



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



BELONGING

ACROSS THE SKY

News and information from The Sky Academy

Thursday 2nd April

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P.S. These are links now!

Reminders!

- Don't Forget - Monday the 20th of April is an INSET day.
- Please ensure your child brings a plastic water bottle rather than metal.

Phones & Vapes

This is a reminder that students should not have their phones in school and they need to be handed in each day.

Vapes are not allowed onsite.



Message from The Principal

Dear Sky Academy Community,

This half term has been dominated by a wide variety of sports opportunities across many of our year groups, this has been enabled by some nice weather (finally!).

A huge well done to our Lower School bowling team who participated in the SASP bowling tournament and came first!

Our Year 11 only have a total of 43 school days left until they leave us, with their first exam (Maths) on the 7th of May, we are so proud of how focused and committed they are to securing the best results to enable them to access their next stage of education or employment. The input they have had for their careers education has resulted in us being nominated for a Careers award.

Have a great break over the holidays!

Gaby Long

Lower School

CLASS 1 this term have been busy across all our subjects.



In Maths, we have been learning about statistics, including how to collect data and present it using bar charts and line graphs.

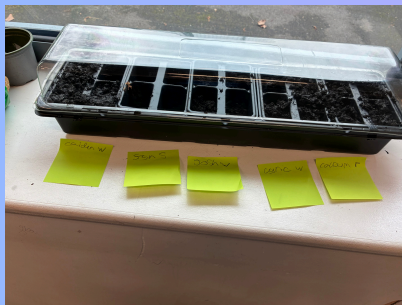


In Literacy, we have been exploring story settings and discovering what makes writing feel eerie or atmospheric.

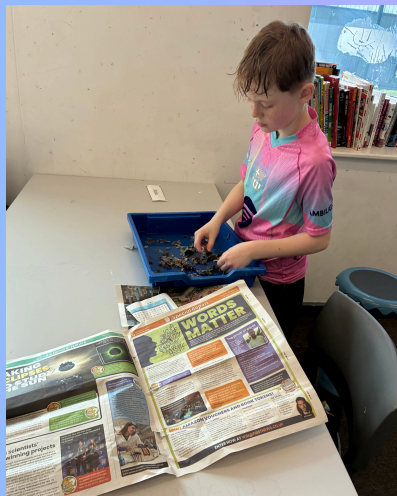
PE has been a highlight, with students learning new trampolining skills many even managing front flips and back flips and we have also been swimming this term, which the children have really enjoyed and made great progress in.

In Science, we have investigated the properties of materials and discussed why different materials are used for specific purposes.

It's a video



Our project work has involved planting and growing a variety of plants, which the students have loved caring for. We have also visited the forest, where the children built dens, explored the outdoors, and looked closely at wildlife.



In Art, we have been experimenting with patterns and working with a range of different media to create exciting and expressive pieces.

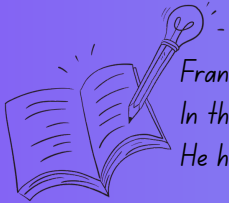




CLASS 2 In English this term explored the art of writing scary stories. We focused on building tension by using a range of techniques, including suspense, descriptive language, and varied sentence structure. Everyone created their own chilling tale, showing great imagination and an excellent understanding of how to engage and intrigue readers.



Group write



Francis lay back in her boat, slightly uncomfortable, and gazed up at the sky above her. Then she heard knocking. She leapt up! In the middle of the boat, she sat up straight, shaking and body clenched. What was that knocking? She began to panic. Her heart began to beat faster and faster. She had never been so terrified. The knocking came again...

We have transformed how we approach science by exploring real-world scenarios. We are applying our scientific knowledge to solve practical problems, encouraging critical thinking and curiosity. This new approach has helped us better understand how science connects to everyday life while developing our confidence as young scientists.



Desert island disaster - how we could use washed up objects to survive on a desert island



Science museum display - creating a science display to show thermal properties of materials





Thursday 2nd April

In Art this term, we have been exploring mixed media techniques to create unique and imaginative pieces. By combining materials such as paint, collage, and drawing, we experimented with texture and colour.



