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Information Station

- **Summer break**—School Closed from Monday 7th August to Friday 1st September. We will re-open to pupils on Monday 4th September.
- **Term dates** for 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
- **School Meals**—Did you know that you can now pay for your child's dinner money on the Arbor Parent Portal or Arbor App? The new menu will be available on our website soon.



THE
KEYSTONE
ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 9

July 2023

Welcome to our final newsletter of 22/23. What a fantastic year we have had at Keystone Academy!

We opened our doors in September 2022 with 28 young people and 14 members of staff who had never met each other before, in a building that was very bare and needed a lot of TLC. With lots of learning, experimenting and collaborating, the Keystone family has genuinely worked together to develop, build and grow our school, based exactly on the values and vision we set out to.

With 47 young people now on roll (and with another 23 joining us in September), we are providing learning and nurturing experiences that are inspiring our pupils to develop a love of learning and to overcome some of the individual challenges they have faced. We haven't always got it right, but we have always worked together with families, alongside our pupils, to find solutions to improving the experiences of everyone.

This newsletter really demonstrates how far our pupils and our Keystone team have come. Experiential learning and enrichment activities have become common practice, with fantastic engagement and outcomes for all. I hope you enjoy reading about some of these that have taken place during this last half term.

I am delighted to be welcoming new additions to our team in September. You can find out a bit more about our new staff in this newsletter.

In the meantime, I hope you all enjoy a wonderful, fun, safe and restful summer break and I'll look forward to welcoming our pupils back into school on Monday 4th September.

Best wishes,

Ali Bellaby

Headteacher

RAF COSFORD

The Tajiri, Darwin and Einstein classes had a fantastic trip out to RAF Cosford this half term. We enjoyed exploring the interactive exhibits. A true highlight of the day was going into the 4D experience, where we were able to experience the flight of a Red Arrows Pilot. Another wonderful highlight was playing together on the plane themed play area. It was wonderful to see all the children, of different ages, playing and working together in creative ways and using their imaginations. Well done, Tajiri, Darwin and Einsteins!





ANDERSON SHELTER

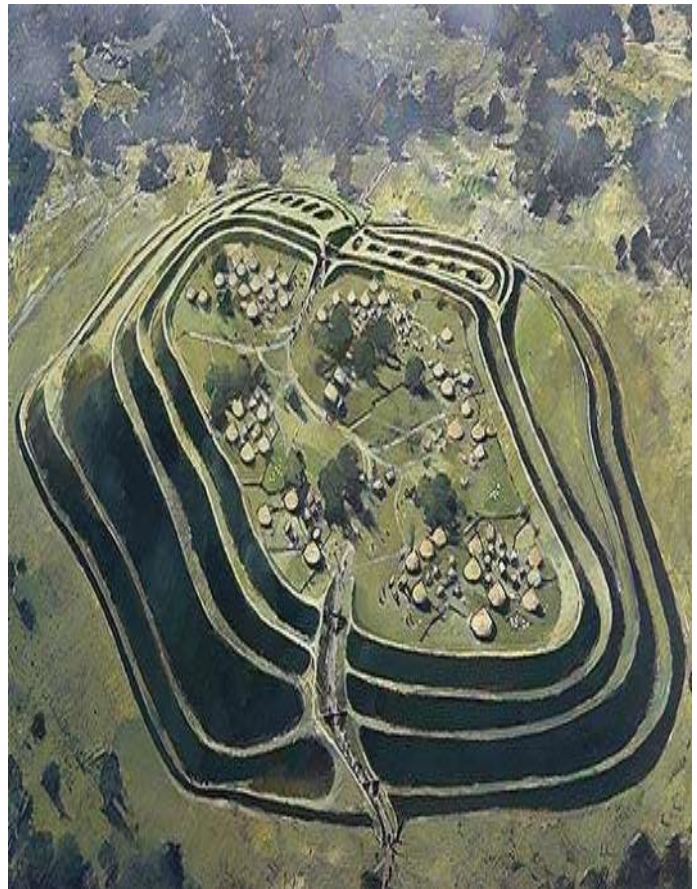
Following on from our trip to RAF Cosford, the Tajiri class continued their learning about the Blitz by creating the inside of our very own Anderson Shelter. This will help protect us from the Luftwaffe bombing raids. We learned that the Germans bombed Britain in the Blitz and the children and people living in Britain had to create their own Anderson shelters from the bombs. We had lots of fun thinking about what we would need to put inside our own shelter as well as including the essentials.





