

# Pinetree Matters

## Message from the Head

As we draw close to the end of term, I want to thank all the parents and carers who have continued to show us support. It has been a challenging term where we have welcomed new pupils and continued to support existing pupils. But the resilience of staff, pupils, and parents and carers needs recognition.

The autumn term is always a busy one for the staff and pupils, and this one has been no different. Whether it has been parents' evenings, college visits, or life skills trips it has been non-stop. Change and fresh starts are always difficult for anyone, so a massive thank you to all who have continued to show high levels of commitment on a daily basis.

At this time of year you can often feel the excitement in the air for Christmas but for many we need to remember those who will have a difficult Christmas period; it is at this time when we should reflect and rejoice in what we have. This year this is more important than ever with the current cost of living crisis set to hurt many family budgets. Although for many this Christmas may be difficult, hopefully it will allow us to have more time with those we love and treasure the most.

So often we take our family and friends for granted, so I hope we all spend some well deserved time with them over the festive period whilst remembering to go easy on the chocolate or your chosen festive treat.

We then look forward to welcoming everyone back in January ready to listen to your Christmas tales. From everyone at the Pinetree School, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

## Staff News

Earlier this term we said goodbye to Miss Kindred and we thank her for her contributions to Pinetree School. This term Mrs Baker went on maternity leave. We all wish her well and hope everything goes well. We welcome Miss Greef to the team in teaching English.

## Autumn 2022

### Dates for your diary

School opens: 4 January 2023

Yr 7/8 Parents' evening: 2 February 2023

School closes 10 February 2023

Half term: 13-17 February 2023

School opens: 20 February 2023

Schools Closes: 31 March 2023

End of term: 3 April—17 April 2023

## Pupil News

Well done to the newly elected school councillors:

Tyler (Yr 7), Aston (Yr 8), Michael (Yr 9), Brandon (Yr 10), Jay (Yr 11).

They have already started making some excellent additions and changes to school life.

In addition, we recently had a Christmas Dinner and a big thank you is needed to both Mrs Townsend and Mrs Van Kleek who helped with the preparation of all the food.

Well done to all those pupils who have either sat fully accredited exams or mocks this term. Well done to those Yr 11s deciding on their future plans and a big congratulations to those who have already secured onward destinations.

## Community

This term we are looking into ways in which we can support the local community. This term we have been taking donations to the local food-bank. Thank you to all members of staff or parents who have donated. This is due to be dropped off in time for Christmas.

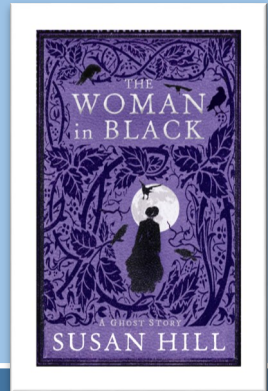
# English

This term Key Stage 3 English pupils have been studying the Gothic horror genre through a variety of novel extracts and films. Pupils have been learning to identify Gothic features and use them in their own creative writing. Before this they focused on some non-fiction skills including writing newspaper articles about the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Key Stage 4 pupils have been focusing on GCSE English Language Paper 2 skills—looking at non-fiction texts both modern and 19th century. They have been analyzing language use and writing their own non-fiction pieces. In the final weeks of this term we have been completing the Speaking and Listening component of the GCSE and pupils have had the freedom to pick their own topics to discuss.

Although many pupils find English hard, there has been some fantastic efforts across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 which I hope to see continue next term! Mrs. Baker is now on maternity leave and Miss Greef is covering English in the mean time.

Miss Greef and Miss Dale



# Maths

This has been a busy term in the maths department, with all pupils working towards a qualification in the subject whilst at the same time developing the numeracy skills that will serve them well in their lives post education. As such, one lesson each week for each pupil is devoted to formal assessment, with pupils completing assessment tasks or finding gaps in their knowledge through completing past exam papers. In January a group of pupils from across both key stages will be sitting the Functional Skills Level 1 exam (2 papers spread across one day), which is the final stepping stone before GCSE study begins in earnest. If you are unsure whether your child is one of the pupils involved in this, or would just like to discuss your child's progress in maths, then please contact the school and we will be happy to discuss this with you.

