



Frewen College Newsletter

Autumn Term 2022 October

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Dear Parents,

We are already half-way through the first term, and lots has been going on, as you will see on the following pages.

The new students who we welcomed in September have settled in well, and I hope they are enjoying the different approach at Frewen.

Frewen students have, typically, started off in mainstream schools, but the levels of dyslexia support required has been less than they have required, and they have struggled with the pressures and in many cases, developed levels of anxiety.

In order for us to get the best out of students at Frewen, and to avoid further anxiety, we do our best to make the work accessible and, where possible, fun, through the use of dyslexia-friendly strategies, and through encouragement, and the development of a "can-do" approach.

Of course, ultimately our students' progress is measured against national expectations, and they take external exams such as GCSE. Mock exams are a good opportunity to practice for these, with real exam questions, under similar conditions. But it is a practice – it is fine to get things wrong, and to make mistakes, and to learn from them.

Some of our Year 11 students have been getting anxious about the forthcoming mocks, and it has made us review our approach to testing.

There is a saying "Weighing a pig doesn't make it fatter". Students can find testing stressful, or boring – and the time spent being tested could be used for further learning.

A good teacher (which includes all at Frewen) will use "Assessment for Learning" to check learning in other ways, and formal testing – especially for our students – should only be necessary occasionally.

We have therefore decided to adopt a policy whereby students do not undergo formal tests in a given subject more than once every half term. Middle Leaders are reviewing their curriculum to ensure that this is the case.

We are sure that the additional learning, and lower levels of anxiety, are the best way of achieving the best results.

I would like to finish by wishing Year 11 all the best in their mocks. Do your best – but don't get stressed! (I just made that up!)

Have a good half term!

Nick Goodman
Principal



Vice Principle Katie Skinner

Hello everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Vice Principal of Frewen College.

The start of term has gone very quickly for me, whilst I have been learning all the processes and nuances of school life at Frewen, but I have been consistently impressed by the dedication of our staff, the tenacity of our students within their learning and how supportive our pupils are to one another.

I have also been very grateful for everyone's patience and good humour whilst I attempt to learn and remember their names with varying degrees of success!

I feel very privileged to be at Frewen College, and I look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Katie Skinner

Vice Principal



Miss Katie Skinner

Vice Principle

Finalist Junior School of the Year

Finalist in the ISA Junior School of the Year category

This week we have celebrated with the pupils when we found out that Frewen Prep is a finalist in the ISA Junior School of the Year category. We toasted the announcement in our assembly with delicious cupcakes provided by our wonderful catering team.



Prep News by Sally Welch

Pupils at the prep school have been learning all about what life was like for children during WW2.

Pupils met Percy who told them all about his experience of being evacuated from Hastings to Luton when he was just 6 years old. Pupils joined several other schools and travelled on the steam train in authentic clothes on their own evacuation day. They all had their identity cards and gas masks with them and benefited greatly from talking to a number of characters on the train who all added to this first hand experience.



Pupils at the prep have also been busy with their sport. We are part of a local group of primary schools who combine for various events. So far this term we have participated in a Year 5/6 football tournament, attended the play-leaders event and hosted a cross country event in our beautiful parkland. We always feel very proud of our pupils for giving their best, even when we are up against much bigger schools than ours.



Prep News Breaking Down Barriers

Pupils at Frewen College have been participating in Dyslexia Awareness Week. This year's theme is 'Breaking Down Barriers'.

Pupils have been thinking about the strategies they use to overcome their own barriers to learning. The Prep School pupils shared their ideas:

"I find it difficult to remember things so I use pictures and notes to help me"

"I find reading hard and so I use the reading button on the computer"

"I don't know my left and right and so I use my hands to help"

"I prefer to talk to the computer instead of typing"

To help get the message across, pupils enjoyed breaking down a huge wall which had been constructed in front of the school.