Whittington Castle

On Monday 10th July the Turing class visited Oswestry Iron Age Hill Fort and Whittington Castle. The class are currently studying life in Medieval England; Whittington Castle was built in and around 1200 AD. Although the weather was inclement, we managed to dodge the drops and have fun at both sites.





Medieval pottage

Continuing our learning about Medieval England , we cooked Medieval Pottage in the Turing class. All term we've been looking at life in Medieval times in England, which has included medicine, punishments, houses and food amongst other topics.

We decided to cook the Pottage, which is vegetables and oats mainly. The pupils really enjoyed it and showed great maturity when using the knives and cookers.





INGREDIENTS

- 1 x swede
- 2 x parsnips
- 2 x onions
- 2 x leeks
- 1 x spring greens / cabbage (green or red)
- 2 large carrots
- 1 x bag of rolled oats
- Salt & pepper
- Jar of mixed herbs
- Vegetable oil



CHESTER ZOO

A few weeks back Tesla's and Burton's set out on a rainy Tuesday to explore Chester Zoo. All students were amazing ambassadors for the school throughout the day. They remained calm and polite in crowds and were always at the right place at the right time. Upon arrival students had some free time to seek out animals of interest in their small groups. Many headed straight into the nearby monkey enclosures delighting in the antics of our primate cousins (once they had adjusted to the smell).



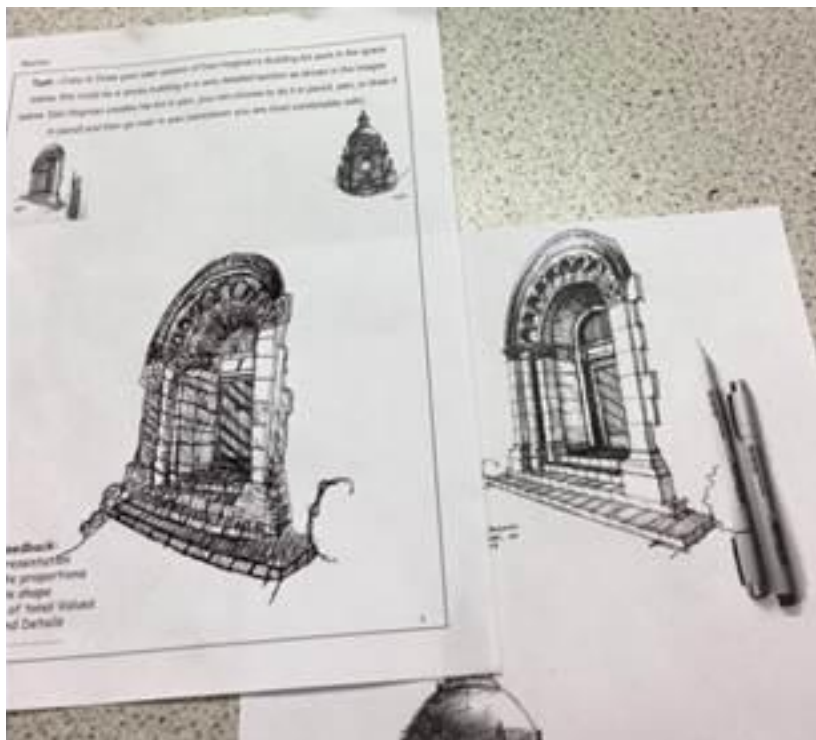
Several groups braved the bat cave, although I am not sure that all enjoyed the experience! Of course several of the larger animals were highlights of the day with students talking excitedly about the lions, elephants and rhinos. However, students also enjoyed seeing some of the more unusual animals close up such as the giant otter, sloths, tortoises and several species of tropical frog.



Just before lunch students took part in a workshop which outlines Chester Zoo's involvement with various conservation projects. Students listened to the speaker extremely well and got involved asking questions. The group were able to look at different examples of products linked to illegal animal trade which helped them recognise the impact humans can have on nature. Since visiting the zoo several students have looked into products such as palm oil in and around their own homes. We have also continued to study aspects of conservation and sustainability within our science lessons. Burton class have looked at how views of and use of plastic have changed in recent years as part of their lessons questioning the impact of human waste in our environment. Tesla class have been designing and building wind-mills as part of their projects into renewable energy solutions.



