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## Information Station

- Autumn half term**—School Closed from Friday 20th October from 12pm to Tuesday 7th November where we will welcome you and the children to our transition day. We will re-open to pupils on Wednesday 8th November
- 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](http://www.schoolshopdirect.co.uk). Please name your child's clothing
- 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.



# NEWSLETTER ISSUE 10

October 2023

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. You will notice in this issue that we have included some photos and information of activities that took place during our last weeks of summer term, including our end of term rewards. The children had such fun that we really wanted to share the photos! Details will follow early next half term about the reward options for the Autumn term.

This half term, it has been a delight to welcome 21 new students and 15 new staff. All have brought their unique individuality to our school and I've really enjoyed getting to know them and seeing them engage in some great learning experiences. To bring a sense of belonging, our students researched and worked together before voting on new class names. More details can be found later in this issue.

As we close for the half term, the staff are helping to prepare for our big anticipated move to our new school site on Squinter Pip Way, Shrewsbury, SY5 8PX. We are all so excited about the move, knowing the impact the new school will have on our youngsters. We are looking forward to welcoming our students and families into our new school for a tour on Tuesday 7th November (remember to sign up for your place), before our full re-opening of school on Wednesday 8th November—at the usual times.

We will be arranging our first parent/carer consultation during next half term, so please look out for more details. So that leaves me to simply say thank you for your continued support and, as always I welcome any comments, feedback or questions. Enjoy the half term.

Best Wishes

Ali Bellaby



Our summer term fun.... Before we ended the summer term, we had some great trips, including a trip to the library and our end of term rewards.

## Library Visit

At the end of the Summer Term the Einstein Class visited Library at the Lantern in Shrewsbury. Some children completed some arts and crafts, some of them read for an hour, whilst a couple of others completed a Treasure Hunt. They all really enjoyed the time away from school and most said they had not been in a library before.











Last summer term Keystone students took part in our first activity day at Middle Park Adventures. After a 45 minute coach journey through the rolling hills across the border into Wales we arrived on a dusty track looking out over the valley. Different groups had the opportunity to explore and practice their team building skills which we have embedded over the course of the year. Some students conquered their fears of heights climbing up the climbing tower whilst others tested their nerve paddling out into a lake on rafts which they had constructed. Fortunately, the only casualty in the lake was a silly Mr Gray who ‘accidentally’ fell overboard whilst stretching for a rubber duck, much to the amusement of the onlooking students. Other activities in the day included chances to practice archery and testing out balance, strength and courage whilst navigating an assault course. Great fun was had by all with many already asking if they can go back again this year.











Whilst at Alton towers for the end of term reward trip it was fantastic to see many students (as well as staff) facing their fears. The day out was just as enjoyable for staff seeing students supporting each other to try new rides, new foods and laugh so much that our sides hurt by the end of the day.

So many students still talk about how much fun was had and when we can go back again, seeing them having those new positive experiences and being part of that was amazing making all the scary rides worthwhile!









# Bowling

## End Of Term Reward

Our silver end of year reward had two parts. In the morning students were able to take part in different games including a mini Olympics and Mario Kart on the Nintendo Switch. Some students took part in a variety of craft activities with Mrs Foster whilst others chose to relax and watch a film. In the second part of the day we went out to the local bowling alley. Students and staff joined together to have two games. Lots of fun was had by all with cheering and encouragement demonstrated in all the teams. Throughout the trip Keystone students were polite and respectful to both the staff and other members of the public at the venue.









# Starting the new year at keystone 2023/24

As we have had new students join our school this year, we decided to research and then agree as a class ,new form group names. Once again our chosen theme was neurodivergent heroes.

## **BOWIE—Form Tutor Mrs Foster**

*Our class name is Bowie!*

*We are named after legendary trailblazing musician David Bowie.*

*Bowie was famous for being a pioneer in the arts, for creating new sounds, fashion, films, and followings. Bowie was brave and outlandish, creative and quirky – just like all of us. Bowie was also famous for thinking outside the box and showing all his neurodivergent traits through his many different personas.*



## **BRANSON—Form Tutor Mr Morton-Banner**

Richard Branson is a champion of neurodiversity, coping with dyslexia, and openly talking of his ADHD diagnosis. He performed poorly academically, and on his last day at school, his headmaster told him he would either “end up in prison or become a millionaire.” Richard Branson has ADHD and dyslexia which for our form is a real life story as to how these neurodivergent traits can be honed and used to help them achieve their dreams.

To that end, Branson’s Virgin empire supports ‘auticon’, an IT and technology services firm that employs autistic people as technology consultants for businesses all around the world. It also provides support for Made By Dyslexia, a charity dedicated to changing the stigma around dyslexia.

As a group, we explored a range of different people who have helped the technological world and were drawn to how similar Richard Branson’s experience was with school to many of our own. We have all agreed that if any of the students in the Branson class become millionaires, that they will donate half of it to Mr Morton-Banner!