This has allowed us to express our creativity in new ways and develop our artistic skills with confidence.



For Children's Mental Health Week, we took part in a variety of activities to support our wellbeing. These included cooking, animal care, and mindfulness colouring. Each activity helped us relax, build confidence, and understand the importance of looking after our mental health in fun, creative, and meaningful ways together.





Year 8 students recently enjoyed an exciting three-day residential trip to Calvert Devon.

During their stay, they took part in a wide range of adventurous outdoor activities designed to build confidence, resilience, and teamwork. From abseiling and zip-lining to horse-riding and archery, students pushed themselves beyond their comfort zones. The experience also provided a fantastic opportunity to strengthen friendships and create lasting memories.

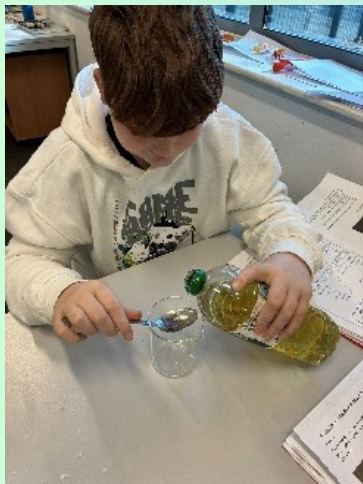
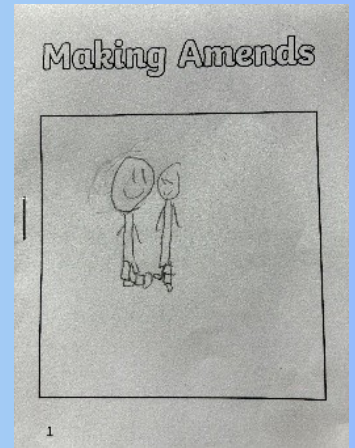
Staff were incredibly proud of the students' enthusiasm, determination, and positive attitudes throughout the trip, making it a truly rewarding and unforgettable experience for everyone involved.



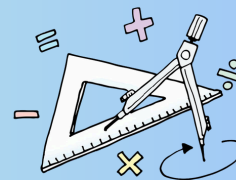


CLASS 3 in phonics we are continuing to work through the Read Write Inc Modules. We are currently on Module 5. Each lesson we recap the phonemes we have already learnt (using flash cards) and then learn a new phoneme.

In crew this half term we have been focussing on relationships and respect, alongside individual targets related to social skills. We have had some insightful conversations during these sessions. In a recent lesson we created our own short stories about making a mistake and making then amends.

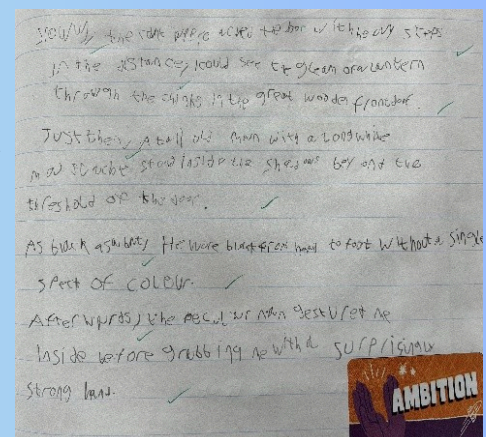


In science we have been learning about properties and changes of materials. We have had lots of practical lessons which has been fun, including making predictions and then conducting experiments to test whether substances are soluble or insoluble.



In maths, our focus has been measurement. We have been developing our understanding of mass and capacity and have now moved on to time.

In English our learning has been based on the gothic horror novel, Dracula, by Bram Stoker. The story is told by a series of diary entries and letters and has some really challenging language, but the boys have really risen to the challenge. Our focus has been on selecting language to create atmosphere and using imagery to develop our description.