OUTSTANDING ART WORK



An amazing architectural drawing from Alfie in Y9 Burton class:

Below : Cameron from Y7 Einstein class has created a great piece and has shown great concentration and skills in this work.





Tesla class have produced a lovely selection of astronaut drawings using watercolour, ink, gouache, and stencilling techniques.



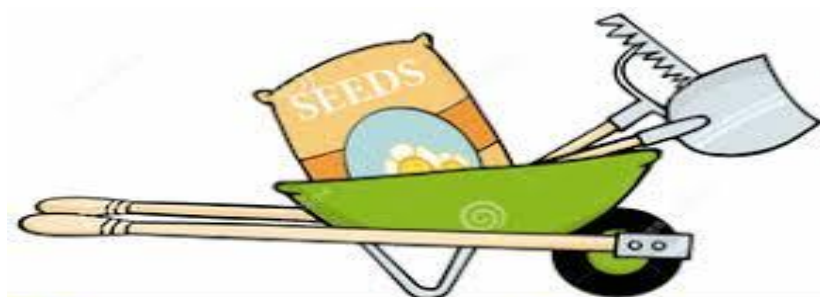
Gardening Club

This term, Gardening Club has continued to support our local community and cricket club on Albert Road, Sentinel Cricket Club. This term, Keystone were set the challenge of preparing 3 grass practise wickets for the cricket club to use whilst training and developing the junior section. The Gardeners have been learning how to prepare cricket wickets by rolling the ground flat, cutting the wickets gradually down from 50mm to 15mm before using scarifying equipment to remove any unwanted grass/weeds/moss.

This project has taken all term and the progress has been amazing with the wickets nearly ready to use. Well done to the boys working on this.

Alongside this, Dave Ashlin, the Sentinel Cricket Club Groundsman has been allowing the Gardening Club to help him on the "Square" and help prepare wickets for use by all the teams at Sentinel. The boys had the opportunity to mark out the pitches and measure them distances required for a cricket pitch at Under 15 level and senior games. As always, we would like to thank Sentinel Cricket Club for their support, Mrs Brammer for her passion in the outdoors come rain or shine and huge congratulations to the Gardening Club who have represented Keystone offsite. Well done to all involved and I look forward to continuing this next term.





A Big Welcome To Keystone



Matthew Brown – DT Teacher

My name is Matthew Brown and at a little over 50 years old I come from teaching at many different schools both State and Private. I have always taught Design and Technology as my main subject and I absolutely love to design and build stuff. I get restless if I'm not working on a project or two and can't wait to teach at The Keystone Academy. I enjoy volley ball, badminton, table tennis and cycling when I have too much energy and when I'm relaxed, I play the guitar and play computer games. Luckily my sense of humour has expanded proportionally to my hair falling out, so from my picture you can see how happy I am most of the time. See you soon.



Wil Hitchman – PE/Science Teacher

Hi everyone. My name is Wil Hitchman and I am delighted to be joining Keystone Academy as a teacher of P.E and Science.

Having originally trained in secondary Physical Education (BEd) I quickly discovered an additional passion for other areas of education and obtained teaching enhancements in both Science and PSHE. I believe that through working with pupils in several subjects, you can achieve a truly individual and holistic approach to support their development.

I have previously worked in both outdoor education and as a youth work music tutor, and look forward to facilitating new and exciting opportunities for pupils at Keystone. I am a proud Dad of two beautiful girls and in my spare time I enjoy sailing, dinghy racing, chess and playing music.

I can't wait to get started and I am looking forward to meeting you all soon.



Louise Maddox – Receptionist

Hello, I'm Mrs Maddox and I'm so excited to be joining the school and getting to know you all. I'm a mum of 2 and enjoy family days out, museum trips and The Great British Bake Off! I'm looking forward to meeting you all.

Jenna Johnson – PE Teacher

My name is Jenna Johnson and I am joining The Keystone Academy as PE Teacher in January.

I have accumulated over a decade of invaluable experience in the field of physical education. Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of working with students ranging from the tender age of three to the more mature age of eighteen, thereby accumulating a vast range of expertise. I studied sport management at the University of Central Lancashire and went onto Wolverhampton University to complete my graduate teacher programme. My area of specialisation predominantly revolves around Physical Education and sports, a discipline that I wholeheartedly embrace and strive to instil a lifelong passion for in my students.

