

PENDLE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE

# SUMMER

## NEWSLETTER 2021

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[www.pchs.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.pchs.lancs.sch.uk)





# ● NOTICEBOARD ●



[www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)

## Introducing our new online payment service

All parents/carers should by now have received their activation letters for our new online payments system. ParentPay will be going live from September 2021. From this date we will be working towards no longer accepting cash and cheque payments, making the school a cash-free environment.

For any assistance activating your account, please contact the school office and they will be happy to help.



## Special School Eye Care Service

All parents and carers will have received information about the eye care service. If you haven't already done so, please can you fill in either the 'About my child's eyes' form if wish for your child to participate, otherwise, the 'Opt Out' form.

Once these forms are completed we can then organise your son/daughter's optical appointment in school.

## COMING SOON: PARENT COURSES

We will soon be partnering with local providers to offer courses for parents on a range of different topics. We are hoping to hold these in our new community building where we are planning to open a cafe run by the students! Watch this space...

## School will close at the normal time on Friday 16th July. From September, the new school day will be as follows:

<b>08:45 - 09:10</b>	Registration/ breakfast/ Act of worship
<b>09:10 - 10:00</b>	Lesson 1
<b>10:00 - 10:50</b>	Lesson 2
<b>10:50 - 11:10</b>	Break
<b>11:10 - 12:00</b>	Lesson 3
<b>12:00 - 12:30</b>	Lunch
<b>12:30 - 13:00</b>	Supervised extra curricular clubs/ break
<b>13:00 - 13:20</b>	Pm reg pastoral/ ERIC
<b>13:20 - 14:10</b>	Lesson 4
<b>14:10 - 15:00</b>	Lesson 5
<b>15:00 - 15:10</b>	Form / check out/ Mindfulness
<b>15:15</b>	Dismissal

# WELCOME *from the Headteacher*

Well it would be easy to dedicate this message to Covid and restrictions etc. but we have still managed to do plenty. We now have a weekly eye service, a new counsellor, an independent Speech and Language therapist as well as the HI, VI and MSI input. We have recently been awarded the 360 Online Safety Mark, with our college students coming in the top 5 nationally for their video on 'fake news'. We have an established forest school and music and sailing are back on the curriculum. We've run Bikeability, had a clay potter who worked with the year 10s and a recent circus skills day which was an absolute hit. Educational visits have resumed which means we are out and about again and if we throw in a couple of leavers' parties and charity events I believe we have done our utmost to keep things running as 'normal'.

We do say goodbye to some colleagues at the end of the term- Kevin Hird and Susan Templar who are both retiring and looking forward to their leisure time. Daniel Sharp, Daniel Wilson, Clare Sharp and Amy Longworth are all moving on to pastures new and we wish them all the best of luck and thank them for everything they have done for the school, whether that be for many years or many months.

In September we have three new teachers starting and are delighted that we have two NQTs Laurie Gumbrell and Alicia Whittaker and a new Computing lead Mr. Sajjad Bhatti. They are all extremely passionate about providing the best for our students and are welcome additions to the staff team.

Going a little further afield we now have a possible two venues for parent/ carers courses and where we can have 'practise cafes' for our young people to practise some skills. We are renting Hodge House and also working at the vegetable pocket park there and Walton Lane Community Centre. These venues will also allow us to provide opportunities to meet with parents and work together to move the school forward in recognition of what is important for families and our young people. More details of these events will be posted in the new academic year. Once ready, we do have backing from a charitable foundation that will support us for 3 years to lease/ run a café or shop to gain further work experience so we are on the lookout for potential premises from which we can run this new venture. In the meantime, practising on our parents and carers will help to build up these skills!

The school day will return to normal from September so please check you know your start and finish times. The newsletter and website are excellent reference points for anything you might need to find out during the holidays and if there is any updated guidance before we return it will be on there.

Thank you again to everyone who has sent me personal messages or joined in our Zoom meetings and whilst the virtual world has worked it will be great to start meeting again in person when we can. This has been a steep learning curve for me this year and I want to thank all the staff team for their support and unwavering dedication to the students, without which the year would have been even tougher. I still maintain that it is a privilege to be headteacher of this school and I will continue to do the best I can for every student that comes through our doors. This is a magical place with precious moments every day, and when some days are tough it's good to know that there are always bubbles!

