

Hope Tree School....

Skype's News

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Building a house of cards involves using those key skills of perseverance, resilience and determination.

Spring Term 2024 at HTS

Well, following some of the wettest weather recorded for the first few months of the year we have spent a bit more time indoors than we would have liked. Everywhere is wet, but even then some of our bravest students found puddles to jump in, swings to swing on, mud to stomp around in wherever practically possible.

Having a site with outside space to explore, trees to wander in and out of allows all our students to experience a piece of the natural world in between learning activities.

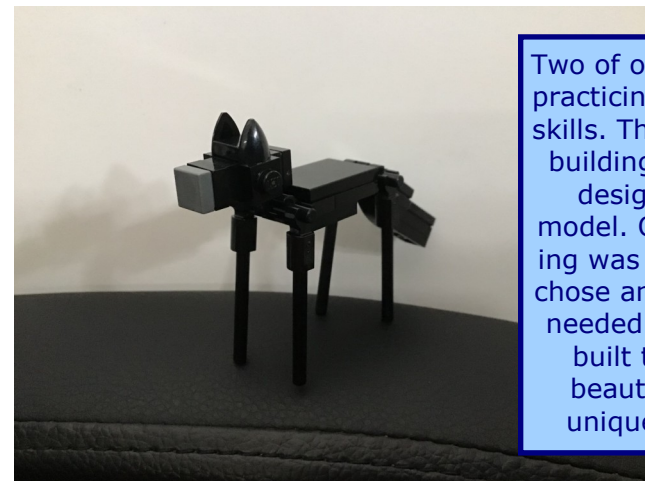
We continue to be grateful that we can offer all our students learning both in and out of the classroom wherever possible.



There was a lot of impressive practice with pancake flipping happening at school. Good hand eye co-ordination needed. Well done to everyone who gave it a go.



We are always hugely grateful to our visitors who come to school and share their skills and experiences with your students. Chip Colquhoun from Epic Tales visited us last year and shared his amazing storytelling with us. The students were keen for him to come back this year and so he did. He visited each of our classes who had spent half a term practising their story writing techniques in preparation for his visit. Many of our students enjoyed sharing their stories with him and thinking about how to improve their writing. Thanks Chip, we can't wait to see you next year.



Two of our students were practicing their designing skills. They used a model building programme to design a new Lego model. Once the designing was completed, they chose and purchased the needed Lego items and built their model. A beautiful black dog, unique in its design.

Our students really enjoy learning about other places and cultures. Our KS2 students enjoyed their time understanding more about Chinese New Year

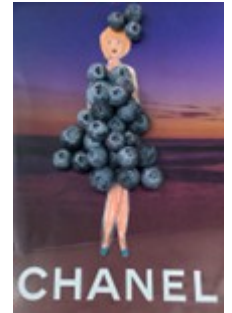


Creativity

During the first half of the spring term the students were introduced to a range of different printing techniques. We took inspiration from the natural world, exploring pattern and texture and developing initial sketches into simple motifs which were eventually turned into printing blocks. As ever, the results were wonderfully diverse and incredibly creative, demonstrating the talent of our KS3 students.



During the short, second half term we looked at how food had inspired artists through



different historical periods—focusing on the work of contemporary artist, Chloe-Amy Avery. We then worked on developing our observational skills, before having the freedom to develop our ideas using a range of different media.



Our string and pin project offered the opportunity for students to build their confidence using tools. We created cardboard prototypes, using templates of their



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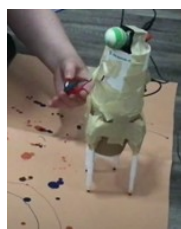
own designs before evaluating, adapting and finally nailing the motif onto wooden coasters.

ple mark making devices. The students, once again, demonstrated their resilience and problem solving skills while

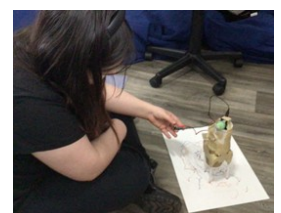


working on this project, which although frustrating at times, resulted in quite a lot of laughter too.

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Classroom News:

Our students continue to work hard engaging in their learning and acquiring new skills.

KS3:

English: This term in English our students have spent half a term looking at examples from a range of genres and learning about the features of each. From War of the Worlds to The Hobbit to Black Beauty the students looked at extracts and specific features and a couple of students even discovered a new novel they fancied reading! They have also been working on elements of creative writing with time to work on their own creations ready for a visit from Chip Colquhoun the storyteller who gave tips on how you finish your story depends on the message you want to leave the reader with.

Maths: This term our students have worked in smaller groups which has allowed them to practice more skills, consolidate previous learning, begin the process of closing gaps in their knowledge bases and build confidence. The different groups have covered a good range of topics which include Coordinates, fractions, decimals and percentages, statistics and area of a circle. Other topics covered include linear and non linear sequences, algebraic expressions alongside practicing addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. A good term all round.

Science: In Science KS3 classes have looked at classification of organisms—how they are categorised and named. In the space unit they compared mass and weight and used one to calculate the other. The ecology unit involved thinking about trophic levels and the impact of one population of animals changing on the other populations. Quadrats were used to estimate population sizes (of hundreds and thousands!). Soil moisture was tested and limiting factors explored.

Geography: In Geography this term students have studied Japan, looking at the natural resources, climate, festival, population growth and density. The second half term covered flooding, looking at types of flooding and the impact of human activity and flood management.