Away from formal assessment, topics being studied in the maths classroom this term include: algebra, ratio, fractions, and the properties of shapes.

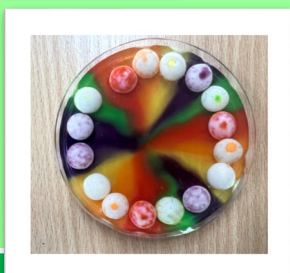
Mr Tomlinson and Mr Maplesden

# Science

In Science this term pupils have studied a mixture of biology, chemistry, and physics topics.

Key Stage 3 have looked at organ systems in the body, states of matter, and forces. Key Stage 4 have looked at atomic structure and the periodic table, and forces. There have been some fantastic posters completed by pupils which highlight their learning, and some excellent work completed in both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

We also conducted some messy outdoor practical experiments to explore chemical reactions—coke and Mentos... as well as seeing how the sugar on Skittles diffuses in water (see picture!)

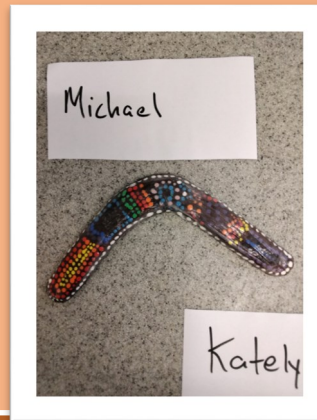


Miss Greef

# Art

This term KS3 pupils have been learning about Aboriginal Art. Pupils have learnt about Aboriginal symbols and visual stories, how to create Aboriginal inspired dot paintings and also created wood effect clay boomerangs that were painted and glossed. Some of these have been selected to be proudly displayed in our front office for all to see.

KS4 pupils have worked on two mini projects. Both Cubism and Landscapes. They have used these mini projects to build on their skills in preparation from the GCSE exam in May. In addition to this KS4 pupils sat their first Art Mock exam; with huge success!



Miss Everist and Mr Messere

## P.S.H.E

This term KS3 pupils have been learning about teamwork and their individual qualities. Pupils have taken part in some fun team building games, which have really allowed our pupils to show their natural leadership and negotiation skills; all valuable traits to have and in adult life!

We are finishing off the term learning about the importance of healthy relationships and friendships.

KS4 pupils have been learning about mental health and the importance of exam preparation in year 10&11. Pupils have taken part in some fantastic group activities to help promote their learning. We are finishing off the term learning about money management, eg; how to read bank statements and access financial support if needed.

Miss Everist

## SMSC

We continue to work on pupil SMSC and deliver a curriculum which improves pupils understanding. This year we have been spending 1 tutor session travelling the world using lyfta and learning about other cultures and ways of life. In this been a eye opening experience for many pupils. One pupil reported

'It was so interesting to see them eat of these things we wouldn't ever war''

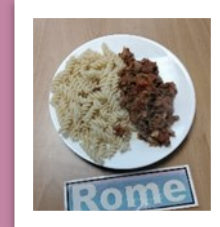
# Food Technology

This term year 10 and 11 students have been working towards their BTEC Home Cooking Skills qualification course work during their theory lesson.

During their practical lessons they have been using different methods of cooking potatoes and homemade pasta; also learning to make different types of dessert.



New students have been studying how to be hygienic, safe, and avoid hazards in the kitchen. We also learn how to operate different parts of the cooker and to use different kitchen equipment such as knives and blenders.

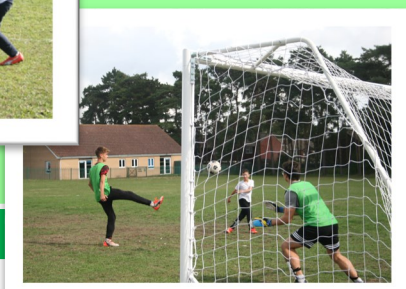


Years 8 and 9 have been 'cooking on a budget' using different forms of potato; comparing home cooked and shop bought to see which the students preferred. Also to use produce from the cupboards, fridge and freezer to make a simple meal.



