The SKY ACADEMY

RESPECT RESILIENCE AMBITION BELONGING

ACROSS THE SKY

News and information from The Sky Academy

Wednesday 21st October

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- Message from the Principal
- Lower School News
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- PFSA

P.S. These are links now!

Reminders!

- Don't Forget 13th and 30th of November are INSET days., as is the 11th of December.
- 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,

It has been a real pleasure to welcome our new students who have joined us since September. Starting somewhere new can be a big step, and I am really pleased to see our newest students beginning to find their feet and become part of the Sky community.

I was delighted to be able to share our Ofsted outcome with you all a few weeks ago. I am incredibly proud of our school community and grateful to our students, families and staff for the contribution they make every day. You make the school what it is.

Our Year 11s also deserve a particular mention. This term they have been looking ahead, focusing on their mock exams, exploring careers and thinking carefully about their next steps into college or employment.

We have also been very pleased to welcome Cat, Michael, Riley and Joe to the Sky staff team.

There is plenty to look forward to as the year continues. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I hope everyone enjoys reading about some of the things we have been up to this term.

Have a great break over the holidays!

Gaby Long



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Lower School

CLASS 1



This term in Class 1, we have been working hard in Maths to develop our understanding of place value up to 10,000. We have explored how numbers are made up by ordering, comparing and partitioning them in different ways, as well as identifying odd and even numbers. The boys have also learned how to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. They have shown excellent focus throughout these lessons and have worked hard to solve problems, explain their mathematical thinking and justify their answers using evidence and reasoning.





In Literacy, we have been developing our knowledge of grammar by identifying and using conjunctions, nouns, adjectives, questions and statements in our own writing. We listened to a story from India and used it as an opportunity to learn about life in another country, comparing it with our own experiences and discussing different cultures and traditions. During our reading sessions, we have been enjoying The Midnight Gang by David Walliams. The boys have engaged enthusiastically with the story, exploring the characters, making predictions and discussing the author's use of humour, description and language choices.

In Crew, we have focused on developing positive relationships and understanding what makes an effective team. We have discussed trust, teamwork and cooperation, while also reflecting on our own strengths, values and identities. Through these activities, the boys have been encouraged to learn from past experiences, celebrate successes and recognise how their choices can help them to grow as individuals.





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In Art, we have explored how artists use tone and tint to create mood and depth within landscape artwork. The boys have experimented with different shading techniques and learned how perspective can make objects appear nearer or further away. We have also studied the work of landscape artists, discussing their styles and techniques before applying these ideas to our own artwork.





In Humanities, we have learned about the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, and the importance of new beginnings within the Jewish faith. The boys explored some of the traditions associated with the celebration, including reflection, prayer and spending time with family. We discussed the symbolic meaning of foods such as apples dipped in honey and considered how people use this special time to think about the past year and make positive choices for the year ahead.



In cooking lessons, we have developed a range of practical food preparation skills, including chopping, slicing and safely using kitchen equipment. They have successfully followed a variety of recipes, including those inspired by Jamie Oliver, demonstrating their ability to follow instructions and work independently. During practical sessions, they have prepared a range of dishes such as fruit salad, pasta salad, cakes and burgers, building confidence in food preparation, hygiene, teamwork and healthy eating choices. Students have shown increasing independence and enthusiasm when making and evaluating their finished products.











