

HOULTON EASTER NEWS 2022



HOULTON
SCHOOL

Welcome from the Principal

Dear Houlton Family,

Welcome to our Easter newsletter, which is brimming with joyous celebrations of all our pupils have achieved and learned during this half-term.

From our World Class Schools' Day, to our very proud win at the National V&A Innovate Awards, it's been a busy time for everyone!

On a personal note, and as you'll read below, my current attempts to eat more healthily have been scuppered by the various delicious offerings that have been coming out of both Food and Modern Languages lessons this half-term – some very talented Houlton chefs are emerging so I will have to move to even more dog walks to off-set the tasty offerings!

For Christians Easter is, of course, the ultimate season of renewal and faith. But as it's also a national holiday, it's a special time for all of us whatever our own personal beliefs; we'll all be looking forward to spending time with family, decorating eggs or enjoying some chocolate treats and as Spring transitions into Summer I'm reminded of Oscar Wilde's uplifting words that, '...a flower blossoms for its own joy' so some time to stop, take stock and reflect upon the beauty of the world around us is welcome.

In our Personal Development assembly programme we have been focusing on kindness and celebrating difference with assemblies on forgiveness, courage and integrity. This has been extended further in our PHRSE curriculum in which pupils have been giving their views about our school in an online survey. Some quotations from pupils' responses include,

'...remember you're not alone because Houlton really is a family...'

'...our Houlton family protects us and makes us feel safe all the time...'

'...I remember the Science lesson where Mr Griffin showed us how to make elephant toothpaste and how to set your hands on fire (safely, of course, please don't tell sir off...)'

The emotive sincerity, yet humorous innocence of their words continues to make me and everyone involved in our special community incredibly proud.

Happy Easter, however you celebrate and "...let everything you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Michael McCulley
Principal

V&A Houlton School pupils win V&A Innovate National Schools Award

We are incredibly proud to announce that a group of pupils from Houlton School have won a prestigious V&A Innovate National Schools Award.

The pupils, who are all members of Houlton's Obama College, took part in the national challenge to design a solution to a real-world problem.

With close to 2,000 pupils taking part, 119 teams entering ideas and just 50 pupils from across the country selected for the Annual Pitching and Awards Day at the V&A Museum in London, the competition was tough.

Taking inspiration from the V&A's 'Design: 1900 – Now' galleries, pupils were tasked with proposing design ideas for the themes of Renew, Connect, and Move. This included a focus on more sustainable uses of materials and ways of living, ways to support people to (re)connect following COVID-19, and more inclusive ways to keep active and enjoy the outdoors.

During the Pitching and Awards Day, our Houlton School pupils spent the day taking part in creative workshops with designers, where they also saw their work on display and stood up in front of a full auditorium to

showcase their brilliant design projects to a panel of industry judges.

After wowing the judges with their entry, the Houlton School team walked away with the award for the winning entry for the Move category. Their design, entitled 'The Rewalkable' was an adjustable, moisture sensing walking stick for the partially sighted, made from recycled products.

Mr Russell Hill, Subject Leader: Creative at Houlton School, said: "Our young designers were so excited to win this award. They have worked incredibly hard and it was fantastic that the judges recognised their incredible creativity, innovation and teamwork.

'The Rewalkable' was commended by professionals on the day as being something truly innovative and that has no similar counterpart to the market.

Miss Chloe Buckenham, Houlton's Vice Principal, accompanied the pupils alongside the pioneers of the project, Mr Hill and Miss Hill and said. "It was an absolute privilege to see our pupils present on the day. We are so proud of their achievement. They are truly World Class."

This year's V&A Award judges were:

Zoe Laughlin:
Co-founder and Director of the Institute of Making and the Materials Library, Broadcaster, Designer, Maker and Materials Engineer.

Magid Magid:
Race and Climate Justice Activist, Organiser, Author, and Founder and Director of Union of Justice.

Rama Gheerawo:
Director of the Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design at the Royal College of Art, and RCA Reader in Inclusive Design.





World Class Schools

This March, Houlton School hosted the World Class Schools Quality Mark (WCSQM) Assessment Centre, welcoming 175 pupils from 30 primary and secondary schools applying for WCSQM re-accreditation. The assessment centre event marked a return to in-person assessment events for the education charity that works to accredit non-selective schools from around the UK as World Class. In order to achieve World Class Quality Mark accreditation, pupils must demonstrate World Class characteristics, using the WCSQM framework of characteristics as a benchmark of the skills and competencies young people need to thrive in an ever-changing global economy.

