

Head's Update

This half term is coming to a rapid end. The young people have been working and playing hard. Many will be taking their exams and many older students are preparing to leave Quorn Hall. Some of our students have been with us for many years, their departure into the next phase of their life is both exciting and challenging, we do not underestimate the support that they need at this time. Recently we have introduced assemblies and competitions! Many certificates and prizes have been awarded and the weekly sessions, both in Primary and Upper School are proving to be happy, celebratory events.

Summer is nearly here which means much more outside activity and fresh air. The primary school are using their tricycles, play equipment and enjoying the outside play whilst the upper school are heading for the basketball court.

I wish you all a happy half term holiday and look forward to, on our return to completing the year with you and the young people within your care!

Vanessa Bingham



Dates for your diary

HALF TERM: Monday 27th May -
Friday 31st May 2024

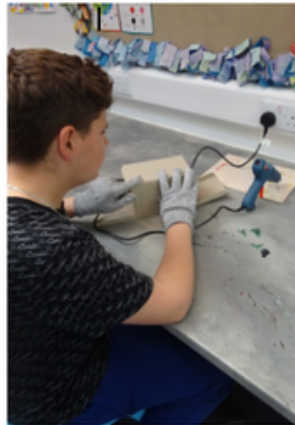
School Closes for Summer -
Wednesday 10th July 2024

Art

We've welcomed the sun this term, which has greatly inspired the school in Art! We are very lucky to have such beautiful grounds at QHS, offering great natural resources and outside spaces to conduct our Art sessions.



In the Stables this term the Spirit group have been using a range of 2D materials to draw birds. Pupils have completed observational drawings of bird feathers. They particularly enjoyed working with the peacock feather. The Black Beauty class have begun their 3D

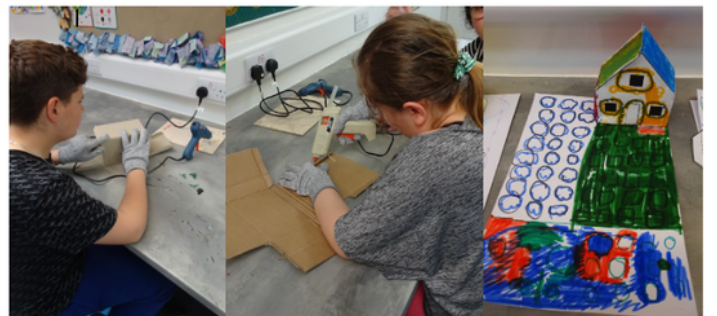


Art project using a range of recycled materials. Maximus completed their 3D models based on the work of Alberto Giacometti. We are currently learning about animation and how drawings can be animated. Pupils are also learning about the design process as an animator working in film and television.

In KS3, pupils have been learning about sculpture and inventiveness. Pupils have focused their studies on nests and birds in order to create organic artwork. Pupils were introduced to mod-roc as a method of creating a nest. Pupils have completed observational drawings based on materials found in the school grounds. This project is allowing pupils to trial and experiment with a range of media, building resilience and confidence.



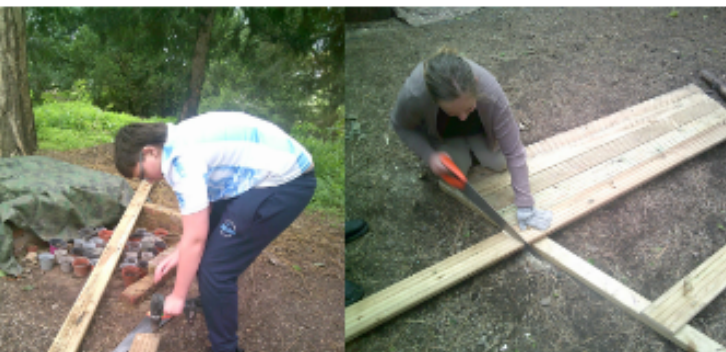
In KS4, pupils have been completing an architecture project. Pupils have focused their studies on artist and architect, Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Pupils have analysed his artwork and how that translates into his architectural design. They have also learnt about 3D modelling material and attachment methods when using cardboard, foam board and paper.



