



# Wessex Lodge School & Triskele Farm Newsletter

Spring term - April 2019

Another term has passed, settling back into school life was difficult at the beginning of term and we have all faced many difficulties together. I could not be more proud of the work that has been achieved by all our students and staff this term, here are some of our highlights.

We have seen the introduction of several new members of our school since January, New students, Neo, Cory, Ryse, Kenny, Jalen and Jay. New Staff members, Mark Thompson - Deputy Head, Tracey Lancaster - LSA, Chris Sheppard - Tutor, Laura Gregg - LSA and Katherine Mears - LSA. Welcome all.

One of our biggest moments this term include Wessex Lodge School and Triskele Farm entering its first ever competitive school competition with 3 students travelling to Salisbury to race Go Karts against other schools from Wiltshire and finishing in a well deserved mid table position. Although a long evening all students represented their school with pride, a massive well done.

The introduction of our new school website and weekly highlights are now up and running and looking great thanks to the dedication and hard work of the team especially Josh Walker.

English and Math's have produced some excellent results with students gaining a variety of awards along with great work all over the school, students have been working together in small groups which is fantastic to see and friendships are being formed.

Well done all, have a lovely break and we welcome you back after Easter.

*Neil Gage – Executive Head*

## Included in this Newsletter;

- Middle School
- Home Cooking Skills
- Offsite P.E
- Offsite Education
- Mechanics
- Horticulture
- Motivational talk
- Art
- Grand opening



# Middle School

It has been a very productive term for Middle School, with many new projects underway.



In art, clay pots have been shaped using different techniques and knitting has been mastered in crafts



They have been studying Roman and Medieval history which included visits to the Roman baths, Nunney castle and the Bishop's palace in Wells.



Through games and play, the building blocks of language and number have been consolidated with students producing many fine pieces of work.



Students have gained confidence and knowledge in how to care for the farm animals and many an afternoon has been spent exploring local surroundings.



A weekly 'pop-up' café has been set up, producing tasty dishes that have been enjoyed by the school community. Shirley has been producing great invites and creating some yummy dishes.



Daniel has made some amazing food in his cooking sessions and now even has a professional chef's outfit!

# Home Cooking skills

This half term we have been cooking up lots of yummy things!

Taigne has been getting his chef skills up to scratch and has been learning the different aspects of a roast dinner. This has involved preparing Roast pork belly, apple sauce, roast potatoes, roast carrots, sprouts, broccoli and gravy. The aim in the next few weeks is to cook a full roast for a selection of staff and students.

Rhys Jopson has been owning the café Fridays. He has completed a couple of AQAs in café set up and food preparation.

Shannon has completed her BTEC level 1 assessment which involved her independently cooking cottage pie and it is soon going to be sent off for certification.

We will soon be having new student Neo joining us in the café and look forward to altering the menu and preparing some different choices for staff and students to enjoy.

We have welcomed a few new students to the world of home cooking skills this half term, Kai has been learning vegan food to be able to share with his mum and Alex has become the chocolate brownie king! Collectively we made lots of cakes for Red Nose Day and raised £26.05.



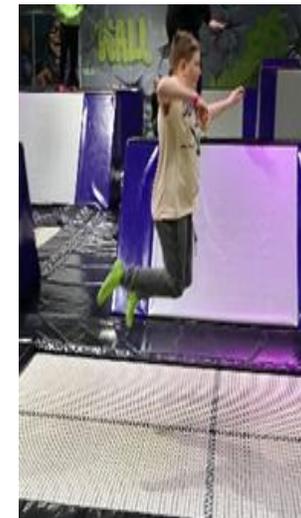
*Neo preparing some homemade chips*



*Rhys looming over Alex's tower of brownies ready for Red Nose Day.*



*Taigne enjoying his roast veg and gravy*



# Offsite Education

Many students have been enjoying days out and with the weather getting better, its been a great opportunity to explore new places whilst learning.



Aleea and Tutor, Dan, spent a day at Longleat Safari Park and got some great shots of the Animals, even a close up of a cheeky monkey! They also took a trip to Bath Cats and Dogs Home.



Tom and Tutor, Dan, recently explored Bristol and enjoyed observing the city's Graffiti Art and tucked in to some cultural world food! They also went to Haynes motor museum and took some great photo's.