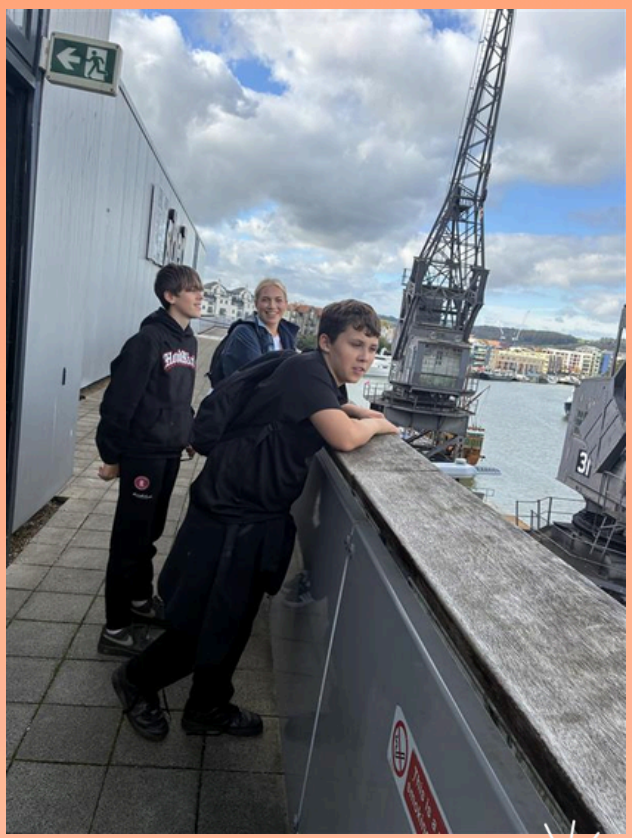


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On Thursday 15th October our class visited M Shed in Bristol to learn about the city's history. The children explored Black History, learned about protests and their impact on society, and discovered how Bristol trades and imports goods from other countries. It was an enjoyable and informative trip that brought their learning to life.















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CLASS 2



During National Coding Week, we did lots of different activities across the school including programming Microbits, creating cartoons on Scratch and building Lego models and coding them to cross bridges.





We developed our drawing skills focusing on landscapes. We began by looking colour theory and how artists use colour to create mood, then moving onto vanishing points to create landscapes. We also studied art by Metzinger.



This half term, we focused on developing our scientific skills. We did several different investigations. A highlight was making mini rockets using film canisters.





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In our Crew sessions, we have been focusing on building crew identity, establishing group expectations and building trust. A highlight was playing blindfolded football, which was hilarious and valuable in equal measure.





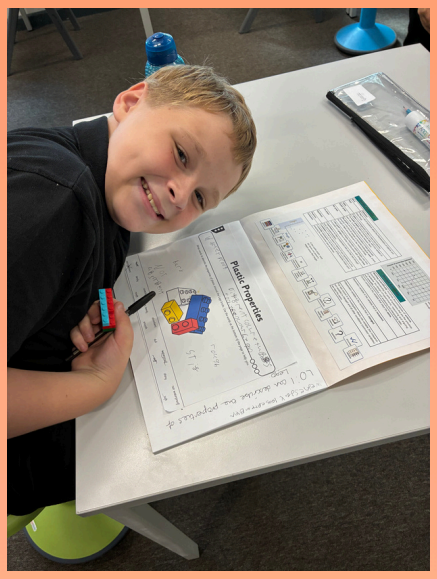


As part of a whole school initiative, we were tasked with creating something to promote kindness across the school. We made a video in the style of the mannequin challenge from several years ago and were chosen as the winners!

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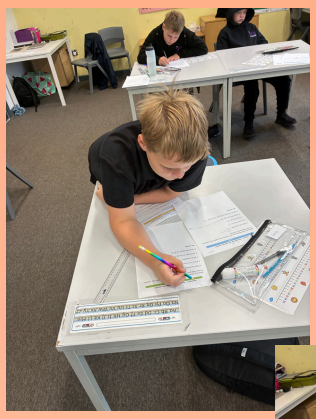
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CLASS 3

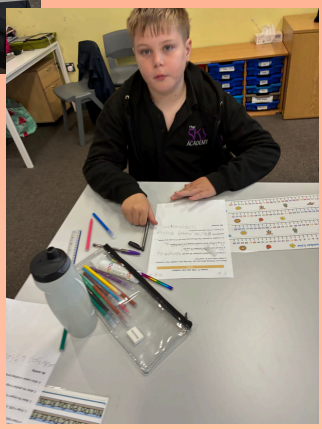
This term, the boys have been developing their confidence in Maths through place value, ordering and comparing numbers, odd and even numbers, and we are currently learning about rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. We have also focused on problem-solving, reasoning and applying mathematical skills to everyday situations. It has been fantastic to see the boys growing in confidence, challenging themselves and developing their ability to explain their mathematical thinking.