In Design Technology we have been learning about where our food comes from, including food production and processing. We have also had the opportunity to cook this term, including some delicious carrot cakes.



Our topic in art has been Mixed Media. We have taken part in a variety of paper craft, including quilling, marbling, folding, papier mache and collage. We even made our own paper.



This half term our focus has been on health and wellbeing. We have developed our understanding of healthier sleep habits and personal hygiene and how to manage influences related to caffeine, smoking and alcohol.



Whilst the year 8s were on their residential, the year 7s took part in a short project linked to allotments. We planted seeds, made a scarecrow for our raised bed, dissected flowers and learnt the names of the reproductive parts of flowering plants. We did observational drawings and some scientific investigations linked to making compost and how long things take to decompose.

Class 3 recently visited Triscombe for the day and took part in a variety of outdoor activities including a chance to explore, nature watching, den building and we also hung hammocks from the trees and were able to relax in nature.

A fun day was had by all!





CLASS 4 have had a busy half term!
Here are some of the things we have been doing!



In maths this half term, we have been studying shapes! We have been identifying 2D and 3D shapes, exploring right, acute and obtuse angles as well as an introduction to calculations in triangles.

In English, some students have been exploring the gothic novel Dracula. We have been focusing on amplification and personification. We dressed up as Dracula and experimented with different camera angles too!



Some of us have been reading Billy and the Beast by Nadia Shireen. This was a story with a twist, and it taught us not to judge people by the way they look or our pre conceived opinions. We also learnt to expand noun phrases and how to recognise different types of sentences i.e. questions, statements or exclamations.

Thursday 5th March was World Book Day!

We spent the day learning about the author Roald Dahl and his book 'James and the Giant Peach.' We made costumes of all the insects, wrote some funny character descriptions and even took a trip into the peach through a giant parachute!



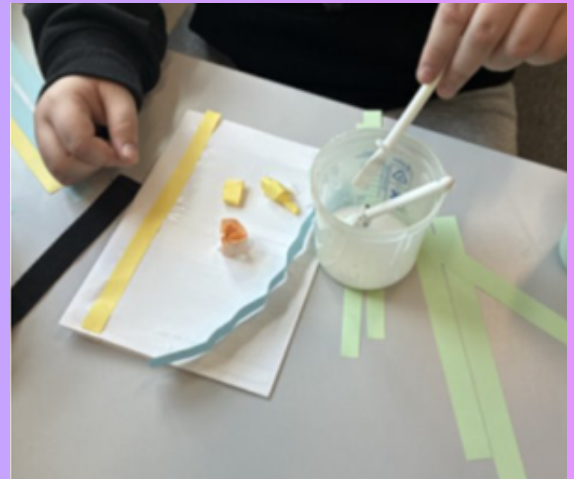


In year 7 science, we have been learning about properties of materials. This has involved some experiments mixing solutions to observe what can dissolve in warm and cool water.

Our favourite lesson was exploring a range of materials and debating which items would help us survive on a desert island! We decided on a wooden spear, a plastic bottle and some tape!

Class 4 have been exploring mixed media this term, creating some truly beautiful pieces using paper, paint and fabric.

From 16th to 20th of March, we marked Neurodiversity Celebration Week, and during our art sessions, we used this theme to inspire artwork all about us. With respect as one of our Sky core values, it felt especially meaningful to celebrate how every one of us are individual and unique. This project gave us a wonderful opportunity to express ourselves creatively and proudly.



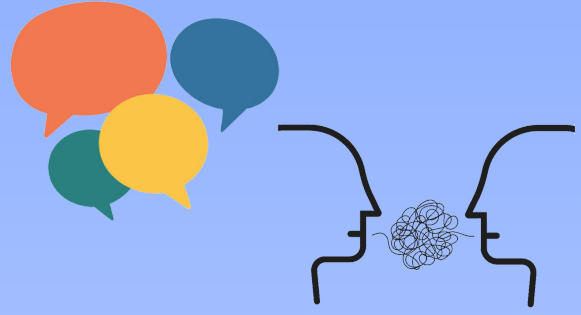
Whilst Year 8 went on their residential trip, Year 7 had a whole week exploring our fantastic Learning through Adventure resources. We learnt all about planting in our class vegetable patch, looked after the school guinea pigs and experimented with different fruit and vegetable composting. A highlight of the week was making a scarecrow! It took a lot of teamwork and coordination!

