

PENDLE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE

SPRING

NEWSLETTER 2023

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WELCOME

from the Headteacher

The Spring term has once again been packed with amazing opportunities and activities for all of our young people. Everyone has worked extremely hard, and I can once again say how proud I am of everything our students continue to achieve.

Two groups of KS4 children went to Ullswater for residential trips where they were able to take part in outdoor activities such as gorge walking, hiking and swimming in the lake. Everyone came back with a story to tell. We are looking forward to running more residentials next term.

Several students have been involved with the 'Every Move Counts' Erasmus project and have helped us in hosting 41 European visitors during this last week. They have been treated to lots of activities in school, explored the Lake District and found out about The Beatles in Liverpool.

Our weekly activities have continued, giving students access to outdoor learning at Ark Education Barn and Forest School. We have also had a lot of visitors coming in to deliver exciting sessions such as Farmer John, Bamboozle Theatre Company and Northern Dragons to name just a few. We are looking forward to offering more of these opportunities next term including, 'Limitless Clarets' - who are part of Burnley Football Club in the Community. They will be coming in to help our young people become more active, passionate about sport and to develop key life skills.

We now have the keys to Williams Hall and are in the planning stages of how this will broaden our offer and benefit our students. We are aiming to open a community cafe and shop which will provide real life work experience and opportunities. Offers of volunteering from parents, carers, painters, decorators, cleaners and handy people are all welcome PLEASE!

We welcome a new parent governor onto the board, Anthony Peers, parent of a Year 7 student. He is looking forward to getting to know the school and our wider community better and brings a whole host of knowledge and experience to the role.

Whilst many things have continued it has still been a difficult term without Jenny and her support, friendship, dedication and commitment to the students and school. We hope to celebrate Jenny's life and service to PCHS&C in the Summer term by having an afternoon tea party. In the meantime, we welcome Jenny Nelson from Newfield, to the deputy head position, and she has written an article to introduce herself.

Thank you again to all of our parents, carers, students and staff for your continued efforts and support. Have a lovely Easter break.

As always, take care and best wishes

Debra



INTRODUCING OUR NEW DEPUTY HEAD

My name is Jenny Nelson and I am very excited to be joining Pendle Community High School and College after Easter as the new Deputy Headteacher. I am very much looking forward to getting to know all of the pupils, parents, carers and staff.

When I visited the school, I was immediately struck by the care and commitment shown by the staff team. I was also greatly impressed by the good behaviour, hard work and positive attitudes demonstrated by the pupils I met. On each visit, I have been made to feel very welcome and so I can't wait to be a part of the team.

For the past 12 years, I have been teaching at Newfield Special School in Blackburn and have been in the position of Assistant Headteacher for most of that time. I have loved working with the pupils and staff there and have learned a great deal from them. I am passionate about enabling all pupils to achieve the best possible outcomes they can and look forward to working in partnership with staff and parents here to achieve that.

I live with my husband and two teenage children in a village near Chorley. At weekends, we enjoy going for walks in the local area – which usually involve stopping off somewhere for coffee and cake. I also like to relax by reading books, cooking and watching films.

I look forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks and being part of the journey that your child takes through this wonderful school.



A BUFFET FOR ERASMUS

College students working to complete their NCFE Level 2 Food and Cookery Skills have spent the last few weeks thoroughly planning and preparing a buffet for 50 international guests as part of the Erasmus programme.

Students were tasked to interpret a brief stating what was required, how many and what time the buffet was to be served. From this, students formulated a menu, nominated a Head and Sous Chef, decided who was working on each section and what food had to be produced by what time.

As the buffet was on a Monday, students only had three hours to make and serve the buffet, so planned food which could be made and frozen, such as sweet potato and cheese pasties, meat and potato pies and vanilla ice cream, to alleviate the pressure on the Monday morning.

With support from the Level 1 students who planned and set up the hall to serve the buffet, the vast amount of food for 50 people was presented and served on time. Demonstrating the brilliant catering and hospitality skills the students are developing.



PARENTPAY

Please remember to use the online payment system where possible. If you are having trouble accessing your account, please contact the school office.

Online payments are available for school dinners, trips and events, clubs, even for donations for fundraising events.

Thank you for your support with this.

WORLD BOOK DAY

2 MARCH 2023



We celebrated World Book day this year with a visit from Ian Bland, a fantastic, fun poet and published author. The morning started with a wonderful assembly where our pupils who had dressed up showed off their costumes from their favourite books and we all tried to guess who was 'behind the mask' for our Masked Reader quiz. It was a surprise to everyone when Mr T, Mrs Chambers and Mrs Blythe unmasked themselves and proved they can read!

