

# WESSEX LODGE SCHOOL & TRISKELE FARM

## Head teacher report

As we approach another half term we can reflect what an exciting time it has been. The school has expanded into Triskele farm which has now become part of the school. This has been a fantastic opportunity for our students. It has meant we welcome several new students this term and to support them some new staff.

I would like to welcome TV, SH, RJ, BM, KS and JB to the school. All are fantastic young people whom have already started making great contributions to the life of the school as they engage in there learning.

With the expansion of the school Neil Gage leads the school as Executive Head teacher. Neil led the farm education last year, and previously was head of an outstanding school for several years. His experience and initiatives really strengthens us as we move forward.

I would also like to welcome Jade Feeney, our new Deputy Head, Alan Russell, Leah Roberts, Jess Edwards, Hazel Jarman and Tim Harris to the staff team. Their experience and diverse skills are already a great asset to the offer for our students.

The addition of the Triskele farm site has allowed the curriculum offer to expand further. Students are now able to participate in Mechanics sessions, Horticulture, Construction and Forest School, as well as the Animal Care and Equine sessions students enjoyed last year. We also now have a dedicated Art room for students to enjoy, an enlarged space for music sessions, and a Café area for students to develop catering skills..

There has been some fantastic work by students this half term including welding sessions, tractor driving sessions and some great pieces of artwork produced. They have also raised money for the McMillan Cancer charity, taken part in work experience sessions at a neighbouring farm, and the Middle School students have begun to plan their next trip away.

With some sadness we wish Teresa Lawes all the best in her new job as she leaves us this half term after 3 successful years at Wessex Lodge School, initially leading on literacy and numeracy, and then setting up and leading the middle school. Her students said goodbye today in their own unique way by dressing up in costumes.

I wish all students and staff a restful half term and look forward to the new term, starting on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Nigel Troop

Head teacher



## Triskele Farm Café

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**This half term we have seen the opening of our new onsite café. Where the students prepare foods during home cooking sessions in the week ready for café Fridays!**



In this the students have been making a wide range of foods, including different soups, cakes and pastries, and on the day we have been making Paninis or baguettes for lunches. The students have been serving staff, students and carers, by making hot drinks, dishing out various cakes and pastries as well as serving hot foods at lunch time.

This has given students the opportunity to use a till system and practice money management. Courtney and Kayleigh have been our main staff members in the café and they have got involved with writing up menus, preparing the orders for lunch time and generally setting up the café ready for service. They've even managed to earn a few tips!



**We also hosted the Macmillan coffee morning in the café where we raised £50.53!! Lots of cakes and yummy foods were made for this and it was a total success.**

**Triskele farm café - This has been a big change for everyone but it has been very enjoyable and has created a lovely community feel, bringing everyone together to share and enjoy the foods that have been made.**

Also in home cooking we have been doing bacon or egg sandwiches on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The star here has been Ben, every Tuesday we have had a great system going, of taking orders, setting up the kitchen and cooking bacon and eggs for all staff and students on site ready for break time! Ben even made the rolls for these breakfasts!

Once again this has been a great opportunity for everyone to get together in the café and enjoy a nice warm breakfast!



**Thank you Kirsty for dedicating your time to ensure the smooth running of the café and also providing a fun environment to teach cooking and life skills.**

# Music



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

This term middle school have been learning to play the electric bass guitar as well as creating their own compositions using Apple Macs. These have ranged from being music based upon computer games to a more classical focus.



**UPPER SCHOOL:** In upper school some students have been MC'g / rapping using their own lyrics to either backing tracks of their favourite artists, or even at times creating their own backing track in music tech. One student has actually both recorded his first work and performed it to others in assembly.





## FOREST SCHOOL

In Forest School our students have put a hammock up in the woodlands and also cooked over our fire pit enjoying sausages, burgers and even peri peri chicken breast with mushrooms. Students have set cray fish nets and fished on Shearwater Lake as well as mountain biked through it.



We have also placed a wood burner in the yurt in preparation for the winter months and on a Friday afternoon a group have warmed up in there and cooked using a pan on top of the wood burner.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## COOKING



Weekly cooking has been ongoing throughout this half term. We have made tasty soup and delicious quiche. The highlight so far though has been a chocolate cake with a surprise invisible ingredient – courgettes. None of the Middle school staff or students could taste the courgettes and were shocked to know a slice of chocolate cake could be one of their five (or is it seven?) a day. Amazing!

## OUTINGS

Middle school have been bowling this half term, and out and about at Shearwater. A small group enjoyed a visit to the new Gaming café in Frome with Dan Harper. Additionally, we have all enjoyed many sessions swimming at Frome Leisure Centre: The smaller pool is so heated it has become like a spa experience after the cool of the lane pool and the group often ends with a relaxing warm up.