Mrs Townsend and Miss Forder

# P.E.



This term pupils have been developing team skills in football, basketball, dodgeball, and badminton, alongside some fun parachute games. Pupils have developed personal qualities such as communicating effectively and efficiently, team building, and leadership. They have had fun in selecting and applying skills covered in team games such as sending and receiving, attacking and defending principles, outwitting and dribbling similarly, sharing compositional ideas with others on tactics and strategies.

Mr Denmark

# French

Bonjour!!

As part of the introduction of Humanities to the school timetable, every pupil in Key Stage 3 will spend one term learning French this year. This term it has been the turn of Elm, and pupils have participated in a number of activities aimed at promoting their understanding of the French language and the country's culture. Topics on the menu so far have included: numbers, days of the week, months of the year, the alphabet, classroom objects and school subjects. Zut alors!! That is a lot of topics!!

Encouraging pupils to try out their French accents has been something of a challenge, but some pupils have had a go and can be proud of their efforts. All pupils, however, have learned lots of new vocabulary, so much so that I am going to end this text with a quiz! Everyone loves a quiz!

What do the following mean in English? (Clue: look at the topics studied so far in the French classroom)

Mr Tomlinson

1. Cinq
2. Un crayon
3. Janvier
4. Samedi
5. L'anglais
6. Vingt-et-un
7. Des ciseaux
8. Juillet
9. Mercredi
10. Le dessin

Ooh la la!! C'est difficile, non?!

Monsieur Tomlinson

# Careers

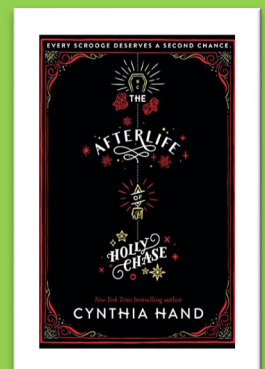
It's now that time of year where our year 11s are applying to college or thinking about alternate routes, such as apprenticeships or vocational diplomas. Planning for the future can be a very daunting task, but we at The Pinetree School are happy to talk through options and help with the application process.

We have a few activities booked in for the new term, with visits from colleges, the Army and ASK who will be running a few workshops with learning around apprenticeships.

# Reading

Reading as much as possible is key to helping pupils expand their vocabulary and improve their own writing. Research shows that 20 minutes a day can increase vocabulary by a huge amount, so even just 5 minutes can make a difference! This doesn't have to just be traditional novels - non-fiction articles, graphic novels, and more can help with reading fluency and can be more fun to read. This holiday - why don't you try reading anything and everything you can find? Try a games website or read about the world cup - any reading is good reading and develops your skills!

Some Christmassy reads could include: 'The Afterlife of Holly Chase' by Cynthia Hand which is a Christmas Carol retelling, or take the classic Victorian route and tell Ghost stories!



# Life Skills

Life Skills forms an important role in improving the skills all our pupils need that you can't achieve through academia. Their are 3 life skills groups and below gives a brief summary of their learning this term.

## Resilience and Perseverance

This term the pupils have been learning life long skills which all young people should have such as First Aid, survival skills, and bike riding. Alongside this pupils have learnt and provided support for the Salvation Army and supported improvement in the school garden with help from the Papillion.



## Communication and Oracy

In the first part of the term pupils have focused around working together to create a game. This included testing different games, surveys, and making their own version. Later in the term pupils have been focused on money management and budgeting. Pupils have created their own meal with a set budget. This included a visit to Thetford town with a budget for food and drink and real cash to spend!!

## Creativity and Emotional Literacy

This term pupils have been learning ways of expressing their emotions and exploring what they see around them. Pupils have completed trips to Thetford Priory, Thetford Town Centre, Castle Park, Ancient House Museum, and Barnham Cross. The following week feelings, sounds, and experiences of these visits have been turned into murals.



# Wellbeing

Here is some information for anyone struggling over the Christmas break. Below are some details for parents if they have any concerns for their child at this time of year.