RE: In R.E. students have been comparing Christianity and Islam, they have been asking and discussing big philosophical questions, e.g. about the meaning of life. In the lead up to Christmas they have been thinking about whether Christmas has lost its religious meaning and how different people celebrate this time of year.

History: Islamic civilisations was a less familiar history topic for most students, but it was interesting to see the discoveries that are still in use today and provided a useful background to the following unit which looked at the crusades, during which some students even took up (play) swords and turbans to act out a battle.

PHSE: This term our students have looked at healthy lifestyles, eating sensibly and keeping active alongside budgeting and inflation.

PE: The weather has been appalling this term and we were grateful that a number of indoor PE sessions had been arranged. By popular demand our longer standing students enjoyed returning to the trampoline park to bounce and jump and bounce some more. We also returned to Huntingdon gym where our students have definitely gained confidence with using a wider range of equipment. Alongside the gym and the trampoline park our students also enjoyed their badminton sessions and some students tried their hand at bowling. We are hopeful that as spring approaches our students can enjoy more outdoor PE activities.

KS2:

Over in our Hedgehogs class the students have been investigating Rainforests and ancient methods of preserving food which included looking at food chains and adaptations to animals which live in forests.

In History and Geography the students have been learning about Vikings and Anglo Saxons which included looking at settlements and using atlases. They investigated life of the Ancient Mayan civilisation and the differences between then and now. They have also investigated weather and climate in rainforests and Scandinavia, comparing it to life in the UK and using different media to find out facts.

The students' English work has been inspired by their project work enabling them to work on their writing and incorporating a range of reading, writing, spelling and grammar skills to enhance their work. Students also used their project topics to give their ideas for their art work.

In maths the students have been working on place value, multiplication, division, decimals and percentages.

A big thank you to all our staff, visitors, external coaches that have given our students amazing opportunities to grow their knowledge bases, practice their life skills and build their confidence this term.

Sports based activities

At HTS we try and make our PE sessions as inclusive as possible. Many of our students have not enjoyed PE at their previous schools. From changing into PE kits, to playing competitive team sports there are a number of barriers which can have an impact. Enjoying being active and learning to manage competition in a healthy and balanced way is one of the reasons we think outside of the traditional activities and try and find alternative ways of delivering our PE curriculum. This term our students have all returned to the trampoline park where they have practiced jumping, balancing, tumbling into the foam pit and generally being active. Our students also enjoyed their coaching sessions at Badminton, where many were able to make great gains with hand/eye co-ordination, racket skills and learning to play as a group. This was further enhanced by our 10 pin bowling sessions, where our students were able to practice their skills, see their scores go up and sometimes enjoy competing with their classmates for a high score. It also gave our students the opportunity to congratulate others on their successes. Our fourth PE slot this term has taken us back to Huntingdon Gym where our students enjoy using all their equipment. Being upside down on a set of rings, dropping from a height into the foam pit, jumping, climbing, balancing were all part of the fun.

I wonder what will happen next

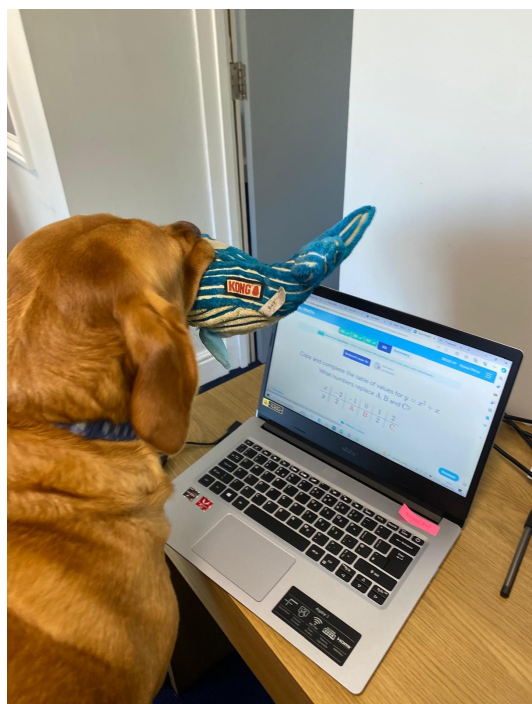
He presses himself into the wall as much as possible as the floor was slowly crumbling and opening under him. The sound of wood cracking and creaking was faint but terrifying for it was the only sound that was not Vincent himself. The amount of floor was only decreasing and that only made him panic more as he fumbles with his phone and yanks it out his pocket once more; his hands tremble as he tries to hold onto his phone. But, as his luck would have it, it slips out of his sweaty, shaky hands and fell into the abyss. Vincent yells out in annoyance and stomps his foot down hard. Again, his luck was appalling. The floor cracks and breaks off as soon as his foot lands on the floor, making him lose his balance and fall. Before he fully falls though, he grabs onto the edge of the floor, his feet and lower body dangling in the dark.

"ARGH!! Oh *WHY* me?!" He says to himself with a grumble. "I always get into the dumbest or most horrid things!" Even if he tries to pull himself up to save himself from falling, the floor was so close to being completely gone that he would fall anyway, so, he takes a deep breath and he lets go. He yells out in surprise as it's a much longer fall than he thought....

Excerpt of a new story by one of our students



Lego is loved by many of our students. This was built by one of our KS2 students, programmed ready to engage in a range of actions



Skye doesn't like missing out on learning opportunities at HTS.

If others can sit and do their work on a laptop, then she should be able to join in.



Having fun together, sharing an activity, creating games are all useful skills to practice when out and about. The sessions at Huntingdon gym are enjoyed by all.