

February 2024



# Head's Update

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the Interim Headteacher of Quorn Hall School.

I have a wealth of experience as a headteacher and principal both internationally and in the UK. It is with immense enthusiasm that I am now in Quorn.

Thank you to everybody who has made my first month so positive and enjoyable. I am very happy to be working not only with the staff but indeed all the young people on site! It is my mission to provide the very best support, environment and education for all within our care.

I look forward to meeting you, the parents and carers, in future meetings.

**Vanessa Bingham**



## Dates for your diary

HALF TERM: Monday 19th February –  
Friday 23rd February 2024

Easter Holidays: Monday 25th March –  
Friday 5th April 2024

School opens for pupils Monday 8th  
April 2024

# Art

We have been very busy in Art this half term as we welcome the new year! Pupils have been working hard to develop their knowledge and practical skills!



In KS2, the Maximus group has been learning about the formal art element, 'form'. Pupils have been introduced to sculptures and materials that can be used to make 3D designs. Pupils have analysed work by Antony Gormley to inspire the



range of materials that can be used to create sculptures. So far this term, pupils have created 3D models using paper, spaghetti, foil and craft wire.



In KS3, pupils have been developing their experience working with acrylic paint whilst continuing their understanding of colour theory.

Pupils have been creating artwork considering complementary colours, tints and shades. To build relationships within the groups, pupils have been creating collaborative artwork using acrylic paint and a range of application methods. This promoted team work and confidence building amongst the groups.

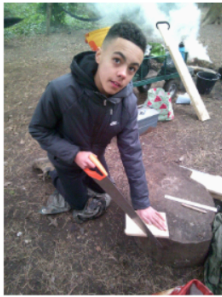


In KS4, pupils have been continuing to work towards achieving their NCFE Level 1 in Art and Design. Pupils have been working with 2D art materials both traditional and non-traditional to create a final project. This term pupils have been creating mixed media pieces based on artwork by Bebe Keith.



# Forest School

The pupils have been building bird boxes/houses over the course of the term. This is in preparation for Spring when a number of different species are looking to settle into a home to breed and produce their



chicks. Completed birdhouses can be taken home to put up or placed around the wooded area.



Some of the pupils have also been learning how to make birdseed feeders by cutting and drilling out a plank of wood. A smaller drill bit was then used to place dowels through to act as perches. Lastly, a hole was drilled



so that rope can then be threaded through so that they can be hung on a tree.



Some of the pupils have been making fat balls using lard and assorted seeds, mealworms and peanuts. This was then mixed up together and the lard was then allowed to cool down. Once cool, the mix could then be shaped into balls and placed in the birdseed feeders for the local wildlife to enjoy. These are especially helpful for wildlife at this time of year when food is scarce.



## Computing

This half term most of KS3/4 have been working on Photography. We explored composition and photography rules and looked at how the elements of art apply to photographs. We used different types of cameras and different ways of editing images on our devices. We even made some fun images using the remove background feature in PowerPoint. We also discussed the ethics of photo editing in different situations.

It was also Safer Internet Day this month, pupils looked at how they are influenced by what they see online and whether they themselves have a positive influence online. They completed a questionnaire and explored what their own Digital Footprint is online.

Some images from the pupils are on our social media feeds, here are a few more.



## P.E

Pupils as always have been busy in their PE lessons over the last month. Pupils in Key Stage 2 have continued to develop their fundamentals of movement skills to acquire success in learning new complex sporting skills. They have continued to develop in movement based games, and moved onto exploring new skills in handball and football.

At Key Stage 3, pupils have continued to develop their knowledge around rules and regulations, tactical awareness, and skill acquisition. Pupils have engaged in both table tennis and handball, and will be moving onto rock climbing in the next half term.

At Key Stage 4 Kingfishers are progressing through their unit one module exploring the skeletal, muscular and respiratory system linking their current understanding to learn the effects of sport and exercise on the body, and how this can contribute towards fitness and performance.

Additionally, Kingfishers and Jackdaws are completing their Sports Leadership Level One qualification, developing the five key life skills, planning engaging coaching sessions, and delivering these sessions to their class. Starlings have embarked on their unit two synoptic project coursework, and will be working on this until the end of April before moving onto their unit one revision for their exam in June. Pupils have continued to engage in extra-curricular sporting activities in table tennis, football, darts, cricket, American Football and basketball with the Leicester Riders.