## **Just One Number 0300 300 0123**

Just One Number is our single point of access for Norfolk & Waveney Children & Young People's Health Services. This includes;

- The Norfolk Healthy Child Programme
- Norfolk & Waveney Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service.

Families, professionals and young people can get in touch with Just One Number by calling 0300 300 0123.

Your call might be for an appointment change, or you might have a parenting question, or a worry about your child's physical & emotional health, or communication development. Whatever your reason to contact us, our team are here to help you.

## **Parentline 07520 631590**

Parentline is our text service for parents and carers to get in touch about any parenting questions or concerns.

You might find it hard to call in to Just One Number during opening hours, due to a hearing impairment or you may just prefer to chat by text with a health professional.

If you need advice about your child or young person's health or wellbeing, simply send a text and one of our team will text you back.

You can text at anytime on 07520 631590. A health professional from the 0-19 team will reply during our opening times. You can have the whole conversation by text if that works best for you, or the practitioner can call you.

Also, you can contact your **local council** if you have concerns for the household around cost-of-living expenses. They can offer guidance, local food banks and help and advice for energy costs.

Staff:

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all the staff at Pinetree School this year so far. It has been a very challenging term; you have all gone above and beyond your potential. I would just like to thank you all individually, for your amazing teamwork, and being a true work family.

For staff wellbeing this year, so far, we have enjoyed a sport/games afternoon with some table tennis and boards games and more taking place. Also, a Christmas dinner for all staff being served this week.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

# The Office

## Mrs Frost

Wishing you all a relaxing, happy and healthy Christmas.

I look forward to our continuing journey together in the new year and watching the pupils make progress in terms of their learning and social development.

## Mrs Andrew

I hope everyone enjoys your time off.

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2023.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Communication between home and school continues to be a vital way of ensuring that both parties are informed of any attendance/trips/issues and any other information that needs to be shared to ensure our pupils achieve their full potential and are fully supported.

As you are aware, there are several ways in which we can communicate: via telephone, email, letter, Parent Mail, Website, Parents Evening. The school telephone number is 01842 752756 and email address is [office@pin.unity-ed.uk](mailto:office@pin.unity-ed.uk).

As you are aware the safety and well-being of your child/ward is paramount to us at school. Therefore, it is imperative that the school is informed if your child is going to be absent from school, (please contact the school on the day as early as possible using one of the above procedures, a message can be left). Alternatively, please acknowledge our telephone call or text sent via Parent Mail. If it is a medical appointment then we will need evidence of the appointment.

If there are any changes in home circumstances e.g. change of address, telephone number etc. please contact the school so we can update our records. A data collection form was sent out to all parents in September (new parents are sent theirs once their child has enrolled with us) for you to update with any changes. If you have not received this then please contact the school office. Please can you return the form even if there are no changes to circumstances.

Dinners are ordered daily and pupils should pay on the day or in advance – payment can be made via cheque or BACS (please contact the school office for the BACS details). Dinners cost £2.35 per day regardless of whether it is a hot or cold dinner.



# Supporting Teaching and Learning

## Miss Van Kleek

It's been great working with you all and working to improve pupils' wellbeing and attendance this term. It's great to see some pupils attending work experience with more to follow next term. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Miss Forder

.My first half term here has been enjoyable and it's been great to meet all the students and some parents. Nice to see you all making good progress in your DT lessons and I hope to see this continue next term.

## Miss Spence

Wishing you all a happy and restful break over the festive period. I look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

## Mr Messere

Another positive term at Pinetree School, good to see all the new students settling in and enthusiastic.

Some great work has been produced for Art and I look forward to seeing more good things next year.

## Miss Dale

It's been a pleasure supporting the English department and working with all our wonderful pupils this term. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Mr Maplesden

This academic year has had a busy start and it's hard to believe that we are already a whole term in and staring at a Christmas holiday. It has been great to be back in Maths and see how well all of our pupils have applied themselves and developed their problem solving skills. Wishing you all a happy and safe Christmas break.



