



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

ISSUE 17

KEY DATES

Teacher Training Day

Monday 6th January

History Trip - Police Museum

Tuesday 21st January

Apprenticeship Fair Visit

Tuesday 11th February

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 11th February

Half Term Week starts

Monday 24th February

Teacher Training Day

Wednesday 5th March

World Book Day

Wednesday 5th March

Bletchley Park Visit

Friday 28th March



Wishes come true for pupils at Winter Wonderland
Silverstone Visit puts pupils in Pole Position
Hospital school creates 'Myths and Magic' Display
'An Inspector Calls' - Updates from recent OFSTED Visit



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

You will have read in the news that school absence is at a record high following the pandemic.

At InspirED Pathways, 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.

Please remember to contact hesadmin@coventry.gov.uk or phone us on 0247 337734, to report your child's absence.

UPDATES FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

The theme for Autumn's edition of our newsletter must be **celebration**. There has been so much to celebrate this term: a glowing report from Ofsted, a change of name, exciting trips, a lively Pupil Ambassador programme, a busy school events calendar and, of course, lots of learning!

This term has certainly felt like one of our busiest to date and so, as 2024 draws to a close, I would like to congratulate all our pupils (at Whitmore Park Annexe, on Home Tuition, and in hospital) for their resilience and hard work over the last four months. Our school community epitomises the SPIRE values which sit at the heart of all we strive for at InspirED Pathways: Success-Perseverance-Integrity-Respect-Empathy. Enjoy reading about the many ways in which your children have shown and grown these values in this term's newsletter.

I would also like to thank our parents, carers and governors for their continued support in helping to shape the service we are today. Likewise, I would like to thank our wonderful team of teachers and support staff for their unwavering commitment to our service and for making it such a unique and wonderful place to work.

I wish you all a safe and peaceful festive season. I look forward to seeing you all again in January 2025.

Mrs Cutler

AN INSPECTOR CALLS...!

On 16-17th July, we were visited by His Majesty's Inspectors from Ofsted. They spent two days visiting our school at UHCW, our provision at Whitmore Park Annexe and they even visited some lessons taking place on home tuition.

During their visit, inspectors spoke with leaders, teachers, support staff, pupils, parents and governors to gather evidence about the quality of education at InspirED Pathways. We were delighted with their final report which arrived with us in September. The opening line of the report took our breath away: 'This is a diamond of a school hidden in plain sight.'

If you haven't already, please take time to read the report which reflects all of the wonderful experiences and opportunities our learners are offered during their time with InspirED Pathways. An electronic copy of the report is available from our website. A paper copy is available upon request from Reception.



An InspirED Choice!