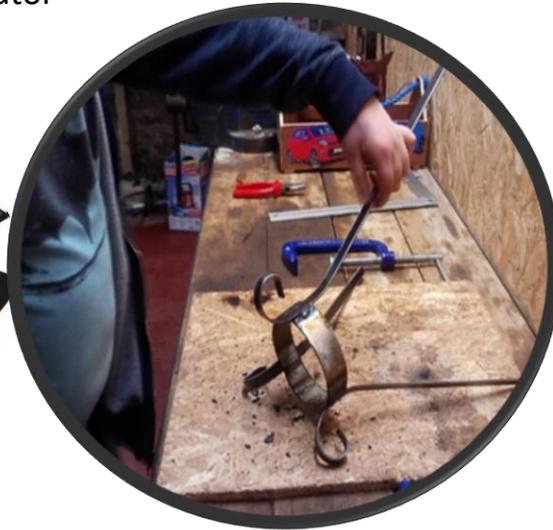
# Mechanics



We have had a good term in the Workshop. A little cold at times !  
There has been some great progression in the workshop and students have been taking ownership of their work and feeling proud whilst doing so. Well done to everyone who has taken part in Mechanics, you should be really proud of your hard work!

- Alan. Mechanics Tutor

We made a go kart from a sofa base and an old pram in two hours. Something I have never done before but our student was so keen I had to go with the enthusiasm.



I have introduced a new project for some students, we don't have a Forge (yet! Headmaster please?) So we have been cold bending on a mandrel, steel strips as one would forge wrought iron. We are all working on a joint big project for the future, but so far the individual projects are looking superb, and are testament to how much pride the lads take in their work when left to flourish



I was also able to take a team of 3 students to represent the School in the BSKC British Schools Karting Championships. Our team were up against some very experienced drivers wearing all the race gear, their own personalised race suits, sponsorship and helmets. The first session was at Wessex raceway, as a team we were nowhere near the bottom in the heats, and one of our drivers produced the 6th fastest lap, sadly we were unable to field a team in the next heats. I look forward to next year. Kieron, Rhys, and Jack you did yourselves and the school proud.

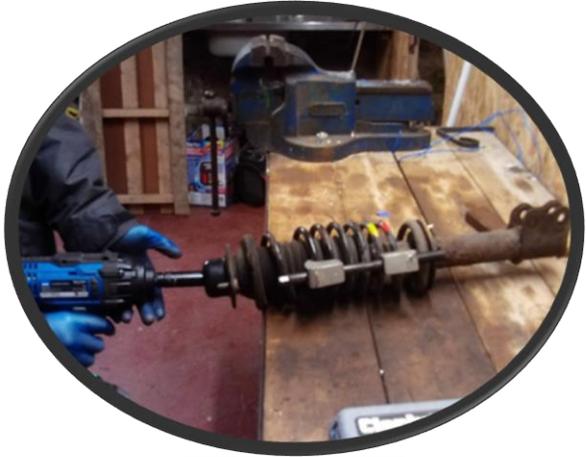




As usual the Little lawn tractors used on the Farm and for Gardening have kept the students busy with maintenance and repairs. The Students are all becoming experts now, I am able to supervise more rather than demonstrate how to carry out the repairs. We have some students that have chosen to work in Wood rather than Oil and Steel. So some nice examples of thought, design and diligence. We have accurate measuring, marking, sawing and Chiseling taking place, producing Bird boxes, Trivets, Tool boxes and Planters



Our Classic Mini Engine is pretty much in as many pieces as it could be, a real insight into the components of an Engine. Most students at this level have all taken part in stripping the cylinder head, removing and then lapping valves, removing piston and rings, Gearbox etc. We have diagnosed some parts are beyond repair, so if anyone has 4 pistons and rings for a 998cc A series engine, we have a home for them. All the students are excited for the day we can rebuild it and fire it up, minus an exhaust system of course.



Our little Nissan Micra has kindly allowed our students to prise brake and suspension components off her, then replace them in the correct order I should add. Also we have run the engine with the cam shaft covers off to observe the valve train operation, but best of all we removed the exhaust manifold so they can observe the 'Exhaust stroke' of a 4 stroke engine, noise smoke and flames, what more could mechanics student want!



One of the module exams the students take is to Change a wheel. On completion of this module, the Students have taken part in some healthy competition. Changing a wheel against the clock safely, in other words they still have to; chock the opposing wheel, jack the car, place an axle stand, remove wheels nuts, remove the wheel and place flat on the floor , refit wheel nuts and Torque in the correct order. It turns out we have a few competitive students ! The fastest time so far is Alex at 1:56.24, (that's just under 2 minutes) to put this in context, I, after a lot of secret practice after school hours have only managed 1:41.25-so far !

