



# HOSPITAL EDUCATION SERVICE SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

ISSUE 16

## KEY DATES

### Exams Start

Thursday 9th May

### Half Term Week starts

Monday 27th May

### Yr 11 Graduation Event

Friday 28th June

### Teacher Training Day

Wednesday 3rd July



## Visits planned for Summer Term

Pitt Rivers Museum

Cov Uni Discovery Day

e-Sports Work Experience

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

With the Spring Term being such a short one (11 weeks), our Spring Newsletter has been published a little later than usual. Despite the term's brevity, our pupils and staff have managed to cram lots of exciting activities into it.

Enjoy reading about our exciting Outdoor Education offer this term; our school trips to the Holocaust Memorial Centre, the Sealife Centre and to see 'Science in Action' at Warwick University; and our 'Themed' events up on the Children's Ward at UHCW.

We have welcomed four new members of staff to our team this term: Mrs Warner, Mr Griffiths, Mrs Quinney and Mrs Devlin-Clark who are already having a positive impact on pupils' learning despite only being with us for a short time. We also welcomed Tigger, the Therapy Dog, into school for the afternoon who, as you can imagine, was given a very warm reception from pupils and staff.

Sadly, we also waved goodbye to one our longest serving members of staff, Paula McDonald, who devoted almost 34 years of her working life to helping and supporting children with their learning in our Hospital School. You can read more about Paula's dedication to our service in this newsletter.

As we move into the Summer Term, I would like to thank pupils and staff for their continued hard work, particularly those in Year 11 who are preparing for their GCSE exams with quiet determination and diligence. As always, I would also like to thank our parents, carers and governors for their ongoing support.

Mrs Cutler

## MOMENTS MATTER; ATTENDANCE COUNTS

At the Hospital Education Service, we recognise more than most, the impact that poor health can have on attendance.

I want to thank all of our parents and carers for your support in working with us to improve your child's attendance by reducing barriers and sharing the positive messaging around the importance of regular attendance on achieving positive outcomes.

Our percentage of severe absence has reduced from 22% last year to 7% this year so far, as a result of your support (severe absence is defined as attendance that falls below 50%).

Please remember to contact [hesadmin@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:hesadmin@coventry.gov.uk) or phone us on 02476 337734, to report your child's absence.



## HES BIDS FAREWELL TO PAULA MACDONALD

At Easter, Paula MacDonald, our Education Assistant at University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire, decided to hang up her apron and ID badge and begin a new chapter in her life.

Paula started working for the medical part of Coventry's Alternative Provision, in May 1990 and has seen how the service has evolved and grown over the years.

Although it was difficult for Paula to say goodbye to a job she loved, she knew it was the right time to enjoy more time with her husband, children and grandchildren.

To celebrate her retirement, Paula was presented with gifts and cards to acknowledge the valuable contribution she has made to the Hospital Education Service for the best part of 34 years. Colleagues past and present attended a presentation to share their memories of working with Paula and to wish her well in her retirement.

We thank Paula for her service and dedication to our team and wish her well in her new adventures.



# HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL VISIT REPORT

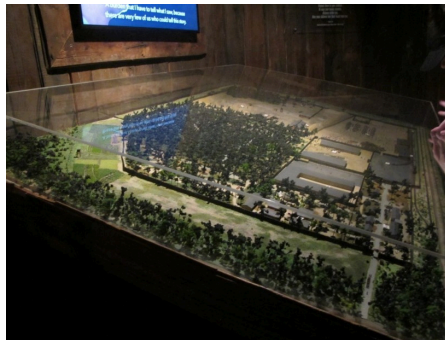
On Wednesday 7th February Year 10 and Year 11 Whitmore Park Annexe students along with staff members Mrs Sykes, Ms Griffin, Ms Dhillon, Ms Ingram and Mr Ley visited the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Newark. We were met with a very engaging and informative educator called Charlie who showed us around the centre. During our visit we walked around the Holocaust memorial gardens and saw a range of memorial statues, including Anne Frank and also numerous rose plants & individual plaques that have been placed there by family members who lost loved ones in the Holocaust. The students also placed a pebble on a pile that represents the number of children killed in the Holocaust. We also saw the pillar below- under which lies soil from six Nazi Death camps.