Forest School

Pupils have been helping to make a large wooden teepee structure in Forest School. The teepee is being made from decking board and will be approximately 8 feet high and 6 feet wide. Pupils are helping to create each of the four sides and cutting slats to fit. Once cut, pupils are screwing the planks down to secure them.

Kaydn, Alfie, Sadie and George are just a handful of pupils who have spent their time helping to create the teepee structure in Forest School.



Pupils are currently learning to mix mortar and to lay bricks to create a pizza oven. This has been an ongoing project and has slowly been gathering pace over the last few months. The log store portion of the pizza oven situated below the pizza oven itself is starting to take shape. Edward and Alfie have been amongst a number of pupils learning how to mix mortar and lay bricks.

Keystage 2 pupils have been learning how to create bark and leaf rubbings this term. They have been using the side of wax crayons to press down on paper to pick up the texture of a leaf or the tree bark underneath. They have been using various colours to fill out a page of A3 using a variety of leaves and tree bark to see which ones are the best.

Keystage 2 and some Keystage 3 pupils have been learning about coil pots and how various cultures around the world have used these throughout history. Pupils have been making their own coil pot designs using air drying clay. Once dried, the pots were then painted and taken home.

Several groups helped to plant various wildflower seeds in pots during their session in Forest School this term. Once planted the wildflowers will be replanted around the grounds of Quorn Hall School to help bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects and to provide a source of nectar and pollen over the summer months.



Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr

Pupils across the school learnt about Ramadan; the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and its significance to Muslims across the globe. Pupils showed curiosity towards those who were fasting in school and increased their understanding of the importance of fasting and what it entails for those who fast. We enjoyed a variety of activities across the school to incorporate Ramadan into our learning. In art, they covered Ramadan-themed activities. The brain break section in cooking had Ramadan-themed mindfulness sheets. Jamie in Forest School had some students look at making lanterns out of materials from the forest. Form tutors engaged their class groups in discussions and some decorated their classes for the festive period of Ramadan and Eid.



Then came the time for Eid Al Fitr. The celebration marks the end of the month of fasting. Word searches, colouring in sheets, recipe sheets and posters were shared. In English some pupils completed comprehension work on Eid Al Fitr. The dining halls were dressed for an Eid feast with a special menu. Anna, our Food Tech Teacher made wonderful treats for the whole school to enjoy. The month of Ramadan and the celebration of Eid across our school help develop our pupils' understanding of the month and appreciation of our differences. It supported strengthening their respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and backgrounds, all contributing to our British Values.



Food Technology

This term in Food Technology pupils have been working on essential cookery skills and they have mastered chopping, dicing, whisking, frying, simmering and the weighing of ingredients. They have shown themselves to be responsible and sensible with a wide range of equipment. Building on from these skills the pupils have shown they can transfer these skills onto many different recipes. They have made sandwiches, samosas, cakes and scones to name a few!



Science

The Robins and Macaws classes have been learning about the human body. To learn about the human skeleton we had a competition to see who could draw the most realistic human skeleton using gingerbread men and icing.



Woodpeckers have been studying Chemistry this term. This is a demonstration we had on the reaction of different metals in water in order to investigate the reactivity series. We have also been investigating the conditions needed to prevent rust forming on an iron nail.



The Jackdaws investigated the effect of acid rain by dissolving marble chips in acid.

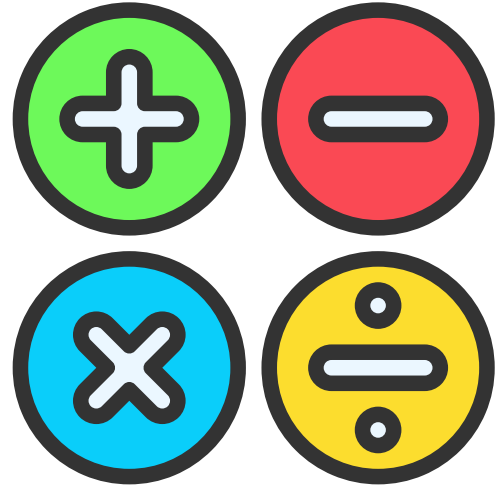
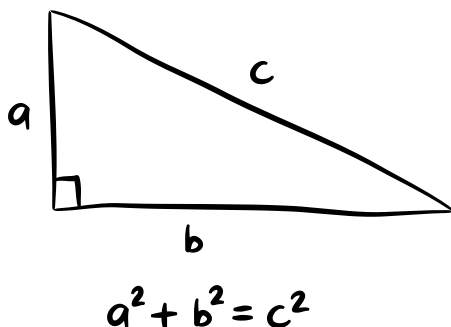
Maths

Everyone has been working really hard in Maths this term – especially the older classes who are preparing for their examinations.