Boarding News by Sarah Medcraft

It has been a busy start to this academic year for boarding. We have welcomed seven new boarders who have now all settled in our community, finding their feet and making new friends as well as two new members of staff in the Boys House: Mr Potter and Mr Sansiviero.



Mr John Potter
Housemaster



Mr Roberto Sansiviero
Assistant Housemaster

During the summer our Maintenance Team were busy working through a rolling programme to upgrade boarding. The boys have been delighted that the showers have now moved away from tanks and onto mains water supply, increasing the pressure and temperature control. The Girls' House now has a lovely private garden space which we look forward to being able to make use of.

Weekends have been increasingly popular with a record number of 18 students choosing to stay in. It is a lovely problem to have deciding what activities we are able to do with them all!! So far, the Ninja Warrior inflatable course followed by all you can eat buffet has been the highlight, with paddleboarding and catch and release fishing coming in as close second!

Looking towards next half term brings in thoughts of Halloween, Bonfire Night and daring we say it... CHRISTMAS!!

The Boarding Team



English by Rebecca Lowe

To commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II



The English Department spent a couple of days paying tribute to Her Majesty. We reflected on her reign, her charity work and her long years of service. Some students made commemorative cards, whilst others researched her many achievements.

During this period of reflection, two incredible stories, with links to Frewen College, came to light. Isobel Lukehurst revealed that her great aunt is related to Sir Ranulph Fiennes who is 6th cousin to Prince Charles. We also found out that Beth Jones's grandparents raised an enormous amount of money for charity. Her grandfather pulled a ten-foot banana from Buckingham Palace to Windsor Castle where they had a reception with the Queen. As a result of their charity work, they were subsequently invited to a number of Her Majesty's garden parties.



Roald Dahl Day

To commemorate him and his achievements, Roald Dahl Day happens every year around his birthday on the 13th October. The event celebrates the author's characters, stories and life.

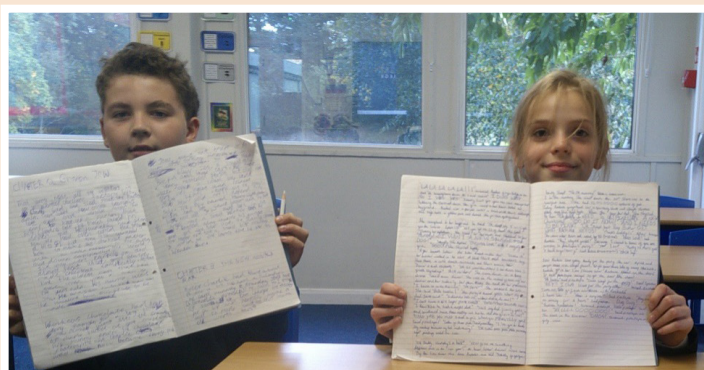
This year our year 7 students (who are studying Charlie and the Chocolate Factory as their class reader) celebrated the day by creating fact files and posters. As you can see, some of the entries were truly magnificent.

Budding Authors

Sometimes even the oldest of very old teachers can be completely befuddled, bemused and bewildered by the amazing talent shown by their students. And this is exactly what happened with my year 7 class recently. As part of a creative writing assignment the students planned and created a character based on the unpleasant children in 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. The results were seriously astounding.

With incredible artistic and collaborative flair, Edie and Lily have created their own characters but their stories interlink, with them both attending the same party. The writing is so clever and compelling that I am sure many famous writers could not have come up with an idea so good.

After about 3 lessons of solid writing, I was getting slightly worried, I asked Isaac if he had nearly finished and he told me that he had only reached chapter 3! Isaac's story is a sequel to the original novel, where Charlie is a 43 year old man having taken over the factory. Here is the opening (Next Page).



English by Rebecca Lowe

The Prologue

Sine Mr Willy Wonka had given his chocolate factory to Charlie Bucket, Wonka had completely disappeared. It was as if he had vanished from the face of the earth. There was absolutely no sign of him at all. He was gone completely but his morals and his chocolate recipes still stayed the same.