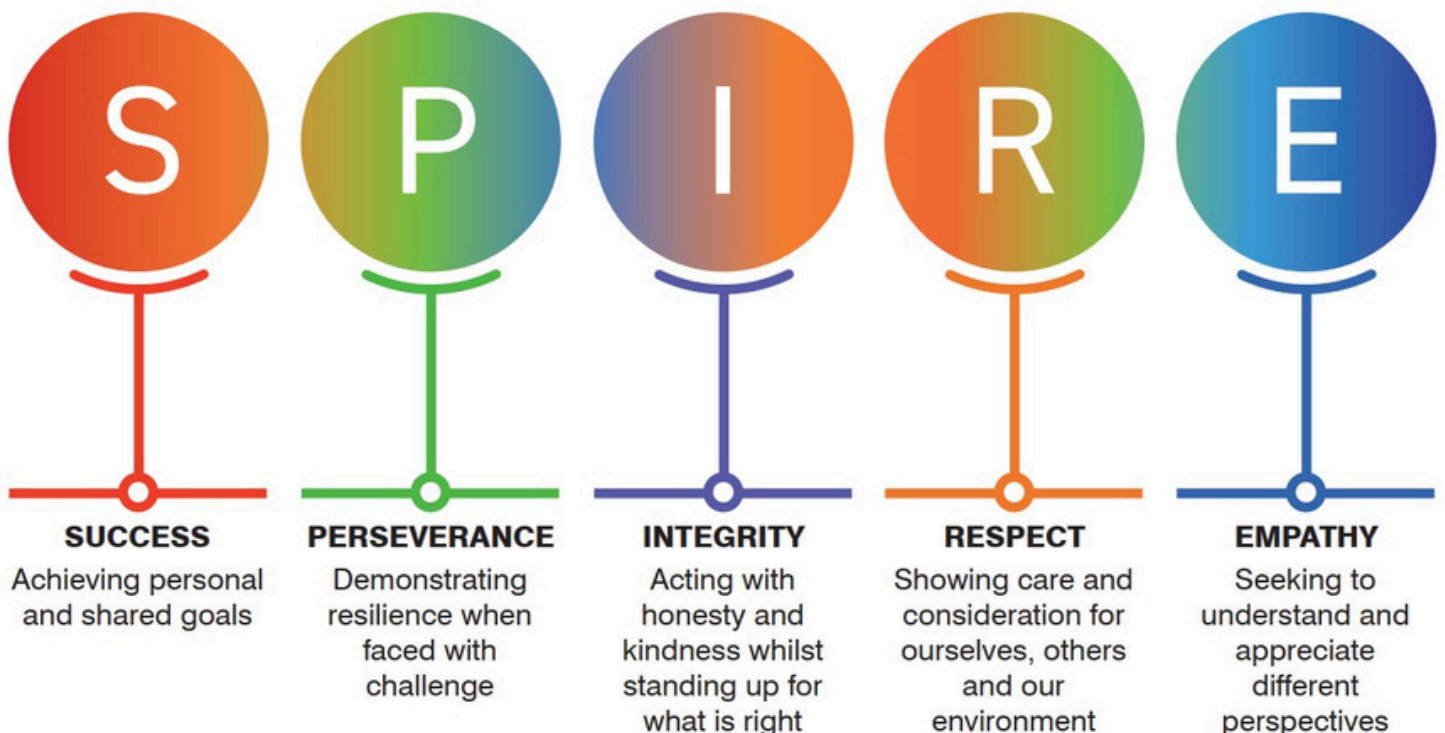
Following much deliberation and consultation, we have decided upon a new name for our service: **InspirED Pathways**. It was important for our school community that our new name and logo celebrated the three interwoven parts of our service within Coventry's Local Offer.

The three spires in our new name and logo celebrate our city's heritage as well as representing the three core elements of our service: our school at University Hospital C&W; our Home Tuition Service and our Pupil Referral Unit at Whitmore Park Annexe.

The blue ribbon in our logo boasts Coventry's proud connections to the ribbon weaving industry as well as our pride for our city's football team: Coventry City FC.

And finally, the reference to 'Pathways' in our new name represents the bespoke and flexible nature of our service and the important part we play in supporting children with their learning journey, reconnecting them with all that is wonderful about learning, during and/or after a period of illness and injury.

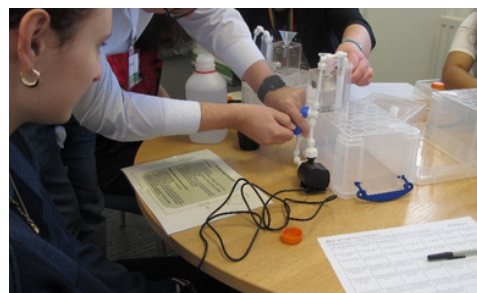
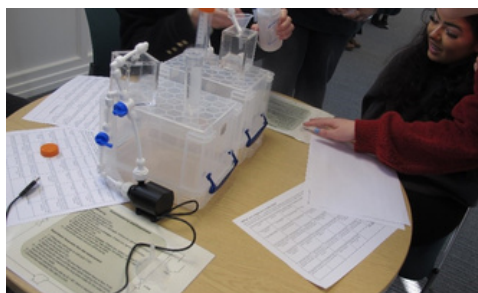
Our Values as a service are now underpinned by the word **SPIRE**: **S**uccess, **P**erseverance, **I**ntegrity, **R**espect and **E**mpathy. These are values we hold dear as a school community and as citizens of Coventry and beyond.



ICHEME VISIT IGNITES INTEREST IN PUPILS STUDYING SCIENCE

Pupils from WPA were invited to the Big Bang on Location event, hosted by the Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) in Rugby. It was an exciting day packed with hands-on challenges, where students' problem-solving skills and perseverance were put to the test in a practical engineering workshop.

During the workshop, students had the opportunity to build a coffee machine, enabling them to gain real-world insight into the engineering process. The event also provided students an avenue to engage with undergraduates from Swansea University, who shared their experiences and answered questions about their journey into studying chemical engineering.