The Starlings class have been making the final push towards their GCSE examinations, the first exam was on Thursday 16th May. We study for the Eduqas board which has two papers both 2hr 15 mins long. All our pupils are eligible for access arrangements such as extra time so that means that if they want to use it they can have up to another 33 minutes which is a lot of Maths time!

The second exam – the calculator paper – is on the first Monday after half term 3rd June, so I hope that the pupils will be putting in some good revision time over the break.

I am so proud of the group for how hard they have worked over this last year and they have been ably supported by Heidi their Form Tutor and Alex their TA. Thank you for all the extra time you have dedicated to giving them that personal attention to build their confidence. All of them have given their absolute best so whatever grade they finally achieve they should be delighted!



There is also an opportunity to take Functional Skills Level 1 this term and this is being sat by eight pupils from Starlings, Kingfishers and Jackdaws. Mike, our exams officer, has organised this and it is administered under more formal conditions than the Entry Level examinations and so can only be taken during certain windows of time. As with GCSEs the papers are sent off to be marked rather than assessed in-house so we will await the results. Well done everyone who is working through the Entry Levels and this shows how successful both our GCSE and Functional Skills pathways in Maths are proving to be in terms of attainment and progress.

Finally thank you to Lydia and the staff in The Stables who put in the groundwork – providing our pupils with firm foundations in numeracy skills and understanding from which to grow into the capable mathematicians we see in the senior years. Long may it continue.

Spirit

Spirit class has been enjoying a new scheme of work for phonics called Little Wandle. They are enjoying learning new sounds and how to say and form them correctly. We have been playing lots of games and reading our new phonics books. Everyone is learning to sound out and blend new words using the letters we have learned and doing actions to learn them. We particularly enjoy playing our "Change It" game where we start with a word and have to change it into other words by listening and changing the sounds. We have been trying really hard to put the new sounds we have learned into our learning and writing in other lessons.



This term the Spirit class has also looked at a book called Leon and the Place Between by Angela McAllister. The class have really enjoyed this wonderfully illustrated book and it has definitely brought out their imaginative side. Here are their views on the book;

“My favourite part is when we found out the magician is called Abul Kazam”.

“My favourite part was when the magician seemed scary but actually he isn't scary”.

“I liked how Leon rescued the bunny”.

Black Beauty

The Black Beauty class have been working hard this term, not only on their academic work but also their mental health and motor skills.

We have enjoyed meditation and deep breathing, working on our emotions and understanding our feelings. The pupils have also had a great time making slime as part of a project to work on their fine motor skills. We have been really proud of the pupils and how hard they have been working on their phonics, reading, maths and science this term too!



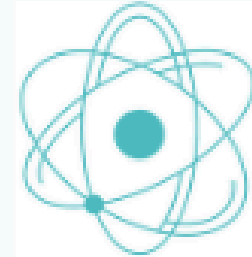
Duke of Edinburgh

It's been a busy time in DofE sessions this half-term. Taking place in the last week of April, across two days and one night, members of the Starlings group completed their Bronze DofE assessed expedition. Encompassing two walks and a night of camping out in a tent, the Starlings students had to demonstrate their competency against 20 conditions. Ranging from supplying and cooking their own meals, to walking for six hours each day by their own physical effort without outside assistance, the Starlings students completed their expedition with flying colours.

As a result of this, and the completion of the other sections of the award (physical, volunteering and skills) the Starlings students will shortly receive the coveted Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which is highly valued by both employers and educational institutions. Other groups within the school are also working towards the Bronze DofE Award and more expeditions, which should take place before the summer break, are in the planning stage.



May 2024



Run or Walk 5k for Autism Awareness



On Friday 14th June staff and pupils will be taking part in a 5k walk or run to raise funds for the National Autistic Society. Please find us on Just Giving to donate!