



WESSEX LODGE SCHOOL AND TRISKELE FARM



As we approach the end of term one we can reflect what a transformation the last 3 months have been. The school has expanded into Triskele farm which we reported last time and now in full flow with some exciting projects initiated with lots of students heavily involved.

I would like to welcome Poppy Latherbury-Haigh who started in November and Leuan Matthews who joins us in January 2019.

As Christmas is upon us, we celebrate our first ever school Christmas fayre on the 20th December 2018 with students busy making and decorating items for sale on our stalls this will also give the opportunity for parents and carers to see some of the excellent work the students have completed since September.

Our Art department have been busy creating a number of expressive seasonal work commissioned for our offices at Boreham Mill in Bishopstrow, no doubt they will feature later in our newsletter. Some amazing pieces of work our students should be proud of.

I have a special mention to a young man who put the community and the welfare of an elderly gentleman as his priority showing concern when the man had not pick up his newspaper for several days. This young man contacted the police to express his concerned and has been noted for a special commendation for his efforts and concern for his local community. Well done Leo Barlow, we are so proud of you.

On my final note I wish all students and staff a joyful Christmas and new year and look forward to seeing them all in 2019.

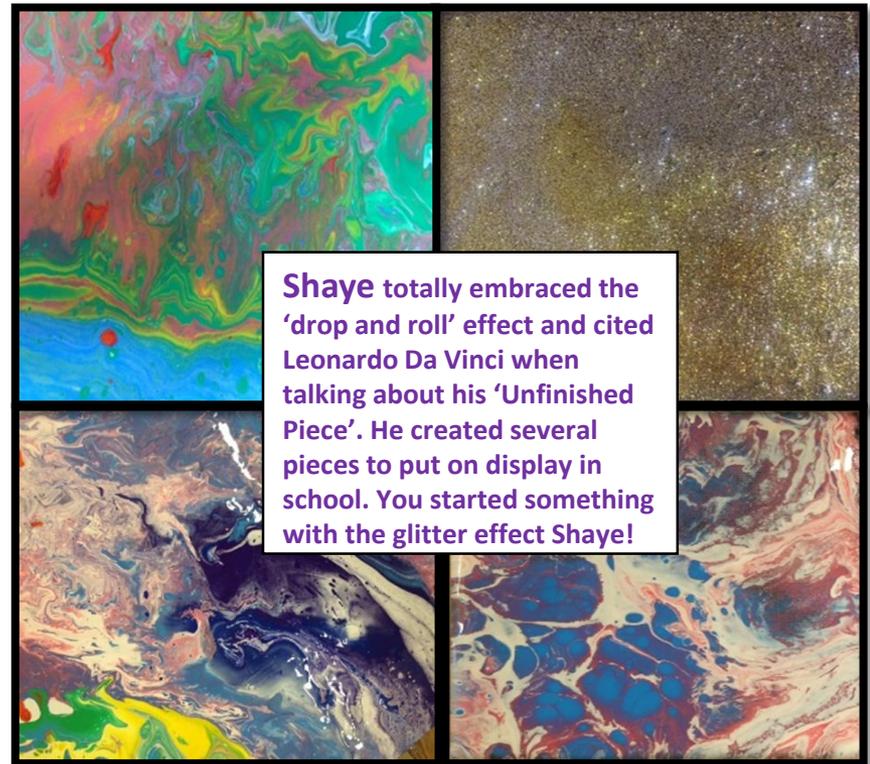
Neil Gage
Executive Head teacher

ART

This term we have been focussing on using acrylic paint to explore patterns and effects, along with stencils. Students have embraced their art sessions and produced some excellent work. I'm so proud and impressed with every young person for embracing their creative side and trusting in their ability. Congratulations to everyone for their focus and commitment this term.



- Leah Roberts, Art Tutor



Shaye totally embraced the 'drop and roll' effect and cited Leonardo Da Vinci when talking about his 'Unfinished Piece'. He created several pieces to put on display in school. You started something with the glitter effect Shaye!

Jack enjoyed applying acrylic paint onto a huge canvas and letting it roll in all directions. He then created some smaller canvasses using the drop and roll effect, with some wonderful results.