Charlie was now a man of 43 years old but he still remembered what Willy Wonka had told him, "to make sure the factory remained a magical place and not get distracted by competing chocolate makers telling him to up the price of chocolate bars or to make them smaller and faster".



National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day took place on Thursday 6th October and, to celebrate, the English Department dropped our usual curriculum to take part in the 'Young Writers' 'Power of Poetry' Competition. This year the National Poetry day's focus was the environment. Below are just a few of the entries.

Our Earth

Our earth is special there is just one.
It gives us water, soil and sun.
People and animals share the land.
Let's all lend a helping hand!

You can save water and plant a tree.
You can make a better home for you and me.
Recycle things, don't throw away.
Make every day a special earth day.

Isaac Hall, Year 11

Free Styles

The swamp so very dark
Giving me a question mark
Though the mangrove bark
The fish pray on the moonlight bay
Disobeying nature's way
Wonderous things happen in the swamp.

The concrete jungle
Building on what is not its own
Merciless on what it owns
Destroying the owner's home
The tamarin moving all on its own
With noisy machinery saying go home!

The turtle gracefully
Goes through the ocean
Full of the notion
That this thing
Was for him
But really it was just bag
Trying to make him gag
but it was a black flag.

Oscar Bracken, Year 9 age 13

Big, Big Promise

Earth, Earth, we stole its worth ,
Its just like a witch's curse
And now I write this lonely letter
To call on you to make things better.
Maybe, just maybe if we try
Our baby will not cry
because we're helping the earth die.
Long ago we told a lie
that we could all live together
perfectly balanced like a feather.

Rufus Flynn, Year 9, Age 13 years

English by Rebecca Lowe

Library Lift Off

Ed Nevey and Bradley Barnes are two of our new librarians.



The Frewen College library is about to become a little more exciting. This term tutor groups have each elected a librarian to help our students have a more hands on relationship with the library. The group will meet once a month, they will be involved in choosing new titles and arranging events around the library and reading.

Copy and Paste link for Frewen College Literacy Calendar

<https://www.frewencollege.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1713&type=pdf>

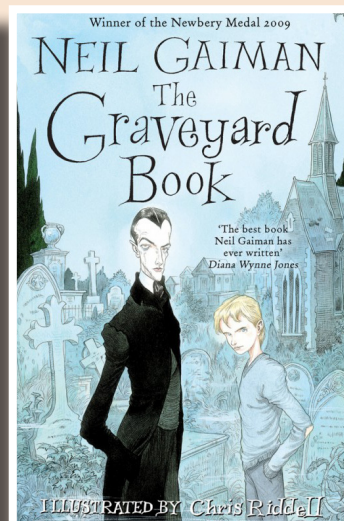
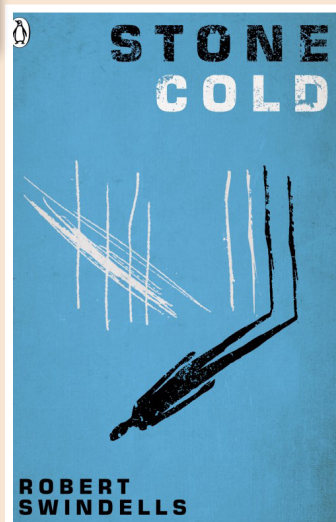
After half term, the librarians will be meeting to decide what new books we would most like to buy but if anybody has any suggestions of their own, please do let me know by emailing me at Rebecca.lowe@frewencollege.co.uk

'Stone Cold' by Robert Swindells (Mrs Lowe and Year 9)

This half term year 9 have been studying the novel 'Stone Cold'. With the central theme of homelessness, the story follows the protagonists, Link a young 16 year old homeless boy and the antagonist Shelter, an ex-military murderer.

Oscar Bracken says, "it is an intriguing and moving plot with lots of twists and turns".

Rufus Flynn says, "the premise is interesting and I really like the way Swindells, the author portrays the life of homeless people".