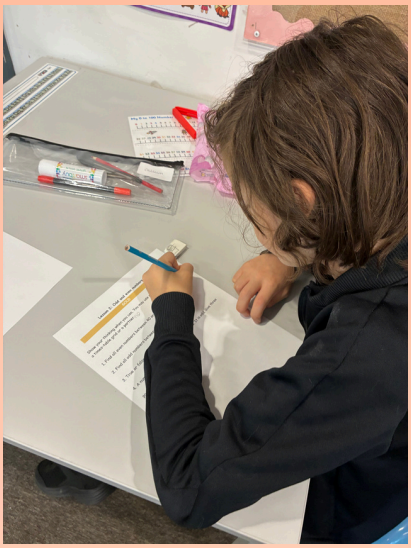
In Literacy, we have explored nouns, adjectives, expanded noun phrases, conjunctions and sentence structures, using these skills to develop our descriptive and creative writing. Through a story set in India, the boys have explored characters, settings and emotions, while also learning about Indian culture, traditions and landmarks. During our reading sessions the boys have chosen books that they enjoy reading and so there has been a variety of literature they have chosen. They very often will discuss the story, characters and plot with their peers in their class.











Our Crew sessions have focused on building positive relationships, teamwork, kindness and respect. We have explored what makes a good friend, the importance of trust and how our actions affect others. The boys have also reflected on their individual strengths, emotions and achievements, developing their understanding of belonging and the importance of supporting one another.

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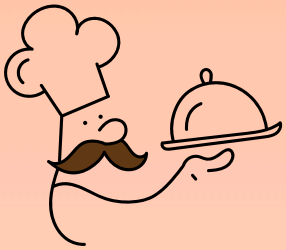
In Art, we have explored tints, tones and shades, experimenting with colour mixing and shading techniques to create mood and depth. We have also looked at landscape artwork and perspective, learning how artists create a sense of distance. The boys have enjoyed experimenting with different techniques and expressing their creativity through their own artwork. They have been able to work with different mediums to show the contrast between paint and chalks as an example.

In Humanities, we have learned about Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, exploring its traditions and the importance of reflection and new beginnings. The boys discovered the significance of symbolic foods, including apples dipped in honey, and discussed how different cultures celebrate important occasions. These lessons have encouraged curiosity, understanding and respect for different beliefs and traditions.

Our cooking sessions have been a real highlight! The boys have developed practical skills including chopping, slicing, measuring and safely using kitchen equipment. They have followed recipes to prepare a variety of dishes, including pasta salad and pizza muffins and are very keen to get to brownie and ginger bread making lessons! Alongside learning about food hygiene and healthy choices, they have shown growing independence, teamwork and pride in their finished creations.





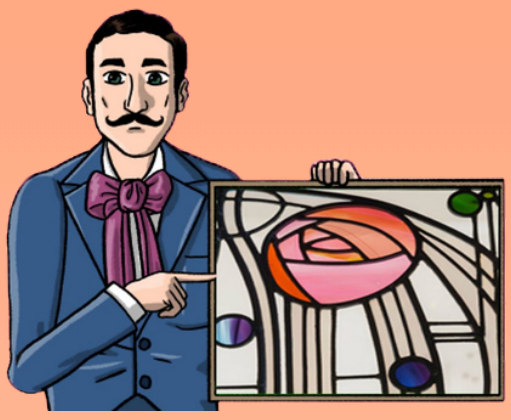


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This term we have been exploring working scientifically so we look at predictions and what would work best, what might happen next which really engages the boys. In our science lessons we have been incorporating experiments, working with water in a tray with mock sand, earth and houses to explore ocean pollution, to testing the absorbency of materials whilst learning about Charles Mackintosh and his invention.