Visiting pupils were given two weeks to prepare and a day to complete eleven innovative, attractive and environmentally friendly outdoor and indoor spaces, all incorporating the Houlton School values. Pupils worked together to design a sensory garden, eco-friendly seating, murals, sculptures and tree hangings, supported by Houlton's staff and partners as industry experts, with advice from a focus group of Houlton's Year 7 pupils who acted as Project Managers for the day. This challenging real-life project gave pupils a unique opportunity to not only develop and demonstrate their World Class characteristics and LORIC skills, but to enjoy a much-needed return to the

social development, work experience and collaboration opportunities pupils have missed out on over the past two years.

Accredited World Class schools are invited to apply for re-accreditation biennially to prove their school is consistently World Class. The assessment centre is one of a two-part re-accreditation process for the 30 participating schools, the second part of which involves pupils using the WCSQM online app to demonstrate their World Class characteristics across a number of framework areas including learning, leadership, the workplace and community. Once completed, pupils have access to a downloadable portfolio of their World Class skills and competencies they can use to inform, for example, further education and employment applications. Our pupils have been busy working on the app this year and we hope to put Houlton School forward for accreditation next year.

Houlton School would like to thank all the pupils and staff involved in the day and to give special thanks to David Palmer (Palmer Pallets Ltd), Lovell, Morgan Sindall, Finham Park School, and Friends of Houlton School for their generosity and support in providing a large number of resources (including themselves on the day!)

By Miss Chloe Buckenham, Vice Principal



The wonders of Pi

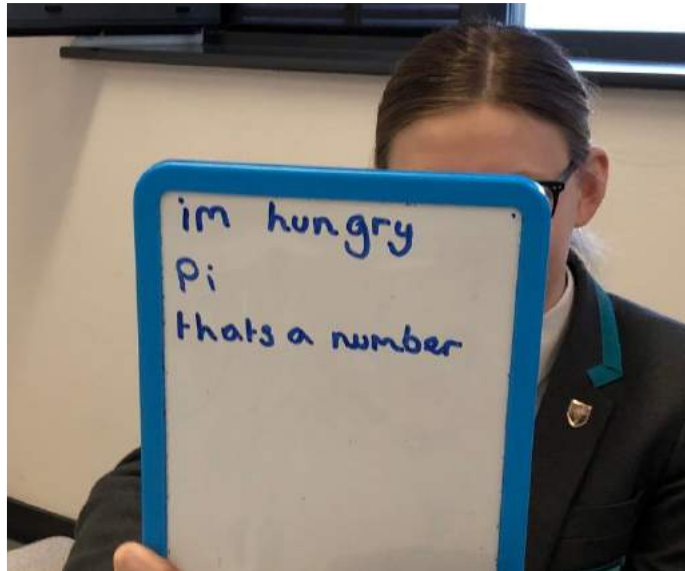
On 14th March (3.14 using the US date system) we celebrated Pi Day.

Pupils learnt how Pi was first calculated by the ancient Babylonians and Archimedes before being popularised with William Jones using the symbol π . We then looked at the fantastic uses of this irrational number and how it connects to so much of the world around us including:

- How rivers meander?
- How we measure stars?
- Why Zebras are stripy?
- What it has to do with the pyramids in Egypt?

In our lessons we did a range of activities revolving around Pi, such as calculating Pi by measuring circular objects' circumference and diameter and replicating Comte de Buffon's probability experiment by throwing toothpicks in the classroom to estimate pi.

It wasn't all maths related though as pupils wrote Pi-Kus and learnt about the history of Pi and its connections to the world around us.



3.14159265358979323
8462643383279502884
19716939937510

Memory Pi

Pupils were invited to memorise the digits of Pi. Although we didn't manage to beat the current World Record (70,030) we did manage to set a Houlton record of 50 digits by Ella 7D.

Bake Sale

Year 7 also contributed to the Unicef appeal for Ukraine by taking part in a bake sale where we raised £66. There were some delicious treats and of course some Pi-Cookies

By Miss Jasmine Etheridge, Head of Faculty: Mathematics & Numeracy



Maths Jokes Competition

On Pi day we asked for the best maths jokes from our pupils to save future pupils from Miss Etheridge's terrible sense of humour. Some of her favourite jokes included:

**Why was 6 scared of 7?
Because 7 8 9!**

Cass 7D

What do mathematician farmers use? A Pro-Tractor

Caydan 7W

What did the 8 say to the 7? Can I be two zeros!