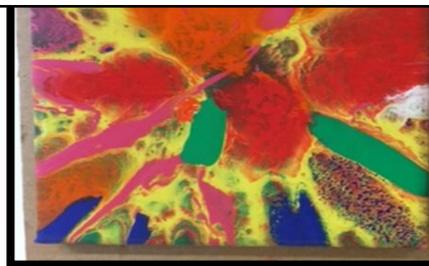
Shirley has been getting hands-on with Art this term – literally! What wonderful testament to her to make a permanent record of her hand print for display in the meeting room. Shirley also used stencils to create 2 original pieces for the Farm Office, with a result she should be proud of.



Kayleigh has been brave enough to agree to let me help her paint a mural for her bedroom wall. She's chosen a theme with trees and birds. We've made a start and will see it evolve over the coming weeks.



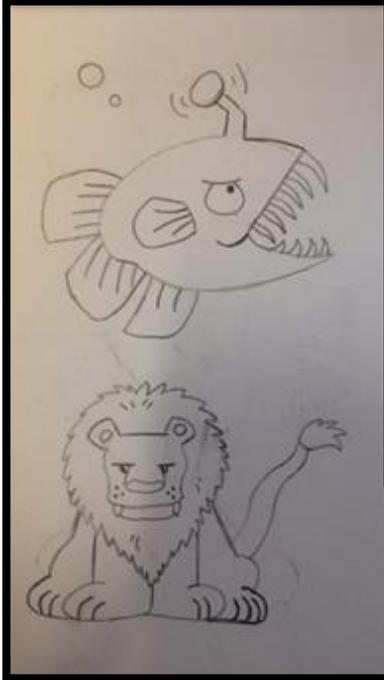
Rhys used some awesome technique to produce this abstract acrylic work, by placing canvasses on and around a pottery wheel and layering paint while spinning it. The effects are interesting and exciting. The glitter paint also came out for a 'drop and roll' session.



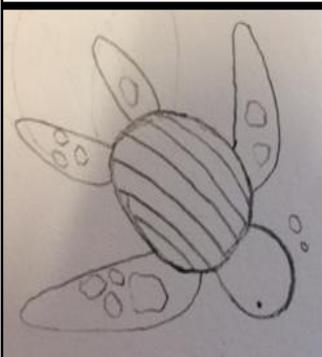
Shannon has stepped out of her comfort zone to explore stencils on canvas, with dramatic affect. Look forward to seeing more of this next term!



Alea has shown maturity in her approach to planning a project to create name plaques for the Triskele horses. She's patiently practised designs before committing and has demonstrated skill in both free-drawing and really beautiful use of stencils. I know Laura in particular is looking forward to seeing the final results!



Ben is very skilled in drawing. Over the weeks he's been practising and persevering with drawing animals cartoon style! I've been so impressed with Ben's patience and commitment in what he's focussing on and feel this is an excellent skill to develop his ideas in Art. Well done Ben!



Liam used 'Paint' app to design an amazing poster for the school Christmas Fair, which has also been adapted for use as a Christmas Card. Liam also used stencils to design glittery festive greeting cards.



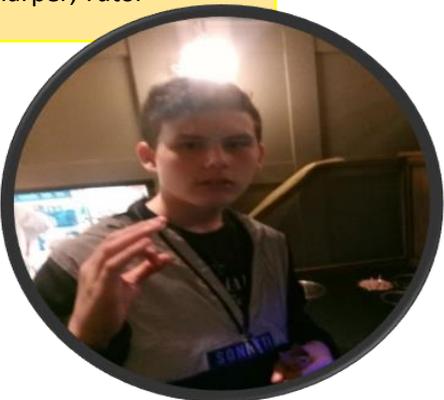
Daniel has been multi-tasking – working on and finishing two pieces in tandem. The cardboard houses in a 3D frame have taken several weeks to fine tune – with layers of papier-mache, paint and the finishing touches using pen. His collage of garden flowers, over-layed with a glitter butterfly is stunning. Daniel's determination to complete these pieces is amazing evidence of his commitment to art and to finishing what he's started.



MUSIC

This term's music star is Tom! Tom has not only been developing his own heart felt lyrics and performed in front of an assembly. He has also been using backing tracks and started to develop his own as well as recording his own words 'spitting bars' MC'g and rapping in our mobile recording studio.

