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Information Station

- **February half term—**
School Closed Monday 20th February to Friday 24th February. We will re-open to pupils on Monday 27th February.
- **Term dates** for 2022/23 and 2023/24 are available here: <https://thekeystoneacademy.org/school-holiday-dates/>
- **Uniform** either contact the school office by email or phone for more information, or orders can be made online at: www.schoolshopdirect.co.uk
- Please ensure all items are labelled with your child's name so that lost items can be easily returned.
- **School Meals—**Did you know that you can pay your child's dinner money by bank transfer? Please let us know if you would like our bank details to make a payment.
- **New lunch menu—**Look out for our updated school meal menu after half term—the new menu will be on the website by Friday.

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 6

February 2023

Welcome to the 6th edition of our newsletter.

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year already... and how wonderful it is to reflect on another half term.

To summarise this half term, our teachers have shared some updates of the learning and enrichment activities that have taken place, which I'm sure you will enjoy reading about. It has been a delight to see and hear our pupils share their joy following their experiences of attending the local gymnastics club and climbing wall and to hear the enthusiasm of our Year 9's at the prospect of taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award, starting next term.

Moving into next half term, you will see a new list of clubs available for pupils to attend after school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please get in touch with the main office to book a place for your child, as spaces are limited.

We will be enjoying some fun activities to celebrate the joy of reading on World Book Day, on Thursday 2nd March. Miss Rhodes has provided the important information about the day further in the newsletter.



Mr Blundred and I are in the process of finalising the Year 9 options, in preparation for their Key Stage 4 curriculum next year. We will be arranging an information event for our pupils and their families during next half term, to help with making decisions for Year 10 onwards. We will be in touch shortly with the details.

Continued.....

Headteachers update continued

As we prepare for next academic year, where we will be growing as a school community and preparing to move into our new building, we are starting to recruit more staff to join our team. Positions including assistant headteachers, primary and secondary teachers, teaching assistants, pastoral support staff and learning mentors will be advertised over the coming months. As with all of our staff, we take the recruitment of new employees very seriously, looking for people who share our core values. I am looking forward to expanding our team, enabling us to grow and meet the needs of more children from across Shropshire.

I am sad to inform you, however, that two of our staff will be leaving us at half term: Miss McIntyre and Mr Plimmer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for everything they have done for our school community during the time they have been with us and I hope you can join me in wishing them well for their futures.

As always, I would like to thank you all for your support and willingness to work together as we continue to have the privilege of teaching your children. If you have any questions or ideas about how we can continue to work together, please do get in touch.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and have a fun and restful half term.

Best wishes

Ali Bellaby

The Keystone Academy, as part of the YES Trust, has proudly introduced our new core values to our school community this half term:



Transforming lives

CORE VALUES

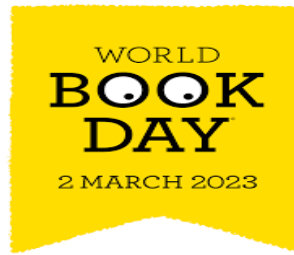
We are:

Child centred

Adaptive and sensitive to need

Authentic in our relationships

We hope your experience of Keystone Academy highlights these values, whatever the circumstances.



As part of our drive to maintain, promote and engage our students' interest in reading, we will be celebrating World Book Day as a school on **Thursday 2nd March**. In school, we will be **inviting children to dress up as their favourite character from a book**. However, for those who don't want to dress up, they can bring their favourite reading book into school to share with their friends and teachers instead.

Throughout the week, children will be participating in several reading games and challenges for our 'Keystone Wacky Reader Award' and we would love you to support your child from home. To win this award, our pupils need to find a bizarre and 'wacky' place to read their book. Once they have found their spot, take a photo of them reading in their spot and share it with us at school either by:

- A printed copy of the photo handed to Miss Rhodes (primary teacher)
- Email a copy to Miss Rhodes – l.rhodes@thekeystoneacademy.org

The winning photo will be announced in our celebration assembly on Friday 3rd March and a prize will be awarded for the winning photograph. We're really looking forward to seeing the entries!



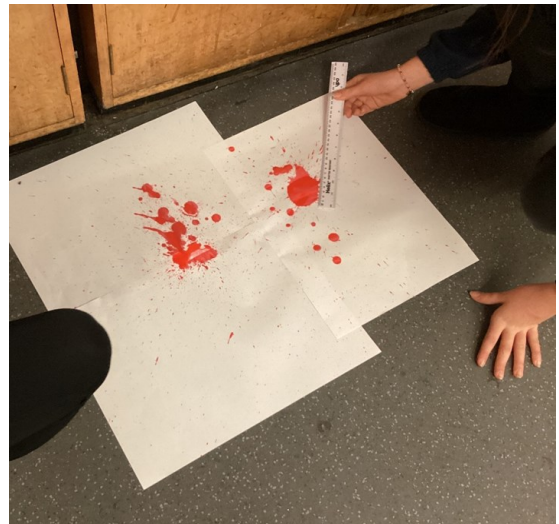
Your child will also receive a free £1 book coupon on World Book Day. To redeem these vouchers, take your £1 book token to your nearest bookseller and swap it for a World Book Day £1 book OR get £1 off any book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more. You can find your nearest bookseller at www.worldbookday.com/participating-retailers



SUPER SCIENCE

From **'How can we get stronger?'** to **'What makes things fizz?'** we have been asking some big questions in the science room of Keystone over the course of the year. I have been delighted to see our students getting involved in challenges such as building a bridge across a sink; to hear them asking questions such as **'when did time begin?'** and to see them growing in confidence and developing their scientific skills.