It has been a busy term in Class 3. We are incredibly proud of the boys' achievements, both academically and personally. They have continued to develop their confidence, resilience and independence, while learning the importance of kindness, cooperation and perseverance. With most of the boys entering The Sky Academy as new pupils in September 2026 it is amazing to see how far they have come with developing friendships, confidence and curiosity. We look forward to see them learn and grow in the next term.







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CLASS 4

The students have been working on their writing skills this term using two short animations.



We used the "The Little Boat" animation to discover descriptive words to begin with, then we tried once more to turn those single words into phrases and eventually into sentences.

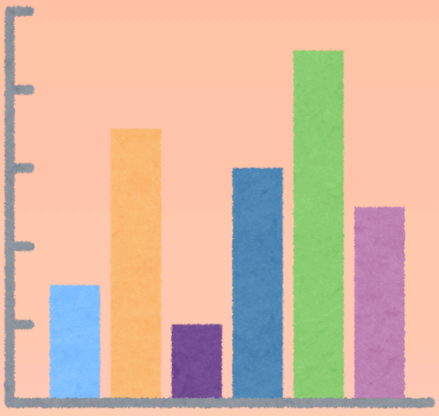
"Ride of Passage" was the story of a tribe hunting in the jungle, where the hunter who caught the largest, most ferocious animal was made chief. Enter a young boy who discovered that there was more reward in making friends and allies than in fighting.

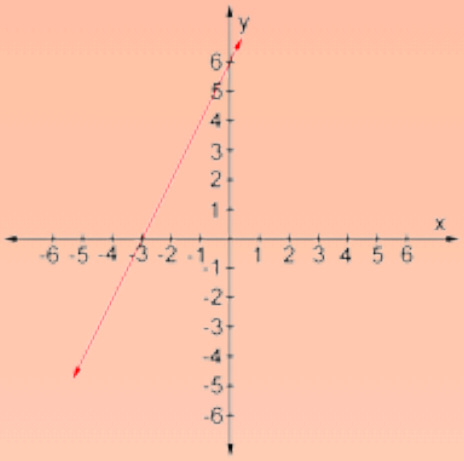


The students started by creating a mind map of ideas to move forward with, followed by a timeline, which they found provided more linear detail than a mind map. Finally, they designed a storyboard, first for their own story and then for the animation, Ride of Passage. Some of the drawings in the storyboard were both clever and hilarious. Well done.

We have been practising our handwriting and looking at nouns, verbs and conjunctions as well as capital letters and punctuation.

This term we have been concentrating on numbers 1 – 1000, number ordering, rounding, BODMAS and triangles, plus some more interesting and challenging topics such as X and Y graphs and coordinates. We have had a look at bar charts, what they are used for and how to read the data within the charts, as well as the use of letters in maths (algebra). These more complex topics are just a fleeting visit but will pay dividends when starting GCSE maths in the future, and the students enjoy the challenge.





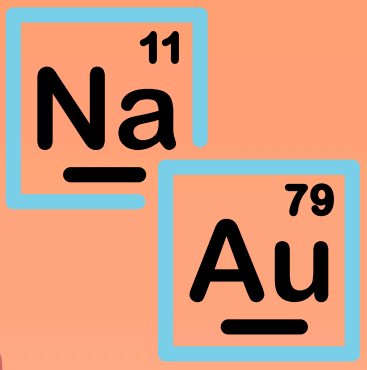
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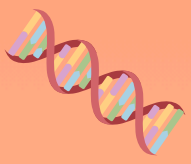
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The class have been looking at Chemistry, Biology and Physics this term.

We have been studying the periodic table, how it was formulated and the elements in order of appearance. . The students have created their own periodic table which is growing week upon week.







We have looked at “cells” that make up all living things. This included animal, plant and bacterial cells with their own particular differences. We have looked at the DNA and other organelles (the parts that make up the cells) such as the nucleus, membrane and mitochondria and made drawings of these. We will be looking at this next term using a microscope and growing our own experimental plants so we can discover for ourselves how they work in different environments.