Callum F 7W

What was the baker's favourite pie? Pi!

Anna 7O

My teacher had graph paper...I think she is plotting something!

Hollie C 7D

What did the calculator say to the boy? You can count on me!

Michael 7W

What is a mathematician's favourite pie? Pie Charts!

Matilda F 7D

Is maths sweet or savoury? It depends what is in the pi!

Isabelle M 7D

Why is 88, Buzz Lightyear's favourite number? Because it is 2 infinity and sideways!

Arjan 7M

Knock Knock! Who's there? 3. 3 who? 3.1415926535

Lacey 7W

$\sqrt{-1}$ 23 Σ π and it was delicious!

Loic, Andras and Luca 7M

Why do plants hate maths? Because they don't have square roots!

Matilda C 7W

Why did the π cross the road? To get to Miss Etheridge!

Hope 7W

There were 3 teenagers called 18, 13 and 12. Who was the youngest? 13 – third teen!

Roshni 7O

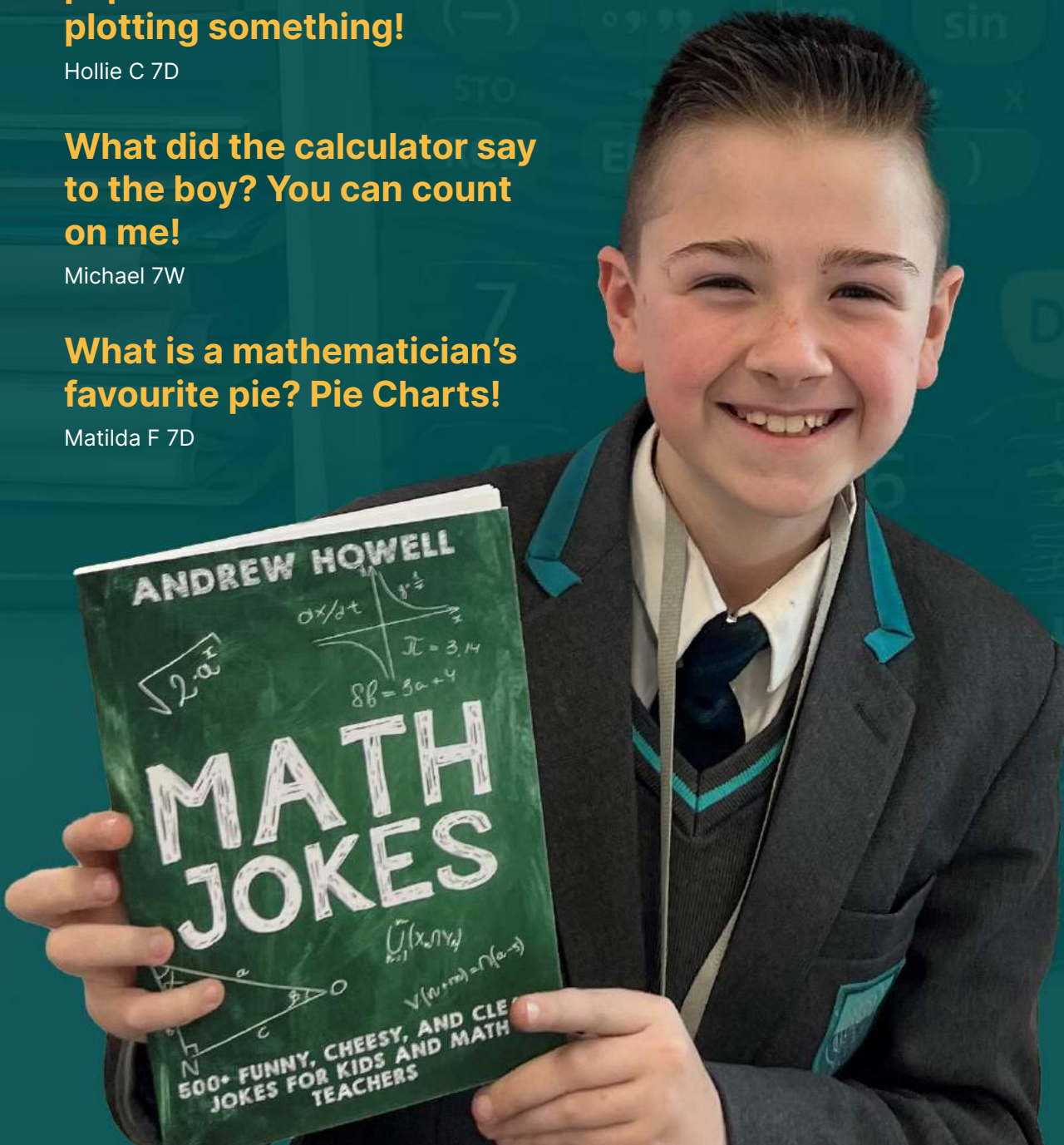
Who was the roundest knight at King Arthur's table? Circumference!