The Graveyard Book (Ms Taylor-Wade and Year 8)

Ms Taylor-Wade's Year 8 group are currently studying 'The Graveyard Book' by Neil Gaiman as their class reader. After all his family is killed by an assassin called Jack, Bod is taken in by the residents of the local graveyard. The book follows his life and journey from child to adult.

James Young says "It is a fantastic read. My favourite character is Silas. He is a mysterious and unknown character, who we think may be a vampire."

Jake Collier-Hesmer says "I am really enjoying the book but I wouldn't recommend reading it at night in the dark."

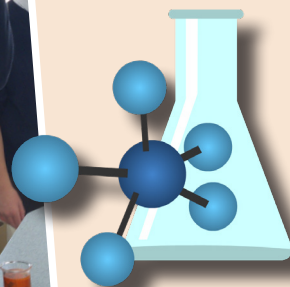
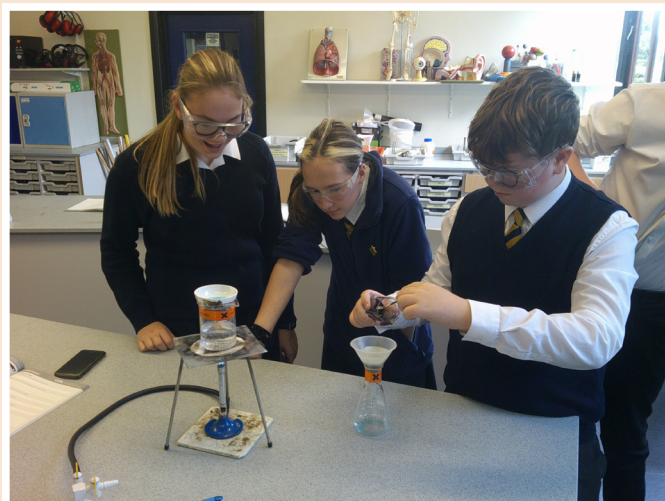
Science by Scott Wassell

Welcome to a new academic year in the science department. Our first port of call is to welcome Marianne O'Connor into our department. Mrs O'Connor replaces Miss Falder who has taken the Head of Mathematics position here at Frewen.

The year 7's have had their first opportunity to take lessons inside and outside the lab. Here we can see them using recycled materials to replicate structures found in cells and using the microscopes after making their own slides.



The year 10's have been very busy with them undertaking several of the required experiments needed for their GCSE's since coming back from the summer holidays. Here we can see the set up to measure the rate of photosynthesis in biology, making a soluble salt and undertaking a titration in chemistry.



Art by Duncan Sangster

There has been some incredible work produced in the short time we have been back. As always, the key stage 3 students have returned full of ideas, buzzing with enthusiasm and ready to try new techniques and materials.