This term we have been looking at energy in all its forms and how it disperses into different forms such as kinetic energy (movement) to sound and heat energy (thermal). We then looked at the atom and radiation and uses of radiation such as medical, creating power and weapons. The boys discovered Protons, Neutrons, electrons and even positrons (anti-matter), asking the most interesting questions, some of which a Year 11 student would have been proud of.

What I have discovered is that the students have bright and enquiring minds. They asked questions about “The Big Bang”, “Time Travel and time dilation” and even “space-time” and how gravity affects it, especially black holes.

We have now taken to looking at the rudiments of discovery and how scientists come up with ideas and theories and the route they take for this, which will be beneficial when they start upper school science.

I very much look forward to next term's experiments and discoveries, including creating electricity, discovering how plants exist and producing our own elements from compounds.

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The whole class have been working together to learn life skills. This has been undertaken to bring the students closer together and understand more about each other.
This is what we have tackled within our CREW lessons this term.

1. We built rubber band aircraft which are proudly displayed on the classroom wall. These were complex, and every student helped with the different parts so at the end of the day the aircraft were able to fly.







2. The students designed bracelets for each other and their friends at school and home. These were put together as a group, the students finding they needed help from each other to overcome the difficulties of designing and finishing the beads without them falling apart. Some of these are also displayed on the classroom wall.

3. Students were asked to use a frisbee to go from one side of the playing field to the other, stopping at bases on the way. They needed to decide who would throw first and last and if anyone needed extra help. The students managed very well organising themselves fairly and giving help when needed.







Next term Michael will be starting music sessions 2 pm – 2.30 pm Monday to Friday.
The school has several electric and acoustic guitars, a bass guitar, keyboards and a drum kit as well as amplification.

There will be a Rock Band once a week for guitarists, singers, keyboard and bass players who can already play and perform. On another day, there will be a band for students who have some skills but may not feel confident enough to play in a band straight away. Finally, there will be three other groups for students who wish to play but have never played before.

The idea is for students to become more confident and learn the skills needed to move into the Rock Band and share the amazing experience of performing.

If anyone wishes to learn the guitar, keyboard, drums or singing, please speak to Michael and watch out for further news on this exciting new venture at Sky Academy.

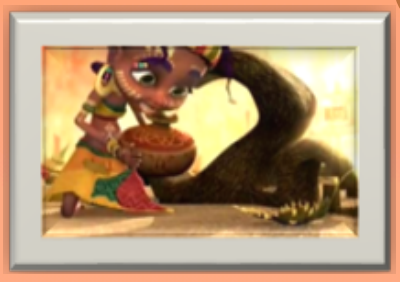
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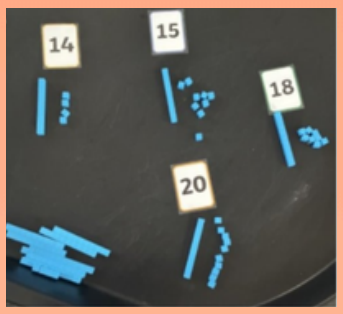
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CLASS 5

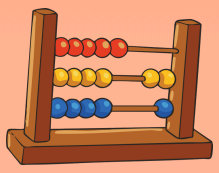
In literacy we have been looking at an interesting video called 'Zarha'. Zahra lives in Africa and we watched her journey to collect water every day. We focussed on exploring adjectives to describe how she looked, what her setting was like and how she may be feeling. We introduced the conjunction 'and' to join our sentences together.







Our numeracy focus has been place value this term. We have investigated number bonds, addition, subtraction and the equals sign. We have also been hands on using analogue clocks and money.



Our CREW sessions follow our four core values, respect, belonging, resilience and ambition. Each lesson we work as a team to complete different tasks. This could be talking through different scenarios we have different opinions on, team games and celebrating both individual and group successes!

In art, the lower school have been investigating tints, tones and shades. Our class have been focussing on dark and light. We used images of the sea to explore the deep blues of the ocean. We even made our own 'ice creams' (shaving foam!) to explore how adding colours make things darker.