Finally I would like to wish our leavers all the best, I hope you all have a happy holiday, stay safe and well and we look forward to seeing you in September.

*Debra Grogan*





# HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS: RESPECT



At PCHS we care for and respect ourselves, other people, our environment and always try our best. Wyre pupils have been doing some focused work with Miss Bayliss on Healthy Relationships, focusing on respect.

Pupils explored what it means to care for and respect ourselves; thinking about ways to take care of our physical, mental, social, spiritual and emotional health, such as personal care, good sleep and taking part in social activities.

They explored how we can care for and respect other people; thinking about being polite and courteous, treating others in a way we want to be treated, helping others, being kind and treating adults how we would want our family to be treated at work.

The pupils considered how we care for and respect our environment; pupils were able to talk about taking care of school equipment, helping by tidying up their mess, recycling and putting litter in the bin.

Pupils thought carefully about always trying our best; not giving up, trying to do things better or differently, and that excellence is not being the best but doing your best.



 RESPECT STARTS WITH YOU

# OUTDOOR EDUCATION: SCIENCE



During Ribble's outdoor science lesson we explored the life cycle of a plant. We went into the sensory garden and looked at the different parts of a plant, the stem, the leaves, the roots and the flower. We looked at the different seeds and their shapes and sizes. We got nice and muddy digging in the soil to see what seeds, creepy crawlies and other things we could find buried within the soil. We then planted 5000 of our own seeds and are watching them grow in class, with each student having the responsibility of watering the seeds once a day.



# ONLINE SAFETY QUALITY MARK

On 9th July 2021, Pendle Community High School and College were proud to be awarded the 360 degree Online Safety Mark. The 360-degree safe tool is an award winning online safety self-review tool for schools. We have been using the self-assessment tool for several years to develop our online safety policy and practice at PCHSC.

It was a rigorous process to gather all of our evidence to show how we are meeting all of the criteria in order to gain this mark. The first step towards gaining the mark was to complete an online application to South West Grid for Learning and submission of a completed 360 degree safe self review. We also had to provide a full commentary for each aspect which fully described our provision for that aspect and how it met the required benchmark level.

Following the application, the assessor checked the completed safe self-review tool to ensure that our school appeared (in our responses) to have met the benchmark levels and were ready for an assessor visit.

Our school then welcomed an assessor in (remotely due to restrictions) on the 9th July. We agreed an agenda for the visit and the assessor met with a range of staff, students/pupils, parents/carers and governors to discuss the different areas. The assessor also carried out a brief review of some of the school's paper/online evidence (policies, minutes, audit logs etc). At the end of the visit we were informed by the assessor that our application had been successful! Well done to everyone involved.

# IRWELL & YARROW VISIT THE FOREST

Irwell and Yarrow had a fantastic time at Marsden Park Forest School. They explored the surroundings, made mud pies, made a tree swing, and relaxed in hammocks. The session was then finished off with a drink and a biscuit. They all loved being in the great outdoors.



# WALKING IN AID OF SIR CAPTAIN TOM



Marsden have been working towards gaining a British Values AQA. One of the things they had to achieve is to take part in a charitable event. We decided as a class to take on the challenge of walking around the nature trail 100 times in a week. We set ourselves the target of raising £50. It was a great challenge & we are proud to say that we did it! We also managed to raise well over our £50 target and after generous support, our total was a whopping £140! Well done Marsden!



# THIS IS NOT FAKE NEWS...

Following the success of Safer Internet Day, Childnet International set up a film competition asking young people to create a short film or storyboard exploring the theme of: Separating fact from fiction - finding trustworthy information online. The Safer Internet Day research found that more than three quarters of young people say being online is a more important part of their life than ever before. However, almost half are seeing misleading content online every day. The film has to be based on the following key themes:

- What can you do to find out whether something online is true or not?
- Why would someone post something online that isn't true?
- How would we help someone to understand the difference between fact and fiction?