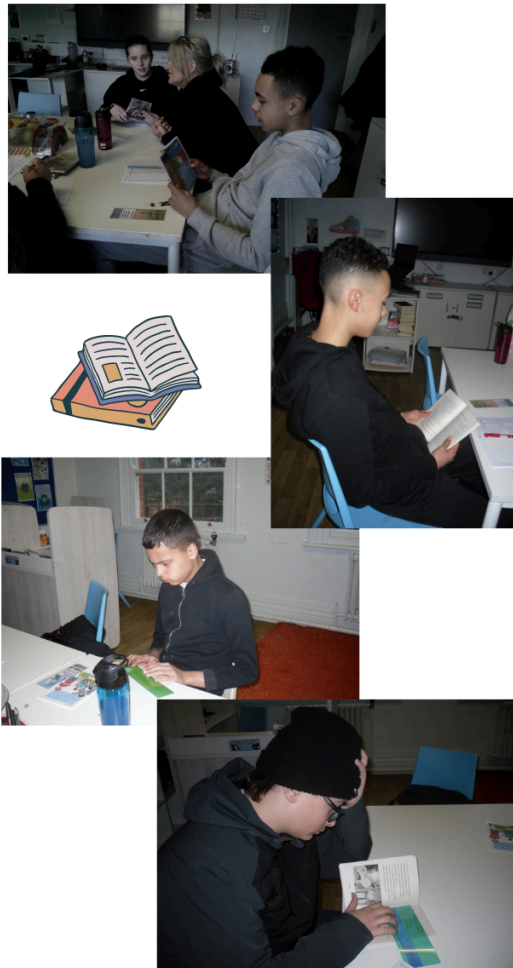
## Food Technology

This term pupils looked at different types of flavours that are used in a range of dishes. We focused on Chinese flavours to celebrate Chinese New Year. Pupils made a variety of dishes such as stir fry noodles and egg fried rice. Staff and pupils enjoyed tucking into the dishes!



## The Woodpecker's

This term the Woodpeckers class have enjoyed reading some new books and finding their love of reading.



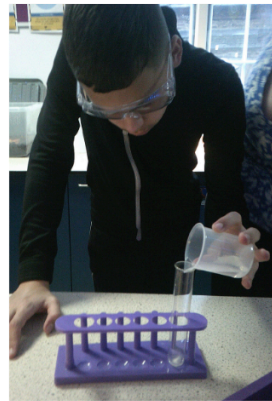
# Science

We have had another busy half term in Science and so here are a selection of photos to highlight what we have been working on.

Here are Robins and Sea Biscuits investigating evaporation and how to separate a mixture. We made lovely sugar crystals to dip in our hot drinks too! They also used Chromatography to work out who used black ink at a crime scene in the Science Prep Room!



Pupils in the woodpeckers have investigated the effects of acid rain by pouring sulphuric acid onto marble chips, investigated the difference between an exothermic and an endothermic reaction and looked at the best angle and number of sails on a wind turbine to generate the maximum amount of electricity.



Key Stage 4 have been working hard preparing for exams. Here are Jackdaws using their new science workbooks to revise Forces. Next term we will be celebrating National Science week from the 8th - 17th March with cross-curricular activities based upon the theme of 'time.'

We also have Loughborough College visiting the department to give a presentation on careers in everything from ESports to web design and creating games.

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## GCSE Mock Exams in English

Our Key Stage 4 pupils are gearing up for a significant milestone in their school life – the IGCSE mock exams. These exams are a vital stepping stone towards their final examinations, helping them gauge their readiness and refine their skills. During these mock exams, pupils tackled various tasks over 2 hours and 49 minutes, including non-fiction writing and analysing both seen and unseen texts. They crafted clear and convincing non-fiction pieces, showcasing their ability to express ideas effectively.

Additionally, pupils delved into the depths of literary analysis, dissecting language techniques and deciphering authors' intentions in both familiar and unfamiliar texts.