This term's crew project revolved around relationships and respect. We had great conversations about how to treat others with respect. We explored who is in our 'inner circle' and why these people are important to us.

BODY LANGUAGE	THE WAY WE TALK	CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS	ASSERTIVENESS
1. Eye contact	9. Volume	14. Listening	22. Expressing feelings
2. Facial expression	10. Rate	15. Starting a conversation	23. Standing up for self
3. Gesture	11. Clarity	16. Taking turns	24. Making suggestions
4. Distance	12. Intonation	17. Asking questions	25. Refusing
5. Touch	13. Fluency	18. Answering questions	26. Disagreeing
6. Posturing		19. Relevance	27. Complaining
7. Posture		20. Repeating	28. Apologising
8. Personal appearance		21. Ending a conversation	29. Requesting explanations



Our 'Talk about' scheme of learning is encouraging us to be thoughtful and mindful of others, creating space for good communication and respect for one another.



We have also learnt about British values and what they mean to us. We each explored a different topic, individual liberty, democracy, rule of law, tolerance of others and mutual respect. We made posters to display our knowledge, which showed how each value helps us make positive choices in school and our wider community.

Some of us have been continuing the phonics programme 'Fresh start', targeting gaps in knowledge and expanding our vocabulary. We will continue on with this next term!

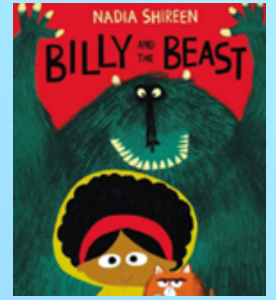


This term's learning through adventure has been fantastic, we have been continuing to build our skills and had fun in team games too. We enjoyed looking after the guinea pigs that have settled into Sky well!

*We hope you have a brilliant Easter holiday,
Kathryn, Abi, Ellie - Mae and the Class 4 Crew!*



CLASS 5 in English, we have been reading *Billy and the Beast* by Nadia Shireen. This was a story with a twist, and it taught us to not judge people by the way they look or our pre opinions. We also learnt to expand noun phrases and how to recognise different types of sentences i.e. questions, statements or exclamations.



Next, we started reading the classic book, *Funnybones* by Janet & Allan Ahlberg. We have been learning to write sentences that start with 'I think...' and using onomatopoeias to express animal noises.

In maths, this half term, we have been learning about measurements. We have used phrases such as taller, shorter and greater than, less than and equal to. We have learnt to use a ruler and read the measurements millimetre, centimetre and meter. We have also started to learn how to convert centimetres into millimetres.



For the past few weeks, we have been learning about different emotions.

We can now name different emotions, recognise facial expressions, in a mirror, that match our emotions and explain what happens to our bodies when we feel these emotions.

We made our own emotion coins out of clay.

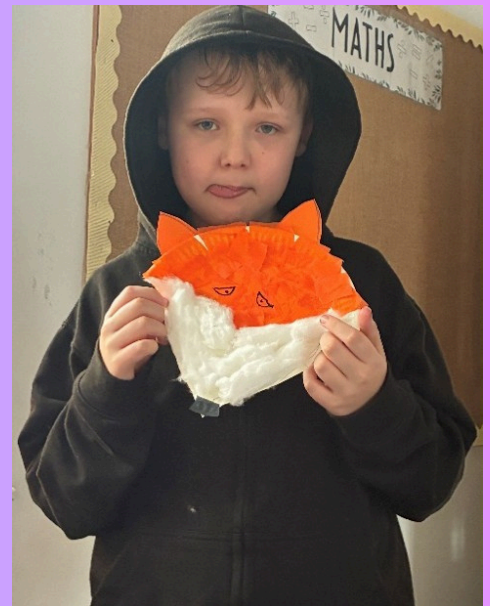




We had so much fun making our own marbled paper.