For the rest of the visit, we explored the many interactive exhibits run by over 15 various companies (just some listed below): Understanding the engineers' role with food – Britvic, understanding precision engineering to design a marble run – icHEME engineers, which engineer will you be? – Engineering UK, LEGO technic and tomato ketchup production line – Peter Swanson (chemical engineer, problem solving in boat design and promotion of the apprenticeship route – icHEME staff and manufacturing technology. Pupils made the most of this visit engaging with exhibitors – asking questions and challenging themselves with tasks given.

It was an inspiring day that sparked curiosity and gave students a deeper understanding of the field!

Mrs Glenn - Lead Teacher for Science

SILVERSTONE VISIT IS WHEELIE GOOD FUN

In December, pupils visited Silverstone Museum. We spent some time learning about the history of the site and the development from an RAF base into the world famous racing circuit it is today. We had the opportunity to handle genuine F1 car parts from the cars of Lewis Hamilton, Max Verstappen and Roman Brogan, along with learning about the performance of the cars reducing the weight and increasing the performance of the fuel and the aerodynamics.

We also heard about some of the 1.9 million career opportunities linked to the grand prix. This included the roles we would expect, in driving, engineering and manufacturing, but also included roles in marketing, communications and media.

Following our workshop, we had a tour of the track and some free time to explore the museum, where we were able to view racing cars throughout the ages, explore interactive exhibits and experience the 4D cinema show.

We are looking forward to a future visit when the new carting track is open!

Mrs Dye - Lead Teacher for Mathematics



FROM WHITMORE PARK TO WINTER WONDERLAND AT HYDE PARK

This year we were lucky enough to receive 20 tickets to the Winter Wishes event at Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park, London. Every year as November approaches a corner of Hyde Park is transformed into a Christmas village typically seen in festive movies. The location is a sight for the senses and as you walk around; you can quickly smell the hot chocolate, see the snowy backdrops and hear the joy of children as they run towards the rides and attractions. With the added bonus of all rides and attractions being included, this really was Christmas come early for our pupils.

Year 11 pupils were invited to travel down to the capital to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity as the park was closed off to the public and run on a massively reduced capacity. Our pupils quickly decided on what groups they wanted to be in and experienced as much as they could in the short time we were there. They chose from ice-skating, the Haunted House, the roller coaster, the Ice Slide and much more.

We want to give a huge shoutout to Catherine Partridge from the fantastic Digital Inclusion Team at Coventry City Council who signposted us to this opportunity for our pupils. The day was a fantastic experience and it truly was a day to remember for the staff and the pupils.

