

QUORN HALL
SCHOOL

May 2023

Head's Update

Hello everyone, and what a busy term we have had, packed with lots of activities, two bank holidays and a coronation! Our Key Stage Four pupils have accomplished a significant milestone this year, as they have taken exams ranging from Entry Level Functional Skills to GCSE Art for the very first time. I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support throughout the exam series. Your encouragement has played a crucial role in our pupils' success, and I am immensely proud of their achievements. The journey towards these exams demanded perseverance and hard work from our pupils. They have shown incredible dedication, and their accomplishments go beyond just the grades they receive. These exams have helped them grow, gain valuable skills, and boost their confidence. I also want to acknowledge our exceptional staff who have worked tirelessly to prepare our pupils. Their commitment and expertise have contributed greatly to our pupils' progress.

We have also been busy with less traditional learning, including celebrating the spring season and all that it has to offer, our bees produced honey for the first time and our Queen has moved to a new hive, this is all very exciting and we are hoping that a new queen will be born very soon. Can I say a huge thank you to the staff and pupils involved with this, it is so important for the environment and they are certainly braver than me!

We are transitioning our pupils into their new classes shortly after after half term, we do appreciate how difficult change can be our young people, but also how important early, and supported transition is so that they can achieve their goals. We thanks for your help in supporting with this.

I do hope you get to have a restful half term, and enjoy the weather.

Art

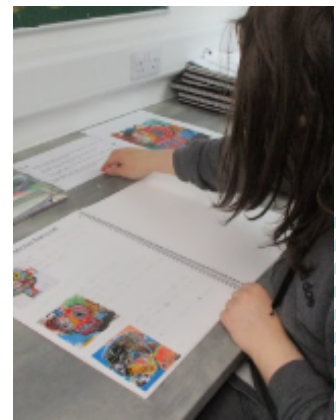
This term we are welcoming the sun and the opportunity to complete artwork in the beautiful grounds of Quorn Hall School. Each group has been working hard to develop their skills and theory within Art and Design. It has been a particularly busy term as Flamingos completed their 10-hour practical exam. Pupils showed great passion and enthusiasm towards their projects, making it an enjoyable experience for all.

In The Stables, we have been focusing on the theme 'Kings and Queens'. Pupils have created crafts in preparation for King Charles III Coronation. We have also been developing weaving techniques to create a castle design. The Stables have made the most of the sunshine as we took some of our art sessions outside. Pupils used paint and shaving foam to create a marbled effect on paper. Toucans and Magpies have continued their understanding of Pop Art. We have focused our research on Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol. Pupils have worked hard to create call out boards based on Lichtenstein designs. All Pupils used a range of materials to create prints. Emus have been introduced to Yayoi Kusama and her abstract artwork. Kusama sees each person as a dot, which is a big influence in her dotted style artwork. Emus have been developing their monoprinting knowledge to recreate Kusama designs.

Swans have been introduced to optical illusion themes this term. Pupils have used weaving techniques to create a cube optical illusion. They used oil pastels to create their own designs to cut into weaving strips. Pupils will continue to look into op artists like Bridget Riley and Charles McGee.

Ravens have began an Aboriginal Art project. They have learnt about art indigenous to Australia and the cultural influences on the artwork produced. The Ravens have started with 'dot art' and created images using acrylic paint and cotton buds.

Flamingos have been very busy this term as they have completed their 10-hour GCSE exam. Pupils created a final piece on their chosen theme based on techniques they have been developing in the previous term. The pupils worked tremendously hard and showed great enthusiasm and stamina in the exam. We are wishing them all the best.



Beekeeping

This month of May has been full of activity in and out of the hive. The bees were expected to swarm in mid May to mid June/July, and as the new hive was being constructed, the original queen had apparently swarmed as we couldn't find her at all. She must have taken all of the flying bees with her (although she has left thousands of bees behind to look after the hive). This may have happened during the May Day bank holiday weekend, although bees are only supposed to swarm in mid May but due to climate change (global warming and weather changes, etc.) she decided to take off to fly to pastures. Swarming can take anything from 10 minutes to a whole day to do but by Wednesday 10th May the hive was in a flurry with bees flying everywhere. Luckily the new hive had just been built and placed in the hive enclosure that morning and the idea was to split the hive, taking some of the broods containing the queen eggs/larvae and to place them in the new hive, leaving some of the broods containing queen eggs/larvae in the original hive in the hope that 2 queens will emerge to take over each hive. We have been instructed to leave the hives for at least a week to let them settle down after their upheaval and turmoil and then to open the hives up to observe if the new queens have emerged.