Whilst all the year groups have stepped up to the challenges of learning science in their own way, I wanted to highlight the progress of our current year 7 students. Both the Einstein and Turing classes have been working exceptionally hard in science over the past couple of months. During this time, they have shown considerable care and attention to perform their first dissection. We used the opportunity to compare different structures within a chicken leg. Students particularly enjoyed testing the knee joint and poking the bone marrow.



More recently Year 7s have been investigating different forces using paper airplanes, newton meters and playdough amongst other things. They have been using the opportunity to focus on their graph drawing skills and carrying out different investigations into the effects of forces, such as determining the effect on the size of an ink splat if they drop more ink. I am looking forward to seeing them build on these skills as their journey through Keystone continues.

Mr Garton—Science Teacher

Gymnastics

During this half term we have been working with two local providers in our community to support our Health and Fitness curriculum and allow our students to experience a wider range of activities. Our Darwin, Tajiri, Einstein and Burton groups have been attending the Severn Gymnastics and Trampoline Club, whilst our Tesla and Turing groups have been visiting the Climbing Hut, Shrewsbury. They have all really enjoyed themselves.....



During the gymnastics sessions students are coached across all disciplines and have been able to try out all the equipment in the gym from the floor and trampolines to the rings and the bars. It has been great to see all the students getting involved and having fun whilst challenging themselves to have a go at new things.



At the climbing wall, students have been given the chance to try bouldering and roped climbing as well as testing themselves on the fun walls. As with gymnastics, qualified coaches have been on hand to offer expert tips and guidance to help the students improve. Moving forward, students that want to work towards climbing awards will be given the opportunity to complete nationally recognised climbing qualifications (NICAS).





In addition to these two off site provisions, we have also invested in improving our on-site Health and Fitness provision by bringing on board Time4Sport. Time4Sport are a well-established provider of sports provision to schools with experience of working in settings very similar to ours. During this half term staff from the Time4Sport team have been delivering sessions on a Wednesday. After half term, the team will also be in school to deliver on Thursdays too.

The feedback from all of the external coaches working with our students has been overwhelmingly positive and they are all looking forward to continuing their work with us into the next half term.





We are delighted to announce that we will be offering the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award to all of our students in Year 9. We are lucky to have staff in school who have lots of experience of running the award who will help the students to progress through each of the sections. To complete the full Bronze award, students will be required to complete an expedition which will consist of a training expedition and final expedition. Further information has been sent to all of Year 9 students and registration will begin after half term.

After School Clubs

Monday Gardening Club 14.40-16.00pm

Cooking Club 14.40-15.30pm

Tuesday Construction Club 14.40-15.30pm

Like Lego? Like building models? Like creating new things? Come to Construction Club where we will spend time with both Lego and K'nex using our imagination to design and make lots of different projects. Mr Garton will be running Construction Club.

Musicals Club 14.40-15.30pm

Do you love to sing? Do you love to dance? Do you love to act? If the answer is yes then musicals club is for you! Join Miss Rhodes as we explore different musicals and learn choreography and vocals from all your favourite movies and shows. Requests are welcome.

Wednesday Football Club 14.40-15.30pm

Character Design Club 14.40-15.30pm

After half Term, Mrs Foster will be running a character design club. This will include Illustrations, Graphic design, Video games, Tv and film, Dungeons and Dragons and much more.

Please contact the office to book a place for your child as spaces are limited

Artistic Aprons

Each week at keystone students have the option to engage in an Arts and Crafts based activity with Mrs Foster. Our most popular activity this half term has been tie dye which lots of students were very excited to try. Students from all year groups were invited to work together to design and create 8 unique tie dye designs for class aprons. Students began by folding, pleating, and knotting their aprons into lots of different directions and securing with rubber bands. They then selected their own colour combinations using the colour wheel. We then put on our rubber gloves, rolled up our sleeves and poured, dipped, and sprayed our aprons with bottled dyes. Students loved the messy aspect of tie dye, and all said they would love to do it again. After all the muddled fun was over, every single student cleaned their workstations with a smile and hung their work out to dry neatly. Our aprons have been used by our Primary class ever since. A wonderfully entertaining afternoon was had by all.



“The Beautiful thing about Learning is no one can take it away from you”

BUILDING WORK UPDATE

There has been lots of progress on the Bowbrook site. Over the last few weeks the new lift shaft has appeared and the temporary road is now permanent tarmac. The building modules are due onto site this month. We have a progress wall up in school so the children can visually see our exciting new school progress.