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Following the PSHE Association curriculum, we have been exploring personal safety. We discussed public and private parts of the body and the voice we have to advocate for ourselves as we are growing up into our teenage years.

We also investigated road safety. We went out on a walk round the local area, finding safe crossings and made live risk assessments, applying what we learnt in the classroom.





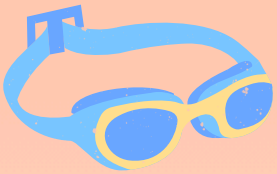
This term Sky had a whole school focus on anti-bullying. Each class were given the opportunity to create a group project that reflected our stance on good friendships in and out of school. We made a fantastic song that we performed to staff!

We were very lucky to go to Woodbury Common this at the end of this half term. We walked about 4 miles and spent the whole time looking for spent blank bullet cases. Yes, there was a bit of competition!





We have enjoyed our swimming sessions at Blackbrook Leisure Centre this half term. The children have been using floats and inflatable balls. They enjoyed some free time doing handstands and jumping in.





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Upper School



To celebrate National Curry Week, we were delighted to welcome the team from Turmeric Kitchen, Taunton, into school for an exciting hands-on cookery workshop.



Students learned a range of authentic Indian cooking skills, starting with a cauliflower and chicken starter using a deep fat fryer, which was a new experience for many. They then went on to make a traditional curry, chapatis and perfectly fluffy rice while learning professional tips from the chefs.



Students were particularly impressed by the chefs' incredible chopping skills and were fully engaged throughout the session. It was fantastic to see everyone working together, trying new techniques and building their confidence in the kitchen.







A huge thank you to Turmeric Kitchen for helping us bring our local community into school and providing such an enjoyable and memorable learning experience for our students.

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Year 10 and 11 students recently attended a Careers Fair at the Westlands Entertainment Venue in Yeovil, where they had the opportunity to meet a wide range of employers, training providers and colleges from across Somerset.

Throughout the event, students engaged confidently with exhibitors, learning about the many pathways available to them after Year 11, including further education, apprenticeships and employment opportunities. The experience helped broaden their horizons and gave them valuable insight into future career options.



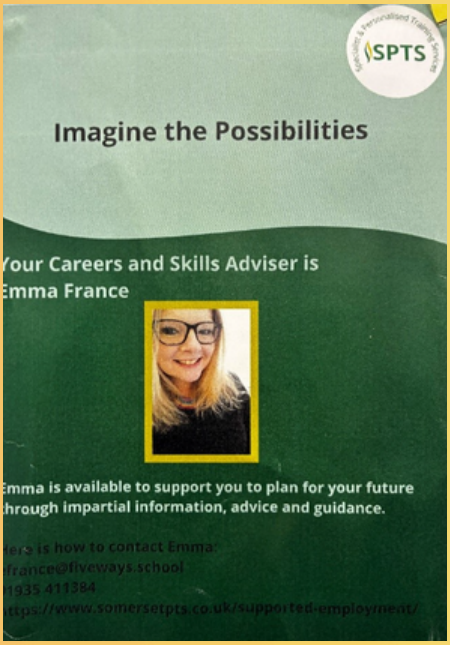


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Year 11 students recently welcomed Careers Adviser Emma France, who delivered an informative session focused on post-16 options. Emma will be meeting with each student individually in the new term to provide personalised guidance, support college applications, and help them explore the pathways available after Year 11. These meetings will ensure students are well prepared to make informed decisions about their future education, training, and career opportunities.

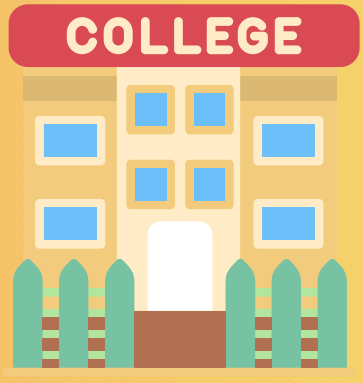


Year 11 students recently visited Crockers for an initial introduction to the college and its courses. During the visit, students enjoyed a tour of the site, explored the facilities, and had the opportunity to meet with some of the tutors. The visit provided a valuable insight into college life and helped students begin considering their post-16 options.