The first indoor exhibition we visited was called 'The Journey' - This was an interactive exhibition taking us through a series of rooms including a home, a street and we even sat in a Nazi run school. It told us the story of Leo, a fictional German- Jewish boy living in Berlin during Nazi rule and not only detailed Leo's experience but also that of children who lived during the Holocaust and survived.



*Inside Leo's home*



*Model of a Nazi Death camp*



*Prisoner's Uniform*

The final exhibition we visited was the main 'Holocaust exhibition.' Here we learnt about the roots and early History of anti-Semitism and how it was far from just the Nazis who persecuted the Jews in history. We also explored Hitler's rise to power and how anti semitic treatment of Jewish people increased and worsened over time, culminating in the horror of death camps. We saw a range of interesting original photographs and artefacts including death camp uniforms including a wine goblet which was used by a former SS member.

Our students were engrossed throughout the day and asked some pertinent questions as well as answering questions very thoughtfully and sensitively. Although a harrowing period in our history, it was a very informative and thought provoking trip. Thank you to all students and staff who attended.

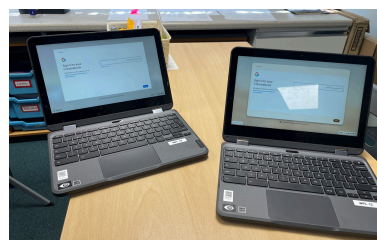
Mrs Sykes

## NEW LAPTOP DEVICES FOR PUPILS ARE DIGITALLY DELIGHTFUL

The school has recently been on a journey of ICT transformation. We were the lucky beneficiaries of 20 brand new devices from the CovConnects team. The laptops will be used by pupils across the service to support them throughout their education journey. The new devices are particularly special as they can be used as laptops and also tablet devices. The multi functional use will make it easier for pupils to quickly access online material as the new technology makes the login process faster.

The CovConnects team has been set up to support residents of Coventry to access digital technologies in order to improve . The digital inclusion team has been working with partners around the city to set up digital community hubs to reduce digital exclusion. As we now live in an increasingly online world, the work of the CovConnects team has been integral in getting people online with the latest technologies.

Somer in Year 11 told us ' The new laptops have been great as they are flexible to use and they make it easier to research on the internet during lessons. The touchscreen is fantastic and this makes it easier to scroll through and find information easily. They are quicker to load up and I find them very easy to use! I have also been using the laptops for exam revision and this will be particularly handy in the coming weeks.'



## SCIENCE IN ACTION – WARWICK UNIVERSITY

Pupils studying GCSE Science were in for a treat as they took part in an enrichment day filled with speakers, workshops and exciting experiments. The 'GCSE in Action' day hosted at the University of Warwick is organised for pupils from across the region to hear from industry experts on different areas of science. This year pupils were particularly impressed by talks from Dr Tishtrya Mehta, an astrophysicist who specialises in helioseismology, the study of the 'music' made by stars like the Sun. Dr Alex Baker, an organic chemist with a particular interest in carbohydrates, polymers and nanoparticles. His work is used to design medical diagnostics with a particular focus on the developing world and fighting health inequalities.

Pupils came away from the day feeling inspired and motivated. It was a valuable experience for them all to have a taste of what University lectures are like. On the way back Miss Glenn overheard pupils' mature conversations about deextinction. 'Could we bring back the Dodo?' and 'I want to be a scientist!'

We will be planning to attend more Science in Action days in the future! Thank you to Miss Glenn for putting on this wonderful opportunity for our pupils.



*Dr Tish Mehta*

*Dr Alex Baker*



*University Lecture Hall – Warwick University*

# PUPILS MAKE A SPLASH IN OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Following on from last year's success Outdoor Education continues to grow in strength and pupils have been embracing a raft of new activities on Wednesday afternoons. So far this year pupils have to experienced kayaking, climbing, countryside walking and sailing. The weekly sessions offer pupils' the opportunity to further enhance their knowledge of the outdoors and to garner a love for our natural environments right here on our doorstep.