Alice 7W

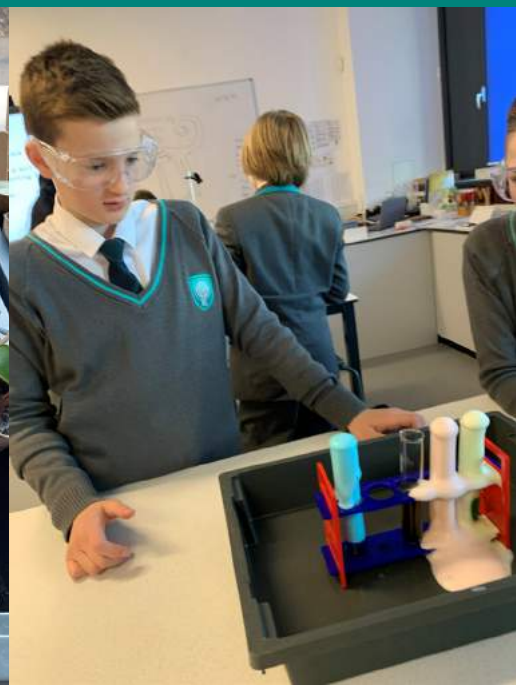
But the winning Joke was from Jude 7D who won a maths Joke book!

Why are mathematicians never hungry? Because they always have Pi!

Jude 7D



Celebrating British Science Week



Every year, schools across the country take part in British Science Week. This annual event aims to inspire the next generation of scientists and is an excellent opportunity for pupils to step away from the curriculum and take part in some extra fun activities (I say extra fun, as science is always fun). The theme of this year's event is "Growth" and with this in mind, pupils looked at how growth can be seen across biology, chemistry and physics.

Chemistry is perhaps the most challenging area of science to think about growth, as our minds naturally jump to the growth of seeds or baby animals. But growth means to get larger, and there are many things in chemistry that "get larger", one of which being the volume of gas during an explosion. By my own admission, this is a tenuous link, but as far as I am concerned any opportunity for a scientific explosion is a good one. With this in mind, pupils witnessed an

exploding hydrogen balloon in their science lessons, followed by three methane rockets in our auditorium during their assembly. The rockets in particular have an especially violent reaction and pupils were amazed to see the force and hear the boom from this controlled demonstration.

Space is always an area of interest in physics, and again this year's theme could link to it, thinking about the life cycle of stars and the expansion of our universe. But instead, we focused on the "growth" of buildings and how engineering is helping to build buildings which are taller than ever. Pupils completed a competition to see who could build the tallest tower using nothing but spaghetti and marshmallows, with some very impressive architectural forms on show!

The final task of the week was looking at biology, and the more obvious forms of growth that we can see in our world.

Population growth was one such area of interest this week, but perhaps the more exciting aspect was the opportunity to plant sunflower seeds. Each pupil in each college has planted a different sunflower which will eventually be planted out and tended to in our campus grounds. This show of growth which we should all be able to see going into our summer months will provide food and shelter for many other organisms and provide that all important ecological "growth" in our own school grounds.

British Science Week also has an annual poster competition in which Houlton School is participating. By the end of term, pupils will submit their optional posters for judging, with the best 5 entries being entered for the national competition. Watch this space to see who makes it through!

**By Mr Aaron Griffin, Head of Faculty:
Science and Computer Science**

Getting creative in English

In the weeks following the half term break, the English faculty have had several exciting events which have really showcased the creative talents and hard work of our Houlton pupils. We are so proud of their efforts and their burgeoning love of literature and creative writing, that we have been celebrating their work in drop-down days and ordinary lessons. Read on to find out more about the wonderful opportunities that the pupils have been taking part in.