Mr Takolia - Assistant Head Teacher





Christmas Fair 2024



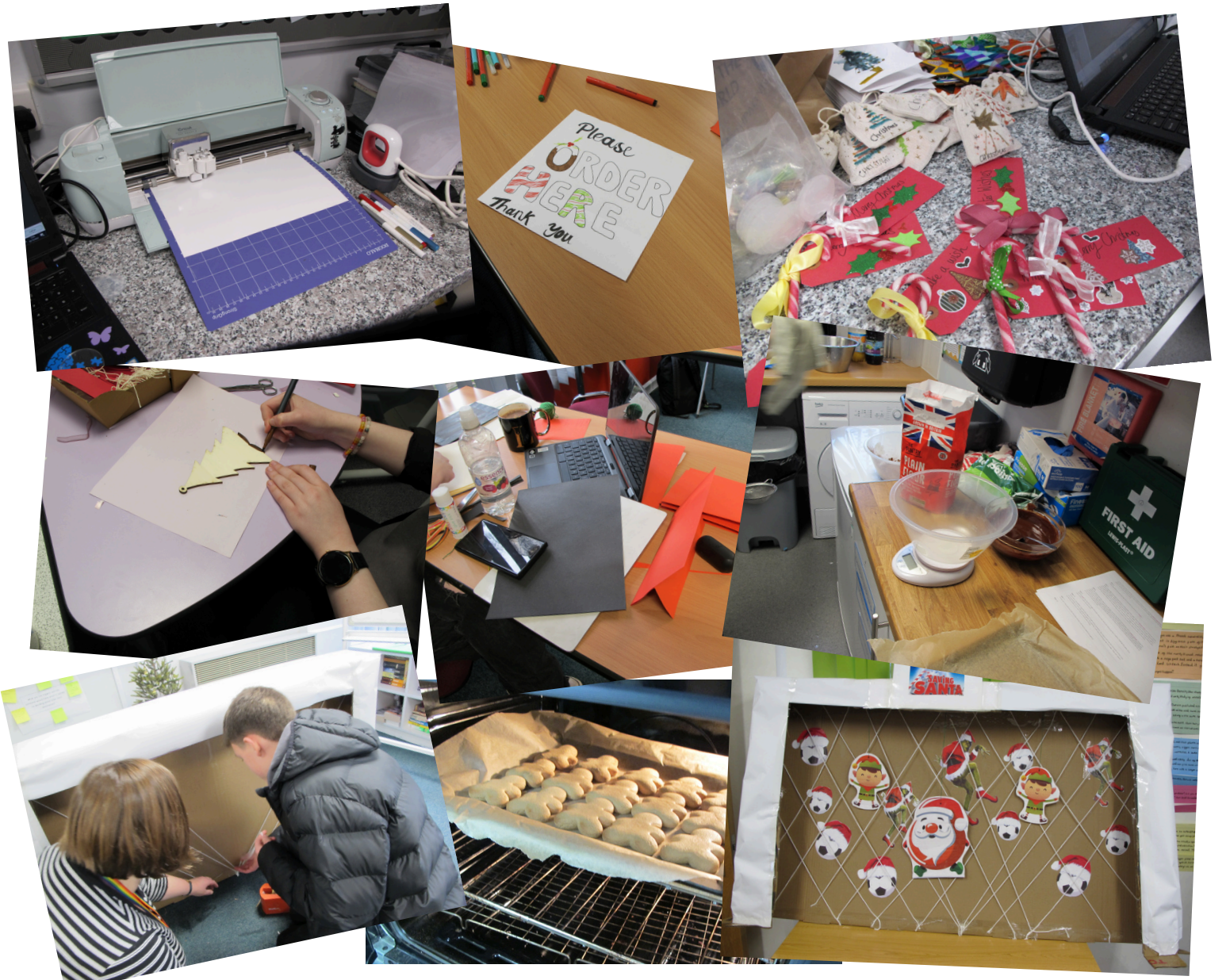


WPA IS A PRODUCTIVITY POWERHOUSE ON ENTERPRISE DAY

Coventry has always been held in high esteem for its manufacturing power over the decades. From automotive engineering including Jaguar and Alvis to the fabric powerhouses based at the Courtaulds site in Foleshill, the focus has now shifted to the industrial revolution of Whitmore Park Annexe.

Pupils in all year groups were tasked with creating products to be sold at the upcoming Christmas Fair. The day offered a raft of opportunities with different experiences for pupils to choose from. This year, pupils had a choice of the games room, Whitmore Park Café and Christmas crafts. With pupils choosing on the work placement that they felt best suited to.

There was a buzz around the building and pupils quickly had their business hats on as they set to work. The crafts room saw pupils creating bespoke Christmas gifts including ornaments for the Christmas tree to small treats ideal for the fireplace stocking. The games room was a hive of activity and creativity producing a range of games and activities that 'The Entertainer' would be proud to sell. And the Whitmore Café had pupils thinking of best ways to create a café with festive drinks and treats that would be worthy of a high street food chain! Overall it was a fantastic day filled with productivity in readiness for our school community to experience at the upcoming Christmas Fair.



UPDATES FROM THE HOSPITAL SCHOOL TEAM

MAKATON HELPS TO SIGNPOST PUPILS WITH THE RIGHT DIRECTION

The UHCW teaching team are upskilling themselves in using Makaton. Two members of the team have attended training this term and we are gaining in confidence in using signs on the wards.

Makaton is a unique communication programme that uses symbols (pictures), signs (gestures) and speech to enable people to communicate. It is widely used across schools and has been proven to be really effectively at communicating with pupils.

This year the staff at the Hospital School have put together a Makaton advent calendar which we have displayed in all the paediatric wards this December.



MRS DUMBLETON (NOT DORE) BRINGS MYTHS AND MAGIC TO HOSPITAL CORRIDOR

Mrs Dumbleton, has proved herself invaluable during her first term working at UHCW, not only increasing our teaching capacity for Primary aged children, but also providing the creative vision behind our beautiful new first floor corridor display, 'Myths & Magic'. We think she may have graduated from Hogwarts!