College





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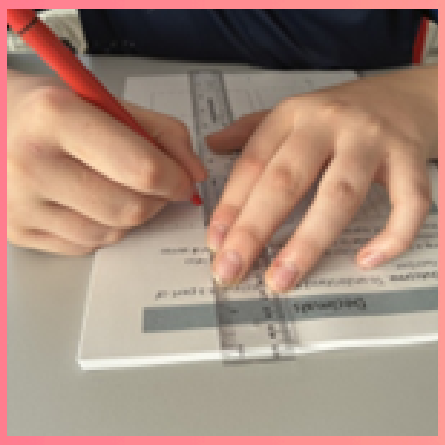
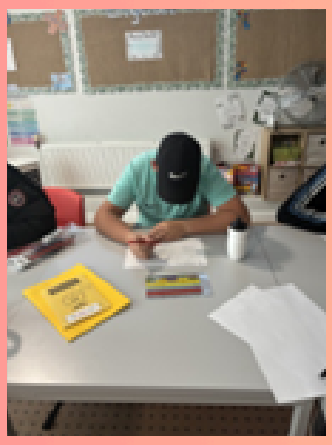
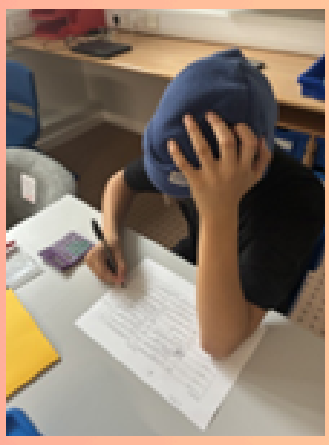
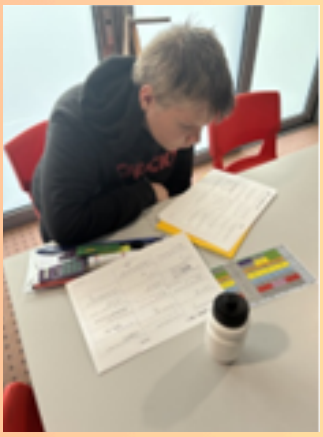
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THE BASE

We have had a fantastic start to the new academic year in the Base. In any school, after the long summer break there is typically a period of settling back into the routine of school however our Base boys, literally within the first lesson, slotted straight back in! We have welcomed a couple of new KS4 students into the Base, and they have been a lovely addition to our team. Next term, one of our Year 11s will be transitioning back onto the main site and we will be welcoming in a new year 8 student.

The boys have all engaged well with all aspects of their education. We completed baseline assessments at the start of the year to identify the appropriate level of qualifications to enter our boys for. All of them have completed the first round of exams and we are delighted by the progress that they have made. Their overall engagement and attitude to learning is excellent and we were so proud with how they managed the pressure of exams week.

Earlier this month, our KS4 boys had the opportunity to attend a Careers Fair in Yeovil. This provided them with the opportunity to speak to a broad range of employers and explore the options available to them Post 16, such as college courses and apprenticeships. As always when we are in public, we were so proud of how our boys interacted with the stall holders and members of the public.



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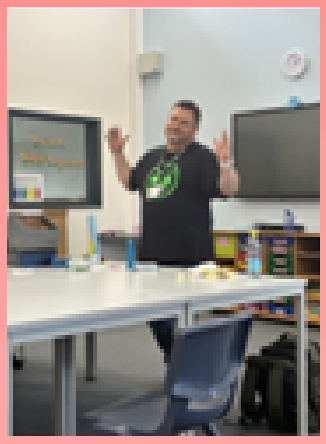
Wednesday 21st October

As part of Sexual Health Week, we had a visit from Mark (a Sexual health Practitioner Nurse). We discussed many aspects of sexual health including the risks of sexually transmitted illnesses and pregnancy. Thankfully there is no such thing as a silly question and Mark answered lots of questions and clarified a few misunderstandings! The session ended with a fact or fiction quiz and a demonstration on how to appropriately apply a condon. We were so impressed with how well our students engaged and the maturity they demonstrated (for the majority of the session!).

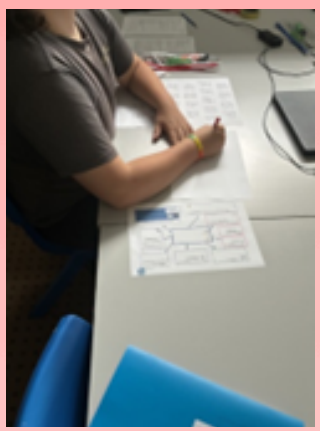








The focus of Our Big Question topic this term has been about graffiti and whether Bansky is an artist or a criminal. We have explored aspects of his work and discussed whether graffiti is vandalism or art. The boys have engaged well in the topic and have clear ideas as to what is, and isn't, acceptable. Each of the boys created their own name in graffiti style, taking great care over the letter styling and colourways. When we have been out on activities they have been quick to spot examples of graffiti, such as the soldier and child below, which we found on Brean Fort.











Principal: Gaby Long
Vice Principal: Becky Lambert
Tel: 01823 275569. E-mail: info@tsa.clf.uk

The SKY ACADEMY

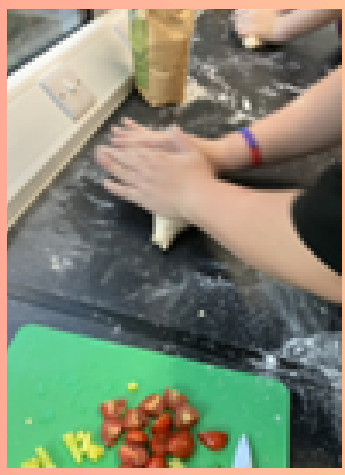
Wednesday 21st October

The boys have cooked some amazing meals in Food Tech this term and are always keen to share their creations and get the feedback, which is (almost!) always positive. They are all developing their culinary skills and food tech is also great way to enhance reading and maths skills.











A significant focus in the Base is on social and emotional development, and each of our boys continues to make excellent progress in this area. On the whole, the boys are polite and respectful and the calm, purposeful learning environment within the Base is often commented on by main site colleagues and external professionals. We are very proud of the overall progress that they have made, and we wish them all a restful half-term break and we will look forward to seeing them next term.













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The SKY ACADEMY

Wednesday 21st October

PLAY AND LEARNING ENRICHMENT BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATES

It has been a fantastic start to our off-site curriculum enrichment programme, with students already enjoying a wide range of exciting experiences.

Working alongside Black Rock Outdoor Centre, students have taken part in activities such as climbing and kayaking, developing both confidence and teamwork skills. Other groups have been exploring the local countryside, including a lovely walk enjoyed by Lower School Class 5 and an adventure along the Gruffalo Trail at Haldon Forest, Exeter.









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Wednesday 21st October

Lower School students have also visited Woodbury Common, one of their favourite locations to explore. They particularly enjoy encountering the Royal Marine recruits training for their Green Beret, which always sparks curiosity and interest.





We are especially proud of three of our Upper School students who successfully completed the Royal Yachting Association Level 2 Sailing Certificate. The boys worked incredibly hard and were delighted with their achievement, which is a testament to their determination and perseverance.





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Wednesday 21st October

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

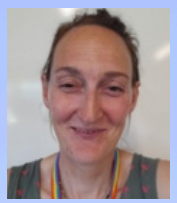
ALL staff are ready to listen to you



Kai Francis
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Rod Cockram
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



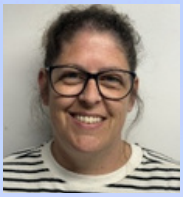
Gaby Long
Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead



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

ChildLine
0800 1111

T

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/

Principal: Gaby Long
Vice Principal: Becky Lambert
Tel: 01823 275569. E-mail: info@tsa.clf.uk

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"