everything....

Parent



Students and staff at Triskele Farm....a break from the mud!

In This Issue

- Middle School
- Triskele Farm
- Achievements
- New Staff



Louise and Courtney having fun in the kitchen

Middle School

The Middle school have been out and about in the Community working on their fitness. A fabulous ball park visit was enjoyed recently almost as much as the regular bi-weekly visits to the community swimming baths at Frome, where the students making a splash and having a brilliant time practising fast developing swimming skills. Target numbers of widths have now been set and they are more frequently trying out the bigger pool, albeit it is a little on the chilly side compared to the gloriously warm, smaller pool full of woggles and floats to enjoy. It was noted that the pool was 29 degrees Celsius and the air temperature 31 degrees on our last visit, no wonder the tropical coconut body wash seemed appropriate! A far cry from the 5 degree Celsius, outside farm temperature, recorded at 10.15 am this last day in January morning, as part of the Middle school weather watch.

Liam, Daniel and Courtney have been honing their animal care skills at Triskele Care farm. Mixing outdoor activities with classroom set tasks and cooking, they have been very busy indeed. It was particularly nice to have Dave spend a whole day at the Farm with the Middle School and as a result we are hoping to have a 'Tea-off' soon as a debate is now raging as to who makes the best cup! Dave is definitely a candidate with his lovely strong brew but we think Liam is a strong challenger with the craft taught him by his Grandmother. Certainly neither of them have been seen removing the bag with their fingers which can be a concern when it comes to tea making!!!

We have discovered that there are foods which our students say they do not like which are actually quite 'moreish' when cooked yourself, pancakes with a sprinkle of sugar (eggs from our own chickens) and cheese on toast are now part of the easy-cook-tasty food repertoire. Experiments with duck and chicken eggs have shown that the richness of the duck eggs is perfect for making batter. Many more eggs please ducks!

Art

Studies on 3 d shapes has been linked to shapes in art and Art teacher, Simon has had us working with circles and letters. Art work this half term has also entailed students looking at the work of Jasper Johns which depends on layering numbers and letters to create subtle patterns from the intersecting shapes. From cut outs of numbers and letters they have made imprinted versions and collaged layered versions to make their own experimental patterns. Students used wax resist and graphite to bring out the shapes to create a textured surface.



Courtney, Daniel and Liam

"We've been to the cinema this half term as we explore different kinds of building for a range of purposes. Daniel went to the Haynes Museum with Dan and Lucy earlier this month and had a great time looking at vehicles of days gone by. His favourite was the maroon one featured here with Daniel standing alongside. It was a super afternoon out and forged many great memories."

Triskele Farm

This term has heralded many changes at Wessex Lodge School and Triskele Care Farm. Not just the mud, and not just appreciated by the pigs! Everyone who has been to the farm has enjoyed squelching in it and feeling in the farm spirit as wellies get that, 'well used country look'.

The animals too have needed more of a brush up than usual to keep them looking plush. Since last Thursday there has been much animated talk about mud too, when Neil submitted to a 'Simon says' dare and ate a mouth full in front of a group of incredulous staff and students. He seems none the worse for wear but we are all still reeling!!! At Wessex a little fun goes a long way!

As I write soup is about to be added to the list of recipes tried out at Triskele Farm but this time enjoyed by all OUTDOORS. When things do not go according to plan we rise to the challenge, no cooking fuel in the kitchen, no problem...we have wood... It was fantastic to have Ben join the younger students in building the outside fire and toasting the most perfect marshmallow anyone has ever seen in their lives. No worries, Louise our fire safety expert was on hand to ensure we were all super safe...way to go! Great too to test the temperature of the soup with the thermometers, to



Sheep herding..another skill mastered!

Farm Newsflash:

Leo has been working very hard at the farm and has been toiling away on construction projects. He has managed to complete several jobs around Triskele farm to a very high standard (fences and general items). Leo has showed great enthusiasm and has started branching out to animal care and welfare. He gets feeds ready and is always eager to drive the ride on mower to empty the slurry pit. He sets a good example for the younger students particularly with safety awareness and effort and is becoming a great role model!

Courtney also has been working very hard at the farm and shows great enthusiasm toward the small animal section (rabbits). She has been trying her hand at equine also with Laura and is in charge of Puzzle, one of the Irish horses. Courtney walks the Shetland's well and when they're scared of the tractors and start bucking she has demonstrated she can get them under control and stays calm under pressure! Courtney hopes to start horse riding soon at the farm and trying new things. Courtney has enjoyed meeting the latest additions at the farm the 2 jersey cows. Courtney also happily gives Eight and Ten a sneaky apple or two! Great term Courtney a fantastic contribution to the farm animals and team!

Shannon Kennedy has been excellent at the farm this term. She has shown great leadership skills when working in small groups. She is confident around the horses although an incident recently saw her a bit nervous: Shannon was out walking Henzo on a head collar and learned horses will buck and rear at the sign or smell of death (dead badger). She has been overcoming the fear this produced and still goes to say 'hello' to the horses when she is poo picking. Shannon showed great empathy for Laura who was sadly injured in that event.