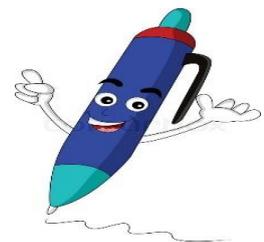


Taigne visited the Roman Baths- which made us all want to go!



## TIME TO STUDY!

Middle school have focused on Time as part of their Maths studies this term. This has included telling the time in digital and analogue. We have also worked out problems with Times and written them for each other to solve.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL POEMS



As usual Middle school have been writing a lot. We have studied the Highwayman by Alfred Noyes and researched Highwaymen in History. We have gone on to discuss rhyming couplets and other poetic techniques like repetition. We have all created our own poems and shared them with each other and staff. Thanks to Pete for coming to our mini recital. It was brilliant!

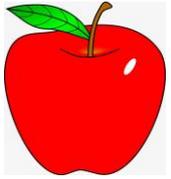
## Daniel's poem:

Leaves falling off the trees,  
Birds migrating to the East,  
Apples falling from the trees,  
Chestnuts and walnuts ripening,  
Starting fires in the fireplace at home,  
Growing pumpkins in the gardens for Halloween,  
Sun shining bright in through the trees,  
Finding mushrooms and toadstools,  
Sitting at home with slippers snug in a blanket,  
Sleeping in bed snug,  
Eating nuts while sitting in front of the fire,  
Carving pumpkins for Halloween,  
Watching movies in front of the fireplace,  
France, partying by the Eiffel tower,  
Animals hibernating ready for winter,  
Mowing the grass in the sun,  
Apples falling far from the trees,  
Opening beans for tea.



## Liam's Poem:

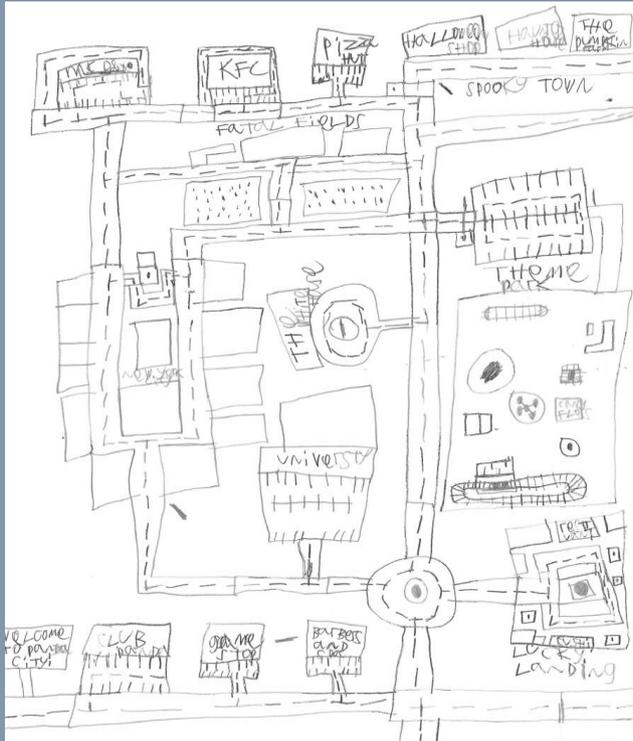
I went to the shop and bought some black sunglasses,  
On my way back I saw,  
The trees had no leaves because they had fallen off and flown away,  
The apples on some trees had fallen off onto the beautiful green grass,  
The white ghost pumpkins have finished ripening in the allotment,  
There was a golden tomato growing on a giant tall tomato stalk,  
Someone was cooking mushrooms,  
The mushrooms were burning,  
They smelt horrible,  
So I ran back home,  
When I got home,  
I went outside to relax,  
In the sun with my new black sunglasses.



## Shirley's poem

Sun set. Sun rise. Night. Day. Moon. Sun.  
As the sun rises, the day begins.  
As the sun sets, the day becomes night where the moon shines bright.  
As I was watching the sun rise,  
I saw a glow from the cat's eyes.  
Later that night when the sun set,  
That was the time when our eyes met,  
As we stared up at the moon,  
We both heard a mousey tune.  
Waiting for the next day,  
Thinking of all eggs that the chickens will lay,  
As the morning sun shines through, I listen to the cows moo.





Well done Jack, these pizza wheels made using fresh dough look amazing!