Well done Tom!
- Dan Harper, Tutor



MIDDLE SCHOOL



It has been the start of a new adventure for the Middle School this term.

With a change of core staff, the group has had to adjust to new faces and new ways of doing things. Although this hasn't always been easy, there have been many exciting activities and projects enjoyed along the way too. Particularly memorable have been the walks up hills and through woods, exploring local surroundings. Swimming, trampolining and braving the 'Death Slide' have also been highlights. Starting the day with a game of Uno or 'Cheat' has brought a lot of laughter and good cheer.

Tasty dishes have been cooked and shared each week and a delicious stew was prepared over an open fire, lit using a flint and steel. New skills in weaving and finger knitting have been mastered and lyrics and music have been composed and performed. It has been a real privilege to work alongside the Middle school and to witness each student overcoming challenges and achieving so many things. – Hazel Jarman, Tutor



WORK EXPERIENCE



We have had a exciting term this term, Shannon has started work experience at a oldie worldie country pub. Shannon really enjoys this and it is showing her the world of work! So far Shannon has been supported to do lots of tasks. Polishing cutlery , laying tables and making the pubs desserts. I attach a picture of her latest masterpiece , this is also on the pubs menu and being sold as I type! Shannon's shenanigan's cheesecake, we can't tell you the secret recipe ha ha but it's DELICIOUS !!! – Sophia Raddad, Tutor





Shannon and Leo, two year 11 students, have sat their Level 1 Functional Skills Maths exam this month.

The completed papers are sat in the exams safe, waiting to be collected and marked by Edexcel, the examination board.

Both students have worked incredibly hard and have been really focussed with their learning this term.

We will all keep our fingers crossed for the results in a few weeks time.

Well done both of you!

– Sarah Jones, Teacher

AMAZING!

HOME COOKING SKILLS



This term in home cooking skills we have continued to prepare foods to contribute to the café Fridays.

As it has been getting colder we have been making winter warming foods, including soups and cottage pie! Kayleigh treated us to her famous Chicken soup! Which was greatly appreciated by everyone who's been powering through the winter colds!

We have also prepared dishes from other countries including Chicken chow Mein and Korma. Shannon's Chow Mein was especially delicious!

We have also appreciated 'National pizza with everything day' and made pizza dough from scratch and then topped them with a selection of favourite toppings.

Café Fridays have been very successful and there are always staff and students ordering paninis, baguettes or soup for lunch. The café team has mainly consisted of, Shaye (who helps set up the café and has grated so much cheese!), Kayleigh (who cooks all the bacon!), Courtney (who is the panini pro) and Rhys (who officially makes the best brownies).

As we are approaching Christmas we are starting to make traditional Christmas foods, including mince pies! We are also making jam to contribute to the Christmas fayre, and on the last day of term we will be having a Christmas fayre buffet!

It has a been a great term in the kitchen and I can't wait to see what the young people cook up next term!

- Kirsten Booty, Tutor





THE WORKSHOP

Hi Everyone, greetings and best wishes from the Workshop and its students.



The Workshop/Mechanics area is growing, we have some doors to keep out the rain, an office where its warm for teaching, some great lighting, and a store to secure our tools now. I am very keen students take ownership of the workshop, machinery, and our fleet of vehicles, so I have tried to involve them as much as possible in the building of the workshop and maintenance of the farm and fleet vehicles.

- Alan Russell, Mechanics Tutor



We have the 'Beast' Mower/tractor, (650cc hydrostatic drive) donated by Oakley's garden machinery, Frome, which is very popular with all the students to operate, and break ! but more to fix and learn on, and indeed was the machine used to tow the Nissan to the workshop.

We have managed to source a Nissan Micra Car kindly donated by JW Ransome and sons, Frome Scrap merchants, the students are now working through some practical qualifications using this car. Some thought it was a little boring until I reminded them of the stable it comes from is the same as the Nissan Skyline, and we got the vehicle running with part of the exhaust missing! it now has some street credibility.

One of the other bits of machinery our students make repairs on is the Farms Massey Ferguson Tractor, this is a project that is ongoing. Some students are not so keen to get oily, so we offer a little carpentry, most students have made their own Toolbox, where as a beautiful train is under construction, as well as some engraving and fretwork.