Ian then stole the show by reading a selection of his poems (including a tribute to the Dinner Ladies which made us all giggle) and entertained us all with his performance poems and call and response rhymes which involved a great deal of audience participation – the pupils and staff at PCHS did not disappoint. It came as a huge surprise when he announced that Mrs Flanagan was his new girlfriend...but Mrs Flanagan soon made sure he knew that wasn't the case, in the form of a poem, of course!

Ian hosted four workshops with pupils throughout the day and each class enjoyed learning how to write a particular type of poem and had a go at writing their own.



It was a marvellous experience for everyone. Here is a selection of the poems our pupils wrote with Ian's help:

A Kenning for a Rabbit by Ayesha and Emma

She's an....
Ear flapper
Carrot eater
Hutch sleeper
Flower smeller
Garden jumper
Whisker twitcher
Lawn mower
Grass muncher
Fluffy fur wearer



A Kenning for a Teacher by Saiel and Salaman:

He/She's a.....
Board writer
Planning expert
Hard worker
Teaching master
Helpful friend
Type writer
Computer genius
Hungry teacher



We were thrilled to host a visit from the wonderful Bamboozle theatre group on Monday 20th March. They wowed us with their amazing production where pupils were transported through a waterfall and into a magical journey along 'The River.' The three actors gave pupils highly individualised attention, singing them personalised songs as well as using water, a variety of materials and beautiful hand made props to entertain and engage.

The soundtrack of original music and sound effects also helped to transport our pupils into an immersive magical sensory experience that captivated all present for a full 40 minutes. It was a fabulous day that will stay in all our memories for a long time.



DANCING IN DOWNHAM

During the Spring term some of the KS4 students have been learning about different cultures and religions and how festivals are celebrated.

As part of our learning KS3 and KS4 students experienced a lion dance performed by Northern Dragons (Accrington) during a special assembly about Chinese New Year. Students had the opportunity to meet the 'lion' up close and even had a go at using the instruments. Downham and Slaidburn also had a workshop with Northern Dragons as part of their learning about different leisure activities which they all enjoyed.



WONDERFUL WYRE



Wyre have been so busy this term studying the famous Shakespeare play, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. We have been learning terminology, making props and performing scenes from the play. A personal favourite character was 'Nick Bottom' which gave us all some giggles.

We also got to take part in a poetry workshop on World Book Day where we wrote our own poems and learnt how to rhyme words whilst dressed as our favourite characters from books.

In cooking, we have been making tarts and learnt how to make the pastry ourselves. Wyre have been really lucky in being able to attend different activities like the cinema, the roller rink, bike-ability where we learnt how to fix a punctured tyre and we even got to watch a lion dance for Chinese New Year. This term has been busy but such great fun, we cannot wait to see what the next term brings!

THE BLACKO BOYS

Some of our pupils have been lucky enough to go to Ullswater in February to experience water sports and outdoor pursuits. They returned exhausted but happy and full of stories about their adventures.

Many of The Blacko Boys are enjoying playing Dodge Ball at breaks and lunchtimes and football continues on Fridays which everyone loves.

Blacko Boys have discovered a secret love of reading in groups during Reading Time every day. Pupils are working in small guided reading groups and have read novels from a range of genres such as The Nest, Bubble Wrap Boy, Jessica's Ghost, World Burn Down and The Talisman Series. Pupils are able to discuss the story, ask questions if they feel puzzled and answer directed questions to ensure their understanding of the text. We have seen a real improvement in the reading skills of the class and as well as an improvement in their range of vocabulary and writing accuracy.

Well done,
Blacko Boys!



TEA TIME IN IRWELL

Irwell students explored the story, The Tiger that Came to Tea by Judith Karr. They listened to the story, watched the animation version, followed by an afternoon tea.



BIKEABILITY

This term we welcomed Emma from Bikeability into school to do some sessions with our students. Bikeability cycle training equips children with vital life skills. Pupils not only learn to cycle, they gain independence, social skills and a sense of wellbeing.

This time, the training sessions were based on bike safety and maintenance.

The students learned how to check their bikes before they start to ride them and how they should hold the bike handles to prevent injury.