# Autumn Theme day

In October we celebrated all the spiritual and cultural festivals which happen at this time of year. We wanted pupils to learn and understand and learn about the different celebrations of both our own culture but also those of other cultures. This also allowed us to take the opportunity to discuss fire safety and the importance of keeping yourself safe during fireworks night and Halloween. Alongside this learning was Halloween focused Art and day of the dead masks were made by pupils to symbolise Halloween. We were introducing and exploring this aspect of Mexican culture and its meaning.

In English, pupils looked at anti-social behaviour trends and how these spike during and after certain festivals; especially for us around Halloween whilst also exploring the law. Pupils also made lyrics and just Autumn based songs.

In cooking, pupils created themed cooking and shortbread that was shaped and moulded to look either scary or like ghosts and witches. Within this pupils discussed traditions and historical accounts of witches and the consequences for being a suspected witch.

In PE, pupils played and explored the game of Quidditch and its origins from Harry Potter. Pupils also discovered why Harry Potter is banned in certain countries.

Pupils had team challenges and problems to solve in Maths and had to work as a team to set their best score. Challenges and problems were themed around the Thanksgiving/Harvest festival history and discussions around current issues (cost of living).

Pupil engaged brilliantly throughout the day and found the day both enjoyable and thought-provoking.



November is the time of the year when we wear a red poppy in memory of those who sacrificed their lives for us during wars.

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month marks the signing of the Armistice, on 11th November 1918, to signal the end of World War One.

Our second theme day focused on celebrating Remembrance and Armistice Day. As generations move on we feel it is so important to remember those previous and current soldiers that are giving, and have given, so much to protect our country. So we dedicated a whole day of learning around it. Pupils spent time on each curriculum area with a slightly different focus to give a flavour of what life may have been like during a world war.

In English, pupils studied war poetry and focused on what life in the trenches would have been like for young men. Pupils produced their own poem about the war and feelings attached to this.

In PE, pupils learnt about the impact of war on our national sport and how football in particular contributed to the war effort and how this was played at an iconic time with rival nations. This was followed by small sided games of football.



In the kitchen pupils created Anzac biscuits whilst discussing rationing and portions. Pupils were given the same ration sizes that would have been seen in the war. Anzac biscuits were sweet, lasted a long time, and were full of energy. Often families would send these to front line soldiers alongside care packages.

Pupils have created a 'Pinetree Poppy'. All the pupils have contributed into making a large poppy mural which is a collection of lots of smaller poppies made by the staff and pupils of Pinetree. Other than just learning the poppy making skills pupils also learnt why poppies symbolise war and remembrance so much.

War related challenges and team games were solved in Maths. Just like in the war pupils had to solve a code breaker either as a whole group or in smaller teams. Pressure was created like the code breakers felt by time pressures and trying to beat rival teams.

# Fantasy Premier League



## Is Haaland even human?!

If the question above means absolutely nothing to you, then it is safe to say you are not a football fan and you can probably stop reading now (and during a ridiculous winter World Cup when your chances of escaping the football by sitting in the garden are reduced, you have my sympathy). For the rest of us, the football season means only one thing – fantasy football!

This season, a 10 strong league of pupils, staff and parents have embarked on a mission to prove who has the best football knowledge of all through the successful management of a fantasy football team. As well as being lots of fun, fantasy football is also a useful educational tool, as it encourages participants to manage a budget and use available data to select the best possible team in order to outscore their rivals each weekend. This season's task has been made somewhat simpler through the arrival of the Norwegian superstar Erling Haaland to the Premier League, a footballer who seemingly just needs to look at a football in order to send it flying into the opposition goal. As such he has been a key member of everyone's team. Seriously, this man is ridiculously good at football, with his determination to put the ball in the goal second only to Mr Maplesden's desire to put his hand into the nearest bag of Haribo.

With one game week remaining before the season breaks for the World Cup, the current top 3 in the school league is as follows:

1. Placid Casuals FC – Mr Tomlinson – 454 points
2. Fast and Furious – Brandon Simpson – 412 points
3. Shut up Townsend! – Mr Maplesden – 393 points

Still a long way to go.....

**Mr Tomlinson** (what, the same Mr Tomlinson currently clear at the top of the league? Maybe.....)