Achievements

Cooking standards are ever improving across the school. Scott has been cooking fajitas developing a basic recipe to his own taste while Nisha has been producing phenomenal one cup pancakes. So called because all the ingredients are measured out in one cup. (Jamie Oliver recipe). She has also moved on from the Nutella topped version to a new health conscious fruit edition. Well done Nisha – now us January dieters can be included!

Courtney L has been working on her cooking; for her Btec Level 2 qualification, which amongst other things, has included melt in the mouth burgers with a secret ingredient. Do not even think about asking what it is - IT is a secret!

It is not just cooking where the step-by-step processes have been followed with aplomb. Kayleigh has mastered the step-by-step hair washing and drying procedure: The secret to a well-groomed appearance and easier to find out about than Courtney's mysterious cooking ingredient mentioned earlier. Kayleigh has also completed all of her modules for the Mathematics Entry Level Qualification which took lots of patience and concentration - She should be proud. The staff certainly are.



Shannon Culleton has also been 'brushing up' (get it?) on her beauty skills. She has completed her introduction to Hair and Beauty module for Btec. Not only has Shannon finished two Mathematics papers towards accreditation but she has also made a magazine 'editorial' poster which identifies an outfit from a fashion magazine and explained why she likes it. Bravo Shannon what a great start to 2018!

Bravo too to Aisha. Dave does not have to eat the examination paper, results came back for her Level 1 Functional skills English PASS. Aisha passed the Speaking and Listening paper teacher assessed by Teresa, producing a blood curdling slide show on Jack the Ripper, which not only met examination pass criteria for language but was a masterpiece of slide show effects. Aisha also passed the Reading and Writing Papers to attain the full certificate. This is a wonderful achievement and many congratulations are in order.

Tianna is proving herself to be an excellent photographer. Visits to Heaven's gate, Shearwater and the Haynes Motor Museum have been recorded in wonderful photographs which beautifully capture snapshots of these locations. More please Tianna!

Finally congratulations and good luck to Learning Support Assistant Louise Day, as she embarks on her Level 3 Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning in schools.

'Following Jason Goddard's visit to West Drove last week discussing young people's achievements, each individual received lots of praise and were bought a gift and a 'well done' card from us all..'

House Manager



Leo has also been working out at the gym following a programme to maximise fitness and the wide range of machines available with Josh. Along with the completion of his Entry Level Mathematics modules and the start of his English assessments for qualification Leo is 'raising the bar' with his achievements in Literacy and Numeracy.

Amazing! Well done Leo your hard work and effort are getting noticed by everyone at Wessex Lodge School and Triskele Care Farm

Welcome

We are delighted to add three new staff members to our team.

New.....Lucy Backhouse

Lucy is our Middle School Learning Support Assistant and Student Mentor who seems up for almost anything: Lucy has been active at the farm cleaning rabbits, herding up sheep as well as being a whizz with rustling up worksheets in the classroom. Her ready laugh mixed with the chortles of Liam, Daniel and Courtney have been a delight to hear and we look forward



New...Sarah Jones

Sarah joins us as the Literacy and Numeracy Co-ordinator teacher and Wessex Lodge School Senco and replaces Teresa in the Senior school as she has moved to Head the Middle school. Sarah's classroom is the old common room and is a place transformed by colour and so invitingly that one cannot help but linger there. Welcome to team Wessex Lodge Sarah!



New...Yasmin Wallis

Yasmin has also joined the team as a Mentor and Learning support teacher. She seems to be just about everywhere and we have had her join the Middle School at the pool, Triskele farm and taking an active role at Wessex Lodge Senior School. Yasmin has been to Heaven's gate with Kayleigh where Kayleigh enjoyed a 'Rubicon' beverage as part of the experience. She also accompanied Kayleigh on an outing to Beads Bazaar which resulted in beautiful necklaces for a great value price. Yasmin has also supported Shannon while she gave Clare a deep conditioning treatment and been working on the farm, introducing herself to Sonic and last but not least....jiving with the pigs! Welcome to team Wessex Lodge Yasmin!



Motiv8

A visitor from the Community whom we welcome to Wessex Lodge School because of his excellent advice has been again: Mike from Motiv8. Mike came and spoke to all of the students to let them know the risks of smoking cannabis and how the levels of chemicals have increased over time to dangerous highs. The young people were given the option of doing a drug test in the safety of the school environment. The students were also able to try the beer goggles in the garden which gave them the 'drunk' feeling. This enabled them to realise how dangerous it is to be under the influence of alcohol and how much it effects judgement and balance. Mike will be in again soon and as ever we look forward to his information sharing and updates on how to keep safe.

School Awards

Congratulations to all our deserving winners of student and staff member of the week during this half term.

* Student of the week:

Shannon K, Daniel, Kian, Liam

* Staff member of the week:

Teresa Lawes, Yasmin Wallis, Lucy Backhouse, Lukasz Miecznikowski

* Student of the Half Term:

Kian

* Staff member of the half term:

Lucy Backhouse