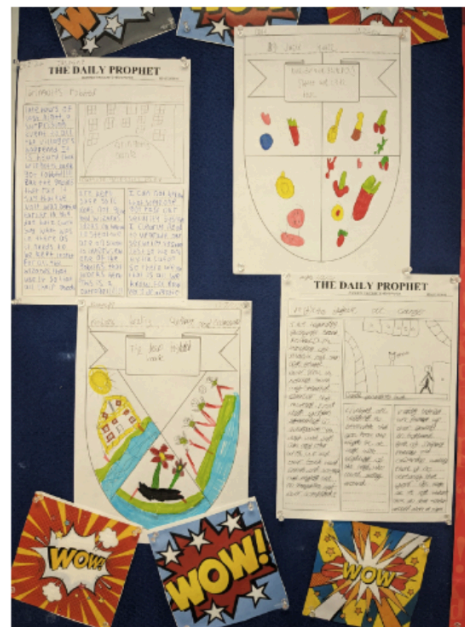
We strive to make the mock exams as close to real thing as possible, including timings and access arrangements like a reader, scribe or a separate room. This helps pupils to work out whether taking GCSEs is the path they want to take.

Our pupils learnt a lot from taking these mock exams – how long they are and how much you have to write being the most mentioned!

We are so proud of the effort our pupils put into their mock exams and wish them the best of luck in their revision!

## English

In Key Stage 3 English lessons this half term we have been knee deep in magic and mystery, studying 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. Pupils in Woodpeckers and Robins have explored the descriptive language, characters and themes of the novel, as well as the differences between the book and the film. Both classes have produced some super creative wand designs, character profiles, newspaper articles and crests for their very own Hogwarts houses. The 'wow wall' in the English room now looks fantastic!

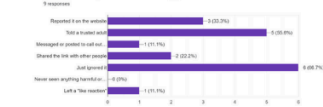


# Safer internet day

## Here are the results for the pupil's questionnaire on internet safety.

It's good that lots of you can tell an adult, this is one of the best things to do!  
If we ignore something and do nothing about it will it stop or keep going? Can you be the positive influence and report it?

If you have seen something harmful or upsetting online, to someone else even if not to yourself, which of these did you do? Choose all that apply



Most of you said that you hadn't copied things you'd seen online. Some of you were very honest to tell us that you'd copied negative things as well as positive.

Have you ever copied something positive that you saw online? A meme, a saying, a dance

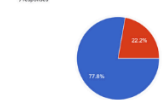


Have you ever copied something negative that you saw online? An insult, a challenge, an inappropriate picture



Well done, blocking someone who is not safe to speak to online is a great move, also consider who you add to your accounts, do you fully trust them?

Have you ever had to block someone online?



If you ever have someone you talk to online that you have never met, make sure you never give out personal information - age, school, full real name, and let someone know if they ask you.

Do you have friends online that you have never met in person?



The best way to be is to not appear at all! Remember a digital record (footprint) can be permanent and searched for by anyone!

If someone types your name into a social media platform or Google would you be near the top of any of the results?



Well done! Yes a huge amount of what you see online is fake, question everything and check the facts for yourself!

Do you think most online influencers are truthful/real or fake/making things up.



This is actually FALSE!! The service itself keeps records of your messages on their servers and they can be viewed if someone reports the message, if police request them or if their automated bots notice anything concerning in it's content.

When you send a private message on a messaging service like Facebook or WhatsApp only you and the recipient can read it.



It's good that most of you said no to this. Remember, an unofficial site could use your data for ANYTHING! And your digital footprint is permanent.

Have you ever shared your name, email address or other personal information on a site you didn't really know well?



If this is true then you are doing better than most adults!

When you see "Allow Cookies" or "Click Here to Agree to Terms and Conditions" are you really reading and understanding all of that? - Go to next page

Do you ever click "allow", "consent" or "agree" on a site without really reading what it wants from you?



Would you read all of this? Would you click on the Privacy Policy and Terms of Service and read all of those too!



The YouTube Terms of Service is over 3700 words, that's 142 paragraphs of writing.

Can you keep yourself safe if you don't know what you're agreeing to?

## Maths

This term has seen several exciting developments to make our pupils more numerical! We have purchased a well-known online platform called Sparx Maths which delivers personalised intelligent maths practice that is proven to boost grades. Pupils in main school classes have one session of numeracy a week where work is set to follow the Maths Schemes of work for each class. This becomes more intuitive as the weeks go by targeting the level of questions to each individual's attainment level and progress made.

Already some pupils are 'addicted' to gaining the cat stickers so it is proving popular and engaging.

Some interesting facts so far:

Sparx Usage

- 2781 Sparx maths questions answered correctly this year so far
- Pupils have completed 18 hours of personalised learning so far this year
- Two pupils have greatly improved at their times tables since using Sparx Maths.

Great job! Keep up the good work and see the benefits in your class work as well.