As well as penning their own books, pupils also had a visit from Ele Fountain, the author of *Boy 87*, *Lost and Melt*. Pupils were extremely excited to meet her and had the opportunity to listen to talk about her inspiration for writing, as well as her process. Later in the day, they also participated in a question-and-answer session with Ele, where they learned even more about the life of such an inspirational professional author. Many of them also managed to get Ele's signature on their own copies of her text.



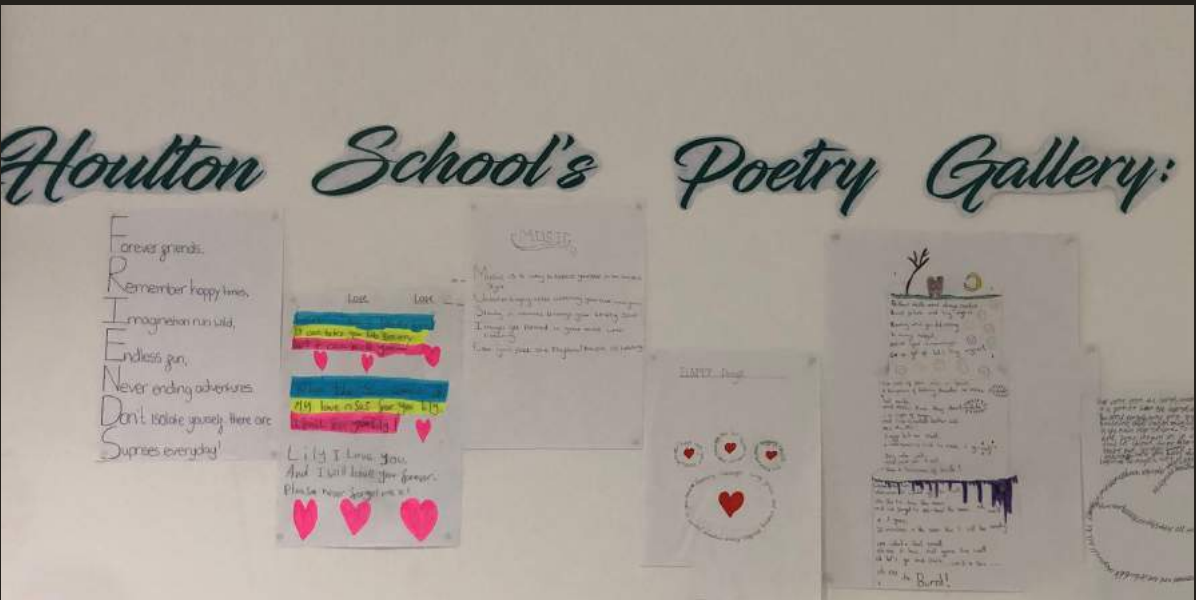


For 60 lucky pupils, the day got even better, as they joined in with creative writing workshops run by Ele. Here, they worked on creating original narratives and got professional advice on their writing. These pupils were selected as a reward for their continued efforts on the Bedrock vocabulary programme and we look forward to next term, where we will be having even more awards for their hard work.

In addition, we hosted the Great Bookish Bake-Off, where keen bakers brought in book-themed cakes and biscuits to sell to staff and pupils, with all proceeds going to buy more books for the school's Centre for Communications. The creativity and deliciousness on display was incredible, with the 3 intended winners stretching to 10 because of the high quality of the bakes. These pupils received a copy of Melt by Ele Fountain and first place will also be receiving an Amazon gift voucher for their efforts.

Finally, throughout the day, pupils were able to take part in the Big Book Swap, where they brought in books that they had already read and swapped them for another pupil's book.

Though hundreds of books lined the refectory at the start of the day, by the end, none were left as the Book Swap was such a success! It was lovely to see so many of our pupils making the most of a day that celebrates the joy and impact of literature, but was particularly wonderful to witness how much the love of reading is spreading throughout our Houlton family.



Creating children's books

Pupils have also been working in teams to create their own children's books.

They had to plan, write, illustrate, edit and publish their creations as six-page storybooks designed to help young children to learn. The topics of their books varied, including the numbers 1-10, key animal facts, how to identify emotions, making friends, being confident, facing fears and many more. The finished products have now been completed and will be delivered to Reception pupils at Henry Hinde Infant School.

Houlton School's Poetry Gallery

Since January, Houlton pupils have been studying poetry in their English lessons. The pupils began by conducting research into the different forms of poetry, from Sonnets to Calligrams, which they then created presentations about. After sharing their presentations, they worked in pairs to create some fantastic poems, which are now proudly displayed in the Houlton School Poetry Gallery, outside their English classroom, for all of our staff and pupils to enjoy.