In November, the fulltime hospital teaching staff attended the NAHE 'Working the Wards' Conference in Leeds. It was a worthwhile trip during which we learnt more about childhood cancers and their treatment, became inspired by a music therapist, and both gained and shared practical ideas for ways of working with teaching staff from hospitals across the country.

Our final two weeks of the year will involve lots of exciting learning through the theme of Christmas.

From the UHCW Team, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Liz Morshead - Lead for Hospital School

COMPTON VERNEY VISIT HELPS PUT ART INTO PERSPECTIVE

In October pupils studying Art were invited on a visit to Compton Verney Art Gallery. Set in the sprawling countryside of Warwickshire, pupils and staff were treated to a location akin to those seen in the hit TV Show Bridgerton. The site is home to an Art Gallery that had been maintained by the Littlewoods family and amongst its beautiful backdrop serves its patrons through stunning art pieces located within the magnificent Grade I listed building.

Pupils enjoyed a sensory exploration through Neopolitan art from 1600 to 1800. Art pieces are brought to life through a sensory journey allowing you to experience scent, sound and touch to enhance your experience of the art on offer. Paintings reflected many faiths and beliefs and became the focus of much discussion and awe.

GCSE Art students had their own themes to research, and pupils found new themes whilst exploring exhibitions. The beautiful jewel-coloured paintings on the ground floor glowed against the dramatic blues and pinks of the walls.

As pupils continued to explore the gallery, the centrepiece attraction was the work of French Artist Louise Bourgeois. Her work explores themes of her difficult childhood, her relationship with her mother, symbolised in spiders, and many other pieces that could be seen as dramatic, thought-provoking and captivating.

The day really allowed pupils to immerse themselves into the art they experienced and took the opportunity to make the most of the guides that helped them to understand the work. Many new facts were gathered, from why mad hatters have that name to symbolism and folk law.



Ms Gregg - Art Teacher



CAN YOU CRACK THE GCHQ CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE?

Every year the GCHQ (UK's intelligence, security and cyber agency) releases a Christmas Challenge which includes a series of tricky puzzles set by some of the country's brightest minds. And this year it is the trickiest challenge yet! The focus this year is the surprising geography of GCHQ, which many people won't realise operates from several sites across the UK.

The challenge is contained in a Christmas card and features a series of seven puzzles, which range in difficulty and test different problem-solving skills. The puzzles are masterminded by a team of puzzling experts who work at GCHQ, who are encouraging schools across the UK to work as a team to reveal the final hidden message. Maybe work with your parents for this one! Have you got what it takes to crack the code and uncover the hidden final message? Why not give it a go? It could be the first step in your very own journey to a career in espionage.

Once you have cracked the code, let your teachers know as this is one secret not worth hiding!



We regularly catch up with our Alumni to see how life has changed since leaving school. In this edition Mr Takolia caught up with Emmalee Pegler from Class of 2022 as she embarks on her journey towards a career in Medicine.

ALUMNI INSIGHTS

So, how has life been since leaving Hospital Education?

It has been quite a journey since leaving school. I initially started studying my A levels but then had to defer my year. I have since restarted my A level studies in September 2023 and have really enjoyed it.

What provider did you move onto and what course are you currently studying?

I decided on King Edward VI 6th form college in Nuneaton to study my A levels. I chose Biology, Chemistry and Psychology as my subjects.



How has being an A Level student been? What have been the highlights?

The step up from GCSE to A-Level has been massive and it has been quite a journey adapting to the level of studying you have to do. But it has been great, and I have enjoyed it. You do have tough days but it's important that you remain focused, and you continue to work hard in your studies. The teachers have been great at supporting me to achieve my potential.

For me, a highlight has been the ability to be part of a classroom environment again. It's been great to meet other A level pupils and make new friends in the process. The facilities are excellent and a particular place that I enjoy visiting is the library.

How has the support been from the College and has this been of use to you?

Support has been good from the college, and it has been easy to access. We have a study centre on our campus, and you can visit at any time. Within the centre, there are different levels of support you can access depending on what it is you need.

An example of this was when I needed a specialist chair to support my chronic pain. They quickly identified what it is I needed and arranged for chairs to be available in the classrooms that I needed them in.

I hear you have been involved in after college clubs. Tell us a little more?

At King Edward we have an enrichment session called 'LINC'. This is an opportunity for pupils to choose from a variety of courses or workshops that are based around different skills. I chose to take one up on First Aid and now have First Aid qualification! I also tried crochet, but I just couldn't get on with it! But it was great to meet new friends.