# Horticulture



*This term in Horticulture we have been making a Aquaponics bench which utilises the interaction between Fish and Plants, Rhys has been fantastic building the frame and painting the tank, we are looking forward to getting a pump and fish at a later stage.*

*Although early in the season a good crop of plants have already been started by the students, the new staff Laura, Tracey and Chris allowed for students to expand their interests and Ben and Rhys have also brought in their own seeds of Liquorice and Black Rose.*



*This term, Alea, Ben and Alex had an amazing opportunity to go and see Lemn Sissay's inspirational talk at Salisbury Cathedral. The talk was based on his first 18 years of growing up in care. He is well known from documentary 'Superkids: Breaking away from care.' The students had a great time and found it very inspiring.*



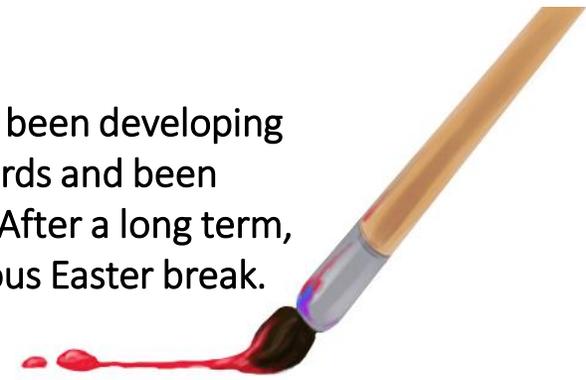
*“Reach for the top of the tree and you may get to the first branch but reach for the stars and you'll get to the top of the tree. My primary aim is to inspire and be inspired.”*  
Lemn Sissay





It's been another busy term for the Art department. Students have been developing their ideas and interests and working hard to achieve AQA Awards and been exploring a range of subjects within the Art and Design curriculum. After a long term, with dark mornings and evenings, I wish you all a bright and glorious Easter break.

Leah Roberts – Art Tutor



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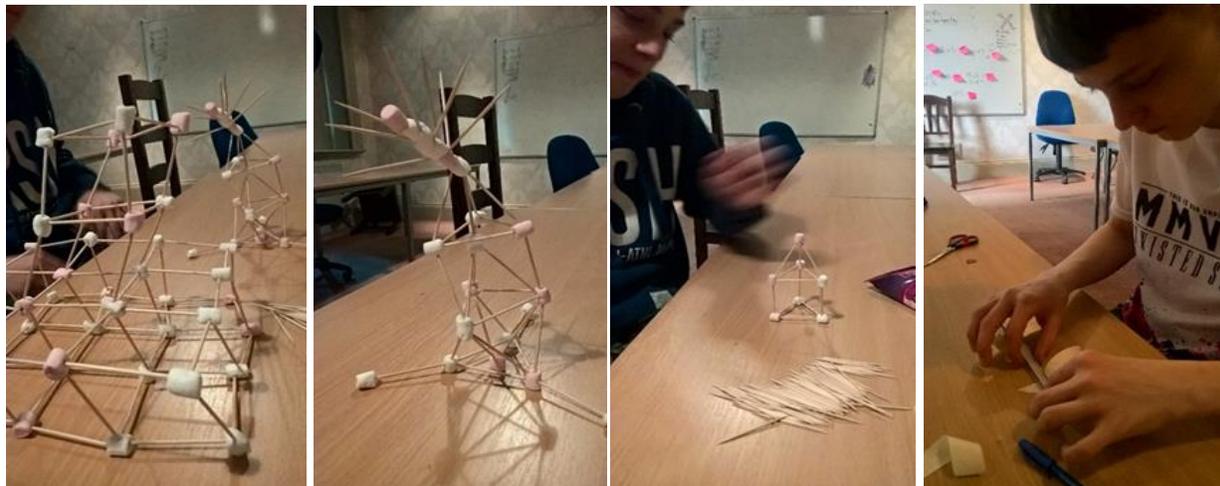
Cory made an impromptu visit to the Art room this week and discovered the joy of Acrylic drop and roll - working in partnership with another adult to create 2 beautiful pieces. Well Done Corey

Rhys started the term presenting canvases he and Jack created, to hang on the wall of the new training suite at Boreham Mill. He represented himself and the school with confidence, pride and dignity and we are very proud of Rhys's achievements since joining us at Wessex Lodge. In Art this term, Rhys has focused his creative energies on Pottery AQA's and has worked through the scientific process of separating the various materials to refine and produce his own wild dug clay. Rhys has created some beautiful glazed pieces and has started to learn the process of throwing clay on the kick wheel to make pots. I hope Rhys will develop his skill in the finer subtleties of throwing to be able to create a number of unique vessels.





This term Jack has demonstrated commitment to seeing projects through; working with clay to create a number of different styles of pot and achieving 2 AQA's as a result. Jack has shown particular interest in the glazing process and spent time considering how glazes work and the outcome of firing in a kiln. We've had to cope with some disappointment with inevitable breakages that occur with pottery, but I've admired Jack's fortitude and resilience in accepting this as part of the process.