There have been many highlights including students changing kayaks (musical chair style) mid-channel at Coventry canal basin, Hayden beating Mr Green in a kayaking race, Somer climbing the wall at Warwick University three times in quick succession! However everyone is agreed that the pinnacle of this year has been the sailing course at Draycote Reservoir this term. Within the first session, pupils were tasked with navigating the reservoir independently and quickly showed their sea legs as they sailed the perimeter without capsizing!

We caught up with Freya from Year 10 who has been part of Outdoor Education since September. She told us 'It has been really enjoyable being part of the Outdoor Education group. My favourite activity has been sailing as it has given me a sense of adventure that I have never experienced before. In a short space of time, I have learnt to rig a boat and use the equipment on board to sail around Draycote Reservoir. Climbing, at Warwick University was also fun. The climbing wall was exciting and over the weeks I was able to beat the boys to the top! Well done Freya and we look forward to hearing from you in the Summer term.

As we move forwards into the summer term we are aiming to arrange a course on padel tennis. The relatively new sport, which is a combination of squash and tennis, will offer an exciting opportunity for pupils to experience a new racquet sport. The sport is growing in the UK having made its debut in Spain.

For any students who might be at a loose end during the summer holidays, Mercia Canoe Club would welcome new members. You just need turn up at Coventry Canal basin on Saturday afternoon, all the details are on their website. I believe its £3 per session. Warwick University's climbing wall is available for sessions and Draycote Reservoir run sailing courses for students and their families. Further information is on the provider's website.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the specialist instructors who have given our students a first-class experience at all the venues.

On behalf of all students, I'd like to thank all the leadership staff here at Whitmore Park Annexe, who have the 'herculean task' of supporting behind the scenes with making the visits a reality. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making these sessions happen.



## SEA LIFE CENTRE GIVES PUPILS DEPTHS OF UNDERWATER KNOWLEDGE

To celebrate British Science Week, pupils from HES visited the National Sea Life Centre – Birmingham. This was the perfect opportunity to enrich students understanding of Biology. We explored habitats, food chains, adaptation, communities, competition, biodiversity and conservation all whilst observing the animals.

This was a popular trip where our students experienced touching a living starfish. It was described as rough and hard and a bit spiky. Some pupils experienced UK's only 360 degree tunnel for the first time where we marvelled at sharks, giant turtles and rays. We watched UK's first sea otters – Ozzy and Ola at feeding time. The penguins put on the best performance this year; It was fascinating to see these creatures close up and we could observe and describe how these animals have adapted to survive in their environment.

A fantastic time was had by all and pupils described it as a really positive experience despite having to do a little bit of work!

Staff would like to congratulate all students on this trip, their behaviour and cooperation was impeccable and they were an absolute pleasure to take to the Sea Life Centre.

Miss Glenn



## HOSPITAL SCHOOL SPARKLES WITH LITERACY BASED DISPLAY

Pupils on the Paediatric wards based at the Hospital have been busy in lessons and produced exemplary work for the new display at UHCW. As part of the display pupils have used hand prints to create 'The Hungry Caterpillar', fact files on rivers and the Wonderful Lives of Wildcats. Next time you are at UHCW, keep a look out for the display!



## TIGGER HAS PUPILS BARKING FOR MORE!

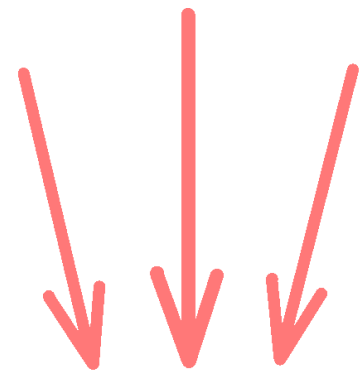
Pupils and staff at Whitmore Park Annexe were in for more than just doggy treats as they welcomed Tigger from the Pets as Therapy organisation. Tigger is a therapy dog that is trained to support people in different settings based on their needs. As part of his role Tigger is trained to be a comforting presence for people experiencing stressful situations. Mrs Palmer planned the visit to coincide with the school mock exams as this can be a very challenging time for pupils. This was an extra special visit as Tigger had only recently qualified and we were lucky enough to be his first therapy outing.