Over the years I have actively competed in many sports and presently participate in netball and rounders leagues in Shrewsbury. In addition to this I enjoy exploring the world with my family and have a massive zest for life.

I am looking forward to sharing my passion with all the staff and pupils at The Keystone Academy.



Gabe Gray – Pastoral Lead

My name is Mr Gray and I will be joining the team at Keystone Academy in September as Pastoral Lead and DSL. I am delighted to be joining the staff team at Keystone and am looking forward to working closely with staff, students and parents at a really exciting time for the school.

My background includes working in crisis response children's care homes, pastoral lead role in a mainstream secondary school, and I am currently a Family Liaison Officer at a dual site specialist secondary provision in Telford.

I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you and your children, and helping support the students to thrive and progress as they continue their journey with Keystone.

Away from work I am married with three children, who all keep me on my toes!

I look forward to starting at Keystone and wish you all a great summer break.



Kim Irwin – Maths Teacher

I live in Shrewsbury with my husband, two (almost grown up) sons and three little dogs. I am passionate about Maths and numbers and helping people learn Maths in a fun and interesting way. I'm also a bookworm and love to read, arts and crafts (especially sewing) and playing board games.

I am very much looking forward to starting at Keystone and meeting you all in September.



Rhiannon Seabury – Humanities Teacher

My name is Miss Seabury and from September I will be the Humanities teacher at Keystone Academy. I am so excited to get started and meet all the staff, students and parents!

I have been teaching humanities for 8 years now but have worked with children for many years before that. I have two small children of my own who keep me busy out of school too!

I love the outdoors and I'm hugely passionate about helping the world with recycling and trying to reduce the impacts of climate change!



Matthew Morton-Banner – ICT Teacher

I have a passion for learning and have attended a range of universities over 8 years. I am enthusiastic about teaching the next generation and have 10 years' worth of experience teaching in a range of sectors (mainstream, college, further education, higher education, SEN schools and Pupil referral units).

I am excited by networking concepts and cyber security, especially digital forensics.

Outside of teaching, I love Martial Arts and spending time with my family.



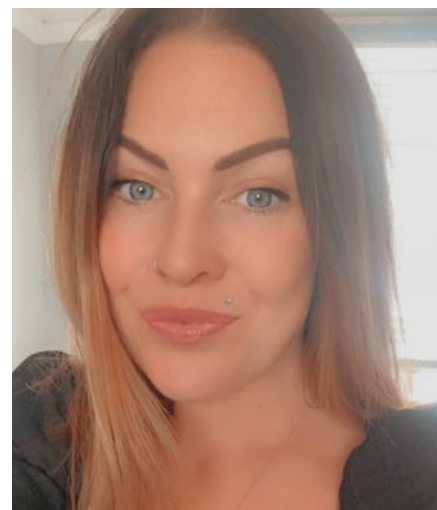
Sophie Musgrove – Teaching Assistant

Hello, my name is Miss Musgrove and I am excited to be joining The Keystone Academy as a Teaching Assistant in the autumn term. I have worked in early years for the past 15 years, more recently supporting children with SEND.

I have three children myself, one of whom is neurodivergent so I am very passionate and understanding about working alongside the children and rest of the team at Keystone.

In my spare time I enjoy listening to music, dancing around the kitchen and baking sweet treats.

I look forward to meeting everyone in September.



Hannah Laux – English Teacher

Hi I'm Mrs Laux and I'll be joining Keystone in September as an English Teacher. I'm really excited to join the team and meet all the pupils and their families.

I live in Shrewsbury and you'll find me out walking through the Quarry most weekends with my little boy Remy. We enjoy exploring nature and go walking a lot, particularly in Wales where I'm from. Our favourite thing to do is hang out at the beach.

Reading is a huge passion of mine and I'm looking forward to seeing which books pupils love. If I'm not reading then I'm busy trying new foods all over Shrewsbury with my husband who is a chef.

I can't wait to meet you all in September!



Build update

Our new school has certainly developed over the last few months. The cladding has started to go up and the outdoor landscape has also started including the planting of new trees between our school and the new primary school.





In the background of this photograph you can see our wildlife pond. How fantastic that we have an area for exploring and learning in our school. Below is our new sports hall. You can also see how the outdoor facilities are taking shape. The MUGA has had the surface laid and the field has been levelled ready for turf.