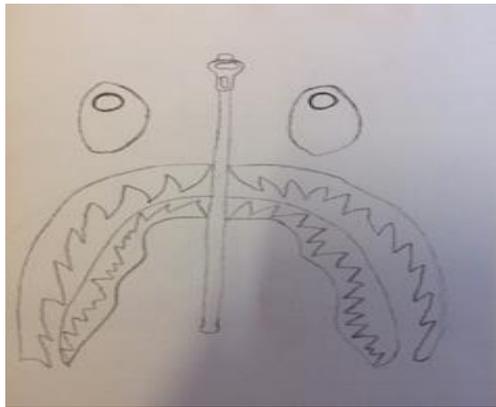
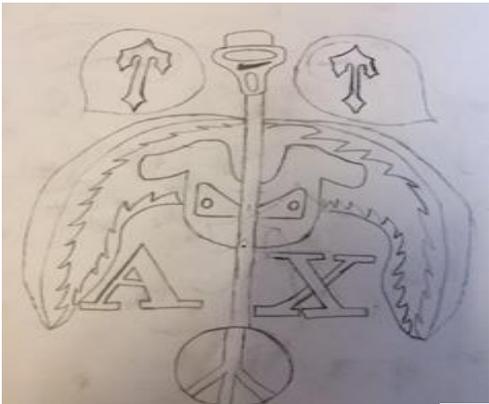
Kai is an absolute pleasure to teach and creates a strong sense of curiosity through his systematic thinking process. In Art this has enabled him to consider small projects for building 'arty' structures, using a range of materials. It's fantastic watching him work through ideas and make changes as he goes along. I look forward to more of the same next term.



Shirley has shown great maturity this term in accepting new adults. It's been such a pleasure and delight to begin to get to know her. She has started work on an AQA for creating Decoupage and, although the progress has been steady, Shirley shows determination and vision in understanding what she wishes to achieve. I'm hopeful we'll get the AQA completed next term and some lucky Equine teacher will be receiving a special and unique piece of furniture!



Levi has started to explore some of the more messy elements are Art – which is great fun and offers a therapeutic opportunity for growth and exploration. Levi's knowledge of the Slime making process has been impressive and obviously great fun!

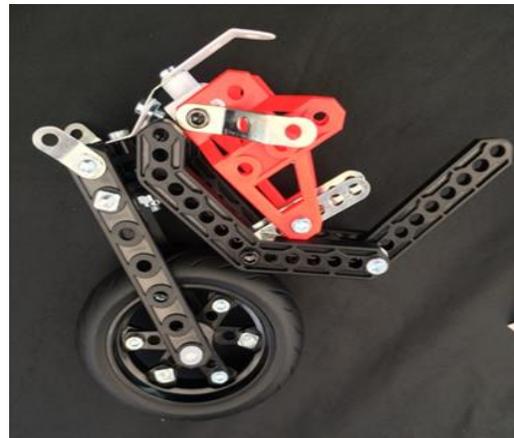


Ben has further developed his drawing skill this term, working through higher levels of AQA to finish with a final piece of excellent brand design. By pulling together logo's he already likes, Ben has created his own unique brand, which he transferred onto a t-shirt. Ben's commitment to his art is a shining example to us all and I'm incredibly proud of the work he is producing.

Lola has been an absolute delight to teach this term. She has embraced all there has been on offer in Art and Design – the pictures are too many to share! She did a lot of learning around drawing and understanding cartoons and this resulted in an amazing t-shirt design; using the exaggerated eyes and head to create a unique piece of work. The word 'exaggerate' will be firmly engrained in her mind, as she starts her new schooling adventure. Here are some of the highlights from Lola's time at Triskele Farm...



It's been great to begin to develop a therapeutic relationship with Dylan . He has shown absolute focus and determination in making a working model, using Meccano, towards an AQA for model making. Considering his love of motor bikes, building a Ducati seemed an obvious choice and Dylan is already explaining the pro's and cons compared to other bikes, as well as developing ideas for changes and improvements. This kind of planning and thinking is exactly what is needed in achieving accreditation; a massive achievement for Dylan. Look forward to more of the same next term!



Staff get to play with clay too – as part of a training day, we all created a simple pinch pot. These have been glazed and fired and returned to their proud creators.



# GRAND OPENING

Rhys presented 4 Season themed canvasses for the opening of the new Training Suite at Boreham Mill.

Both Rhys and Jacks canvasses look amazing and everyone who visits Boreham Mill can now enjoy them as much as we do!



Spring by Jack



Autumn by Rhys



Summer by Jack



Winter by Rhys