Various groups within school and college worked hard to create their videos. The competition received over 100 entries and students in Bowland managed to make it into the top 5 in the secondary age category! The video 'Is it fake or is it real?' Made by Nabil, Bethany, Ifras, Reece, Asad & Nuhman will be featured on the Childnet website over the coming months and each student will receive a goody bag. Well done! The judges were also so impressed with Darwen's entry that even though they didn't reach the top 5, they were still chosen to receive goody bags. This was for the film 'Flying Penguins' made by Abbie, Zayn, Kaiden, James, Aneela, Tyler & Kyle.

Everyone who entered the competition received a certificate of achievement and should feel incredibly proud of themselves. Well done everyone!

## WENNING'S DAY OUT

Students in Wenning enjoyed a trip to Blackpool and had a great time! They visited the Pier and played Hook-a-Duck where everyone won a prize. They played on the water squirting machines and some students had their photos taken in the photo boards. Obviously no trip to Blackpool is complete without fish and chips, which they sat and ate on the beach. This was followed by ice cream while walking on the front and enjoying the sights and sounds Blackpool has to offer.



## STUDENTS ENJOY SAILING



Students from KS4 and College took part in several sailing sessions at Lake Burwain in Foulridge. They were given the chance to take the helm under the watchful eye of RYA (Royal Yachting Association) instructors. Some of our students who had sailed before looked quite at ease on the waves. Others who were making their maiden voyage were understandably a little anxious about a wavering boat. However with a little cajoling they all fared well on the rolling waves.

A new experience for some and a very worthwhile one, giving our students a different skill to master. It was great to get out and feel the wind on our faces after a very trying year for everyone.

All our students managed to achieve either their Entry Level or Bronze certificates. Once again thanks to all the instructors and volunteers who made it all possible. Here's to more of the same.



## BLACKO VISIT FOREST SCHOOL

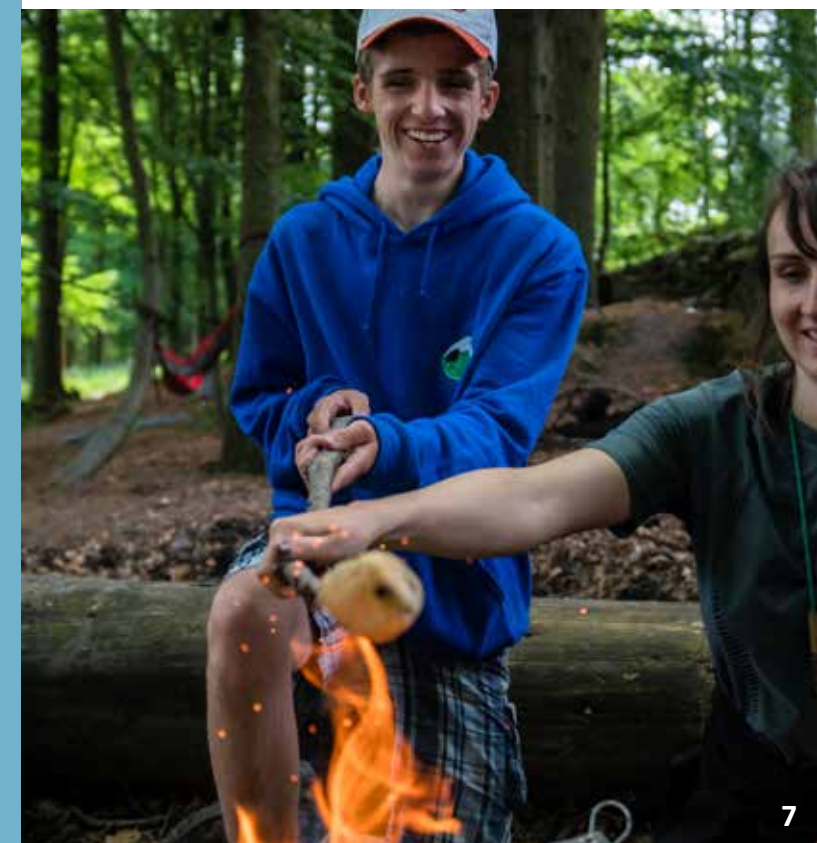
This was Blacko's first excursion to Forest Schools. We headed out toward Barley at the foot of Pendle Hill. We were hidden beneath a canopy of woodland, with a mixture of conifer and broadleaved trees, some that were rather ancient.