We are now moving on to the study of slam poetry and look forward to helping our pupils to explore social issues in the modern world through this emotive and passionate medium.

By Mrs Sian Warde, Head of Faculty: English, Literacy and Drama

Building incredible castles

Our Year 7 pupils produced some absolutely fantastic castles as part of our Castles Project Challenge this term. Not only were we amazed at the innovation, effort and creativity that pupils displayed, but also the level and quality of the research and historical accuracy that the castles showed. Pupils demonstrated incredible independence and we are so proud of everyone for really getting involved in the challenge. Pupils submitted various forms of castle, in model form, through art, research and design modelling.

It was a very difficult competition to judge with a number of pupils receiving recognition

from various categories. We are planning to keep some of the castles on display as we are so impressed with them, including Daisy's castle which is featured below and won the Principal's Recognition Award, and the most historically accurate castle designed by Cara and featured below which has pride of place in Mr Abbott's classroom.

Thank you to all parents/carers who supported pupils in making their dream castle become a reality!

By Mr Jamie Abbott, Subject Team Leader: Humanities



Exploring Art and Design

The Big Question: Is it all about you?

"My work forces me to deal with the things I probably lack, like not being an extrovert or being reserved" – Gillian Wearing, Turner Prize Winner 1997

As young creatives, our artists are on the path of discovery, continuously navigating who they are, what they believe in and ultimately, who they will become.

Our current Big Question deals with these questions through an array of art forms, such as performance, video and mixed media. Introducing pupils to artists who create work in response to their culture, heritage, personal history and experiences, helps our pupils to reflect on their own social and moral status and asks them to build on their expanding identity whilst advancing their ability to explore, experiment and refine their ideas.

When writing this Big Question and scheme of learning, I was reminded of my own experience of art in secondary school. For me, the art studio was a space that offered safety, protection and challenge and while that challenge was daunting, it ignited a spark that continues to burn brightly today as I teach our pupils.

At Houlton School, art lessons are not about formulaic routes to achievement, nor are they a rigid, prescribed process of learning. We actively promote a sense of enquiry, and by its very nature, this enquiry may be linear for some, but for most, the route to achievement may be meandering and complex. It is critical that both are valued equally.

Due to the reflective nature of artmaking, many of our pupils will take time to 'find their lane' and as with my own educational experience, this discovery can occur at different stages during a pupil's school career. I feel responsible in affording each pupil the time and space to allow this discovery to take place and a great deal of thought is placed upon this when writing a project or creating episodes of learning.

Regular challenges are a key part of Art & Design education at Houlton School and can frequently provoke pupils' interest; however, academic achievement can only be understood in the context of art by looking at the entire pupil, their context, their experience and personal circumstance, both pastorally and academically. It is with great excitement that I can share with you the names of some pupils who have found their lane towards the end of their first year at Houlton School and I am increasingly excited to help them on their personal discovery.

By Mr Russell Hill, Subject Leader: Creative

Artists who have achieved beyond expectation this half term are:

Lily P, Olivia R, Fred M, Eleanor-Mai D, Harry M, Rhea D

Cassan M, Claudia C, Arjan N, Anna Z, Alice C



Art & Design Assessments

Throughout March, pupils completed a 2-part assessment in Art & Design, which included a timed observational drawing and a multiple-choice test. I was blown away by the skill on display and congratulate all pupils on their achievements.

Year 7 Drawing Assessments

Special recognition goes to the following pupils, who amazed, inspired and achieved beyond all expectation on their recent assessment:

Olivia R Eleanor-Mai D Lily P Cassan M

Creative Awards 2022

The inaugural Creative Awards took place on 31st March, in order to recognise the outstanding commitment to our department core values.

The following pupils will hold the title of Creative Champions for the duration of Year 8, assisting our new Year 7 cohort in and outside of the classroom, whilst championing creativity throughout Houlton School.

I wish to personally thank all pupils for their ongoing enthusiasm and efforts across Art & Design, Design Technology and Food Preparation & Nutrition.