Science

The pupils in our houseplant enterprise successfully managed to grow cucumbers, tomatoes and leeks from scratch and these were sold to staff. Don't worry, we haven't forgotten about our houseplants. The pupils learned how to repot these and we are waiting for them to grow a bit larger before we sell them.

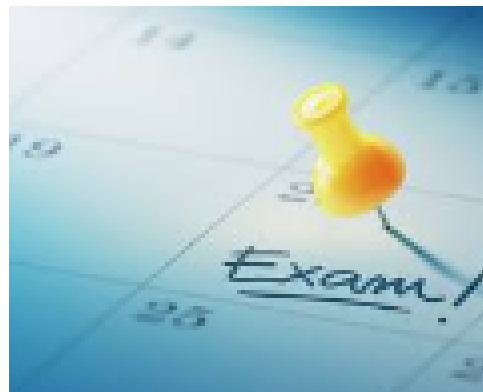
We now have our Chromebooks in science and so we have been learning about how we can use them in our lesson from virtual tours through the human body to experiments in virtual laboratories!

Most of our science lessons are now posted in google classroom which means that lessons can be accessed anywhere at any time as long as you have access to the internet. Our aim is to create a bank of resources for pupils to access; from educational documentaries about the jungles and oceans to becoming a citizen scientist and discovering galaxies for scientists in real life!

English

A huge well done to the Flamingo class who have been revising for their English Language GCSE over the past half term. The class have been relentlessly completing past exam papers to fine tune their skills. They have also written all sorts of creative writing from pieces on lonely cabins to dramatic plane crashes. We would like to wish you all good luck for the exams which take place after half term.

This term the Emu class has started a topic on Awesome Adventures. So far the class have written their own adventure story and read about a very adventurous tortoise. The class are working on improving their reading and writing skills. We have also started to use 'SpellZone' an online platform to work on improving spellings. The pupils are enjoying using the Chrome Books and the fun games, like space invader spelling!



P.E

Physical Education at Quorn Hall School has focused on a variety of sports and physical movements, specifically in The Stables. The pupils in Lower School have continued to explore their fundamentals of movement scheme of work, whilst challenging themselves with Athletics and Tennis schemes of work. In key stage three, pupils have focused heavily on an athletics scheme of work, and a tennis scheme of work. The school has now invested in a professional table tennis table, which has been a huge success for engaging a variety of pupils in the school. The PE department has a lot of exciting activities in planning for the summer term, including new sports fixtures, educational trips, and more.

Extra-Curricular Sport

The school has continued to work alongside Leicester Riders Basketball in the delivery of coaching every Monday and Wednesday. Additionally, the school has taken part in various Basketball fixtures away from school. The basketball team have now played six games, and won all six including a local SEN tournament at the Leicester Riders Morningside Arena. Table tennis has continued to grow with more and more pupils participating during well-being time on a regular basis. We are looking forward to the second summer term where we will be focusing on Rounders and striking and fielding sports, whilst also continuing to foster the engagement in a variety of sports.

Computing

Most groups have been working towards their qualifications with various assessments and exams taking place. Pupils have shown great resilience and commitment.

Some pupils from Emus, Magpies and Toucans have been learning video editing skills on a program called Filmora. We've combined green screen videos with other videos, sounds and music. We also got our own green screen out to have a go at filming our own clips. One pupil was quite excited on walking into the ICT room stating "It's like we're real Youtubers!"