**The Middle school has expanded their curriculum content into the Humanities.**

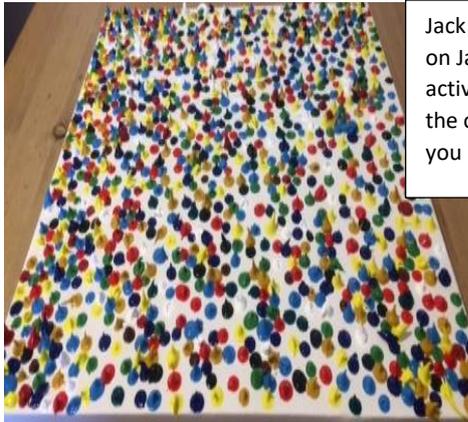
**Map work has given us the chance to become Planning Officers and design our own settlements including a wide range of amenities and leisure facilities. These towns and cities are so appealing we have been wanting to move there and staff have chosen their favourite houses and locations. Yes Jade you are close to the Pizzeria and yes Teresa you are no longer next door to Donald Trump, although you still have a hairdresser nearby!!! The Epic school looks fantastic and the theme park in Panda City looks a super destination for a great day out in the holidays.**

**Well done Middle School, wonderful work as always and lots of fun and enthusiasm included!**

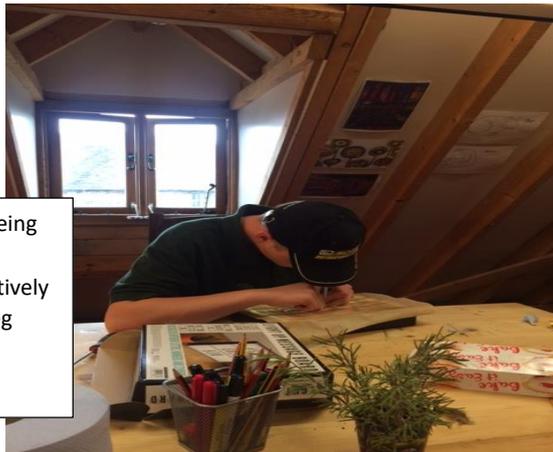
## **Mechanics**

**Tagine and Shaye have taken apart 'The Beast tractor' (650cc, 20hp) and re-built it and now it is up and running and being used by all students on the farm. Students have built their own tool boxes and the results have been impressive.**

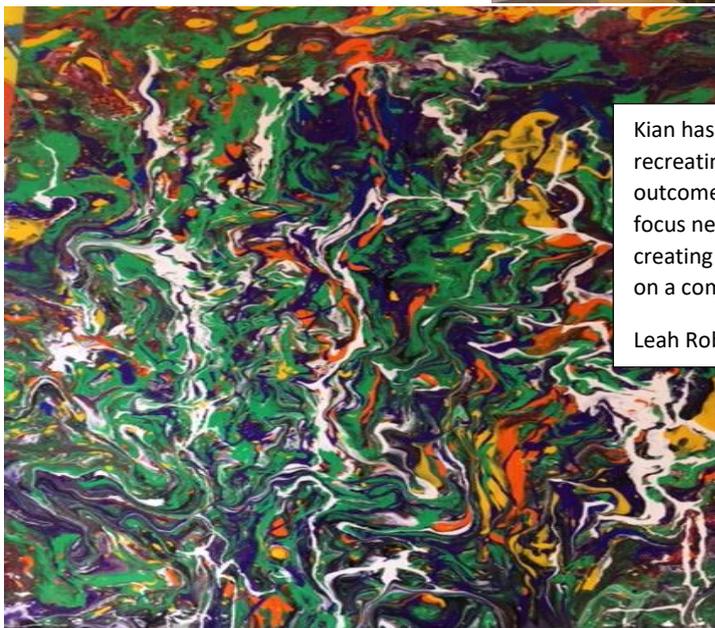
**The term was finished off with everyone doing some welding and the award for best welding goes to Rhys!**



Jack has engaged really well with Art, the wonderfully colourful canvas based on Jackson Pollack's art-work looks great. Jack obviously enjoys hands-on activities and we spent one session applying black clay to a craft mask; with the outcome looking very effective. Well done Jack. Look forward to seeing you again next term.



It's been lovely getting to know Rhys this term and seeing him applying his busy hands to some more sensitive elements of art and craft. He's used his time constructively and creatively; creating signs for a chicken-invaded veg patch and exploring the finer detail of enduro!



Kian has a lot of creative energy and we enjoyed a warm afternoon recreating Jackson Pollack type art-work on the lawn this term. The outcome is stunning and I know Kian was pleased with his efforts. The focus next term is Graffiti and I'm confident Kian will excel himself in creating his own Graffiti signature, in the hope of being able to graffiti on a community wall in Somerset.

Leah Roberts – Art Tutor