Thank you to Mrs Palmer for supporting our pupils. We have plans to have more therapy dogs on site in the future.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YEAR 11 PUPILS

As we approach the Summer term, it is important that Year 11 pupils are aware of key information for exams, end of year arrangements and key dates for September. Exams will start from Thursday 9th May and will last until Monday 17th June. All pupils will have their own individual exam timetables. Pupils that have recently applied for college or other organisations will be sent emails regarding September. This will include enrolment information; it is important you book yourself on and enrol onto your course. This will normally start from GCSE Results day. Results day this year for GCSE Pupils will be Thursday 22nd August. Miss Griffin has contacted parents regarding arrangements for results collection. If you are yet to respond, please contact Miss Griffin at your earliest opportunity.



# IMPORTANT

We regularly catch up with our Alumni to see how life has changed since leaving school with us. In this issue Mr Takolia caught up with Callum Hussain from Class of 2023 to see what post-16 education is like been since joining the Adult Education Service .

# ALUMNI INSIGHTS

## ***So how has life been since leaving Hospital Education?***

It's been good, I have become more independent, which has included looking after myself more, and I've made new friends. Life is good at the moment!

## ***Which provider did you move onto and what course are you currently studying?***

I chose Adult Education Service and am currently studying Step into the World of Work alongside English and Maths GCSE.

## ***How has the course been? What have been the highlights?***

Step into the World of Work has been interesting. It has helped me to broaden my knowledge on employability and understand what employers look for. As part of the course, I have had work experience at the RSPCA and the British Heart Foundation.

## ***RSPCA and the British Heart Foundation sound interesting, tell us a little more?***

My role at the RSPCA was one day a week and during that time I learnt to train dogs, clean kennels, and support with general animal care. I remember one day, two dogs started fighting and I had to use treats to split them up and calm the situation. All in all, It was an eye-opening experience and really gave me a good insight into the care and welfare of different animals.

I've now moved to the British Heart Foundation and currently working at the City Centre branch. In my role here, I support with tagging and steaming clothes ready for reselling. Greeting and supporting customers whilst on site and general retail duties. It's much busier but I enjoy the hustle and bustle it comes with.

## ***What are your plans for the future?***

From September onwards, I am hoping to start a Supported Internship course and looking to specialise in Carpentry. I am awaiting a placement but hoping to be placed somewhere local for me to do this.

## ***What advice would you give to pupils in Year 11, that will be moving on?***

Enjoy the time that you have with the service as it will fly past. Focus on your exams and revise so you feel well prepared. Try your hardest in the exams and don't look back with regret. When I look back, I now feel like I made the right decision to move to Adult Education and I am grateful to my teachers for all their advice.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUPILS

### **British Federation of Mathematical Games – Logic and Mathematical Games Final**

The British Federation of Mathematical Games: Logic and Mathematical Games Final 2024 will take place at Coventry University, Frank Whittle Building, on Saturday 25th May 2024, 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

The Mathematical and Logical Games is a general public, university and school competition organised every year in Europe and beyond. Participants around the world, who score high enough in their category, will qualify for the 38th International final in Paris.

To participate, please email [info@bfmg.maths.coventry.domains](mailto:info@bfmg.maths.coventry.domains) with your name, surname, town, date of birth and category. For more information, please visit the website: [Logic and Mathematical Games Final – British Federation of Mathematical Games](#)

### **Work Experience Opportunity – e-Sports at Warwick University**

We have been lucky to secure 10 spaces for pupils to access work experience in the exciting world of e-Sports and Digital Careers. You will have the opportunity to learn about one of the youngest and fastest growing industries in the world and how you would go about developing your own brand. The programme aims to increase your knowledge of graphic design, marketing, teamwork and leadership skills.

You can find an information pack on the Pupil Zone on the school website. This includes a programme for the day and the impact of eSports. If you are interested and would like to take part contact Mr Takolia for further information and a registration form.



*SPRING -TERM HIGHLIGHTS SHARES EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES THAT PUPILS AT THE HOSPITAL EDUCATION SERVICE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN. IF THERE IS SOMETHING THAT NEEDS CORRECTING OR YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A SUGGESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN OUR NEWSLETTER PLEASE CONTACT MR TAKOLIA.*