Careers

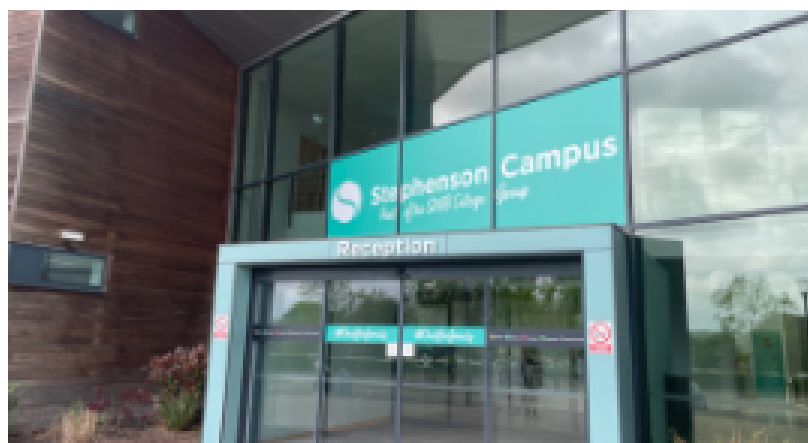
This term has been busy for our Year 11 pupils, many of whom have now begun the first steps in the exciting journey to their Post-16 provision. Understandably, this is an anxious time for pupils (and their families) but we are currently supporting pupils to attend their interviews, taster days and transition visits (and yes, some of these have involved having a hot chocolate!). The pupils are presenting themselves extremely well out in the community and so far they are making us all immensely proud!

Any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Additional information that may be of interest;

SEN Transport information for Post 16 <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disability/transport/school-transport-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send>

Practical advice from Leicester College about making the transition from school to College <https://leicestercollege.ac.uk/about/news-and-events/blog/make-the-transition-to-college-a-little-easier/>



Forest School

It has been another fun packed half term in Forest School. Some of the pupils have been developing their woodwork skills and helping to build the various sections that made up the new hive in preparation for the summer swarm, whilst others have been continuing to develop their bushcraft and survival skills making items, objects and tools. Others have enjoyed cooking food including wild garlic, sauteed in garlic, butter and onions, bacon and sausages on the open fire.

Several pupils were shown how to make sauteed stinging nettles with garlic and onion. Some also picked wild garlic and were shown how to make a salad. Both the stinging nettles and wild garlic were picked from around the woods and washed before frying in butter. The garlic and onions were then added and fried to add flavour. 90 percent of the pupils were surprised by the outcome of such a dish and enjoyed the taste of it.



Magpies

A member of the Magpies class went to Loughborough War Memorial and Carillon. The spiral staircase has 138 steps and is 46 meters high. The views from the top were beautiful! The pupils asked lots of questions and really enjoyed learning about the history of the First World War.



Swans

This term, the class has been cooking up a storm in their new double sessions where we get longer to cook our delicious food with our teacher, Anna! We have made delicious home made pizzas, sponge cakes, egg and vegetable fried rice. We can't wait to expand our cooking skills and cook some more delicious food.

The form room has a new pet! The students have found a caterpillar and have put it in a netted enclosure and continue to feed and water it everyday. They have all done their research on how to correctly care for it. We believe it is a tortrix moth caterpillar. We hope to see it turn into a cocoon! We will keep you updated on how he is doing!

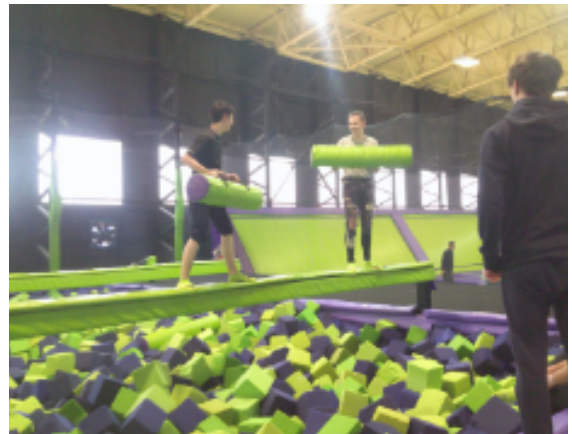


Ravens

The Ravens have had a lovely albeit short term! We started the term off with a hop and a bounce into Jump Giants. The students had a great time exploring the battles in the foam pit and climbing through the obstacle course.

The pupils have been exploring poetry in English, and rating what they think of the poems. They have dived into trigonometry in math and explored the structure of atoms in science. Most of the Ravens pupils have continued their basketball practice and won another fixture, too!

We're looking forward to our last stretch until the summer break.



The Stables

On the 12th of April the stables students went to visit Manor Farm Park and Woodlands in East Leake. We enjoyed seeing a wide variety of animals from some small reptiles such as snakes and bearded dragons to rabbits and sheep. It was amazing to see students handling and feeding some of the animals and it felt like we were seeing some farmers in the making!

It was a fantastic experience for the students to see what is involved when caring for animals whilst developing our knowledge of food chains and the environment.

A huge thank you to all the staff who supported the trip and to the staff at the farm for the opportunities you provided for us.