Our focus for World Book Day this year was Roald Dahl. One of the boys in Class 5 is reading Fantastic Mr Fox, so we chose this as our focus. We made Fantastic Mr Fox masks, watched the film and decorated our classroom door in our characters we coloured in.



Upper School

This term, Year 11 welcomed Mark Rowland, our visiting Sexual Health Practitioner, for an informative and supportive session. Mark answered students' questions around sex, contraception, and how to stay safe, helping them build confidence and understanding in an important area of personal health.

Our Year 11 students approached the discussion with maturity and respect, making the session highly valuable. We look forward to welcoming Mark back next term!

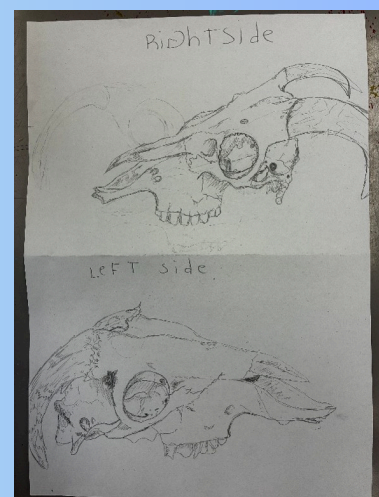
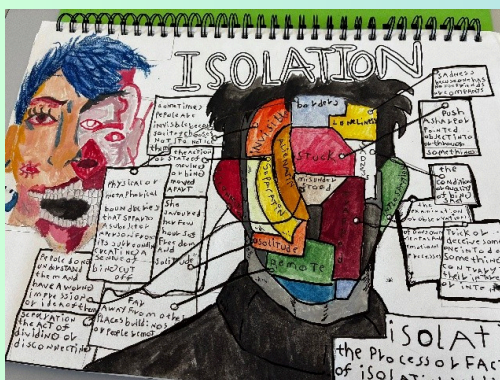


This term, Year 9 EFL have been exploring the theme of respect in relationships, focusing on how different emotions can be expressed and understood. To bring this learning to life, students created a range of expressive faces using biscuits to represent the feelings people may experience within relationships.

This fun and creative activity sparked thoughtful discussions –and the students certainly enjoyed eating their biscuit creations afterwards!



Year 11 GCSE Art students have been busy preparing for their upcoming exam, producing some truly impressive work inspired by a range of artists and styles. Their creativity and commitment have been fantastic to see, and the quality of their developing pieces is already shining through. We can't wait to see their final outcomes!



Year 11 AQA Unit Award students have been working collaboratively on a creative project inspired by Malorie Blackman's *Boys Don't Cry*.

Together, they explored themes from the book, shared ideas, and each contributed to the development of a collective artwork. Their teamwork and thoughtful approach have resulted in a powerful piece that reflects both the story and their own interpretations.



Staff and students enjoyed a fantastic celebration of reading on World Book Day, with staff fully embracing the occasion by dressing up as characters from Roald Dahl's much-loved stories. From the eccentric Mr and Mrs Twit, to the formidable Miss Trunchbull, the scary Witches and even the caring Miss Honey, the school was filled with familiar and much-loved faces from classic children's literature.



The day created a real buzz around reading, with pupils enjoying the opportunity to recognise characters and talk about their favourite books. Events like this play an important role in encouraging a love of reading and bringing stories to life in a fun and memorable way.

Thursday 2nd of April

What's been happening in science at Sky?

For World Book Day, students made potions inspired by the book *George's Marvellous Medicine* by Roald Dahl, where a boy mixes different ingredients to create a strange medicine for his grandmother. Students created their own safe "potions" while learning about mixtures and reactions.



Year 11 students also completed two GCSE core practical's. One investigated the rate of photosynthesis in pondweed by counting oxygen bubbles produced under different conditions. The second tested the effect of antibiotics on bacteria grown on agar plates, measuring zones of inhibition to see which antibiotics were most effective.