The Chef Award for Excellence is awarded to **Amelia Y, Anthony S** and **Loic F**

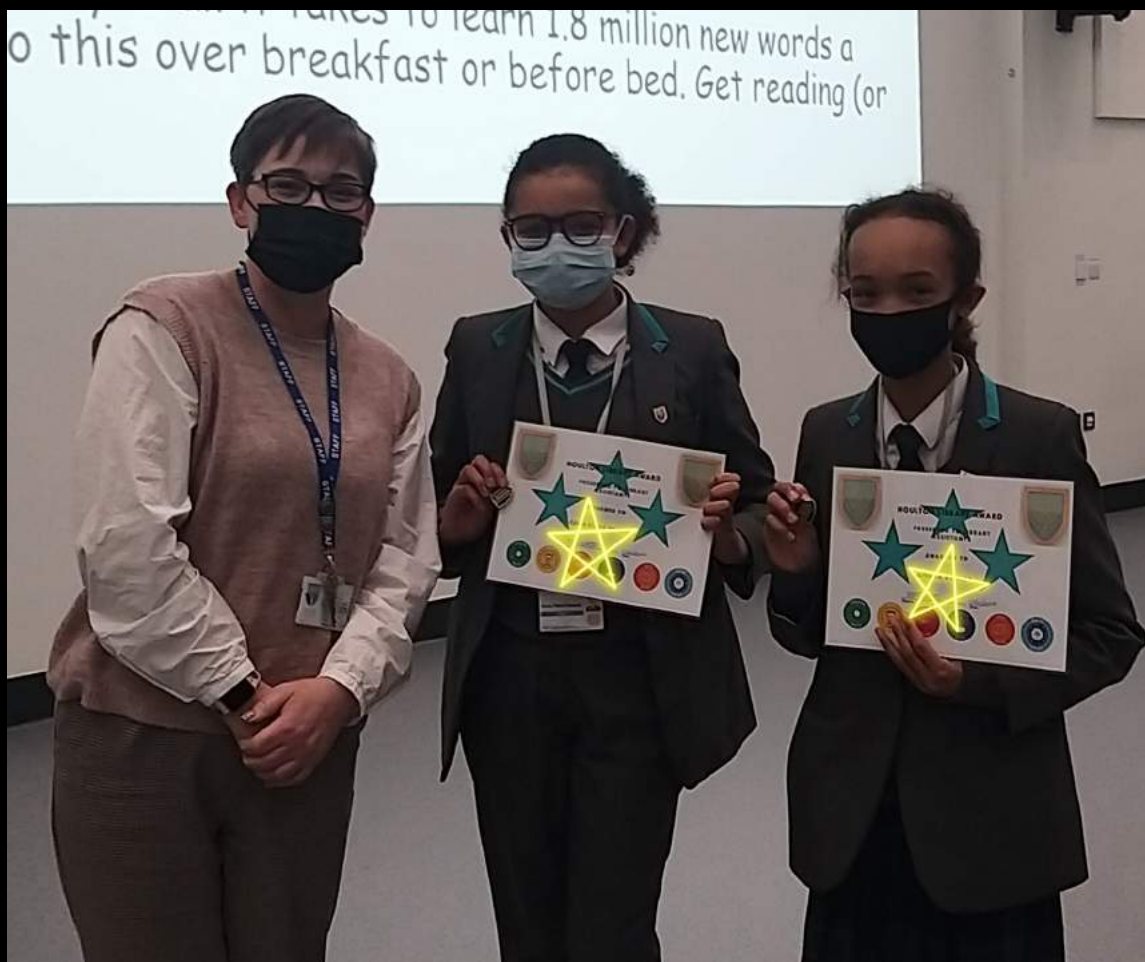


The Artist Award for Excellence is awarded to **Mackye S, Cass M** and **Tillie H**



The Designer Award for Excellence is awarded to **Elisa S, Harry M** and **Aaryan K**

By Mr Russell Hill, Subject Team Leader:
Creative



Malcolm Hancock Centre for Communications

Houlton Centre for Communications (CfC) has its first 2 Pupil Librarians. Congratulations to Cara (Dorsey College) and Aiyana (Morse College) who have been learning how to process books being taken out and returned.

By Miss Bernie Fleck, Associate Teacher: Pupil Intervention and CfC



Art & Design Co-curricular clubs

102 pupils and counting have taken part in after school and lunchtime art clubs since September 2021.

This is something we are incredibly proud of as it demonstrates pupils' commitment to Art & Design at Houlton School. Pupils who attend can expect to experience art processes which are not currently part of the curriculum but will support their growing knowledge base of technical and creative skills.

Activities ran over the last term have included:

- Coil clay pots
- CAD Bedroom signs
- Laser cut LED lamps
- Electronics & Soldering
- Ceramic Badges

CPR Training

By the last day of the Autumn/Winter Term all pupils at Houlton had received training in CPR, thanks to the very generous donation of 30 resus models from the British Heart Foundation.