### **Watson—Form Tutor Miss Seabury**

We are the Watson class named after Emma Watson who has ADHD. She works closely with the UN and does a lot of work on feminism which are both really admirable and closely linked with Humanities subjects.

We had a discussion on many different adventurers/ explorers/activists. We then had a vote on our favourite. We needed a revote because two of the people we chose had the same amount of votes. It was a difficult process for some people as we didn't all agree, but overall we were happy with the democratic process.



### **LOVELACE—Form Tutor Mrs Irwin**

Lovelace's name comes from Ada Lovelace (1815 -1852) who was an English mathematician, and is known as the first computer programmer. She described herself as 'having a peculiar way of learning' and is believed to have been neurodivergent. As a child, Lovelace's nickname was 'Princess of Parallelograms', bestowed upon her by her famous father, the poet Lord Byron. She later worked closely with her mentor Charles Babbage (who invented the first computer) and nicknamed her the 'Enchantress of Numbers'. We had a few options and the majority of the students and staff in the room voted for it.





## FORD—Form tutor Mr Brown

The 'Ford' class has been named after Henry Ford (not Harrison!). He is mostly known for founding a famous car brand, but pioneered the modern assembly line, making mass production a possibility with large products and thus be able to lower the price for ordinary/normal folk. Henry struggled with Dyslexia throughout his life. He would repeat different actions over and over until they became like clockwork.



## TURING-PHELPS— Form tutor Mr Hitchman

Turing Phelps, also known as the TP's, have opted for a double-barrelled name this year. Firstly, the continued identity of Scientist Alan Turing was vital for many of the form. Turing, crucial in decoding second world war messages, represents the progress and development made by the students last year and carrying this forward into this year was an easy choice.

Some pupils also wanted to highlight this growth by changing the name and swimmer Michael Phelps, the most decorated Olympic athlete ever, became a clear choice. Phelps has channelled his ADHD since being a young boy and famously describes it as his superpower.

The form had been discussing passionately about the name and I am proud of the solution they provided. Well done guys.

Conveniently, the two together also represent Mr Hitchman's two subjects Science and PE.





# AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We have introduced some new After School Clubs. On a Monday we now offer Anime and Manga Club and Mindfulness Club along with Karaoke Club. On a Tuesday we have Chess and Board Games along with the very popular Minecraft and Climbing Clubs. On a Wednesday we are still running Football Club but have also introduced an Eco Club. Anyone wanting to take part can register on the Arbor Portal.







We are really pleased to have a cohort of year 10 students who are attending Lower Bush Farm on Wednesdays. The students are working towards qualifications in land and animal management and are currently gaining knowledge around caring for animals. Each session they carry out all the tasks required to maintain healthy animals on the farm. In the afternoons students are in the workshop getting used to using various tools as part of making up new perches for the chickens.









# Outdoor Studies

Last week, all classes went on a school trip to a famous pumpkin patch. We were all excited to pick out our very own pumpkins for Halloween. As soon as we arrived, the fresh aroma of pumpkins filled the air. We were given a quick tour of the farm, where we learned all about the different types of pumpkins and how they are grown, we even saw reindeer. The farmer even shared some valuable tips on how to select the perfect pumpkin. Afterward, we eagerly rushed to the fields to pick our pumpkins. Students scampered around searching for the best pumpkins they could find. The pumpkin patch was full of bright and colourful pumpkins, which made our task even more difficult. It was a fun-filled session, with students bustling around with their plump, bright-coloured pumpkins. We used the pumpkins and carved our own spooky themed pumpkin to scare our form tutors.



# A Big Welcome To Keystone



Hello, my name is Natalie MacMichael, known in school as “Miss Mac”. I have a 14 year old son and a 10 year old daughter. I live in a lovely village close to the new school. I love being a part of the great community we have there. My daughter has recently given up playing basketball but my son continues to play. I enjoy supporting him at his games. I also enjoy baking and spending time with fabulous friends that I am lucky to have.



Hi, my name is Tony Kelly and I'm joining Keystone as Caretaker. I moved up from South London with my wife and daughter just over 5 years ago and love living in Shropshire. I enjoy all sports, mainly football and walking and I have a great sense of humour (which is needed when supporting Man Utd!)

I'm looking forward to joining the Keystone Academy team at this exciting time as they move to the new premises.





Hello, I'm Miss Akers and I'm a Teaching Assistant at The Keystone Academy. I previously worked at a nursery supporting children with their transition into school.

I spend my free time with my fiancé and our English bulldog Bruce, either gardening or renovating our new house.



Hello everyone my name is Miss Hatton and I am a Teaching Assistant at Keystone.

I am really enjoying working at Keystone with all the lovely students and staff who have made me so welcome.

In my spare time I go out walking in the countryside. My favourite time of year is autumn, seeing all the different colours of the trees.