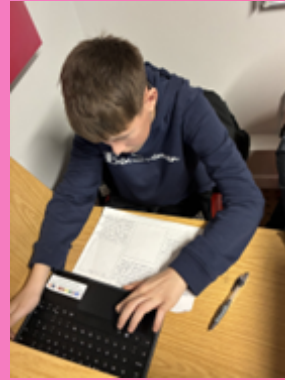
We are delighted to celebrate the success of our Year 11 students, who have worked incredibly hard in their recent mock examinations. Pupils demonstrated real determination and commitment across English, Maths and Science, with many achieving strong results, including a number of impressive Grade 6s.

These outcomes reflect the dedication of both students and staff, as well as the positive attitude shown by the year group throughout the exam period. The mocks have provided an excellent foundation as students now move forward with confidence towards their final examinations. We are very proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing their continued progress.



THE BASE

This has been another really positive term in the Base. Our students continue to show meaningful growth in both their learning and their social development, and we are incredibly proud of the progress they are making at their own pace and in their own ways.



Our Year 11 students, now aware that their time with us is approaching its final weeks, have been engaging with real focus and determination. They are working hard to strengthen any remaining areas of learning so they can move confidently toward their next qualifications. Their commitment reflects their developing self-belief and their readiness for the next stage of their journeys. Plans for their transitions into next year are already in place, and we are looking forward to making the most of the time we have left together - celebrating their strengths, supporting their needs, and ensuring they feel prepared, valued, and connected as they move forward.

One of the highlights of the term has been a couple of our Year 8 boys, Rogan and Jacob, taking part in a memorable residential experience at Calvert in Devon. They had the opportunity to explore a range of outdoor activities at their own pace, including crate building, horse riding, zip wiring, abseiling and climbing. Throughout the trip, students showed curiosity, courage and a willingness to try new things. Staff supported young people to recognise their own strengths, celebrate small successes and regulate any feelings that came with the challenges of the day. The overnight stay offered a valuable chance for students to connect with one another in a safe, calm environment. Many students used the time to deepen friendships, practise positive social interactions and enjoy shared routines that helped them feel settled and included. Both staff and students enjoyed the experience, and we are incredibly proud of how thoughtfully and respectfully the group engaged with one another throughout the residential.



The focus of our Personal Development sessions this term has been healthy lifestyles. Students took part in a fun and interactive session exploring a range of exotic fruits, including pomegranate, Sharon fruit, avocados and mangoes amongst many more. For many students, this was the first time they had encountered some of these flavours, and it was great to see them step out of their comfort zone. Students showed great openness and curiosity, with everyone choosing to engage in the experience – even those who are not usually keen on fruit! Staff created a calm, pressure-free environment that encouraged students to explore new tastes, notice their reactions and celebrate their own preferences without judgement. The session was enjoyable, inclusive and rich in sensory learning, giving students the chance to broaden their food experiences while developing confidence in trying new things.



We also welcomed visitors from the Somerset Drugs and Alcohol Service (SDAS) for an informative and supportive workshop. The session was delivered in a calm, accessible way that allowed all students to engage at a level that felt comfortable for them. Students showed real curiosity and confidence as they explored the facts around recreational drugs, including potential health risks, the impact on well-being, and the legal considerations.

The SDAS team encouraged questions throughout, creating a safe space where students could seek clarity, challenge misconceptions, and build their understanding without judgement.



