THRIFTWOOD COLLEGE

Key Stage 5 Newsletter

It has been a positive start to the new academic year, with students settling back into their routines. This term, we have welcomed new students into Key Stage 5, both from our Year 11 cohort and from other schools.

It has been a busy first half term, with students taking part in a range of trips and visits, engaging in their learning and developing their skills. We look forward to seeing them build on the progress they have made over the coming term.

We have also supported two fundraising events this half term, raising £238.50 for Macmillan Cancer Support and £88.42 for Jeans for Genes. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these worthwhile causes.

Duke of Edinburgh

A small group of KS5 students completed their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, including an overnight camp. Despite the colder than usual weather, students showed determination and resilience throughout. They demonstrated their skills in map reading, navigating, walking and cooking, while supporting and encouraging each other along the way, with plenty of singing! Everyone worked well together and should be proud of their efforts.





NEXT STEPS

Some Year 13 students had a tour of Chelmsford College. They met with Sarah Kern, the Inspire Foundation Provision Manager, to discuss the different pathways available within the college. There will be more visits throughout the year to Chelmsford College and other providers.

Maths and English

In English, some students have been reading Where the World Ends, focusing on developing their reading comprehension skills. Others have been reading Mistakes That Worked, exploring key vocabulary and identifying techniques they can apply to their own descriptive writing. One class focused on the word ‘revamp’ and used this as inspiration to create some revamped clothing.

In Maths, students have been focusing on number, place value and mathematical operations, developing their understanding and applying their skills in real-life contexts.

Across both English and Maths, many students have started working towards their next qualifications, including AQA Entry Level Certificates, Step Up to English Silver and Gold awards, and Functional Skills.



COMMUNITY LEARNING

Students have been developing their independence and community access skills through a range of activities, including catching buses, visiting different towns and accessing local facilities. Many have also completed AQA Unit Awards linked to these experiences, recognising the skills they have developed.

We continue to be impressed by how students engage with these trips, developing their budgeting skills, managing unfamiliar environments and communicating with people in shops and other public places. Many have stepped outside their comfort zones and grown in confidence as a result. Next half term, students will move on to their next community access group, providing further opportunities to build on these skills.







Foundation Growth Pathway




FGP students have been busy running the Wash Club stall at Chelmsford Market, selling products they have made themselves. They have also been gaining valuable work experience at Circles Farm and volunteering at Essex Dementia Care. It has been particularly good to see our new Year 12 students learning new skills, especially through making products for the Wash Club.

WORK EXPERIENCE/CAREERS

Plans are underway for Year 12 work experience, which will take place in February, with some students having placements already in the process of being organised. Our Year 13 students and other leavers were fortunate to have an online careers talk from Yamana at Colas Rail, who spoke to our students about local projects and the range of career opportunities available, including apprenticeships.



College ENRICH Code

E- Enterprise
N- Nurture
R- Respect
I- Integrity
C- Compassion
H- Honesty

IMPORTANT DATES

Inset Day/Annual Reviews: 16th November
Children In Need (£1 Donation): 13th November
Christmas Buffet/ Jumper Day: 9th December
Last Day of Term: 18th December - 1pm finish

Education Challenge Prepare