GOING WILD IN CALDER

Students in Calder had a great time exploring jungle animals during World Book Day. We all dressed up as characters from the book Rumble in the Jungle, enjoyed an interactive version of the story and explored iPads to make different animal noises.



SPRING IN SLAIDBURN

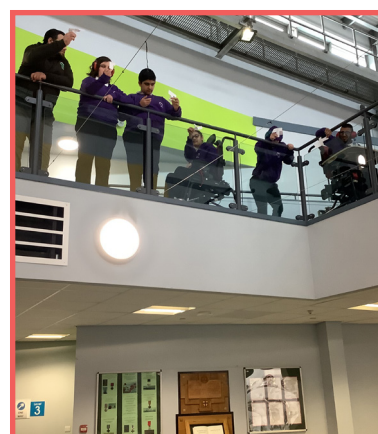
We've had a brilliant Spring term in Slaidburn! In English, we have been busy learning about newspaper articles and their features. We then created our own articles ensuring we used all of the features we had learned about.

In Maths, we have been looking at the weight of objects to find the heaviest and lightest item. We also weighed objects to see which ones weighed the same.

In Science, we have been making helicopters and predicted whether the bigger or the smaller helicopters were the slowest to reach the ground.

We used stopwatches to time them.

We've been on lots of trips again this term. We went bowling and to the cinema. Some of us went to Ullswater and Coldwell. We even got a special visit from a dance group that performed the Chinese lion dance for Chinese new year.



ARTISTS IN TRAINING

Students in Calder have loved exploring different artists and art styles in their lessons. They particularly enjoyed exploring the artwork of Jackson Pollock, an American painter and a major figure in the abstract expressionist movement.

We threw tennis balls dipped in paint, rolled cars and marbles through paint and used spray bottles to paint our canvas and walls in class!



On 23rd March students in KS3 and KS4 went to Blackburn Vue Cinema to watch 'Tad The Lost Explorer And The Curse Of The Mummy' thanks to Into Film providing free cinema tickets.

We arrived a little bit late due to traffic but the students all enjoyed the film and we had lots of laughs and giggles.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

As part of their community projects afternoon, students in college have been going to Park Primary School in Colne to help with their Forest School. The students have been tidying, organising, planting trees and removing weeds from the planters ready to plant some more vegetables.

OUR TRIP TO ULLSWATER

In January, several students were given the opportunity to attend a fantastic residential to Ullswater in the Lake District. Some might say we were mad to go during the winter taking part in activities such as gorge walking, night time tunnelling, hill climbing, speed boat racing and night sky watching, but not one of our students complained about the weather.

They all got stuck in and tried different activities, made new social friendships & drank the hostel dry of delicious hot chocolate. They were also huge fans of the waffles and full English breakfast each morning.

We swam in the lake, learnt to row a boat, became responsible for our own kit and having a shower! We were all so tired we were asleep tucked up in bed by 10 o'clock with not a peep until Mrs Chambers went and knocked on the doors the following morning.



RIBBLE NEWS

Students in Ribble have had a great Spring term.

As part of their exciting topic in science, states of matter, pupils have been taking part in lots of fun experiments. We looked at liquids, solids and gases and measured the amount of gas in fizzy drinks!

In maths we have had lots of Numicon fun to help us with addition sums.

Our pupils have enjoyed reading our class story 'Mirette on a High Wire' and have come up with some brilliant story endings! Great job everyone!

A VISIT FROM FARMER JOHN

On the 19th January we had a special visitor in school from the National Farmers Union.

Farmer John came to talk to the students about the work that happens on farms across England. He told the students about his own farm and how the food we eat gets from farm to fork.

He answered lots of questions and promised to come back in the summer term with his tractor and some animals!





ERASMUS TRIP TO CROATIA

As part of our Erasmus project, Every Move Counts, five KS3 students and three staff members went on a trip to Rab, Croatia. Rab's historic old town has numerous interesting attractions and is considered one of the most impressive in all of Croatia. After a smooth journey from Heathrow to Zagreb, the weather prevented us travelling any further, so we stayed overnight in a hotel in Zagreb which was lovely. The following morning, we began our journey, travelling through all types of weather including torrential rain, snow and finally sunshine. We eventually arrived at the coast and caught the ferry across to Rab.



The first activity in school was to tuck in to an international brunch. The english crumpets with jam quickly disappeared from the table!

We enjoyed a walk through the main street in Rab which has 12 side streets, each representing a month of the year.