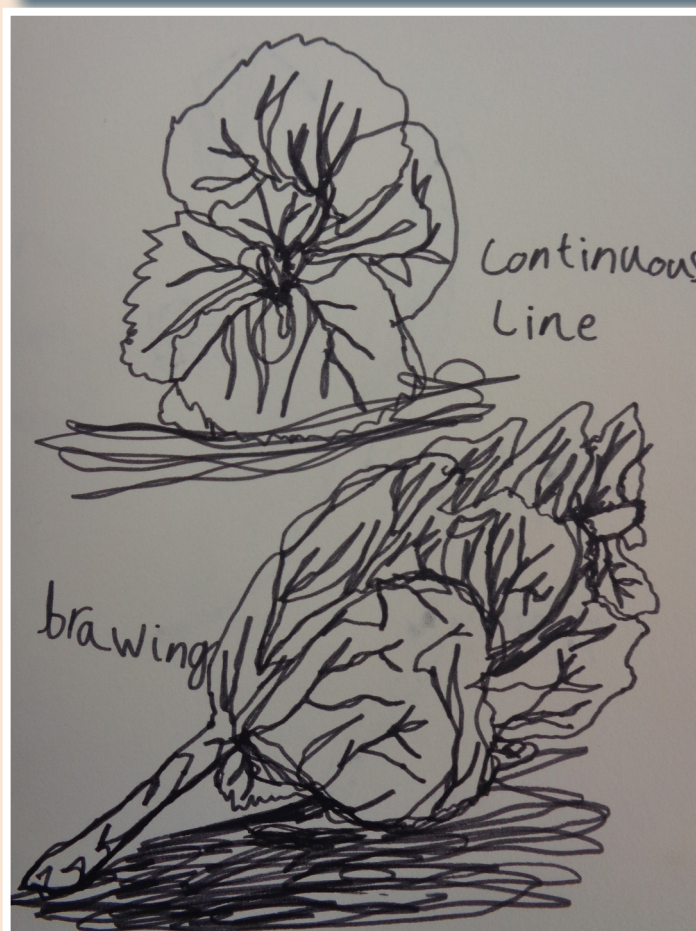
Year 7 have been mainly looking at mark making and exploring how to draw using various marks, as well as creating marks out of self-made brushes. They've been drawing largely from primary observation and have showed a huge improvement in terms of looking carefully and including as much detail as possible. In the last few weeks, as part of Black History Month, we have been responding to the incredible work of Chakaia Booker, who's print making and sculptures have made students consider how to make their 2D observations more 3D.



Year 8 are focussing on beachscapes by responding to artists such as James Boswell and John Piper. They've mainly been using ink combined with big brushes, salt, paper towels and wax and had a jolly good time experimenting with marks and composition. We are hoping to go down to Hastings Stade at some point before Christmas to collect various visual stimuli, that will form part of their final pieces, so watch this space!

Year 9 have been looking at art in context, and in particular post war, modern art. They have been looking at the gloomy yet captivating map-like work of Prunella Clough, using monprinting to create their own responses to 'Wasteland'. They've also been looking at the work of plant-obsessed, ex RAF pilot turned photographer Nigel Henderson, and creating post atomic plant forms in 2D and 3D in response.

All in all an incredibly productive and exciting first half term - well done key stage 3!



Drama by Claire Jackson

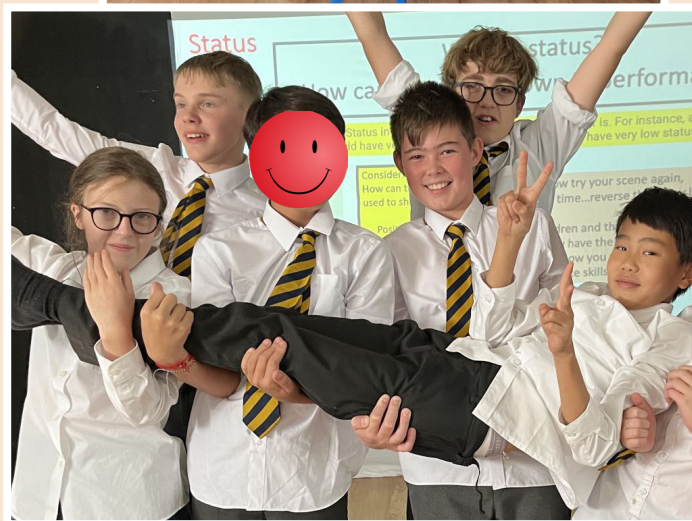
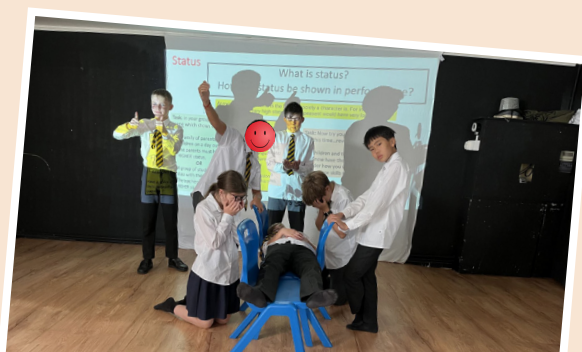
Our **Year 7s** have started their drama journey with fantastic energy, learning how to make tableaux, use mime and understanding narrative structure to create some extremely interesting pieces of drama. Meanwhile, the Year 8's have been learning the key skills of stage combat making the drama studio a very interesting place to be! They have choreographed their own fight sequences and have begun work on the next stage, sword fighting. Learning stage combat in Year 8 gives them an understanding of how to structure complex movements and apply health and safety rules so that no one actually ever gets slapped!