I am looking to join a new session that is based around learning new medical skills. This will help me with my ambition to pursue a career in Medicine.

What are your plans for the coming year? And where are thinking of moving to after 6th form college?

I'm looking forward to second year of 6th Form and finishing my A levels. I really want to look at applying to university and will start to consider my options from September.

What advice would you give to pupils in year 11, that are thinking about studying at college?

Try not to worry about the process of moving to a new destination. At first, I was worried about finding people that I would get on with. But this was all easy, and I have made lots of friends. Everyone feels the same way and pupils all have similar worries. As you get settled, you really enjoy your time there and forget about those initial anxieties. You will come across bumps in the road but remember that there is always support on hand if you need it.

If you are an Alumni and would like to share your story, please contact Mr T via inspired@coventry.gov.uk to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

RIAN LEAVES A LEGACY AS HE RETURNS BACK TO SCHOOL

As you can imagine, we have supported many inspirational children with their learning over the years by providing lessons in the home until they are well enough to return to school. Despite incredibly challenging circumstances, one of those children has inspired us all this year with his positivity, resilience and generosity of spirit and is now a national treasure too. Ladies and gentlemen, meet Rian Dodd!

Rian was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare form of soft tissue cancer in March 2023 and has had to overcome many challenges in terms of health. The gruelling treatment journey has included a number of hospital stays, chemotherapy, numerous operations and two amputations. And yes - he's still smiling. Rian's courage is a source of inspiration for so many young people who have to deal with such a life changing diagnosis and serves as a reminder that truly anything is possible.

For most of us, supporting a loved one with a cancer diagnosis would be completely overwhelming, but this has not deterred the Dodd household from doing everything they can to raise awareness of childhood cancer. They have used every opportunity available to them to build awareness and raise money for a charity very close to their hearts: Young Lives Vs Cancer. From a number of media appearances including ITV's This Morning and the Sunday Politics programme on the BBC, Rian has secured local and national hero status. His idea of the 'Toast Challenge' was broadcast through Phil Upton's BBC Radio show and players from Coventry City FC were 'battered up' to take on the challenge!

More recently, we heard about Rian's accomplishments in the world of cycling. His adapted bike has facilitated his return to the road through the support of the charity: Cyclists Fighting Cancer. Rian wants to continue smashing those sporting milestones and has ambitions to become an accomplished swimmer. He hopes to compete in the Paralympics one day.

Rian had the sweet smell of success as he was the recipient of the Fragrance Shop Christmas card design competition. His design, entitled 'Time to Pud Up the Christmas Tree', was chosen as a greeting card that will be sold on their commercial website for customers to buy alongside their fragrances.

Rian will be missed by all his teachers and staff at InspirED Pathways as he returns to Blue Coat school. We look forward to hearing about all he goes on to achieve in the future.



CAREERS DAY PROVES TO BE A PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

In line with our schools careers programme, we once again hosted our annual Careers Day for pupils in year 11. The day provided our pupils with an opportunity to better understand options available to them once they leave school. Over the years, we have had great success in finding bespoke provisions suited to a range of career ambitions at post-16.

This year we invited in Warwickshire College Group, Coventry College, Apprenticeship Team (Coventry Council), Adult Education Service and West Coventry Academy 6th form. The focus of the day was to raise pupils' awareness of the range of opportunities within further education, training and employment.

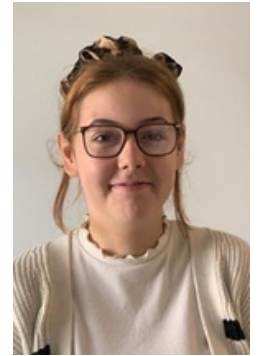
A highlight from the day was to hear from two former pupils (our Alumni) who had left our setting and moved onto new post-16 pastures. Connie, who achieved a raft of successful GCSE results in the summer, gave pupils an insight into how life has been since starting a local 6th form. We also heard from Mohammed, who was a pupil with us many years ago and has now started as a job coach based at the Job Shop in town. Mohammed himself spent time with us at the Hospital School and we were so proud to hear how well he had done since leaving school.

We have uploaded all the resources that were shared with us to the Pupil Portal on SharePoint.

