

LP 1: CULTURAL CAPITAL MOMENTS IN THE CURRICULUM

During LP1, there have been many cultural capital moments during lessons which students have talked about with great enthusiasm. Here are a selection of examples of these moments happening in different subject areas.

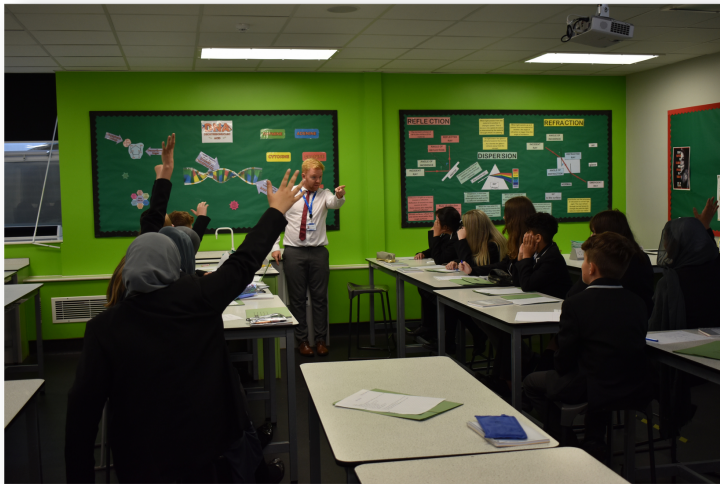


Severn Trent visited the Academy to give an insight into the Science of Sewage, teaching us about the need to conserve water and only put correct items down the loo!! (the 3Ps??!!) In these images the students are discovering items which are often put down the loo!!



We celebrated Mad Hatter Day here in the library, with almost 30 Year 7 students. It was a fantastic celebration of reading, with one girl commenting that it was the best thing she had ever done!

CULTURAL CAPITAL



During a year 8 oracy lesson, students were discussing whether students should be paid to go to school. Every member of the class had the chance to put forward their point of view. I was very impressed with how well the students put forward their ideas, particularly those who said they don't find speaking in front of others easy. After several exchanges of differing views, the class agreed that the money could be better spent and students shouldn't be paid to go to school. Well done year 8 on a fantastic first half term of the 'Aspire Curriculum'.

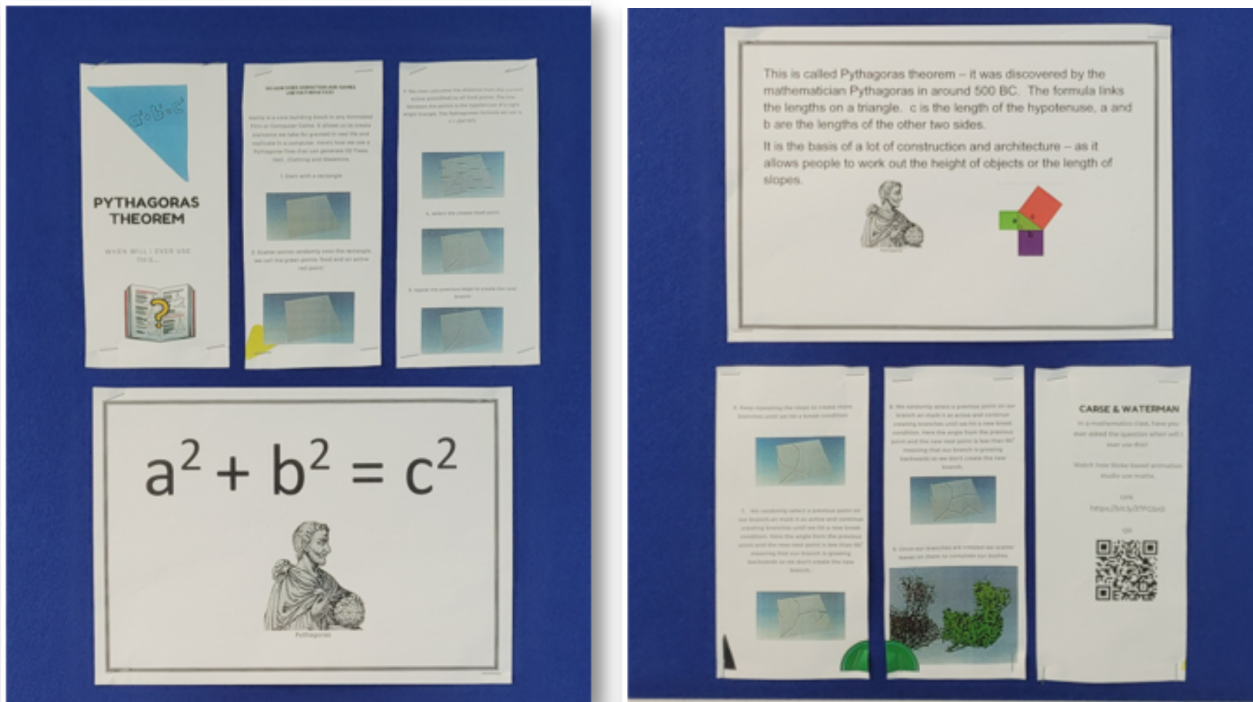
AQA GCSE Art, Craft and Design 2021 – 3D Design

Year 11 students have studied the work of Sarah Morris and produced their own artist sheets in response. Students have engaged in discussions about their work, have analysed her style and created their own design sheets in response. The next step for our young designers is to complete their own Sarah Morris inspired designs.



CULTURAL CAPITAL

Below shows the leaflet created by Carse and Waterhouse Animation together with some information about Pythagoras Theorem. This is an ongoing collaboration entitled “When will I ever use this?” and is the start of a number of lessons to demonstrate to students the practical use of mathematics, in this case in animation films and computer games. The first lesson is the use Pythagoras Theorem and will be available not just for Birches Head students but for students across the city.



Year 8 Cultural Moment in ART

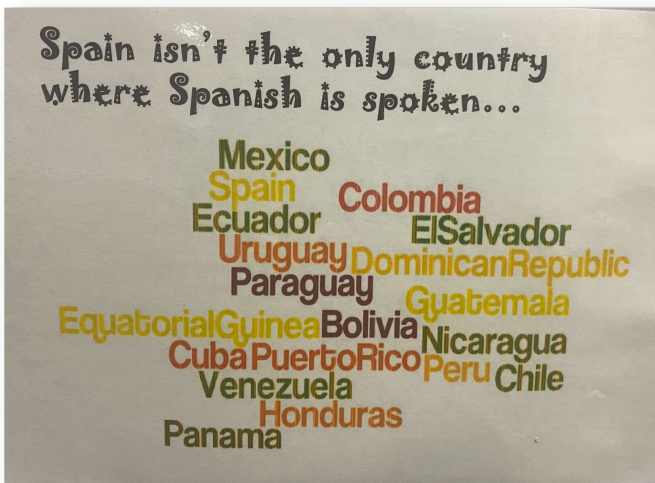


In their art lessons, year 8 are currently taking inspiration from The Circus. Students are discussing the history of the Circus, and how artists have taken inspiration from the stories and performers.

Circuses in the 19th century were a spectacle to behold and their menagerie of performers inspired the Impressionist painters. Such performers often included giants, elephants riding cycles and daring acrobatic acts. The success of circuses in meant that by 1870 there were five permanent circuses situated in Paris and London that performed every night.

Many circus scenes have been depicted in famous paintings and stories. Seurat's 'The Circus' is one of such works. Year 8 students will be creating their own sketchbook pages in the artist's style.

CULTURAL CAPITAL



The past few weeks Year 8 have been discovering **Spanish** speaking countries in their Spanish lessons when learning to talk about past holidays. We have discovered the many places around the world that speak Spanish, making it the second most spoken language in the world.



While you watch this clip from the Olympic Opening ceremony from 2012, think very carefully about how Britain is shown to change.

Think of words to describe it before the Industrial Revolution... ...and after the Industrial Revolution

During LP1 learning year 8 **History** students watched the 2012 London Olympic opening ceremony which showed the changes to Britain during the Industrial Revolution.

Mind map: what can be said about this image?

+ What are the questions this image raises?

Who are they?

What did they do?

Did they have any children?

How did they meet?

When did they live?

Was it a happy marriage?

How did Leon meet Else?

Where did they get married?

Where did they live after they married and why?

When do we think this family photo was taken?

What can we learn from these photographs?

Year 9 have been learning about pre-war Jewish life and the events of the Holocaust in RE during this Learning Programme. They have been following the story of Leon, Else and Barney Greenman, a Jewish family who lived in Europe before WW2. More information can be found about their life here:

<https://jewishmuseum.org.uk/about/history/leon-greenman-2/>

Students have responded very well to the challenging topics covered in their learning about the Holocaust. They have approached difficult content maturely and thoughtfully, considering how we can all learn lessons from the events of the Holocaust to ensure such a tragedy never happens again.

BIRCHES HEAD ACADEMY **PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL**



During their lessons in the last few weeks, the Y7s, 8s and 9s currently doing music as their aspire subject have been very lucky to have had some unique opportunities with our City Music Service. The City Music Service now provide music lessons in school for students that choose to opt in to our in-house Performing Arts School.

In these special lessons, our specialist teachers have brought in instruments for students to hear, see, and even try to play! Some of our students might not have had the opportunity to see, hold or play one of these instruments before so this was an amazing opportunity for these students to try out something new before choosing whether or not they would like to opt into this opportunity. Students learnt how to hold their instrument correctly and learnt how to make a sound – some of our Y7 students even played along with our visiting brass teacher Mr Walker to the theme from ‘The Fresh Prince of Bel Air’.

If your child would like to learn to play a musical instrument such as brass, strings, woodwind, keyboard or guitar or take up one of our other Performing Arts School opportunities, please speak to Mr Hawke, Miss Mooney, Miss Williams or Mrs Adlington for more information.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR



During early October, two groups of KS3 students visited the LEGO Education Suit at Newcastle College to support with the Academy's entries into this year's FIRT Lego League 2021-22 as part of our LEGO robotics club.

The students built, programmed, and tested out robots made from LEGO. The students showed excellent teamwork skills and displayed some real innovation, while gaining valuable experience from some LEGO experts.

Well done to everyone who attended!



Six of our year 10 and 11 food technology students attended Stoke College's Big Buffet event on Tuesday night.

They joined students from other schools, had the opportunity of working in an industrial kitchen and were able to invite a guest to sample the buffet they had prepared.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Bee Active



We are delighted that we have been able to fund free Bee Active sessions for year 7 students every Friday during LP1. Two members of Bee Active Staff have provided fantastic opportunities for students to enjoy many games such as dodgeball whilst encouraging them to develop the following skills -

- Excellence - someone doing the best they can, in sport and in life. It is about taking part and striving for improvement, not just winning.
- Friendship - using sport to develop tolerance and understanding between all people – performers, spectators and citizens generally.
- Respect - having consideration for oneself, others and the wider environment. It includes respecting the rules of sport and the officials who uphold them, opposition players and equipment.

We look forward to offering new Bee Active opportunities every Friday during LP2 including some of our year 6 students from our main feeder school.

The PE department have dramatically increased their extra-curricular provision during the first learning programme of the academic year. Students now have the opportunity to do cycling, beginners running, advanced running, badminton, football, netball, dodgeball and Bee Active. Each year group also has the opportunity to use the fitness suite each week. The success of our football teams has been particularly impressive with year 7 boys beating a local school 11-0 and year 8 having a 8-0 win against the same school!

The year 7 and 8 girls thoroughly enjoyed a 5 a side football tournament. The girls did amazingly well and managed to get runners up in their group of five teams and got through to the semi-final match. They played in a 3rd place 'play off' and won! Overall, they came 3rd out of the whole tournament.



CAREERS CONVENTION



During the 15th October, we welcomed over 20 local businesses and higher education establishments to showcase opportunities to our students for life after Birches Head Academy. The event was aimed at our Y9, Y10 and Y11 students. It has been a huge success and I am immensely proud of how our students represented our Academy. A virtual tour of the event will be uploaded to our website shortly.



MACMILLAN FUNDRAISING MISSION



During the final week of our learning programme, we are on a mission to raise as much money as we can for Macmillan. Each day of the week, a different year group are donating cakes and a group of volunteers from the year group are selling them with the support of members of our student leadership team. The student leadership team are selling cakes to parents and students at the year 7 parents' evening on Thursday 21st October. We are looking forward to sharing how much we raise overall in the next newsletter.

HAPPY HALF TERM

On Monday 1st November, our second learning cycle will begin. We will begin to welcome some of our year 6 students from our main feeder primary school to join us for extra-curricular activities. We will have our first review day for year 8 and 9 on Thursday 11th November. We look forward to immersing ourselves in the values of gratitude and humility and we invite you to help us to teach our children the importance of feeling and expressing thanks and having a modest view of oneself.

Below you'll find some usual contact information if you require during the half term break:



***BEST WISHES FROM ALL THE
BIRCHES HEAD ACADEMY TEAM***



USEFUL CONTACTS

<p>Anxiety UK 03444 775 774 (helpline) 07537 416 905 (text)</p>	<p>Beat 0808 801 0711 (youthline) beateatingdisorders.co.uk Under 18s helpline, webchat and online support groups for people with eating disorders, such as anorexia and bulimia</p>	<p>Childline 0800 1111 childline.org.uk Support for children and young people in the UK, including a free 24-hour helpline</p>	<p>FRANK 0300 123 6600 talktofrank.com Confidential advice and information about drugs, their effects and the law.</p>	<p>Hope Again 0808 808 1677 hopeagain.org.uk Support for young people when someone dies</p>
<p>Me and My Mind meandmymind.nhs.uk Advice and support for young people struggling with unusual experiences, such as hearing voices.</p>	<p>No Panic 0330 606 1174 nopanic.org.uk/no-panic-youth-hub Charity offering support for sufferers of panic attacks and obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)</p>	<p>On My Mind annafreud.org/on-my-mind Information for young people to make informed choices about their mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Relate 0300 003 0396 relate.org.uk Provides help and support with relationships</p>	<p>YoungMinds 0808 802 5544 (parents helpline) youngminds.org.uk Committed to improving the mental health of children and young people</p>