We visited the Benedictine Abbey of St. Andrew of Rab where they keep the secret recipe for Rabska Torta - traditional Rab cake. We were able to watch the cake being made but we didn't get to see the secret ingredients, although not for lack of trying!

We took part in lots of activities in school, including presentations, creating and making healthy smoothies and learning to play tennis. Students also got the amazing opportunity to take part in horse riding. For most, this was a first time experience and we were so proud of everyone for trying something new.



On the last day, we headed to Zagreb for a whistle stop tour. The Upper Town is made up of many red-roof buildings, cobblestones and church spires. The Lower Town is filled with striking art deco buildings. We were very impressed by the beauty of the town. Once we had taken it all in we headed to the airport to make our journey home.

What a fantastic experience for all involved.

PENDLE PREPARE FOR TRANSITION

Pendle have been increasing their knowledge of previously learnt mathematical components in a variety of carousel activities during the term. Emphasis and focus has been trying to transfer this learnt knowledge into real life situations ready for transition after the summer term.



SCIENCE IN IRWELL

In science, Irwell have been learning about plants and flowers. We have labelled parts of a plant, made some spring daffodils and planted our own sunflowers.

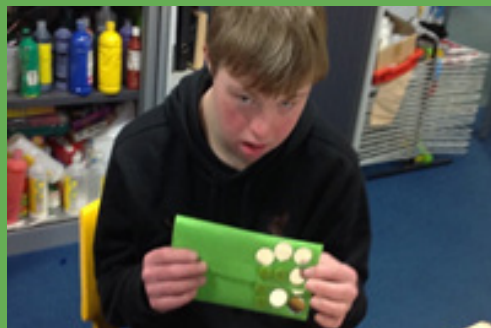


FAIRY TALES WITH A TWIST

This term in Hodder we have been looking at Fairy tales with a twist. We started by reading 'The Paper Bag Princess' which is a fairy tale with a difference and then we had a go at creating our own. We have learnt all about adjectives, nouns, punctuation & typical phrases found in fairy tales.

MARVELLOUS MARSDEN

Students in Marsden have had a great time whilst participating in Design and Technology sessions over the term. They have been getting creative making items using different materials such as fabric and felt as well as creating gifts for Mother's Day, Eid and Easter.



EXPLORING OUR VISION AND TOUCH

During our exploration sessions in Calder we have visited the sensory room to explore glow in the dark rice with our vision and touch. We have worked hard on developing our fine motor skills.



COLDWELL ACTIVITY CENTRE



In February a group of KS4 students visited Coldwell Activity Centre. They took part in both indoor and outdoor activities. The indoor activities included table tennis, table football, and pool. The outdoor activities included use of the outdoor gym, fire pit, archery, walking around the nature trail, hoopla, skittles, and throwing the foam javelin.

This full day's experience was enjoyed by all and the group are looking forward to going again in April.



NOTICEBOARD



PARKING

There have been issues with the sensory garden entrance becoming crowded with vehicles. Please can we request that you only enter the car park if necessary and where possible you park on Hollins Road and walk your child into school.

Thank you for your support with this.

SCHOOL CLOSES: FRIDAY 31ST MARCH

We will re-open
Monday 17th April, Have a
fantastic Easter break!



SCHOOL LUNCHES

We previously advised parents that the cost of school meals were rising from April 2022 from £2.30 per meal to £2.40.

Due to the financial climate and the cost of living increasing rapidly, it was agreed by our headteacher and governors that we would subsidise the extra cost per meal for our families until the end of March 2023 in order to help families through this very turbulent time.

We have now been notified that from April 2023, the cost of school meals will be rising again to £2.50 per meal. The headteacher and governors have agreed to continue to subsidise this so that families continue to pay only £2.30. This will be reviewed on a termly basis.

KIDS MEAL OFFERS

The following cafes have offers on over Easter:

Morrisons - Kids eat free with every adult meal

Asda - Kids eat for £1 all day

Sainsburys - Kids eat for £1 with every adult meal

ATTENDANCE

As part of our school's commitment to raising pupil achievement, we will be providing a termly update on your child's attendance over the school year so far. We have adopted a simple traffic light system where:



- **Red** indicates attendance less than 90%
- **Amber** indicates attendance in the range of 94% - 90%
- **Green** indicates attendance in the range of 100% - 95%

We acknowledge that each family's circumstances are different and we aim to work with parents to provide the best education for every child. Our pupils' welfare is of paramount importance to us and we believe that regular attendance throughout the year is essential for their progress and development.