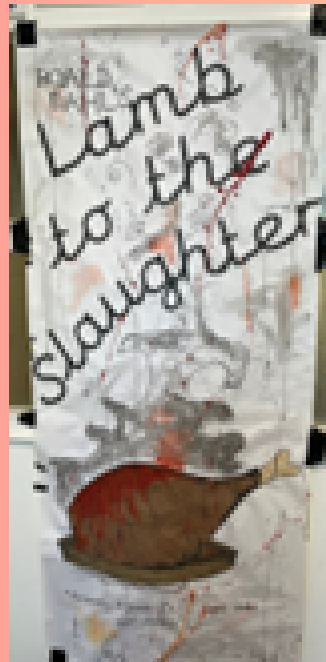
This learning opportunity helped students develop their decision-making skills, strengthen their awareness of personal safety, and consider how to make informed choices in situations they may encounter as they grow. Staff were incredibly proud of the thoughtful, respectful way students participated.





Thursday 2nd of April

For World Book Day, our students at The Base chose to explore one of Roald Dahl's stories for older readers, the wonderfully engaging *Lamb to the Slaughter*. Some families may remember its appearance in the *Tales of the Unexpected* TV series during the 1980s! Students and staff immersed themselves in the day, with our team dressing as a range of characters to help bring the story to life. The boys took part in a variety of creative and reflective activities that supported them to connect with the themes in ways that felt safe, meaningful, and accessible for everyone. We also created a fantastic door display that celebrated the text – particular thanks goes to Helen and Sue for their enthusiasm and artistic flare! The day was filled with curiosity, collaboration, and lots of fun – a great reminder of how reading can bring us together and spark shared learning experiences.



As we move into the summer term, we are looking forward to brighter days, sunnier weather and more opportunities to embrace outdoor learning. Our outdoor learning sessions offer many of our students a calming, grounding environment, and the boys are already expressing excitement about returning to the moors and engaging in wild swimming again!

*We wish all our families a restful Easter break
and we look forward to welcoming everyone back next term!*



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

This term in Food Technology has been full of creativity, confidence-building and delicious dishes across all year groups!

To celebrate World Book Day, our classes took inspiration from Roald Dahl's wonderfully mischievous *Revolting Recipes*. Students had great fun recreating themed dishes such as Mud Burgers, Dog Food, and Wormy Spaghetti. Despite their "terrible" names, the results were imaginative, skilfully prepared, and –most importantly–very tasty! It was a brilliant way to combine storytelling with practical cooking skills.



Year 10 have been busy broadening their practical skills and learning how to adapt recipes for a range of dietary needs. Students made their own homemade pizzas, experimenting with different toppings and creating versions suitable for alternative diets such as vegetarian or vegans.



They've also cooked some excellent main dishes, including crispy chicken with homemade wedges and a creamy Mac 'n' Cheese. Their organisation, teamwork, and growing independence in the kitchen have really stood out this term.



delicious!

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Year 11 have been working hard in preparation for their BTEC Vocation assessments. Students have taken responsibility for planning their own meals—selecting suitable recipes, organising ingredients and demonstrating their ability to prepare a complete dish with confidence.

This term's top dishes included a beautifully risen Chocolate Cake and perfectly cooked Pork Chops—both clear favourites among the groups. Their maturity, creativity, and attention to nutritional value have been fantastic to see.



It's a video

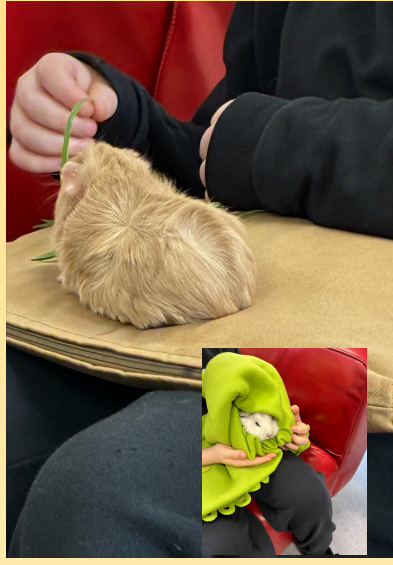


2nd of April

LEARNING THROUGH ADVENTURE

We have been so busy we've not had much time to take photos!! We have been enjoying the guinea pigs! We've taken our opportunity with the good weather to put the poly tube up and we are busy growing plants! We are hoping to grow a Christmas dinner.