Nayab attempted to estimate the height of a Larch tree; he thought about 90 foot. Some of our students remembered how to tell the age of a tree by counting the annual rings.

Under the guidance of the Forest School Leader, they were encouraged to have a closer look at the common stinging nettle. Not only does it host a wide variety of insects but it also has some medicinal properties too. They were shown how to handle them safely and later they were asked if they would like to try some nettle tea.

We then played some games which gave us more time to witness the woodland environment. Some decided they would like to try a little relaxation within the comfort of a hammock. Meanwhile Liam and Daniel tried to build a woodland shelter out of canvas and ropes.

We then lit a campfire and toasted some bread whilst trying the delights of some home made nettle tea. The students really enjoyed their woodland experience and can't wait for another visit in such salubrious surroundings.





# IT'S AN EMERGENCY IN WENNING!

This term Wenning have been finding out about emergency services and how they help us, we created our own hospital room and we all got dressed as doctors and nurses, Haris was a model patient and loved it. A couple of us also went out to visit emergency stations where we were able to look at and hear the vehicles.



## SOCIAL MEDIA SHOUT OUT

It was lovely for Bradley Big Local Community Land Trust to give our students some online recognition for work carried out at their community centre. This is what they had to say:

"A very big thank you to staff and students from Pendle Community High School & College for clearing up someone else's mess from the car park at Hodge House Community Centre.

Soil and stones left behind when a huge skip was 'parked' there recently (without even asking if it was ok) made the area look even more of a dumping ground than it usually is. Pendle Community High School & College swept it all up and used the soil to fill in some of the large tracks left in the grassed area. We are so grateful for you doing this and making the area outside the community centre look tidy and cared for.



Pendle Community High School & College has taken on the small allotment area at Hodge House Community Centre (also known as the 'pocket park') and students have been busy clearing away all the weeds and rubbish that's accumulated there over the past year or so before work starts to make it into a 'proper garden' again. We can't wait to see the results!! Thank you for all your hard work."



# YARROW HAVE BEEN BUSY...



In Yarrow we've had a very busy term, especially in the last few weeks!

We have been trying out different jobs in PSHE. We had a go at being waiters and waitresses, shop keepers and firefighters.

In English we enjoyed the story of Zog the dragon, and all the things he had to learn to try and win a golden star.

In cooking we've enjoyed making lots of tasty things, like vegetable pizzas!

But, our favourite thing this half term, has been our Forest School sessions. We've done two sessions at school and one at Marsden Park. At Forest School we've made wands, hung bird feeders, made willow crowns, listened to stories, made mud pies, built tents, and so much more!

We are looking forward to our summer break but we can't wait to be back in September!



# A PERFECT DAY FOR POTTERY

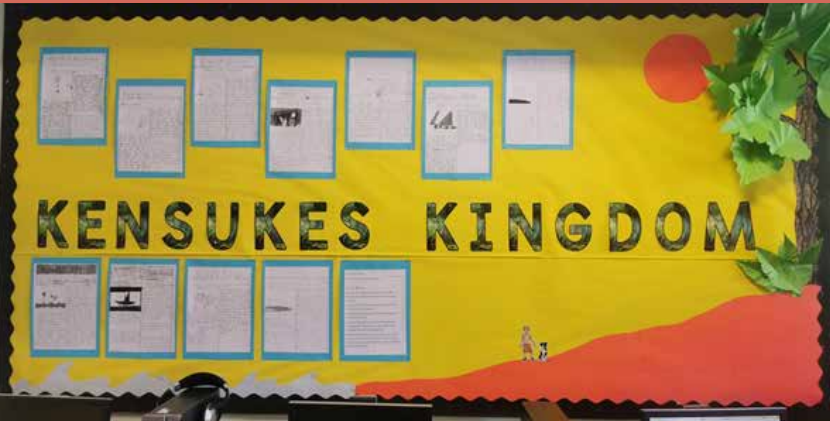
Students in year 10 have gone potty! They had the opportunity to work with Andrew Hill, a local potter for the entire day. They learnt how to hand build 3D sculptures and add Kandinsky inspired shapes. Once these pieces have been fired in the kiln and glazed they are going to be used to decorate our sensory garden. Students also had the opportunity to use the potter's wheel to throw their own bowls. They all did an amazing job and really enjoyed the whole day.