I was so proud that Morse went on to raise £300.73 to support the Foundation with their chocolate tombola.

By Ms Annie Divver,
Pupil Experience Lead

Languages News

This term in Languages, it's been all about learning through authentic materials:

We focused on Tapas in Spanish, learning about the way Spaniards eat out, and the different dishes eaten in Spain depending on which region you are from. We went to the Food and Nutrition classroom, and prepared a typical patatas bravas, a classic tapa, made of cubes of potato in a spicy tomato sauce. The recipe was all in Spanish, so we had to read it carefully!

In French this term we looked at the twinned town of Rugby: Evreux, in Normandy, France. Some of us knew about Evreux Way in town, and this was the starter for a research project on Rugby and its French twin.

We looked at the differences between Evreux and Rugby and asked ourselves: Is Rugby

a very French town, after all? We finished the term focusing on directions in town, so that whenever abroad in a French speaking country, we can ask for directions without using our phones!

In Languages and Culture Club, we had another group of pupils attempting crêpes, and I would like to congratulate Winton College pupils Michael, Darshan, Mo and James for making the best crepe batter I have ever had from a group of Year 7s! Bravo!

Next term, keep your eyes peeled for available spaces at the Languages and Culture Club, as we may be able to open it up to more pupils mid-May.

By Mr Matthieu Raffy, Subject Team Leader: Modern Languages



Mindfulness club

The after school Mindfulness Club have been practising the art of kintsugi

What does kintsugi symbolize?

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of putting broken pottery pieces back together with gold – a metaphor for embracing your flaws and imperfections. We used paint and glue and decorated our pots with stars

By Ms Annie Divver, Pupil Experience Lead

PE at Houlton

PE Curriculum this half term:

It has been another busy half term in PE with a focus on Gymnastics, problem solving and Fitness & Health within curriculum lessons. Our pupils have been exploring our big question in Gymnastics 'How do we know what a successful floor routine looks like?' We have been impressed with the creative and imaginative routines pupils have created in lessons, pushing themselves out of their comfort zones.

Our problem-solving lessons have focused on trying to build important everyday skills which the pupils can utilise to become successful individuals, such as teamwork, resilience, leadership, communication and innovation. After Easter, we are moving onto our summer sports which are Athletics, Rounders and Cricket.



Co-curricular clubs

We have continued the same lunch and after school clubs since before half term with high attendance for all. These include Football, Rugby, Netball, Badminton, Handball and Bike maintenance club. We also took part in the #Letgirlsplay initiative where we had lots of girls from year 7 attend Football after school, as part of a national initiative to promote more girls having opportunities to play football in schools.



Fixtures and results

Girls' Football

Houlton Vs Bilton

(W 10-1 Annie P being awarded player of the match for her six-goal contribution)

Houlton Vs RFSS

(Indoor: L 6 – 8)

Boys' Rugby:

Vs Harris

(Coached game)

Vs Lawrence Sheriff



Pupil of the term

Our next pupil of the term will be announced in the summer. As a reminder, our PE department are looking out for the following qualities:

- Gone above and beyond to help out in PE/Dance lessons
- Demonstrated exceptional effort and enthusiasm consistently across the term
- Taking an active part in our co-curricular clubs and teams
- Positive attitude and a willingness to learn
- Polite, punctual, reliable and organised pupil

Dance

Continuing from before half term we are still exploring different styles of dance.

We have covered Street, Irish and Bollywood and this term we have focused on the Charleston, Pasa Doble and Tap.

Pupils' research task for Dance is going to be utilised after Easter when they refine their style of Dance and complete a group project around one specific style to develop some group choreography.

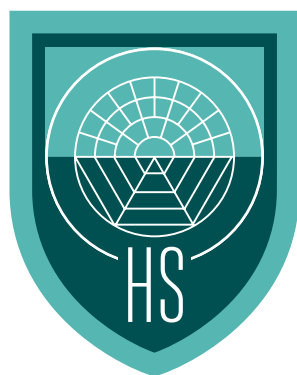
Mrs Forrest has been running our Dance and Cheerleading clubs every week, with fantastic numbers attending our Cheer club this term.

By Miss Abbie Hartfield, Teacher of Physical Education



Please follow our twitter page for PE department news, fixtures and results.

 @HoultonPEdept



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