We've even started digging the groundwork's ready hopefully for goats!!



FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 25TH MARCH



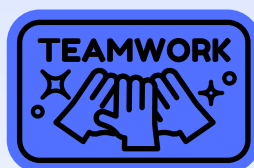
The Sky Academy took 21 students to take part in the Somerset Schools FA Inclusive League. We entered two under sixteen teams and one under twelve team. All students showed great resilience through the day playing in some competitive fixtures.

The students were great ambassadors for the school and showed great respect to their opponents and officials throughout the day.

After a mixed bag of results, students have showed great ambition to work on some parts of their game for the next tournament in April!



Well done to all those who took part and made every one at Sky proud!





THEATRE TRIP 1ST APRIL

On Wednesday 1st April, a group of Year 9 students had the opportunity to experience a live theatre performance at Bristol Old Vic, bringing their learning beyond the classroom.



During the previous term in English, the group had been studying A Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Rauf, which explores the powerful story of Ahmet, a young Syrian refugee. Seeing the story performed live enabled students to deepen their understanding of the characters, themes and emotions within the text, making their learning more meaningful and memorable. The experience not only reinforced key curriculum content but also supported empathy and discussion around real-world issues. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the trip, enthusiastically rating the day as “infinity out of 10.”



PLAY AND LEARNING ENRICHMENT BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATES

Class 1 enjoyed an enrichment day at Wildwood, Devon.

The students enjoyed seeing the various animals Wildwood have which includes four brown Bears who were out in the sun and on the move after a long sleepy winter.

As always with our visits to Wildwood, the main attraction is always the drop slide. The students were great at encouraging each other to have a go. The drop slide is a fab activity to boost individual confidence and once achieved it's hard to move away from the activity. The short video clip speaks for itself.



Pictured here are Alfie, Harley and Logan during a visit to IKEA in Exeter. The trip aimed to introduce students to the IKEA brand and to explore the wide range of products available to furnish and equip a modern home.

Next term, the students will take part in a practical challenge titled "Furnish My Flat", working to a modest budget of £3,000. Their task will be to plan and furnish a one-bedroom flat, including a lounge, kitchen and bathroom, while making informed choices about cost and practicality.

Students may complete the challenge either individually or as part of a team. They will be required to carefully consider the essential items needed to move into a new home and ensure it is functional, comfortable and fit for purpose.



The Safeguarding Team

We want you to be happy and safe in school and at home, so that you can achieve your potential and have healthy lives. If you are worried or have something you want to talk about

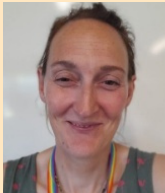
ALL staff are ready to listen to you



Kai Francis
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Rod Cockram
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Gaby Long
Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead



Anna Roden
Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead



Fiona Barnes
Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead



Louise Beer
Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead



Abi Enticott
Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead

The CLF Designated Safeguarding Lead is Steve Bane

Other important numbers:

Somerset Direct:
0300 123 2224



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Term 4

First Day of Term for Students - Tuesday 24th February 2026

Last Day of Term for Students - Thursday 2nd April 2026

INSET Dates:

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 20th March 2026

Term 5

Please click on the link below for the full years term dates:

<https://theskyacademy.clf.uk/content/our-academy/term-dates/>



PFSA**PARENT AND FAMILY
SUPPORT ADVISOR
(PFSA)**

If you need support with a safeguarding concern, then please follow this link:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/report-a-child-at-risk/>

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/report-an-adult-at-risk/>

If someone is in immediate danger always dial 999

If you are looking for information and support with a young person's mental health please look at the following websites:

<https://www.kooth.com>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/youngminds-textline/>

Remember to email your child's keyworker at the start of term if there is something you feel we should know about that has happened over the holiday – or just to share any good news or experiences



PFSA
Anna Roden

Email: Anna.Roden@clf.uk

Telephone: 01823 275569

Mobile: 0771 4171972

“Working together to prepare our students, building their resilience and confidence to become fulfilled and independent members of their community”