# WONDERFUL WYRE

During summer term, Wyre have been working hard to improve our timestables! We have been using TimesTable Rockstars – an online game to help us with this. We have entered into many challenging multiplication competitions with other form groups in school and even a national competition. All of Wyre have become rockstars, rock heroes and rock legends!

We have also enjoyed reading our new book which is called Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Murpurgo. The class have produced some super work about this book which we have created a class display with.





# IRWELL'S VISIT TO PETS AT HOME

As part of our Science Topic, - Habitats, Irwell went to Pets At Home. We looked at what we need to keep our pets happy and healthy.



# WYRE IN THE FOREST

In wonderful Wyre, we visited our new forest school site at Boothman park. Forest School is a child centered inspirational learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through sessions. It supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

During our session we explored nature, relaxed in hammocks, played many games, made dens using tarpaulin, made hot chocolate on the fire, went bug hunting and learnt about the natural world around us. All of Wyre thoroughly enjoyed forest schools and can't wait to revisit.



# BIKEABILITY

In the Summer term students had a chance to get on their bikes and ride! The Go Velo team came in for two weeks in June and worked with our young people to improve skills and confidence. The groups varied from complete beginners, who successfully achieved a 'Learning to Ride' certificate, through to level two, who were practising skills you would need to ride safely on the roads. Emma the tutor was impressed by the students' determination to improve their skills and she will be back in September to run some more courses.



# FUN AT FOREST SCHOOL

During the Summer term we have been able to set up and participate in our Forest School programme. Some classes have had their sessions on school grounds and some have been up to Boothman Park, where we are lucky enough to have access to a beautiful Beech woodland. It's situated on top of a hill, where you can see the stunning views of Pendle Hill through the gaps in the trees. We've also been fortunate to have had beautiful weather most days which has only added to the magic!

So far this term, classes have had a few Forest School taster sessions where they have begun to explore and become acquainted with nature. We have had a fabulous time playing games, drinking hot chocolate, swinging in the hammocks, listening to stories, creating nature art, finding animals, roasting snacks on the fire, making mud face paint and much more.



# HOW TO BE A LION IN HODDER

In the Summer term Hodder have been reading the book 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo. Students in Hodder took turns in reading parts of the book and completing different activities based on it. One of the activities that Hodder enjoyed was creating a 'How to be a Lion' fact file to help the lion cub in the story who did not know how to be a lion. The fact file included information such as how to hunt and how to survive in the wild as a lion.



# CIRCUS SKILLS

This term, we all got to experience a wonderful morning of Circus Skills! Every class enjoyed running round the MUGA with a ribbon, making snake shapes or twirling and twisting their ribbon into the air or around their bodies. Next was juggling skills. Everyone practised throwing and catching bean bags in to the air with either one hand or two hands, then having a go at juggling with two or even three bean bags if they dared. Finally, we tried our hands at spinning plates. Some people displayed a natural talent for balancing their plate on their stick and could even walk around the MUGA whilst doing so. Great fun!





We also asked students to answer questions their thoughts on the following questions:

We collated all of the responses into wordclouds:

independent

confident

able to make own choices

self reliant

resilient

assured

caring

content

safe

esteemed

talkative

resourceful

prepared for adult life

competent

road safety aware

secure

able to entertain self

independent more self

tidy

sensible

realistic

contant

[illegible]

understand feelings

be confident

be happy

make safe choices

engage

go shopping

feel wanted

use money

be honest

express feelings

cross the road safely

go outside at home

enjoy

be herself

understand safety

feel safe

be realistic

ask for help

read essential information

do more work experience

have a conversation

accept limitations

kind to animals

express fully

explain things

respect others

express clearly

have a great life

cook basic meals

get out of himself

go to the shop on his own

being mature  
communication  
technology  
managing emotions  
well content  
to be best friend  
being kind  
having confidence  
making new friends  
comprehensions  
pe and football  
taking up opportunities  
I feel saying  
being nice  
bowling  
confident  
gardening  
sports  
computers  
writing  
thinking  
singing  
psychology  
typing  
going outside  
being prepared  
I feel good  
science  
english  
working hard  
to bast players  
I feel connected  
solving problems  
pe  
being there friendly  
I feel great  
remembering my passwords  
I feel like  
maths  
music lessons  
art  
german  
language  
staying calm  
geography  
sport  
I feel bad  
mathematics  
friendships  
and football

A word cloud of activities and skills. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'maths' and 'english' being the largest. Other words include 'listening', 'drawing', 'writing', 'communication', 'staying healthy and active', 'managing stress', 'helping others', 'speaking in public', 'singing', 'timestables', 'expressing my feelings', 'working', 'football', 'pe', 'cooking', 'being friendly', 'turn taking', 'colouring', 'editing', 'running', 'sports', and 'talking'.

in control of my emotions  
physically strong  
speaking strong  
strong  
singing  
independent  
healthy  
nice  
confident  
patient  
confident talking to staff  
positive  
gaming  
karate  
work harder  
helpful  
healthy  
english  
my work

A word cloud of positive adjectives. The word 'happy' is the largest and most central. Other prominent words include 'energetic', 'engaged', 'curious', 'good', 'active', 'brave', 'tidy', 'fearless', 'motivated', 'passionate', 'organised', 'confident', 'independent', 'less annoying', 'talkative', 'creative', and 'exciting'. The words are in various colors and orientations, creating a vibrant and positive visual.

It was really nice to see that the feedback from our parents and carers very much reflected the core values we hold in school and that we are all striving for the same outcomes for our young people. With all of this in mind, we wanted to share with you the key things we will be promoting both pastorally and within the curriculum:

**Independence**  
**Communication and Social skills**  
**Positive health and wellbeing**  
**How to be safe**

**As well as providing work experience opportunities for our older students**

How this translates for each young person is determined by their particular needs.



# SPECIAL SCHOOL EYE CARE SERVICE



NHS England have committed to transforming eye care and vision for children and young people in special schools in England, by delivering a free, eye examination on the school premises which includes the supply and fitting of 2 pairs of glasses for every child who needs them. PCHSC has opted into the scheme and we have been running successful clinics every Wednesday.

The students have enjoyed meeting the optometrists, Bill and Kasim and have embraced the opportunity to have their sight tested in school. Kaydn was extremely happy with his new glasses and loves showing them off!



## LEAVERS PARTY

Although the Covid restrictions meant that we couldn't hold our annual Prom for our leavers and college students, that didn't stop us having fun!

Instead of our usual event, we held a leavers celebration party and made the most of the glorious sunshine! We got dressed up and took advantage of the hair and make up salon; we had to remain in our 'bubbles', but we still enjoyed a lovely meal and a glass of fizz (non-alcoholic of course). We listened to music and had a dance; then each bubble took it in turns to visit the sensory garden and everyone had their photo taken in the booth! It was a really fun afternoon and everyone enjoyed it. We would like to wish the best of luck for the future to all of our leavers!





# TERM DATES 2021 - 2022

## AUTUMN TERM 2021

Term Starts on Thursday 2nd September

Monday 25th October to  
Tuesday 2nd November (inclusive)

Closure after School on Friday 17th December

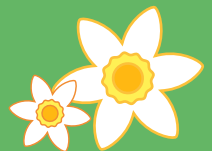


## SPRING TERM 2022

Re-open on Wednesday 5th January

Monday 14th February to  
Friday 18th February (inclusive)

Closure after School on Friday 1st April



## SUMMER TERM 2022

Re-open on Wednesday 20th April

May Day Closure Monday 2nd May

Mid Term Closure Monday 30th May to  
Monday 6th June (inclusive)

Closure after School on Friday 22nd July