Year 9 have been studying the play Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah, adapted by Lemn Sissay. It's been impressive to hear the students discuss the themes within this play and use naturalistic and non-naturalistic techniques to try and place themselves in the shoes of someone very different from themselves.

Year 10 have started studying The Crucible by Arthur Miller as the first of three very different plays for their Btec course. They have made a great start exploring and applying naturalistic theatre techniques used for this production as well as costume and set design. Year 11 are also working hard completing their scripted performances and theatre design pitches.

It's been very satisfying to see so much potential and hard work being done by our students this term.

And finally, a date for the diary. After a long break, we are finally rehearsing for a **Frewen College Christmas show** that parents can attend. **The date is 7th Dec at 6pm.** A reminder will be sent out in good time. Dust off your elf hats, get out your sparkly jumpers and see you there!



PE by Joanne Hambleton

Year 7 and 8 Team Building Day

Throughout September we took the Year 7 and 8s off timetable for action packed day of outdoor education and team building. The students got to take part in lots of different activities such as Woodland scavenger Hunt, team building, Nightline, Bushcraft and making their own Woodland Gnomes. I was really impressed with how the Year 7s worked with each other and it was a lovely opportunity for them to get to know different people within the year and work with different people. Year 8s did particularly well at the fire starting and all 5 of our groups managed to get a fire going and keep it alight. They showed teamwork and determination to complete keep them going. Well done.

Overall a really enjoyable few days and a valuable way to start the term.



Cross Country Event

On Thursday we hosted our annual Primary cross country cluster event. Inviting 7 local primary school to run a course on our beautiful grounds. The course took them across the fields for either 1 or two laps. It was lovely to see so many people taking part including the Frewen Prep school. Well done to all those who took part and the Year 10 GCSE PE class who helped marshall the event.



Bushcraft by Deborah Hurford-Jones

The Year 11 Bushcraft students have been working very hard this term on a number of projects. The spent an interesting morning at Pets at Home looking at all of the animal care products and also finding out about the legalities of buying and selling animals. This unit of work is helping students to see the responsibilities and implications of looking after animals.

They have also just been on a visit to Rye Harbour where they were exploring the flora and fauna of the shoreline. They found a variety of edible plants including Sea Buckthorn which proved a little too bitter for their tastes! The students also examined a variety of seashore finds under microscopes and were able to find out how some of the plants and animals have adapted for survival in the harsh harbour environment. Birdwatching in the hide was a new experience for them all and we saw a variety of waders, gulls and the impressive Cormorants and Egrets. As a result of their visit, they will be producing some learning resources for students at the prep school to help develop their knowledge and love of the seashore. The students behaved impeccably and were rewarded with a fantastic view of a Kingfisher just before returning to the minibus.

The latest ongoing project for this group is the building of an iron age roundhouse in the parkland. They are utilising all of their practical skills from snedding green wood, to sawing and positioning large uprights. As the project progresses, they will be sourcing clay and leylandii for the walls and roof. This will be a resource for the use of others in the school and wider community when completed.