Mr Takolia – Assistant Head Teacher

NEW STAFF ARE GIVEN A WARM WHITMORE WELCOME GEORGIE WOODWARD – SEMH COACH

This term we have been fortunate enough to appoint two incredibly valuable staff members to our team at Whitmore Park Annexe. In September, we were joined by Georgie Woodward as our new SEMH Coach. She has already made such a wonderful difference to the wellbeing of our pupils in school and on trips with her caring nature and sense of fun.



KATIE CLARKE – HIGHER LEVEL TEACHING ASSISTANT

In January 2025, we will be joined by a highly experienced member of staff who will be taking on the role of our Higher-Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) at Whitmore Park Annexe. **Katie Clarke** brings with her over a decade of supporting children with their learning and personal development at a local Secondary school. We are very excited to welcome her to our team.



WE HAVE LINKS TO FOOTBALL LEGENDS – ‘LET’S BE FRANK ABOUT IT’

Like the rest of the city we were sad to see Mark Robbins leave his post as manager of CCFC. However, with the news of the head coach being the Chelsea legend, Frank Lampard, we couldn't help ourselves but share our links we have at InspirED Pathways to the main man himself. Mr Lampard was privileged to meet Ms Edgar in Warwick and was happy to take a photo with her son 'Oli'.



On another occasion the legend himself 'Mr T' met Frank Lampard in London on a visit. This was 10 years ago, and we think he may have initially tapped him up then to become the manager of CCFC one day! And most recently he signed a shirt for our very own Harry, in year 8, at the CBS Arena.



We think Frank now needs to visit us at InspirED Pathways and we may even name a classroom after him! (Promotion-dependant of course)

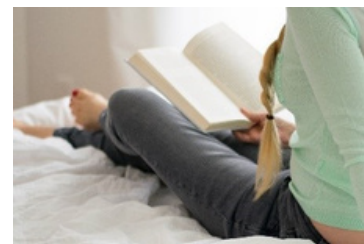
SEASONAL SELF-CARE SURVIVAL KIT

There is a lot of joy and happiness associated with the festive season, but for some it may not always be a positive time. The shorter days, colder temperatures and the pressures associated with this time of year can impact many people, adults and young people alike.

Here are some of our top tips for taking care of your wellbeing this festive period.

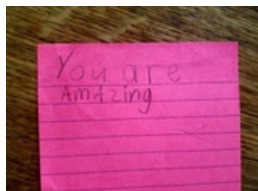
Spend time alone

Sometimes it can feel like there is a lot of pressure during the holidays to entertain your loved ones and participate in games and discussions. Don't forget that it is always okay to take some time, relax, and do something just for you.



Self-talk

Positive self-talk can help us feel more confident and challenge the negative thoughts that harm us. For example, if you feel self-critical, think about how you would reassure a friend in a similar situation, then apply that to yourself



Sharing our feelings

We understand that, for lots and lots of people, the holidays are a really difficult time. The 'merry' Christmas we all wish for each other isn't always a reality, so, if you feel like crying, that is totally fine. Sometimes this feels much better than hiding how you really feel.



Sleep

Sleep is often one of the first things to slip when we are busy, stressed, or anxious. If you can, think of the holidays as a chance to recharge your batteries and get your energy back up for the new year. You deserve a lie-in!

Spend time with supportive people

Whether it's a loved one or a volunteer, we all need someone to support us when we are low. Follow your instincts; if you can relax and be yourself with them, chances are they are supportive.



Seeking help

Remember, if you need help then you deserve to get it. Asking for help when you need it is a really brave step and an important part of self-care.

Mrs Stringer and Miss Woodward – Wellbeing Team

IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD AND NEED SUPPORT, YOU CAN CONTACT:

I am not alone!

mind
mind.org.uk
0208 215 2243

childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY
thecalzone.net
0800 58 58 58

YOUNG MINDS
youngminds.org.uk
Text SHOUT to 85258

SAMARITANS
samaritans.org
116 123

Other Resources...

NHS Search 'Mental Health' on www.nhs.uk

NSPCC NSPCC nspcc.org.uk

Teen Sleep Hub teensleephub.org.uk

Anna Freud Centre annafreud.org

Beat BEAT beateatingdisorders.org.uk

Calm Harm (app store, google play)

Kooth explore.kooth.com

IN CASE OF AN OUT-OF-HOURS EMERGENCY, CONTACT AN OUT-OF-HOURS GP ON 111 OR VISIT A LOCAL ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT.