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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BIRCHES HEAD ACADEMY

LEARNING PROGRAMME 2:



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PRINCIPAL: MS DIXON

“ During our second learning cycle of the 2021-22 academic year, we have immersed ourselves in the values of gratitude and humility. We have learnt that gratitude is feeling and expressing thanks and modesty is having a modest view of oneself. The student leadership team have led an assembly about gratitude and challenged all students to choose a member of staff who they are grateful to and to express their thanks in writing. Tutors have also set challenges during weekly ‘Be More’ academic review time around the values of gratitude and humility for students to complete during their social times. During staff briefings, assemblies and academic review sessions, students and staff have reflected on the following quotes - ”

Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.” – Cicero

Gratitude and attitude are not challenges; they are choices.” – Robert Braathe

Showing gratitude is one of the simplest yet most powerful things humans can do for each other.” – Randy Pausch

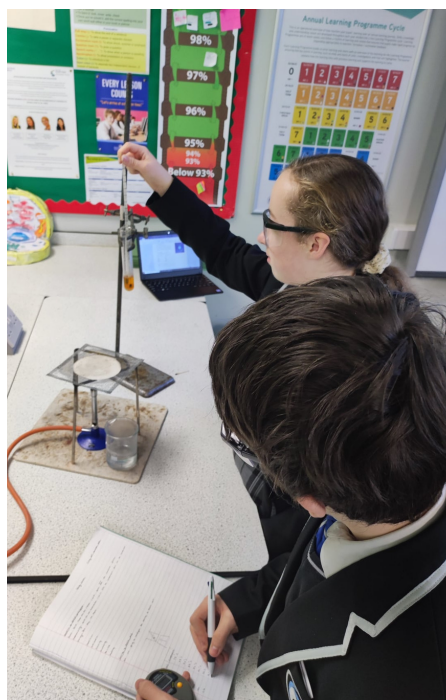
It is unwise to be too sure of one’s own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest might weaken and the wisest might err.” – Mahatma Gandhi

Every person that you meet knows something you don’t; learn from them.” – H. Jackson Brown Jr.

LP 2: CULTURAL CAPITAL MOMENTS IN THE CURRICULUM

During the second learning programme of the academic year, students have experienced 'Cultural Capital Moments (CCMs)' in all subject areas. Here are some of the many opportunities which students have enjoyed.

Year 10 chemistry looking at the melting points of various materials and the relevance of this in our everyday lives.



LO: Make explained comments on plot and context

The true story...

- ⚡ The Crucible tells the story of the Salem Witch Trials of 1692
- ⚡ In February 1692, several girls started to have "fits" and accused others of bewitching them
- ⚡ Over the next 8 months, 150 people were arrested for witchcraft, 19 of those were hanged.

The Crucible is **based** on a true story. This means that the characters names were real and some events really happened... but it is a fictional account of those events.



LP2 - The Crucible

Year 8 have been studying The Crucible by Arthur Miller in English and learning the history of the Salem Witch Trials. They have enjoyed learning about the real events that inspired the writing of the play.

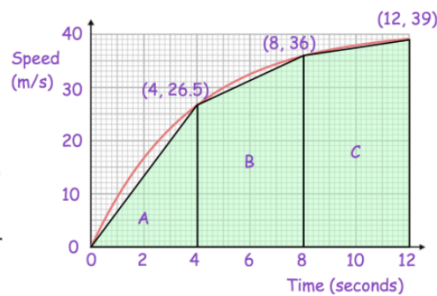
CULTURAL CAPITAL

In our Library we celebrated the 5th of November, complete with flickering flames and real campfire sounds. Some of our Year 7s asked if they could play chess around the campfire at breaktime and then, later on, the Friday Library Club settled in for some creepy campfire tales.



Question 2: Here is the speed-time graph for a car's journey.

- (a) Work out the area of triangle A
- (b) Work out the area of trapezium B
- (c) Work out the area of trapezium C
- (d) Using your answers to (a), (b) and (c) to find an estimate for the total distance travelled by the car.
- (e) Is your answer to (d) an overestimate or an underestimate for the distance that the car travelled?

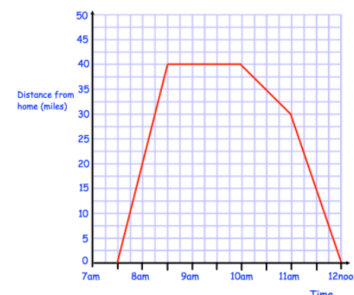


During our Maths Lessons we have some examples of maths in the real world.

Distance-time graphs (foundation) and velocity-time graphs (higher).

Question 2: Emma travelled to her Grandmother's house and back. The distance-time graph shows information about her journey.

- (a) What time did Emma begin her journey?
- (b) How far was Emma from home at 8am?
- (c) How long did Emma stay at her Grandmother's house?
- (d) What time did Emma leave her Grandmother's house?
- (e) How far was Emma from home at 11:45?
- (f) How far did Emma travel in total?



CULTURAL CAPITAL

Our Year 11 triple science students had a presentation by Dr. Ruth and Dr. Yaz and nurses Ellie, Stephanie and Kevin.

They told the students about their roles in the NHS and answered questions about working in the NHS generally. The students enjoyed using the pulse oximeters, forehead thermometers and the AliveCor device, which gave the students their own heart tracings, that the team had brought with them.

Dr Ruth, Dr Yaz and Ellie also signed a copy of their book “Your MediRoots Guide to Medical Careers” which is now available for students to borrow from the LRC.

<https://www.mediroots.co.uk/>



Congratulations to all of our wonderful students who have received certificates for their respective entries to our recent creative writing competitions - well done to Daniel, Summer, Autumn, Deborah, Jay, Patrisia and Cody; you are all very talented.

LP 2: EXTRA-CURRICULAR

During the second learning programme of the academic year, students have experienced 'Cultural Capital Moments (CCMs)' in all subject areas. Here are some of the many opportunities which students have enjoyed.

Year 11 students took part in taster sessions with Tom from the Port Vale education team. Students learnt about options going forward into Year 12 and opportunities at the club.



Last week the Noisy Library Club were busy little elves, helping Santa to launch a brand new Christmas challenge in the library. Students simply have to find a book with a secret challenge inside it, complete the challenge and return it to Mrs. Sanders in January to win a prize, Happy hunting!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR



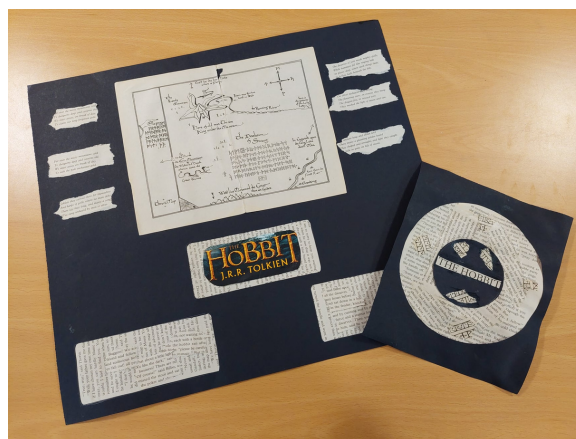
Our Y10 team took part in this year's Young Engineer of the Year (YEOTY) competition visited Newcastle College for the Project Launch Event.

The students watched a presentation by the organisation "Sent Into Space" who provided all the information and inspiration they need to complete this year's challenge: to launch a science experience into the troposphere, 30km above the Earth's surface using a weather balloon.

Here is the team holding a version of the launch module and hydrogen balloon they will be using when they launch their experiment in May 2022.



Some Year 9 students have been creating some great art and clay figures in the art workshop ready for their final sculpture project. Well done Y9!



BIRCHES HEAD ACADEMY REWARDS ASSEMBLY SHOWCASE



As we are coming to the end of term, each Year Group took part in numerous reward assemblies and in addition to these, the Performing Arts department put together several music and dance pieces in which will be performed during the schools winter showcase.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

A group of enthusiastic Year 9 pupils have been involved in The National Literacy Trust's 'Young Stoke Poets' whereby they celebrated Remembrance Day through writing their own poetry.

Please see the picture of some of the students that took part alongside a Remembrance display highlighting all their outstanding work.

The participating pupils visited the National Arboretum and had a guest poet attend one of their lessons - so keep your eyes peeled for even more fantastic images celebrating the students' successes!



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Let Us Not Forget

We commemorated Remembrance Day at Birches Head Academy. At 11am, the Academy fell silent for two minutes. A short service took place at the war memorial, with the raising of the flag, poetry and a reading with names of soldiers from Birches Head who died in the war. We are proud of our student leadership team, A Freeman and O Cooke who led the ceremony and we are grateful to the members of of community who joined us today.



PRINCIPAL'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS



With closing the term off, a selection of students from each year group celebrate being nominated for the Principal's Excellence Award. They were treated to a festive lunch. Well done for your hard work!



CHRISTMAS CHARITY WORK



During this learning programme Year 7 have been working hard towards their charity challenge.

As a year group they chose the Christmas shoe box appeal and have been collecting many different items for children across the globe. They have written some beautiful letters and talked about how they are proud to represent the school in supporting this charity.

Today, a select few got to personally hand them over and we will soon find out exactly who received them.

Well Done Year 7!



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

In January, our third 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 second and final review day for year 7 and 10 on Friday 14th January and we will meet with the parents and guardians of year 11 students



**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 nopanicsupport.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>