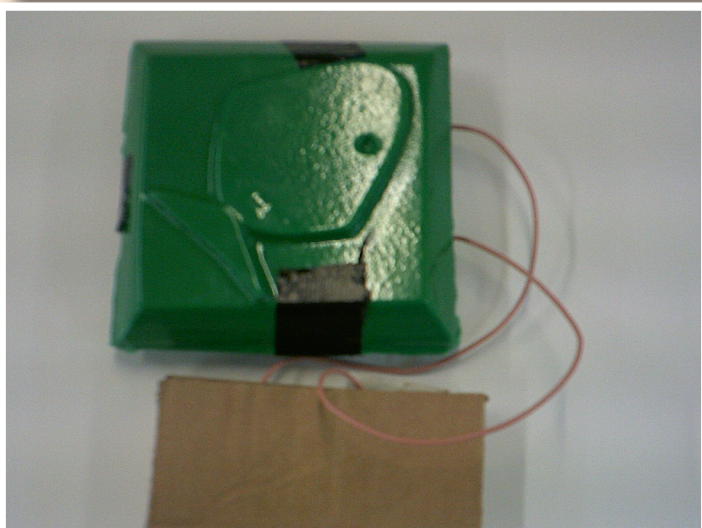
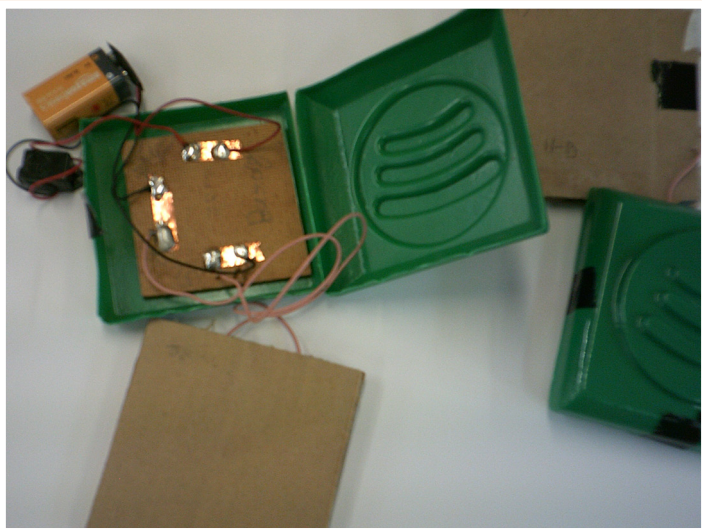


DT by Stefan Lerbech

A big welcome to our new DT teacher Marea Saunders and all the fantastic year 7s that have been diving straight in to the Aroma fruit project. They start off with block of wood and through sawing, filing, sanding and adding a scented oil create a small memorabilia that could last them a life time. This projects gives our students a good grounding in using the basic tools and prepares them for later in their school life.

Building on their experiences from last year, the Year 8's are on to an alarm project that combines the CAD/CAM we began last year with vacuum forming plastics and soldering a simple circuit, they are racing ahead on this and doing really well!

Bringing us to the 9s who have now perfected their saw ability and a whizzing through shaping their hardwood bottle openers getting ready to move on to preparing the metal parts.



News from the Garden by Daniel

We are now selling squash and pumpkins at the front of the main house (reception) prices are only a guide and any donations will be gratefully received to go towards the purchase of seeds and sundries for use in garden clubs.

Autumn meadow work has now been completed, the meadows have been cut back, the cut grass has been removed from the site and yellow rattle seed has been sown to aid in reducing the grass species and encouraging more space for wildflowers. The fruit trees in the meadow orchard have been mulched and protected with fencing to keep the deer away!

We have started work in the parkland. The bushcraft students are building an iron age roundhouse! The brambles and invasive Turkey Oak will be cleared to open the space and return the area to its former glory!

In the next year we hope to remove all the brambles, create dead hedges around the trees and create a pathway through the parkland. The bluebells, wood anemone and primula should then re colonise the space and during the summer grass and wildflower meadows will be established.

The Mother and Child statue has been repaired and is now placed on the Library Lawn. I'm not sure of the origins of the statue...?

Hopefully it won't get damaged again in its new home.

